

NOVEMBER

Sunday Worship 10:00 am
Digital Prayer Wednesdays at 10:30 am
Bible Study First & Third Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
Choir Practice Thursdays at 7:30 pm
Youth Choir Practices First & Second Sundays at 11:30 am
Third Sundays at 9:20 am

- ✦ First Friday **11/3**
- ✦ Memorial Sunday & Hygiene Drive **11/5**
- ✦ Ballots due for Deacon Election **11/7**
- ✦ Meet Your PACC Neighbors **11/8**
- ✦ PACC Men Dinner **11/14**
- ✦ Women's Guild **11/16**
- ✦ Sarah's Circle **11/18**
- ✦ FALL Cleanup **11/18**
- ✦ Cookie Walk & ReDeck the Halls Sale **11/19**
- ✦ Council of Deacons Meeting **11/20**

More details inside



The SPIRE

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

NOVEMBER 2023

GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR

Hello, PACC friends!

As fall begins to turn past the beautiful colors and warm sunshine toward bare branches and cold nights, we enter the month of November, which begins in the church with remembering our dead. Historically, the church has celebrated All Saints Day (Nov. 1) for those who have been particular exemplars of our faith, followed by All Souls Day (Nov. 2) for all those who have died. Protestants often combine these both into Memorial Sunday on the first Sunday of the month (Nov. 5 this year) as a way to honor and remember all those who have gone before us, both personally and in the wider church.

Another ancient Christian tradition around this time of year is the *memento mori*, the charge to "Remember your death." Often depicted with skulls and skeletons, *memento mori* certainly sounds (and looks!) macabre. But it is really meant to keep us humble (since no matter our accomplishments or status, we will all meet the same end), and most of all to put into perspective the precious gift that is life.

That fits well with the other themes we lift up in November: *gratitude and generosity*. As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving and take time to think about how we want to support, both financially and with our time and talents, our church community in the coming year, we remember that each day we have with one another is a cause for gratitude to God. And when we have so much to be grateful for, we find ways to give generously of ourselves and our resources!

As you enjoy the remnants of Halloween decorations and watch the leaves fall this month, I hope you'll join me in taking time to remember that all things, including us, come to an end - and that that, paradoxically, can be a cause for deep gratitude and even joy as we really savor God's goodness in our lives and find ways to share it with those around us.

Blessings,

Leah

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor

Join Us **SUNDAY WORSHIP** **10:00 am**

You can join us in person OR virtually!

Pastor Leah sends out an e-mail weekly with a link to Zoom.

Contact office@pacc-ucc.org to sign up.

IN PERSON GUIDLINES

If you are feeling unwell please stay home and join us remotely.

Mask-wearing is encouraged, but not required.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY

To participate in worship via Zoom

Use this link just before 10:00 am:

<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 on Sunday to watch live, or visit the video part of our page to watch a recording.

Did you miss live worship?

Visit: www.pacc-ucc.org/sermons for a video of the service plus
an audio recording of the sermon.

Thanks, Nick Dokos for making this possible!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

Mike Rich (Pronouns: he/him/his)

All friends of PACC are invited to listen to, watch, and participate
in the discussions at meetings of the **Council of Deacons**.

The next meeting will be on Zoom, Monday, November 20 , at 7:30 pm.

Let Mike know if you would like to address the Council
or have any agenda items to suggest.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/YOUTH CHOIR

Greetings, PACC families!

Sunday School is running beautifully with a fantastic crew of kids, fun activities, and a devoted core of amazing teachers! We are meeting in two classrooms (Elementary grades 1-5 and Preschool age 3-Kindergarten). Younger children are welcome to join us with a parent, and middle-and high-schoolers are welcome to help in either class. We continue working from the lovely "Spill the Beans" curriculum, which follows the Narrative Lectionary that Pastor Leah is drawing on for her liturgy and messages in church. **Are you curious about what our young PACC peeps are up to downstairs? As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions, or if you'd like to join our team of Sunday School Teachers!**

FIRST FRIDAY PIZZA & GAME NIGHT IS BACK! November 3, 6 - 7:30 pm. This event, held in the Fellowship Room, is for PACC Kids and Teens, and friends! (*Children under 11 should be accompanied by an adult - Families are welcome!*). There will be pizza, games, and fun for all!

Calling all Teens and Tweens - watch for information soon about the next First Friday on December 1 - Tailored for our older youth, we'll have an Advent craft and a Yankee Swap in addition to Pizza, Hot Cider and Games!

YOUTH CHOIR

Thanks to all for your beautiful singing these past couple of months! In November, we'll have rehearsals after church (**11:30 am**) on **November 5 and 12**, and will sing in church on **November 19 (with an early 9:20am rehearsal beforehand)**.

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 9:20 am to get ready to 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. **Newcomers welcome!** If you would like to sing in this fun and lively group, come give it a try! (3rd grade and older).

Thank you, and warmest fall wishes! ~ Andy Hart
Youth Music Director and Acting CE Director

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In celebration:

Congratulations to **Derek O'Rourke** and **Jackie Bradley** on their engagement. Derek is **Susan O'Rourke's** son and the grandson of **Margaret Berman**. Derek and Jackie are planning to get married sometime near the end of 2024.

Congratulations to **Jody Pickrahn's** son **Matt** and his new wife **Leah** on their marriage! **Sharon Kabelitz** is Matt's aunt.

Warmest birthday wishes to **Peggy Kyle**, who will celebrate her **96th birthday** on November 24.

In our prayers:

Pam Lepri and her family as they mourn the loss of Pam's uncle, **James Kelly III**, who passed away on October 14 from stomach cancer and Parkinson's disease.

Margaret Berman, for a successful spinal cord injection.

Margaret Berman's nephew David McKenzie, who had heart by-pass surgery on October 25.

Linda Cohn's brother Will Parsons, who is having lung surgery on November 6.

Tim Durning, who will be having knee replacement surgery on November 1.

Jane Flores' brother Freddie, as continues on his road to recovery.

Bonnie Hayner, who is dealing with chronic pain.

Peggy Kyle, who is recuperating at home after being hospitalized with COVID.

Christine Rochon's aunt Ginny Lamar, who's battle with cancer is coming to an end.

Meredythe Schober's granddaughter Elena, who has COVID and granddaughter **Samantha**, who is pregnant and dealing with heart issues.

Please continue to keep in your prayers: **Linda Brinkman, Jeffrey Brody, Connie Dugan, Yvonne Crockett, Linda Fenner, Forté Family, Jim Gibbons, Janet Hoffman, Nancy Jacobo, Marilyn Jannsen, Tom Jannsen, Kate Lindheim, Hal Miller, Chickie Olson, Jane Puopolo, Richard Sizensky, and Maria Zakaria.**

If you or someone you know at PACC is celebrating a milestone birthday please tell Scott Jones or Pam Lepri, our Care Ministry Deacons.

PACC MINISTRIES



Election of 2024 Council of Deacons

The PACC Council of Deacons is the general administrative body of the church. Deacons are considered the spiritual leaders of the church. Deacons are elected each fall by direct congregational vote. A full term of service is two years. After a deacon has served two consecutive terms or part thereof on the Council, they are ineligible for election for one year. The ballot contains the names of all members of the church except those who are ineligible.

If you'd like to know more, ask a current or past Deacon. It's a rewarding job. *If you are called to join the Council, we hope you will prayerfully consider it.*

Ballots should be **RETURNED** to the box in the narthex no later than **November 5** or **delivered/mailed** to the church office so that they are **received by 5:00 pm on November 7.**

The Election Committee will meet on the evening of **November 7**, to tabulate the votes. They will contact the top vote getters to determine who is able and willing to serve on the church's governing board beginning in January 2024.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

MEET YOUR PACC NEIGHBORS

Please join us **Wednesday, November 8, at 7:30 pm**, for the last Meet Your PACC Neighbors of 2023! Don Cohn and Scott Jones are our speakers that evening, so don't miss it! Let Laurie Scott know if you'd like to speak in 2024.

MISSION AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

As many of you know, PACC was asked to help provide 16 migrant families, who were recently relocated to our community, with clothing. We accepted donations through October 1 and sorted the clothing after service on October 8. There were plentiful donations requiring 5 tables and part of the stage to sort shoes, socks, shirts, sweaters, jackets, pajamas, and more. The drive was so successful, for PACC and other churches that participated, that we had an overabundance of clothing. The clothing is being distributed not just to the 16 migrant families, but to other organizations supporting migrants in Massachusetts.

The Mission & Justice Ministry invites you to participate in our fourth quarterly hygiene supplies drive of 2023 for **The Somerville Homeless Coalition**.

TWO EASY WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

- 1.** Make a monetary donation by November 5, by sending or bringing cash or a check (write Hygiene Supplies Drive in the memo line or on the envelope) to church or by giving online at www.pacc-ucc.org/give/.
- 2.** Purchase one of the items below and bring it to the church on or before November 5.
THE LIST: Normal and travel size packages of baby wipes, diapers (baby and adult sizes), toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner, body wash or soap, tampons, sanitary napkins, razors, deodorant, lotion, hand sanitizer, laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels.

If you have any questions, contact Damon at damon.sidel@gmail.com or 617-953-2066.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

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November is Stewardship Month, when we celebrate the many ways that PACC has enriched and supported our spiritual lives and commit ourselves to helping sustain our essential mission: "To practice deep and fulfilling connection with God and each other...belonging to and caring for others as our own." Pledge card will be mailed out on November 1, **to be returned by Pledge Sunday, November 19**, when we will honor those commitments. As you fill out your card, please consider prayerfully the blessings that PACC has provided to you and yours. Then envision how you might sustain and, if feasible, increase your gifts of time, talent, and financial resources in the coming year. Thank you for all of the ways that you help PACC thrive!

A horizontal banner for a fall cleanup event. The background is a light beige color with scattered autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown. In the center, there is a small, stylized illustration of a church with a red roof and a cross on top. To the left of the church, a person wearing a brown jacket and green overalls is using a rake to clean up leaves. To the right of the church, there is a green leaf blower. The text "PACC FALL CLEAN UP" is written in a large, bold, brown font at the top. Below it, the date and time "SAT., NOVEMBER 18 8:00AM-12:00PM" are written in a large, bold, dark blue font. At the bottom right, the text "LET ERIC ROCHON KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP. (TEXT: 570-233-4326)" is written in a smaller, bold, dark blue font. In the bottom left corner, the text "GRAPHIC DESIGN BY: JAMES ROCHON" is written in a small, bold, dark blue font.

PACC FALL CLEAN UP

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PACC GROUPS

PACC MEN

We will meet for dinner at **Gran Gusto**, <https://www.grangustocambridge.com>, 90 Sherman Street, Cambridge, **6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 14**. RSVP to Mike before by November 13. Contact Dave or Mike for rides or carpooling.

SARAH'S CIRCLE

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, November 18 at 11:00 am**, to discuss *"In Search of the Divine Mother, The Mystery of Mother Meera"* by Martin Goodman. The book discusses how and why Mother Meera, born an uneducated peasant in rural India, is considered by many to be the ultimate incarnation of the feminine divine in our time, and why hundreds of people, both easterners and westerners, visit her each week at her modest German countryside home. *All are welcome to participate either in person or via Zoom. Please contact Joan at amonlawfirm@aol.com to receive the Zoom invitation.*

WOMEN'S GUILD

We will meet on **Thursday, November 16, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Room**. We will be sending out Holiday Wishes and planning our Christmas lunch for December. Please bring a bag lunch. Beverages and a dessert will be provided.

PARK AVENUE IS TURNING 125 YEARS OLD!

PACC will be 125 years old next year, and we're planning a year-long celebration! Our hope is to make the anniversary year one that honors our past, but at the same time celebrates the things that make PACC the special place it is today. There will be an anniversary worship service followed by a dinner or reception on the anniversary date itself, March 10. We also hope to have some other fun activities and events for all ages, and we're planning a mission component to the celebration, so we can use our anniversary year to do some good for the world.





Memorial Sunday

OBSERVANCE

These are the names we will read and toll chimes for on Memorial Sunday, November 5.

Judy Fox, PACC member

Dorothy Brawn, long-time friend of PACC

Ron Carr, husband of Priscilla Carr, step-father of Andy Hart

Paul Christiansen, brother-in-law of Ken and Beverly Miller

Anthony Cimo, Sharon Hamilton's daughter's father-in-law

David Fredericks, nephew of Bonnie Hayner and Debbie Lewis

Nikos Georgiadis, cousin of Nick Dokos

Virginia Gimilaro, mother of Jeanne Domenichella, grandmother of Maddie and Peter

Wadid Habib, husband of Linda Cohn's friend Nazek

Thelma Jones, friend of Sharon Kabelitz

James Kelly III, uncle of Pam Lepri

Tricia McConville, friend of Norma Allen

Dennis Murphy, father of Dan Murphy, grandfather of Maya and Leo

Susan Neary, friend of Norma Allen

Kasım Özbey, father of Tanya Özbey, grandfather of Esmond

Kimball Payne, cousin of Polly Ford

David Peoples, father-in-law of Margeneta Dokos

Hazel Riley, cousin of Don Cohn

Earl Sexton, brother of Claire Gibbons, uncle of Ralph Sexton and Bill Gibbons

John Shuttleworth, Craigville acquaintance

Jeff Thompson, friend of Barbara Wagner, Tim Durning, and Andy Hart

Fran Vitello, friend of Chris Censabella

John Walkinshaw, former PACC member

Steven Walkinshaw, former PACC member

David Weber, Sharon Hamilton's former colleague and friend

Edmond Yunis, father of Maria Yunis

Judy, mother of Jim Williams' wife Alison Paul.

Dan Boynton, brother-in-law of Tom Jannsen, uncle of Jill Jannsen

Dr. Heide Lind, cousin of Leanne Marden

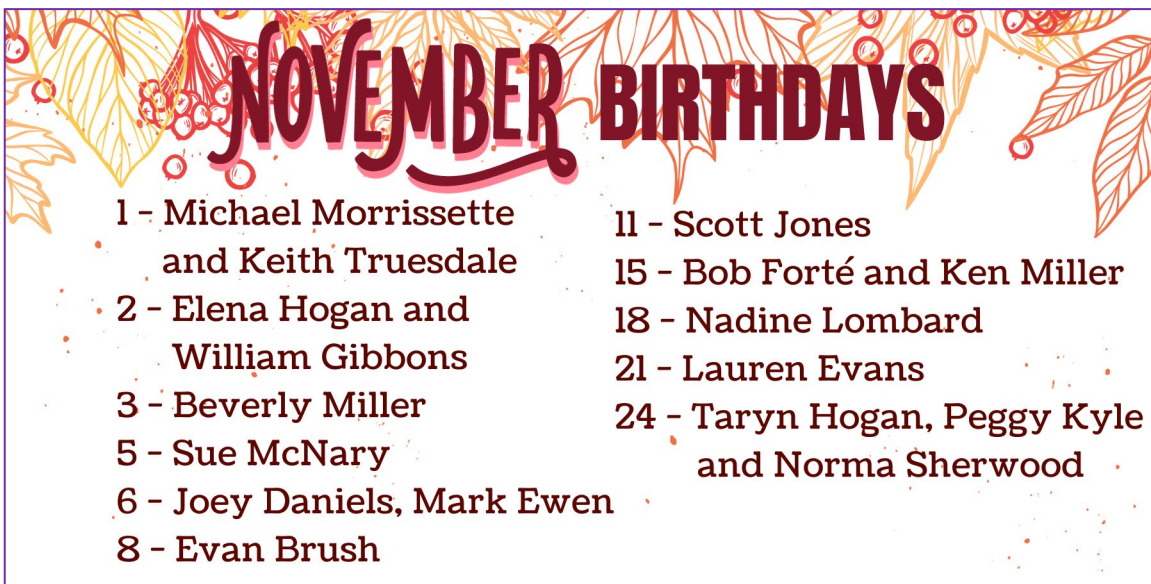
Bonnie Roesch and Bess Bell, cousins of Julia Lee



Love Came Down at Christmas

PACC's 33rd Annual Christmas Concert Via Zoom on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 3 PM

This season's PACC Concert Series is focusing on the many moods of love. In that vein, our "Love Came Down at Christmas" concert on Sunday, December 3 at 3 PM, explores the profound love that is at the heart of why we celebrate Christ's birth.



A big thank you to the hardy crew who helped set up for our Books, Games, and Puzzles sale or who stayed after the sale to pack up and dispose of the leftover books! And another big thanks to everyone who donated books, games, and puzzles or bought some at the sale! Thanks to all of you, we raised close to \$1000 for PACC. We had so many great children's books, games and puzzles left over after the sale that we decided to extend that part of our sale. Next time you are at the church please visit the Fellowship Room downstairs. There are children's books, games and puzzles on the two bookshelves in the Fellowship Room. There is a box (to be emptied daily) for donations. Suggested amounts are \$2.00 per game/puzzle and \$1.00 per book. We'll keep it going until November 19 (during the Cookie Walk!).



The poster has a light yellow background with a subtle wavy pattern. On the left, there is a green-bordered shield-shaped emblem containing the text 'PACC COOKIE WALK' in green, 'NOVEMBER 19' in black, and 'after worship in the Fellowship Room' in black. Below the emblem is a small circular logo with a heart and the words 'HANDMADE WITH LOVE'. To the right of the emblem, the text 'save the Date!' is written in a large, green, 3D-style font. Below this, it says 'It's the Sunday before Thanksgiving, a great time to stock up on cookies for the holidays!!'. Further down, in red text, it says 'There will also be a "Re-deck the Halls" table with gently used Holiday decorations for sale.' Below that, in black text, it says 'WE NEED BAKERS!' followed by 'Please contact Linda Cohn if you're planning to bake for the sale.' On the right side of the poster is an illustration of a glass jar filled with various cookies, including heart-shaped, star-shaped, and round ones with different toppings.

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PACC's popular COOKIE WALK will be held in the Fellowship Room on **November 19**, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, just in time to stock up for the holidays! We need many people to bake cookies for us to sell and then many people to come buy cookies and enjoy them! This is an easy and tasty way to help the church achieve our aspirational budget goal for 2023. *Please let Linda Cohn (lpc@cohnarlington.net) know if you plan to bake cookies for the Cookie Walk.*

REDECK THE HALLS

'Tis almost the season to bring out your holiday decorations. We're having a ReDeck the Halls sale of gently-used lights, wreaths, knickknacks, and ornaments for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Snow Season on **November 19**. Drop off your decorations in Parish Hall on Saturday, November 18, between 1pm and 5pm. *Note: no artificial Christmas trees except tabletop size.*



Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

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Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

An Open and Affirming Congregation

(781) 643-8680

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www.pacc-ucc.org

STAFF

Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor

Christine Rochon, Office Administrator

Jeffrey Brody, Music Director/Organist

Andrea Hart, Youth Music Director & Int. CE Dir.

Victor and Sue McNary, Sextons

OFFICERS

Mike Rich, Moderator

Valerie Censabella, Vice Moderator

Linda Cohn, Clerk

Mark Tuttle, Treasurer