



The SPIRE

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

January 2023



Sunday Worship - 10:00 am

Digital Prayer - Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Bible Study - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 7:30 pm

Youth Choir - 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays

WARRANT

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Park Avenue Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Arlington Heights, Massachusetts, is called for **Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 11:00 am, in the Sanctuary** directly following morning worship. The meeting will also be broadcast live on Zoom to consider the following:

1. To receive the report of the treasurer and vote on the annual budget;
2. To receive the reports of the minister, officers, ministries, and other organizations;
3. To vote on a revised church constitution as mailed to all in October 2022, and presented in a Congregational meeting held on October 23, 2022;
4. To vote on two bylaw revisions consistent with the proposed changes in the church constitution;
5. To approve the Council of Deacons' selection for moderator, vice moderator, clerk, treasurer, and financial secretary;
6. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

If for any reason a quorum should not be present on January 29,
the meeting will be adjourned to Sunday, February 5, 2023, at 11:00 am.

Church members will be able to vote on the proposed constitution via proxy if they will not be able to attend the annual meeting in person or via Zoom. Any member who wants to vote via proxy should contact Christine, in the church office prior to January 22. Office@pacc-ucc.org or (781)643-8680

ZOOM INVITATION FOR: Park Avenue Congregational Church - Annual Meeting

To participate in the Annual Meeting via Zoom from your **computer or smartphone**:

Remain on the ZOOM call after worship on Sunday, January 30 OR use this link just before 11:00 am:
<https://zoom.us/j/742148863>

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

[This meeting will NOT be broadcast on FACEBOOK LIVE]



GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR



Happy New Year, Park Avenue friends!

January is here, with a sense of freshness and renewal as we enter a new year. This month we'll start a new tradition; revisit a fun one from last year; and vote on a new membership covenant that will give us a chance to update and reimagine the way we related to each other as a church.

- **Sunday, January 1:** Join us for Epiphany worship to receive your Star Word! These unique words, printed on stars and handed out at random, will guide us through the year as we keep an eye out for how God is speaking to us through them.
- **Sunday, January 8:** We'll celebrate communion and Jesus' baptism with a sermon on what baptism is all about, anyway, and our 2nd annual Winter Dip in Mystic Lake. Dippers and spectators welcome! If you'd like to dip, contact me for dipping tips and to sign a waiver.
- **Sunday, January 15:** Stay after worship to go through the budget for 2023 before we vote on it at the annual meeting.
- **Wednesday, January 25, 7pm: *Faith After Trauma* with Leticia Ochoa Adams, a CONNECT event.** 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.
- **Sunday, January 29:** At the **annual meeting** we'll approve the budget and officers for the upcoming year, as well as vote on an **updated membership covenant, two related articles of the constitution**, and the **by-law related to baptism**.

A little more on the proposed changes to the constitution:

The proposed new covenant arose out of the desire expressed by many congregants that our covenant reflect more fully who we are as a church body. The result of a months-long process of listening conversations and council and congregational feedback, the new covenant focuses on the commitments we are making to God and to each other when we join or receive someone into the church. It has been carefully crafted to be Christian and trinitarian without serving as a litmus test of faith, so that we preserve both our distinctive Christian character and the openness of our faith tradition to relating to Jesus in a variety of ways.

The proposed constitutional changes to articles related to the covenant update denominational references and language about membership expectations without substantially changing their intent.

We will also vote on a proposed change to the by-laws: to remove the requirement of baptism for membership. In our listening conversations this summer and fall, many people expressed both the importance of baptism to their faith journeys and a desire to separate it from the membership process as a way to honor those who are ready to commit to the church but are not yet ready to be baptized. I will talk more about what baptism means and how it might relate to membership in my sermon on January 8, and we will have time for discussion and listening as part of our annual meeting before we vote.

In short, there's a lot to look forward to in January as we continue to respond to the Spirit's movement among us in 2023!

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) 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 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, and Happy New Year! A huge THANK YOU for your participation and enthusiasm in our Advent and Christmas events from our wonderful Pageant, to Caroling at ACMI, to Christmas Eve singing and scripture reading, and more! I hope this season of Christ's birth is continuing to fuel you with God's peace, love, hope and joy.

There is **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Sunday January 1**. Sunday School begin again on January 8, as we learn together in the coming months about the life and teachings of Jesus! *As always -- if you are interested in helping out in Sunday School as a teacher or assistant, please reach out to Andy! It's a great way to learn from our youngest PACC folks, and teens can get Community Service hours!*

Watch for more news about our Annual Meeting (*childcare will be provided*), family events, and a Youth Group meeting coming soon!

YOUTH CHOIR

Many thanks to singers and families for all of the wonderful music (and rehearsal coordination!) for our Youth Choir and All Ages music in December -- so much beautiful music made!

There is **NO YOUTH CHOIR on Sunday January 1**, but we'll get back up and running on January 8. Looking forward to seeing you then!

General schedule for Youth Choir: Rehearsals on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of each month, in the Nicoll Room (after Church/Sunday School, usually 11:30-12:15). On the 3rd Sunday of the month, we have an early rehearsal at 9:20am, and on that Sunday, we sing in the church service during All Ages time. This schedule is from September through June. We sing all kinds of beautiful things: contemporary and classical music, songs from other countries, folk songs, rounds, and spirituals, in unison and harmony.

Wishing you a wonderful 2023! ~ Andy Hart (hartandrea@comcast.net)

GROUPS AND MINISTRIES AT PACC

MEET YOUR PACC NEIGHBORS

Join us **Wednesday, January 11, at 7:30 pm for Meet Your PACC Neighbors Night!** We will welcome the new year with a look back at the past almost-three years of Covid, as long-time deacon **David Morrisette** tells us about the behind-the-scenes work at PACC to adapt to Covid. And we'll welcome two new deacons, **Jane Flores** and **Pam Lepri**, and learn a bit more about them. Come ready to share your own Covid-era highlights.

WOMEN'S GUILD

We will meet on **January 19, at 11:30 am, in the Fellowship Room.** Please bring a brown bag lunch. Hot beverages will be provided. Winter months meetings are always weather permitting. If there is no school there will be no Guild but safety is always the guiding factor. Looking forward to fellowship even when the weather is chilly. Come when you are able whether it be all meetings or just a few.

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

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.

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 Morrisette at bmwjh@comcast.net or drmorriss@comcast.net.

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 or Cindy Manson cynthia.manson@gmail.com for questions.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In celebration:

Congratulations to **Jeanne Woodin**, at the birth of a great-grandson, **Russell Mirisola**! Russell is welcomed by his parents, **Carolyn Woodin Mirisola** and **Jessica Mirisola**, and older brother **Wesley**, and his grandparents, **Mark and Susan Woodin**.

Warm birthday wishes to **Yvonne Crockett**, who will be 95 years old on January 21!

In our prayers:

Nick Dokos, at the death of his cousin **Nikos**, and for Nikos's family, his son **Stefanos**, his daughter **Maria**, and his sister **Rina**.

Cameron French, who is feeling better after surgery for a branchial cleft cyst.

Jim and Claire Gibbons, as Jim hopes to be home soon from Aberjona Rehab after a hospitalization and Claire will have another outpatient procedure next week.

Tom Janssen's sister **Janet** and brother-in-law **Dan (Jill Janssen's** aunt and uncle), as Dan is suffering from Parkinson's-like symptoms.

Elijah O'Rourke, after he broke his ankle while riding his bike.

Hope, the baby daughter of **Dawn Russo's** cousin **Rachel**. Hope was born prematurely and is making progress, but is still in the NICU.

Please continue to keep in your prayers: **Margaret Berman, Dorothy Brawn, Jim and Linda Brinkman, Ron and Priscilla Carr, Chad Cimo, Anita Clarke, Yvonne Crockett, Andrew D'Eon, Kingsley and Janet Doe, Connie Dugan, Linda Fenner, Janet Hoffman, Marilyn Janssen, Tom Janssen, Kate Lindheim, Cindy Manson, Tricia McConville, Sue McNary, Susan Neary, Chickie Olson, Gwen Phelps, Jane Puopolo, Pam and Jerry Scheinfeldt, Richard Sizensky, 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). Thank you! **

Messages from our PACC family and friends

Thank you, thank you for the beautiful poinsettia that Linda Cohn brought me. I love it! I wish you all a wonderful new year, and I thank you very much.

Love to all of you, my friends! Connie Dugan

The D'Eon and Burge families would like to thank PACC for the love and support they received during Andrew's illness.

Thank you for the beautiful red Poinsettia delivered by Linda and Don Cohn and for all the Christmas cards received by fellow church members. All are very appreciated and brought me joy this season.

Warm regards, Norma Gormley

Jim and I thank everyone for the many cards and expressions of concern that the people of the church and Women's Guild have sent to us these past few weeks. The beautiful poinsettia that Valerie brought us from the church is making a really cheerful spot in our living room, and we send our thanks to her and other members for their concern for us. Jim is presently receiving therapy and care and is making progress. I am doing OK as well. We are so grateful for the good care we have received and to PACC for the love and concern that has been expressed.

Kindly, Claire and Jim Gibbons

Annual Appeal for the Southern New England Conference

Each year we invite members to make a special donation to cover the cost of our support for the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC (now the Southern New England Conference) and for the Metropolitan Boston Association. Please consider making a special gift of \$20 - \$25 per member in your family. The Southern New England Conference is the vehicle for our denominational involvement, including CE curriculum, mission and justice matters, and educational sessions on Super Saturdays.



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



Volunteers needed to help remove greens

On **Saturday, January 7, beginning at 9:00 am** we will remove the greens from the Sanctuary and Narthex. If you have questions, speak with Dave Morrissette. Many thanks to those who assisted with Hanging the Greens and decorating the church for Christmas.

Flower Calendar

Would you like to remember a loved one or share a celebration with the PACC community by dedicating the flowers on Sunday morning? You can do that by contacting the church office

IN PREPARATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 29

Annual reports: The deadline to submit annual reports is **Tuesday, January 3.**

There will be copies of the combined reports of staff, officers and ministries along with financial information e-mailed to the congregation beginning January 17. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the office, (781)643-8680.

Important Budget Meeting – PACC needs your input!

In order to prepare a balanced budget for 2023 some choices need to be made. The budget meeting on **January 15** after the Worship Service at **approximately 11:30 am in the Fellowship Room.**

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. *If you have questions, please contact Barbara Wagner (781-648-8228 or bcwtad@gmail.com), Judy Miller (judyamiller@mac.com) or Diane Wells (978-692-9176 or dwells518@comcast.net)*

Season's Greetings

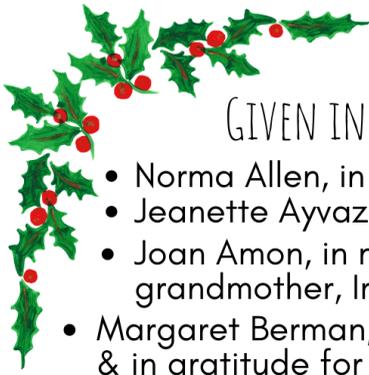
You received holiday greetings through the PACC Christmas tree from these friends:

- Margaret Berman
- The Brush Family
- Bob and Edith Burge
- Don and Linda Cohn
- Nick and Liz Dokos
- Debbie Douglas
- Tim Durning, Barbara Wagner,
Gretchen and Rachel
- The Forté Family
- Norma Gormley
- Tom and Jill Janssen
- Maureen & Jackie Igoe
- Buck & Nadine Lombard
- The McPherson/Sidel Family
- Judy and Hal Miller
- The Holt-Kane Family
- Roger Nicoll
- Mike and Betty Rich
- The Rochon Family
- Meredythe Schober
- Steve and Laurie Scott
- Claudia & Keith Truesdale
- Brenda Wesinger



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 - Jane Flores | 16 - Kate Lindheim |
| 2 - Noel Forté, Kathy Richardson | 21 - Yvonne Crockett |
| 5 - Valerie Censabella | 22 - Victor McNary |
| 7 - Jim Gibbons | 23 - Maureen Gormley, Polly Ford |
| 8 - Diane Wells | 25 - Bonnie Hayner |
| 9 - Joscelyn Moore | 37 - Margaret Sherwood |
| 12 - Linda Anderson, Mike Rich | 28 - Peter Domenichella |
| 13 - Becky Jones, Milo O'Rourke | 29 - Cameron French |



Christmas Flowers

GIVEN IN MEMORY AND IN HONOR OF THOSE WE LOVE.

- Norma Allen, in memory of loved ones.
- Jeanette Ayvazian, in memory of loved ones.
- Joan Amon, in memory of her father, Richard Amon, and grandmother, Irene Langer.
- Margaret Berman, in loving memory of her husband, David Berman, & in gratitude for the love of Jesus as He guides us through each day.
- The Bell, Berman, Olson, & O'Rourke families, in loving memory of Mark Bell, Peter MacDougall, and Vera Kistiakowsky.
- Susan O'Rourke, Chickie Olson, and Margaret Berman, in loving memory of Uncle Dick Powers and Auntie Barbara.
- The Barreto-Pichette families, in loving memory of Kate and Dugald MacCallum, and Susan (MacCallum) and Richard Erickson. Their love for all at PACC will forever live on.
- Bob and Edith Burge, in memory of Beth Doty.
- Paul and Linda Carew, in loving memory of Alvira and John Gardner.
- Valerie Censabella and family, in memory of loved ones.
- Don and Linda Cohn, Henry & Rachel, Ed & Susan, in memory of Don's parents, Lee and Garnette Cohn; Linda's parents, Henry and Dorothy Parsons; and Arlene Brown and her sister, Helen Kendall.
- Cheryl and David Craigie, in memory of loved ones.
- Amy Dugan and Jen Agne, in loving memory of their father, Robert Dugan, and in honor of their mother, Connie Dugan. We love you and cherish all our memories together.
- Tim Durning and Barbara Wagner, in memory of Harry and Judy Durning, Carl and Emma Belle Wagner, and Betsy Wagner.
- Jane Flores, in memory of Rebecca V. Flores.
- The Ford family, in memory of James Macgregor and Ann Ford.
- Norma Gormley, in memory of loved ones.
- Tina Gramm and Bryan Mau, in memory of Irmgard and Hans Gramm and Carol and Bill Mau.

- Betsy and Glenn Hale, in loving memory of Betsy's parents, Ron and Peg McCall.
- Sharon Hamilton, in memory of her parents, Rose and Spiro Saros.
- Bonnie and Bill Hayner and Debbie Lewis, in memory of Stan and Betty Lewis. Evelyn and Clinton Kidder. Betty Lewis Pacheco, Evelyn Lewis, and Bob Gonser.
- Sharon Kabelitz, in memory of Nick Pickrahn and Robert Brown.
- Sharen Kabelitz, in honor of Angela Elias.
- Julia Lee, in memory of her parents, Saul and Vera Satulsky.
- McPherson/Sidel family, in loving memory of our family's angels, Anita McPherson, Roger Westcott, Luke Kerbeshian, Steve Williams, and John Topjian.
- Carolyn Manson, in memory of all her beloved relatives and husband who have passed.
- The Mary Martha Fellowship, in memory of Linda Orf Branham and Ann Bruhn.
- Angela Meehan, in loving memory of Elizabeth D. Meehan.
- Ken and Beverly Miller, in memory of loved ones.
- Hal and Judy Miller, in memory of loved ones.
- Dave Morrisette and Christine Nihan, in memory of Loretta Daley and Muriel Nihan.
- Gwen Phelps and Joscelyn Moore, in loving memory of their parents Dick and Judith Phelps.
- Mary Rogers, in memory of Sally and George Rogers.
- Meredythe Schober, in memory of her husband, Dick Schober.
- Steve and Laurie Scott, in memory of our parents.
- Holly Stumpf, in loving memory of her brother Gordon and her parents Louise and C.C.
- Brenda Wesinger and Deborah Daigle, in memory of Helena, Buddy, and David Oland.
- Brenda and Danny Wesinger, in memory of Leonard Wesinger, Marion and Daniel Beaton, and Carole Errico.
- The Youngblood Murphy family, in memory of Barbara Morris.

Merry Christmas!

