

Here is what's happening in
SEPTEMBER @ PACC

Sunday Worship

10:00 am in our Sanctuary or on Zoom

Digital Prayer

Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Bible Study

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

REGATHERING SUNDAY!

Sun., September 11, at 10:00 am

Youth Choir --- Sun., September 11, at 11:45 am

Meet Your PACC Neighbors

Wed., September 14, at 7:30 pm

Environmental Justice Meeting --Thurs, Sept. 15, at 7:30 pm

Women's Guild --- Thurs., September 15, at 11:30 am

Town Day

Sat., September 17, at 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sarah's Circle --- Sun., September 18 at 1:00 pm

PACC MEN -- Tues., September 20 at 6:30 pm

PACC Beer Garden Meet Up

Sat., September 24, at 2:30 pm



The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church, Arlington, Massachusetts
The Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor

September 2022



GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR



Welcome Back, Park Avenue friends,

It's (nearly) the beginning of another church year, and we're excited to come together and celebrate on September 11, for Regathering Sunday. We have so much to be grateful for as God continues to sustain our community, and lots to gear up for as we return to beloved activities and dream up new ones!

Given the recent change in CDC guidelines, our Regathering Team has been hard at work on some changes which we hope will be a sustainable "new normal" as we continue to ride the ups and downs of Covid. Here are a few highlights, with more details on page 5:

- Starting on Regathering Sunday (Sept. 11), **masks will be strongly encouraged** instead of masks required. If you're sick, please join us virtually; and be prepared for the mask requirement to resume if Covid rates rise significantly.
- **Making a comeback: passing the offering plate; youth acolytes; and mid-month communion** on third Sundays! This means we're looking for greeters/ushers and acolytes! Please contact Bonnie Hayner or Dave Morrissette if you'd like to serve.
- **Staying the same: communion** and (while the weather holds) **coffee hour outside** while the weather holds.
- **Still on the bench: Passing of the Peace.** While it's a great time to greet each other, it can spread germs, it adds significant time to the service (especially for those online), and it's a challenge for families with wriggly kids and for those with sensory issues.

Also coming up as we return to a full slate of ministry activities:

- **On Regathering Sunday**, we'll have an **extra-special coffee hour outside** with more tables and chairs and lots of goodies. We miss the potluck but many of us just aren't ready to be inside for full meals yet.
- We'll also **bless our backpacks, students, and educators** in worship on Regathering Sunday. Bring your backpack with you and invite a friend!
- The first meeting of our **Environmental Justice Ministry** (final name to be determined!) will be on Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 7:00 pm. Come share what projects you're excited to tackle as we care for God's creation together! ("*See page 8 for more details*")
- **Town Day on Sept. 17 is our chance to shine** as we share what makes PACC special with our Arlington neighbors! See page 8 for details.
- Our annual **Blessing of the Animals** will be on Saturday, Oct. 1. Mark your calendars to have your pet blessed in-person or virtually!

- Keep your eyes peeled for an **upcoming CONNECT event** where we learn and do good together; **fun and fellowship activities** ranging from a book donation or swap to a late fall cookie walk; and "**Team Mission Forward**" mission & justice experiments!

To learn more about any of these events or help plan them, let me know and I'll connect you with the folks making it happen.

What a good time to be the church and to continue living into God's call for our community through it all!

Blessings, *Leah*

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor

Christian Education Employment Search Update

An engaging and vital Christian Education program is important to all of us, so I wanted to give a quick update on the CE director search. We haven't found any promising candidates yet, so we are pivoting to another approach which we're very excited about - and we need your help!

Andy Hart will continue as our beloved interim CE director, handling the overall ministry and programmatic aspects of CE, while we look to hire a **SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR/LEAD TEACHER for 8-10 hours a week (5 hours in summer months)**, who will recruit and organize volunteer teachers, lead-teach one of our classrooms, and make sure volunteers have everything they need for a successful and fun Sunday school teaching experience. And there is big growth potential for someone who might want to take on more of the CE ministry responsibilities over time! We believe this approach will free Andy up for some of the higher-level parts of CE ministry and music, while ensuring we have a great Sunday school experience for our young people (and Andy will still be involved in Sunday school/teaching, so there will be continuity there!).

We have a hunch that this person could very well be someone who is already in our networks - maybe your neighbor, your recent college grad, your former preschool teacher looking for a more flexible job to be with their kids, etc. Please think through your networks and let us know of anyone who might be interested, and please share this link widely! <https://www.pacc-ucc.org/jobs/>

You can also help by praying for the right candidate for this job to find their way to us.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN SERVICES AT PACC

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM

You can join us in person OR **virtually!**
Pastor Leah sends out an e-mail a day or two before
worship with a link to Zoom.

Contact Christine at office@pacc-ucc.org to sign up for those e-mails.

IN-PERSON Guidelines

When you join us for an in-person worship service in the sanctuary
we kindly ask that you follow these guidelines.

- If you are feeling unwell on the day of worship, please stay home and worship with us remotely. Please reach out to your Deacon or our Care Ministry if you need help.
- Starting September 11, mask-wearing is strongly encouraged, but not required.

How to participate VIRTUALLY

To participate in worship via Zoom from your computer or smartphone:
Use this link just before 10:00 am (it's okay to join late):

<https://zoom.us/j/742148863>

You can choose whether to use the video function or just audio.

To participate via Zoom from your phone (audio only):

Call this number: (929) 205 6099. If asked for a meeting ID, enter: 742 148 863

To participate via Facebook:

Go to our Facebook page just before 10:00 am Sunday to watch live, or visit the video part of our page after we finish worship to watch a recording.

Did you miss live worship?

Check the website: www.pacc-ucc.org/sermons on Sunday afternoons or any time during the week for a video recording of the entire service plus an audio recording of just the sermon. Thanks to Nick Dokos for making this possible!

REGATHERING SUNDAY – Sunday, September 11

On Regathering Sunday, we'll have an extra-special coffee hour outside with more tables and chairs and lots of goodies. If you can supply a baked good or treat for the event it would be greatly appreciated, please let our Fellowship Deacon, Hong Chin know what you can bring. Contact him at 857-998-2287 or hong2446@gmail.com

UPDATE FROM THE PACC REGATHERING TEAM

In preparation for the start the new church program year on Regathering Sunday, September 11, the Regathering Team met to talk about the current level of COVID risk and whether any changes to our COVID protocols would be appropriate. COVID risk has not gone away, but Middlesex County is at this time considered a medium-risk, rather than a high-risk area. The Council met and decided on the following changes to our COVID protocols, starting on Regathering Sunday. We will continue to broadcast the worship service to Zoom and Facebook Live. Any changes will be effective starting with Regathering Sunday.

- Wearing masks for the worship service will now be optional, but still **strongly encouraged**. A return to masking may occur if CDC guidelines change, or if local cases rise to unsafe levels.
- We will continue to offer communion with the individual packets, but will order ones that we hope will taste better. There will continue to be a gluten free option. This will not only be safer for COVID, but also be more user friendly for those joining on Zoom, who would have a fair amount of down time during the service while communion was being passed.
- We will resume passing the collection plates at offering time and will place a QR code in the pews so people can donate online. The worship ministry will begin looking for volunteers to usher.
- We will not yet resume Passing of the Peace.
- Coffee Hour will continue to be upstairs in the narthex with people encouraged to go outdoors to socialize.
- Individual groups will decide for themselves whether to meet in person or online.
- We hope to have acolytes again for the worship service. We will try to recruit a volunteer each Sunday before the service begins. When we hire a Christian Education Director, the worship ministry will work with C.E. to recruit and train acolytes.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Leah or any member of the Regathering Team. *Linda Cohn, Mike Rich, Marianne McPherson and Dave Morrissette*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH CHOIR

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATES

Hello, PACC families! Wonderful to be seeing many of you this summer. We've been meeting as a mixed-age group, and exploring lots of ways to think about God in our "summertime" world! THANK YOU to all of you who have been helping to teach or assist in Sunday School!

We are all looking forward to Regathering Sunday, September 11, when we begin our fall programming. You'll receive more detailed information via email in the week leading up to Regathering, about Sunday School class assignments and Youth Group activities to look forward to. Meanwhile, we are finalizing our calendar, choosing curriculum, working on staffing decisions, and creating some updated Covid protocols. We'll be eager to see you in September, and watch your email for more information soon.

YOUTH CHOIR UPDATES

Greetings, Youth Choir singers and families! I hope you are enjoying your summertime, and I can't wait to see you in September. We will have our first brief meeting on **Sunday, September 11, at about 11:45 am, in the Nicoll Room.** **New singers welcome!** If you would like to sing in this fun and lively group, come give it a try! (*3rd grade and older*). It has been a strange-few-years with NO singing, then singing on Zoom, then singing with masks, but I'm looking forward to getting back into more regular singing and rehearsing!

General schedule for Youth Choir: Rehearsals on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of each month, in the Nicoll Room (*after Church/Sunday School, usually 11:30-12:00*). On the 3rd Sunday of the month, we have early rehearsal at 9:20 am, and on that Sunday, we sing in the church service during All Ages time. This schedule is from September through June, and we prepare for the Pageant, Christmas Concert, and other special events. We sing all kinds of beautiful things: contemporary and classical music, songs from other countries, folk songs, rounds, and spirituals, in unison and harmony.

If you have a young singer in your family who is thinking about joining, please contact Andy Hart (hartandrea@comcast.net). **THANK YOU** all and see you in September!

~ Andy Hart



GROUPS AND MINISTRIES AT PACC

MEET YOUR PACC NEIGHBORS

Join us **Wednesday, September 14, at 7:30 pm via Zoom** for another **PACC Meet Your Neighbors Night!** We will recognize Labor Day, the end of summer, and the start of school with guests **Cameron French** sharing her experiences in the Environmental Science track at Minuteman High and **Mike Rich** and **Debbie Douglas** sharing their unusual job experiences. Come meet your PACC neighbors!

PACC MEN

Missing your PACC-Men buds? Let's start the new program year right with a dinner outing on **Tuesday, September 20, at 6:30 pm**. Restaurant in or near Arlington TBD. Contact Dave Morrissette or Mike Rich with your RSVPs or dining suggestions.

SARAH'S CIRCLE

Greetings All! September is the month that Sarah's Circle celebrates its anniversary! This year it's #21! Thanks to Merrith Sabo Jones, Margaret Berman, Diane Wells and so many others for organizing the group and keeping it going for more than two decades! In the past, we've gathered in person for food, beverages, socializing, "catching up", and CAKE! On **Sunday, September 18, at 1:00pm** (after church!) we will gather in-person and via Zoom to celebrate the group, the books, each other, and the ability to join in fellowship in more ways than one. Covid didn't get us. The pandemic didn't deter us. We are determined to celebrate that and so much more.

If you are a former member, a current member or maybe a future member, please join us on September 18. All women affiliated with PACC or members of the greater community who love books and fellowship are welcome! The physical location (TBD) will be outside, weather permitting. **Please RSVP** to Joan at AmonLawFirm@aol.com for the Zoom link and/or address so we know how much food to have on hand. We look forward to having you join the celebration!

WOMEN'S GUILD

We will meet on **September 15, at 11:30 am, in the Fellowship Room**. Please bring a brown bag lunch. A beverage and dessert will be provided. Mark your calendar and bring ideas for Guild in the new church year. Please let Beverly or Diane know if you need transportation. We look forward to an active year so join us for fun and fellowship.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Do you have an interest in environmental issues? Worried about climate change? Concerned about the impact of human behavior on our planet? Want to be part of a group interested in taking action? JOIN US via Zoom on Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 pm., as we share our concerns, interests and ideas about how to be better stewards of our Planet Earth. No expertise required; just an interest in learning, sharing and doing!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82790642677?pwd=YlhTQUp2R0pOS2t1OTU2dmxCeENWZz>

09 Meeting ID: 827 9064 2677 **Passcode:** 265980

For more information, contact Tina Gramm at acg@grammau.net or 781-646-7852.

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

We are in need of hosts for coffee hour. Please speak to Hong if you can help set up/clean up one Sunday a month OR if you can provide some goodies once a month OR both! Hong Chin: 857-998-2287 and hong2446@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY



Town Day is back this year on September 17!

PACC will have a booth, and we need participants after a two-year Town Day hiatus! Please contact Betty Rich or Cindy Manson if you can give an hour or two of your time at the booth.

MISSION AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

ARLINGTON EATS

Please consider a monetary donation to Arlington EATS as they experience higher than usual need and lower than usual contributions during the pandemic.

You may donate directly here: <https://www.arlingtoneats.org/help/donate-money/>

WORSHIP MINISTRY

We are seeking Liturgists, Ushers, Greeters and Acolytes!

These roles are fantastic ways to participate in worship at PACC. No experience needed. We will guide you through the steps. If you would like to know more, please contact Bonnie Hayner or Dave Morrissette at bmwjh@comcast.net or

drmorriss@comcast.net.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In celebration:

Congratulations to **Laurie and Steve Scott** at the birth of their granddaughter, **Azira Dunne Scott**. Azira is the daughter of Laurie and Steve's daughter **Kim**.

Congratulations to **Cameron Hale and Joanna Celia**, who were married on August 13 at the home of his brother and sister-in-law, **Drew and Lindsay Hale**, in Gloucester. Cameron is the son of **Glenn and Betsy McCall Hale**.

Congratulations to **Tom Janssen's** son **Eric**, who successfully climbed Mt. Whitney, the highest mountain in the contiguous 48 states.

In our prayers:

The family of **Dianne Barnhill**, who died in July. Dianne was the widow of **Beverly Miller's** older brother **Keith**.

The family of **Jean Hovey** after her recent death. Jean was a Craigville friend of **Meredythe Schober** and other PACC folks.

Jeff Carver, who has been diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis.

Angela Elias's mother, **Linda Fenner**, as she recovers from surgery.

Kate Lindheim and **Chickie Olson**, as they continue their chemotherapy treatments.

Cindy Manson, with gratitude that her chemotherapy treatments have finished and she can move on to the next step in the treatment and healing process.

Gwen Phelps' and Joscelyn Moore's uncle, **Kingsley Doe**, who continues to have a difficult time as his cancer progresses.

Chris Lyman Waldron's mother, **Jean Waldron**, as she recuperates from Mohs surgery and subsequent reconstructive surgery.

Also, please keep in your prayers: Margaret Berman, Dorothy Brawn, Jim and Linda Brinkman, Anita Clarke, Yvonne Crockett, Janet Doe, Connie Dugan, Lisa Forté, Janet Hoffman, Marilyn Janssen, Tom Janssen, Jamie Kelly, Tricia McConville, Liz McMahon, Kimball Payne, Gwen Phelps, Jane Puopolo, Holly Stumpf, and Maria Zakaria.

**If you or someone you know at PACC is celebrating a milestone birthday (turning 80 or 90), please let Linda Cohn know (781-646-9029 or lpc@cohnarlinton.net). Thank you! **

Messages from our PACC members and friends

Thank you so much for all the cards, notes, prayers and well wishes. Each one feels like a little hug! I feel grateful to be part of such a caring community. *With love, Kate Lindheim*

Norma Allen, has a new home phone number: 781-537-6634.

September Birthdays

1 - Norma Gormley	20 - Joshua Tapper
3 - Kristin D'Eon	25 - Michael Hogan
Tracy Lawless	26 - Holden Sidel
5 - Hannah Colonnese	Eric Rochon
6 - Claire Ewen	27 - Linnaea Sidel
7 - David Craigie	28 - Chickie Olson
Chris Lyman Waldron	Ralph D. Sexton
9 - Brenda Wesinger	29 - Stephen Woodin
11 - Reese Hogan	30 - Anita Clarke
12 - Sharon Hawkins	Aiden Moore
16 - Aiden Lynch	



Join us on Regathering Sunday for a fun celebration of the beginning of the Church programming year. We'll have inspirational vinyl stickers that you can stick to your favorite water bottle or notebook, back pack tags, PACC pencils and lots of extra coffee hour goodies! Join us!!!

Blessing of the Backpacks
 Sunday, September 11,
 during worship

We'll bless our students, educators, and their backpacks for a new school year!



SATURDAY, 9/24/22
@ 7 JASON STREET, ARLINGTON

PACC BEER GARDEN MEET-UP

Socialize with your PACC friends at the Arlington Beer Garden at the Jason Russell House.

KID FRIENDLY EVENT

THE BEER GARDEN RUNS FROM 2-8PM. MEET US AROUND 2:30PM



SAVE the DATE *Events coming up at PACC*

Sat., Oct. 1 @ 10:00 am
BLESSING of the Pets



10/16 Apple Picking @ Carlson Orchards



Book SALE
 10/23 AFTER CHURCH



11/20 COOKIE WALK

