

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

at Park Avenue Congregational Church

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 11 DURING WORSHIP

This Sunday we'll feature the Youth of PACC  
with a Christmas Pageant. .

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 11 AT 3:00 PM

Join us virtually for a Christmas Concert hosted by our  
Chancel Choir on Zoom.

## SERVICE OF LAMENT AND HOPE

DECEMBER 14 AT 7:00PM

This service is for anyone feeling the weight of the holiday season.  
Come with your grief, your loneliness, your anxiety  
-- and find rest.

## CHRISTMAS EVE - Early Service

DECEMBER 24 AT 4:00PM

This family-friendly service will feature carols  
and the Nativity story.

## CHRISTMAS EVE - Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 24 AT 10:00PM

Traditional candlelight service with communion.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25 AT 10:00AM

Join us in your Christmas jammies for a service including the  
Christmas story and carols.

## LESSON AND CAROLS

JANUARY 1 AT 10:00AM

We will tell the story of Christmas  
through scripture and carols.

All services are in our sanctuary and  
broadcast live via ZOOM.

*All are  
Welcome!*



The SPIRE

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

DECEMBER 2022



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR

**Dear Park Avenue members and friends,**

Welcome to Advent! Advent comes from a Latin word meaning "arrival," and during it we celebrate not quite yet the coming of Christ into the world, but the *waiting* for him to arrive. I've shared before some of Frederick Buechner's words from *Whistling in the Dark* which capture the season so well:

"The house lights go off and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised the baton.

In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen.

The Salvation Army Santa Claus clangs his bell. The sidewalks are so crowded you can hardly move. Exhaust fumes are the chief fragrance in the air, and everybody is as bundled up against any sense of what all the fuss is really about as they are bundled up against the windchill factor.

But if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps of yourself somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world itself holding its breath.

The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."

Advent means learning to appreciate, even to celebrate the seasons in our lives when we are waiting, when we are not yet where we long and hope to be. It means that even as we wait for God to break into our lives in new and fresh ways, we trust that God is already with us - alongside us in both the hustle and bustle and the deep midwinter silence. It means asking ourselves where we are waiting for something - longing for something - and how we might trust God to transform our waiting into an experience of hope, love, joy, - and ultimately peace.

May we each come to trust the God made known to us in the waiting!

Blessings, *Leah*

**Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor**

# Join us for Worship

## SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00AM

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 the office ([office@pacc-ucc.org](mailto:office@pacc-ucc.org)) to sign up.

### IN-PERSON GUIDELINES

If you are feeling unwell we kindly ask that you stay home and join us remotely. Mask-wearing is strongly encouraged, but not required.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY

#### **To participate in worship via Zoom**

Use this link just before 10:00 am (it's okay to join late):

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

#### **To participate from your phone (audio only):**

Call this number: **(929) 205 6099**

If asked for a **meeting ID: 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 to watch a recording.

#### **Did you miss live worship?**

Check the website: [www.pacc-ucc.org/sermons](http://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!**

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH CHOIR

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hello PACC, families! Your wonderful children are making Sunday School a joy! THANK YOU all, and especially to those of you who are giving your time and talent to teach or assist, as we explore Bible stories through activities and games with our youngest members. *If you are interested in helping out in Sunday School as a teacher or assistant, please reach out to Andy.*

## ADVENT and FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENTS

Great to see many of you at our Book Sale and Cookie Walk! It feels so good to be gathering again at these fun events. And now, we prepare for Jesus' birth in the "Participatory Waiting" season of Advent!

**Sun. Dec. 4** – Pageant planning and songs in Sunday school

**Sat., Dec. 10, 5:00 pm** - PACC All-Ages Caroling at ACMI (*next to PACC*) as part of Arlington's Holiday Stroll.

**Sun., Dec. 11 (during service)** - PACC's annual Christmas Pageant: *Greeting Jesus Together!*... all are welcome to participate.

**Sun., Dec. 18** – Christmas crafts downstairs!

**Sat., Dec. 24, 4:00 pm** - Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service.

**Sun., Dec. 25** - Christmas Morning Worship: "Come-in-your-Christmas-PJs"!

## YOUTH CHOIR

Many thanks to singers and families for the wonderful music these past weeks. Our new members Alison, Alex, Davie, and Zac are doing great, and adding beautiful sound and spirit to our group! All-Star continuing members Cam, Holden, and Linnaea are singing beautifully, and helping our newcomers feel welcome. This month we rehearse after church on Dec. 4, and have EARLY rehearsal on Dec. 11. I'll also be in touch with you all about possible Christmas Eve music (and a possible extra rehearsal).

General schedule for Youth Choir: Rehearsals on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of each month, in the Nicoll Room (after Church/Sunday School, usually 11:30-12:15). On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, we have an 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 songs also 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 would like to join, please contact Andy.

*Wishing you all a joyous Advent and Christmas Season!*

*Andy Hart*

[hartandrea@comcast.net](mailto:hartandrea@comcast.net)

## GROUPS AND MINISTRIES AT PACC

### **PACC MEN**

We will meet for dinner at Town Tavern, 215 Massachusetts Ave, on **December 6, at 6:30 pm**. Contact Dave Morrissette or Mike Rich to RSVP and if you need a ride.

### **WOMEN'S GUILD**

We will meet on **December 15, at 11:30 am, in the Fellowship Room**. NO NEED for a bag lunch! Your lunch will be provided! Please remember to bring a wrapped gift (either new or regifted) with a value of about \$10.00 which will be included in the Yankee swap. Mark your calendar for this festive meeting and join us for fun and fellowship. Please RSVP one of our hostesses Bonnie Hayner (781-643-7948) or Judy Miller (781-643-9877) by December 13, as they will be ordering the food. Looking forward to seeing you.

### **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](mailto:hong2446@gmail.com)

### **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.

#### **THE CHRISTMAS FUND - UCC**

For over 100 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a way to ensure that a light of love and hope will always shine for faithful servants of our church who find themselves facing unforeseen financial need. Please considering including a special offering for this fund during the month of December. You can send a check made out to PACC with Christmas Fund on the memo line.

### **PACC "Green" TIP OF THE MONTH**

FreeCycle is a non-profit organization that tries to prevent items going into landfills and instead go to someone who can use the item(s). All kinds of items are FREE and range from furniture, toys, clothing, art, books, computers, appliances - the list goes on. Some restrictions do apply. You can OFFER or ASK for things on FreeCycle all for free. The idea is to create SHARING COMMUNITIES across towns all over the world to prevent putting items in landfills and/or trash. For more information, go to <https://www.freecycle.org> and check out how you can join and start "FreeCycling"! I'm also the Moderator for Arlington group, so I am happy to take your questions.

*~ Jane Flores*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### *In celebration:*

Congratulations to **Meredythe Schober**, at the birth of a great-daughter, **Emersyn Avery Restuccia**! Emersyn is the daughter of Meredythe's granddaughter **Heather**.

### *In our prayers:*

**Jeffrey Brody's** partner, **Richard Sizensky**, who is looking at next steps in his treatment.

**Nick Dokos's** cousin **Nikos**, who is dealing with multiple health issues.

**Sharon Hamilton's** son-in-law, **Chad Cimo**, who is continuing treatment for Crohn's Disease.

**Andy Hart's** mother, **Priscilla Carr**, and step-father, **Ron Carr**, as Ron continues to deal with health issues.

**Tom Janssen's** sister **Janet** and brother-in-law **Dan (Jill Janssen's** aunt and uncle), as Dan is dealing with Parkinson's related illness.

**Kate Lindheim** and **Cindy Manson**, as they continue their cancer treatments.

**Sue McNary**, as she deals with health issues.

**Pam and Jerry Scheinfeldt, Mandy Brush's** parents, as Pam is in rehab recuperating from a badly fractured arm.

*Also, please keep in your prayers: Margaret Berman, Dorothy Brawn, Jim and Linda Brinkman, Anita Clarke, Yvonne Crockett, Andrew D'Eon, Kingsley and Janet Doe, Connie Dugan, Linda Fenner, Janet Hoffman, Marilyn Janssen, Tom Janssen, Tricia McConville, Chickie Olson, Gwen Phelps, Jane Puopolo, 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@cohnarlington.net](mailto:lpc@cohnarlington.net)). Thank you! \**

### **A few suggestions for special gifts this season:**

a firm handshake to a shaky soul,

a kind word to a lonely person,

a warm smile to the disheartened,

a sincere concern for someone troubled,

a feeling of compassion for the neglected,

a comforting thought for the bereaved,

a respect for the dignity of others,

a defense of the rights of individuals,

a word of witness to help a seeking soul... *A Merry Christmas to all!*



Join the PACC tradition of not sending individual Christmas cards to all of your PACC friends but instead displaying a single card from you or your family on the Christmas tree in the Narthex. You can put the card on the tree yourself or mail it to the church office. Of course, you may want to send individual cards to church friends too and especially to those listed below who would appreciate hearing from their church family.

**Jeanette Ayvazian**, The Gables, 299 Cambridge St., Apt. 234, Winchester, MA 01890

**Dorothy Brawn**, 51 Iroquois Rd., Arlington, MA 02476

**Anita Clarke**, 197 Chester Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Chelsea, MA 02150

**Yvonne Crockett**, Life Care of Acton, 1 Great Road, Acton, MA 01720

**Connie Dugan**, 1395 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

**Jane Puopolo**, Care One of Lexington, 178 Lowell St, Lexington, MA 02420

**Norma Sherwood**, 10818 Fillmore Drive, Boynton Beach, FL 33437



PACC 32ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
*A Christmas Gathering*  
SUN., DECEMBER 11 AT 3 PM ON ZOOM

This year's PACC Christmas Concert celebrates gatherings both at the time of Christ's birth and in more modern times. It takes place via Zoom on *the second Sunday* of December, a link will be mailed out the week of the concert. Please save the date **and invite family and friends** wherever they may be to join us for this musical celebration of joy and hope.

We welcome donations in any amount which are used to support maintenance of our treasured Skinner organ and our music program. You may mail a check made out to "PACC" to: Kathleen Fink, 51 Grandview Road, Arlington, MA 02476 or donate online via <https://www.pacc-ucc.org/give/>, by selecting "PACC Christmas Concert Donation."



Help make our Sanctuary look beautiful for Advent and Christmas! Please consider donating a poinsettia plant in honor or in memory of a loved one. You may take the plant home after the 10:00 pm Christmas Eve service OR have them delivered to someone in the PACC community that could use some holiday cheer. Dedications to your loved ones will be listed in our Christmas Eve bulletins and the January SPIRE.

**The cost is \$10 per plant. Orders are due by December 4, 2022.**

Be sure to include your dedication with your order.



## 2023 Council of Deacons

The election committee is very pleased to announce that the following people have accepted the call to serve on the Council of Deacons for a two-year term starting in **January 2023**:

**Valerie Censabella, Debbie Douglas, Jane Flores, Sharon Hamilton, Scott Jones, Laurie Scott, and Barbara Wagner.** In addition: Thank you to **Pam Lepri** for agreeing to serve a **one-year term** as Deacon to take the place of a current Deacon who is stepping down in the midst of their two-year term. *These newly elected Deacons will join the following Deacons who have one year yet to serve in their two-year term: **Ethan Brush, Hong Chin, Bonnie Hayner, Cindy Manson, Mike Rich, Eric Rochon and Damon Sidel.** Please join us in thanking them for agreeing to serve us and our church in this manner.*

## END OF YEAR NOTICES

**2022 Contributions due by December 31-** Donors must deliver donations on or by December 31 in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction on income taxes for 2022.

**Submit bills by December 30** – In order for our 2022 financial reports to accurately reflect the year's activity, bills should be approved and submitted for payment by, December 30.

**Annual reports due January 3** - It would be extremely helpful to get some reports before the end of December to get a head start on compiling the report.

# Vox Lucens

Holly  
Druckman  
director

Eileen  
Callahan

Becca  
McBrayer

Jessica  
Raine

Mary  
Briggs

Lauren  
Hsu

David  
Harmin

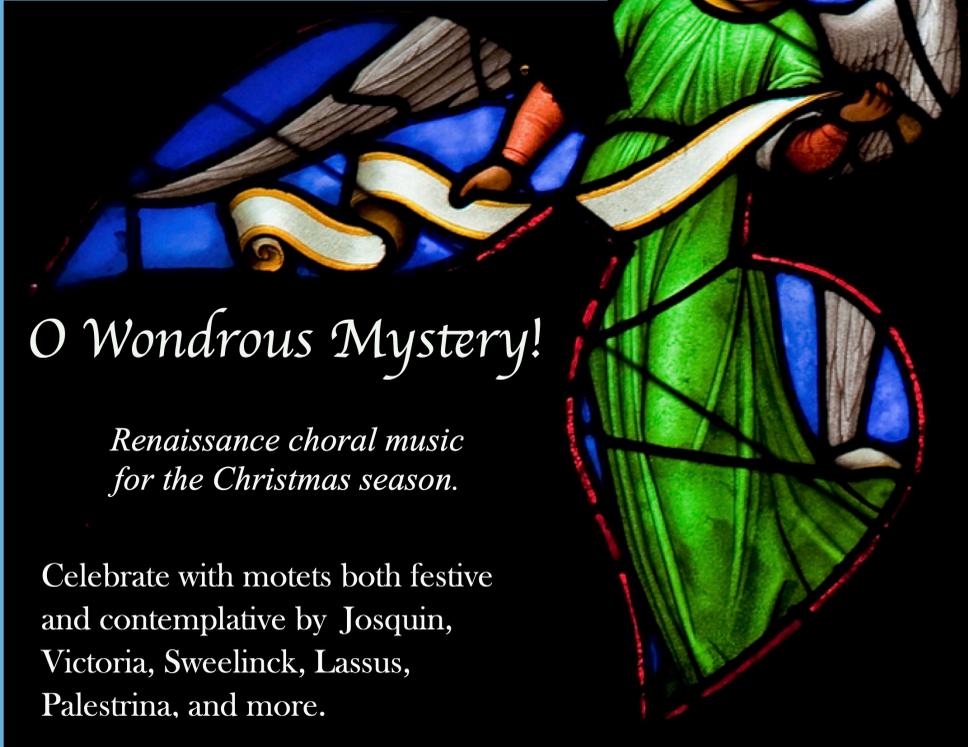
Jonathan  
Solomon

David  
Traugot

Marc  
Vilain

John  
Nesby

Paul  
Gallagher



## O Wondrous Mystery!

*Renaissance choral music  
for the Christmas season.*

Celebrate with motets both festive  
and contemplative by Josquin,  
Victoria, Sweelinck, Lassus,  
Palestrina, and more.

Saturday, December 3

8 pm

Park Avenue Congregational Church  
50 Paul Revere Road, Arlington

Sunday, December 11

6 pm

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church  
838 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge

suggested donation, \$20

[www.voxlucens.net](http://www.voxlucens.net)

# DECEMBER

## BIRTHDAYS

1- Jeffrey Brody

3- Sharon Kabelitz

5- Josh Young

6- Margeneta Dokos

7- Christina Kay and  
Michael German

10- Debbie Lewis

15- Jeffrey Chin and  
Reese Lynch

27- Tim Durning

30- Betsy Hale

31- Claire Gibbons

**REMINDER** to bring in your **2023 pledge cards!** Thank you to all who have already returned pledge cards. If you haven't already, please fill it out and bring it to church or mail it to the church office. Our annual pledges are PACC's largest funding source and we rely on them. Thank you!

Merry  
Christmas AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE PACC STAFF,

*Pastor Leah, Andy, Christine  
and Jeffrey*

## EVENTS COMING IN 2023 at PACC!



### GET READY FOR GAME NIGHTS!

There will be three game nights this coming winter/early Spring. The dates are Saturday, January 28, February 25 and March 25. This is a family-friendly event. Contact Betty Rich [bgr642@gmail.com](mailto:bgr642@gmail.com) or Cindy Manson [cynthia.manson@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.manson@gmail.com) for questions. More information coming in next month's SPIRE.



LETICIA OCHOA ADAMS

author • speaker • hopeful cynic

PARK AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CONNECT SERIES,  
THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ARLINGTON & CALVARY CHURCH PRESENT

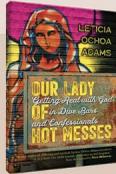
## Faith after Trauma

with **Leticia Ochoa Adams**

After Leticia lost her son Anthony to suicide, she had to find her way to a real, messy faith in a God who is with us even - maybe especially - in the very worst moments of our lives.

Author of *Our Lady of Hot Messes*, Leticia will share with humor and candor what faith looks like after we encounter trauma - whether in a global pandemic, an abusive childhood, or a tragic death - and how we find God when life breaks us apart.

You won't want to miss this conversation!



save the date

01.25.23

7PM ON ZOOM

LEARN MORE AT [WWW.PACC-UCC.ORG](http://WWW.PACC-UCC.ORG)

### Rummage Sale in 2023!

Mark your calendars! Plans are underway for the PACC rummage sale to be held on April 29, 2023. We have missed having this event during the pandemic and the community has missed it too. When you are cleaning and organizing things in your home over the winter and early spring, please hold on to those items you no longer need or want so you can donate them to the rummage sale. More info will follow in 2023. *If you have questions, please contact Barbara Wagner (781-648-8228 or [bcwtad@gmail.com](mailto:bcwtad@gmail.com)), Judy Miller ([judyamiller@mac.com](mailto:judyamiller@mac.com)) or Diane Wells (978-692-9176 or [dwells518@comcast.net](mailto:dwells518@comcast.net)).*