

DECEMBER



Sunday Worship - 10:00 am
Bible Study - Dec. 6 at 7:00 pm
Youth Choir Practices -Dec. 3 at 11:30 am, Dec. 10 at 9:20 am
Digital Prayer - Wed's at 10:30 am
Choir Practice - Th's at 7:30 pm

Hanging of the Greens 12/2

Virtual Christmas Concert 12/3

Poinsettia Orders Due 12/4

All Ages Caroling 12/9

Christmas Pageant 12/10

PACC Men Dinner 12/11

Women's Guild Christmas Party 12/14

Service of Lament and Hope 12/20

Lessons and Carols 12/31

Christmas Eve AM Service 12/24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 12/24



The SPIRE

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

DECEMBER 2023

More details inside

Join Us For 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.

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

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**

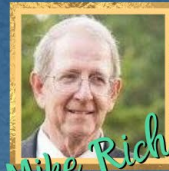
To participate via Facebook:

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 and an audio recording
of the sermon.

Thanks, Nick Dokos for making this possible!



Mike Rich
(Pronouns: he/him/his)

*A Message
from our
Moderator*

All friends of PACC are
invited to attend the
Council of Deacons
meetings.

The next meeting will be
on Zoom, Monday,
December 11, at 7:30 pm.

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

END OF YEAR NOTICES

2023 Contributions due by December 31- Donors must deliver donations **on or by** December 31 to claim a charitable contribution deduction on income taxes for 2023.

Submit bills by December 29 – For our 2023 financial reports to accurately reflect the year's activity, bills should be approved and submitted for payment by December 29.

Annual reports due January 3 - Getting some reports before the end of December would be beneficial.

Share with your family and friends!

Advent & Christmas Events 2023

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 3 AT 3:00 PM

Join us virtually for a Christmas Concert on Zoom.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 10 DURING WORSHIP

This service will feature the Youth of PACC.

SERVICE OF LAMENT AND HOPE

DECEMBER 20 AT 7:00PM

This service is for anyone feeling
the weight of the holiday season.

CHRISTMAS EVE - MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24 AT 10:00AM

This family-friendly service features carols and the Nativity story.

CHRISTMAS EVE - CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 AT 10:00PM

Traditional candlelight service with communion.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 31 AT 10:00AM

The story of Christmas through scripture and carols.

**PARK AVENUE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



Park Avenue Congregational Church
50 Paul Revere Rd., Arlington MA 02476
an open & affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ
www.pacc-ucc.org - (781)643-8680

CHRISTIAN ED / YOUTH CHOIR

Greetings, PACC families!

We'll bring the anticipatory season of Advent into Sunday School this month, as we continue to explore Bible stories with fun activities and our amazing kids and teachers.

DECEMBER FAMILY EVENTS

Christmas Kick-off: (POSTPONED) We will plan a teen event for later this winter.

PACC Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 10 (10:00 am) All CE Families will receive more details via email in the coming days. We'll talk about Pageant narrators, roles and costumes during Sunday School on Dec. 3, and final details sent out between Dec. 3 - 10.

All-Ages Caroling at ACMI: Saturday, December 9 (4:15 pm) Andy will lead an all-ages caroling group for the annual Arlington Heights Stroll/Tree Lighting at ACMI. On that day, we'll gather at the church at around 4:15 pm, get a few carols ready, and then walk over to ACMI and lead the crowd with some singing starting at 4:45 pm.

Christmas Eve Family Friendly service: Sunday, December 24 (10:00 am)

This is our annual "Early" Christmas Eve Service, in the morning this year, tailored to families and kids. We'll have Christmas lessons and carols, All-Ages music, a special story, and quiet activities for young ones during the service.

YOUTH CHOIR

Thanks to all for your beautiful singing these past couple of months!

DECEMBER YOUTH CHOIR EVENTS

Sunday, December 3 (11:30 am) -- regular YC rehearsal.

Sunday, December 10 (9:20 am) -- **PAGEANT SUNDAY** - with early rehearsal beforehand! (*We will NOT sing in church on December 17.*) See details above.

Saturday, December 9 (4:15 pm) -- ***Caroling at ACMI.*** See details above

Sunday, December 24 (9:00 am) -- ***"All-Ages Singers" rehearsal*** for Christmas Eve Morning Service. See details above.

THANK YOU, and wishing you a blessed Advent and Christmas Season! Andy Hart
Youth Music Director and Acting CE Director



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In celebration:

Warmest birthday wishes to **Claire Gibbons**, who will be 94 on December 31!

Congratulations to **Samantha** and **Aric Kiesman** on the birth of their baby girl, **Ivy Skye Kiesman**. Samantha is **Meredythe Schober's** granddaughter.

In our prayers:

Linda Cohn, who was seriously injured after being hit by a car on November 19 and is hospitalized at Lahey. Prayers also for **Don Cohn** and their sons and daughters-in-law, **Henry, Rachel, Ed** and **Susan**.

The family and friends of **Matthew Works**, who died on November 5. Matthew was a good friend of **Leah** and **Chris Lyman Waldron** and was known to the PACC community through his preaching, speaking and participation in Bible Study.

Tina Gramm's friends, **Karen, Steve**, and **Gail**, after the death of their mother, **Marilyn**.

Angela Meehan and **her family** after the death of her aunt, **Deborah**, who died on November 8. Prayers also for her aunt's caretaker, **Tom**.

Leanne Marden's cousin, **Wallace Lind** and his children, after the death of his wife, **Heidi Lind**.

Cheryl and **David Craigie's** friends, **Karen** and her son, **Alex**, after the death of their husband and father, **Phil**.

Aaron Ford's father and his father's wife, **Tom** and **Rhonda Ford**, who are both in treatment for cancer.

Bonnie Hayner, who will have a procedure in December to alleviate chronic nerve pain.

Peggy Kyle, who is at Aberjona Rehab after a hospitalization for a fall.

Angela Meehan's stepmother and father, **Deirdre** and **Tom Meehan**, after a fatal shooting at the NH hospital where Deirdre works.

Ken Miller, who is at Aberjona Rehab recovering from a hospitalization for Covid. Prayers also for **Beverly Miller**, who recovered from Covid.

Linda Cohn's brother, **Will Parsons**, who is recovery from lung surgery.

Mandy and **Ethan Brush's** brother-in-law, **Ben**, who is recovering from surgery.

Betty Gitlin-Rich, who is recovering from skin cancer surgery in late November.

Mike Rich's brother, **Jeff Rich**, whose health continues to improve in rehab.

Jeff Jones's aunt, who has Covid. **Merrith Sabo Jones's** friends, **Joscelyn** and **Jojo**, who are dealing with Jojo's ALS diagnosis.

Jeffrey Brody's partner, **Richard Sizensky**, who is home recovering from a recent hospitalization. Prayers also for **Jeffrey**.

Please continue to keep in your prayers: **Linda Brinkman, Anita Clarke, Connie Dugan, Yvonne Crockett, Kingsley and Janet Doe, Linda Fenner, Forté Family, Jim Gibbons, Janet Hoffman, Nancy Jacobo, Marilyn Jannsen, Tom Jannsen, Kate Lindheim, Chickie Olson, Gwen Phelps, Jane Puopolo, 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.

Messages from our PACC friends and family

Every time we look at the beautiful cornucopia of flowers Barbara Wagner delivered, we are reminded of the love, caring, prayers and well wishes which surround us from our wonderful PACC family. It means so much to us. *Thank you! Beverly and Ken Miller*

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



2024 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 2024: Hong Chin, Tim Durning, Tina Gramm, Pam Lepri, Cindy Manson, Dave Morrisette, Mike Rich, and Damon Sidel.** *These newly elected Deacons will join the following Deacons who have one year yet to serve in their two-year term: Valerie Censabella, Debbie Douglas, Jane Flores, Sharon Hamilton, Scott Jones, Laurie Scott, and Barbara Wagner.* Please join us in thanking them for agreeing to serve us and our church in this manner.

MISSION AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

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.

ARLINGTON HOUSING CORPORATION TOY DRIVE

This year, the **Arlington Housing Organization** is doing a **Toy Drive for 137 children** and they would like our help! PACC will be given a list of children and you can pick one or more to buy a toy for them. *Speak to Damon Sidel for more information.*

COAT BOSTON AND THE CHRISTMAS SHOP

We are seeking donations of gift cards, books, toys, socks, hats, mittens and coats. Through Coat Boston and The Christmas Shop these gifts will be given directly to schools, partner agencies and organizations in Boston that serve individuals and families in need of resources. Gifts can be **donated by December 5**, as follows: **Bring items to PACC by 12/5.** OR **Bring items directly to Hancock Church in Lexington (1912 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA) by 12/5.**

ARLINGTON'S HOLIDAY HELP

PACC has often participated in the *Arlington Health and Human Services' Holiday Help Program*. To allow families the opportunity to choose and purchase items for their children they are accepting monetary donations and/or local gift cards. You can participate in this program here: <https://ahhsc.org>.

HYGIENE SUPPLIES DRIVE

The results are in... our most recent hygiene supplies drive to benefit the *Somerville Homeless Coalition* was a huge success! **You all donated two VERY full oversized PACC tote bags full of supplies as well as \$999.84!** Well done, PACC! Thank you so much for your generosity.

NEGRO SPIRITUALS ROYALTIES PROJECT

Also, you may remember that PACC has chosen to pursue a racial justice initiative centered on the musical legacy of enslaved African Americans by receiving "royalties" for the Negro Spirituals we sing in service. Since we started this in the spring, **we have received \$500.73**, which will go to the *Hamilton-Garrett Center for Music and Arts in Dorchester* to support the development of young Black musicians whenever we sing or perform a Negro Spiritual.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY



GET READY FOR GAME NIGHTS!

There will be three game nights this coming winter/early Spring. The dates are Saturday, January 27, February 24 and March 30. This is a family-friendly event. Contact Betty Rich or Cindy Manson for questions. More information coming in next month's SPIRE.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

REMINDER to bring in your **2024 pledge cards!** Thank you to all who have already returned pledge cards. We have made a great start! If you haven't already, please fill out a pledge card 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. Thanks for helping us make 2024 our best year yet!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Help make our Sanctuary look beautiful for Advent and Christmas! Consider donating a poinsettia plant in honor or 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 who 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, 2023.

Be sure to include your dedication with your order.

Mail or E-mail orders to the office (office@pacc-ucc.org) and you can mail a check or pay on our website.



Love Came Down

December 3, 2023, at 3:00 pm on Zoom

Park Avenue Congregational Church

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 explores the profound love that is at the heart of why we celebrate Christ's birth. A Zoom link will be e-mailed out the week of the concert. Please save the date **and invite family and friends** wherever they may be to join us. We welcome donations in any amount which are used to support maintenance of our treasured Skinner organ and our music program. You can mail a check to the Church Office or donate online via <https://www.pacc-ucc.org/give/>, by selecting "PACC Christmas Concert Donation."



PACC GROUPS

PACC MEN

We will meet in the PACC Fellowship Room at **6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 5**. We'll order food from a local restaurant and discuss what our group might want to do for PACC's 125th anniversary year.

SARAH'S CIRCLE

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, December 16 at 11:00 am**, to discuss Thich Nhat Hanh's "*Silence: The Power of Quiet in A World Full of Noise*". With this book, the world-renowned Vietnamese author shares a profound, concise, and practical guide to understanding and developing our most powerful inner resource - silence - to help us find happiness, purpose, and peace. Sounds appropriate for anyone who wants to take a break from the mad dash of the holiday season. Please join us! *All are welcome to participate either in person or via Zoom. Please contact Joan to receive the Zoom invitation.*

WOMEN'S GUILD

On **Thursday, December 14, at 11:30 am** in the **Fellowship Room** we will be having our **Annual Christmas Luncheon!** Lunch will be catered. Please bring a gift for the Yankee Swap (no more than \$10 value). Please RSVP to Diane Wells at (978-692-9176 or dwells518@comcast.net) so we can plan accordingly. **RSVP's due December 11.**



Thank you to our Cookie Walk and ReDeck the Halls helpers! We raised just over \$1,000! Thank you to everyone that helped put these fundraisers together AND everyone that came to shop and made it so successful! As you're getting ready for Christmas this year, please set aside any gently-used decorations that you no longer use for the ReDeck the Halls Sale next year!



MAY YOU BE BLESSED THIS CHRISTMAS WITH
GOD'S HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND MOST OF ALL LOVE.
AND MAY YOU KNOW HOW MUCH OF A GIFT YOU
ARE TO OTHERS, JUST BY BEING A PART OF THIS
CHURCH FAMILY!

*Merry
Christmas*

Pastor Leahn, Christine, Andy and Jeffrey
PACC Staff