

FEBRUARY

Sunday Worship - 10:00 am

Digital Prayer - Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Bible Study - 1st & 2nd Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Youth Choir Practice - 1st, 2nd, & 4th Sundays at 11:30 am, 3rd Sunday at 9:20 am

Choir Practices - Thursdays at 7:30 pm

PACC Men - 2/6 at 6:00 pm

Youth Mardi Gras Party - 2/11 at Hancock Church

Council of Deacons Meeting - 2/12 at 7:30 pm

ASH Wednesday - 2/14, LENT begins

Ashes to GO - 2/14 at 7:30 am - 9:30 am

Lenten Study Series - 2/14 at 7:00 pm

Women's Guild - 2/15 at 11:30 am

Meet Your PACC Neighbors - 2/15 at 7:30 pm

Sarah's Circle - 2/17 at 11:00 am

Hygiene Drive Collection - 2/18

Game Night - 2/24

Hygiene Drive Assembly - 2/25



The SPIRE

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

FEBRUARY 2024

More details inside

GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR

Hello, PACC friends,

As you might have heard during the Annual Meeting this past Sunday, we are celebrating our quasiquicentennial - that's 125 years of being Park Avenue! Thanks to Linda Cohn's wonderful leadership, the committee working on the anniversary started out with a vision: to honor the legacy of all those who came before us and made it possible for us to be here today; but even more than that, to celebrate who we are now, what God is doing in our midst today, and who God is calling us to be in the future. And to do some good in the world while we're at it! In that spirit, here are a few of the fun and meaningful activities the committee is working on for our anniversary year.



Special events: Save the Dates!

- **Special Anniversary Worship Service and Luncheon on March 10, 2024**

A time to worship and thank God with church family and friends, past and present, with special music and a celebratory lunch afterwards.

- **Gala Celebration on November 16, 2024**

As one of our children said last Sunday, "Let's have a party!" We love having fun together so this will be our chance to celebrate and enjoy each other and a wonderful year together.

Ongoing throughout the year:

- **History Art Installation**

Keep your eyes open for an interactive art installation in the Narthex showcasing special moments through the years at PACC. You'll see some familiar faces and find proof that we've always enjoyed our faith with a good helping of fellowship!

- **Solar Panels for PACC**

We'll become better stewards of our resources and live our faith by providing environmental and financial benefits for our church and the planet.

- **125 Challenge**

Each month we'll be invited to participate in a "125 challenge" connected to our mission & justice work. This month we'll put together 125 period kits.

- **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?**

We'll have fun getting to know each other better as we break bread together in small groups over the spring and summer - all with the element of surprise!

I hope you'll join us for some or all of these as we celebrate everything that makes PACC such a wonderful, thriving community. If you have questions or ideas, feel free to reach out to me or to our 125th Anniversary Committee: Tim Durning, Christine Rochon, Holly Stumpf, Mike Rich, Valerie Censabella, Cindy Manson, Marianne McPherson, Travis Woodward, Laurie Scott ... with love and thanks to our leader, Linda Cohn! A big thank you to them for their creativity, insight, and faithfulness as they help us celebrate 125 years together!



Blessings,

Leah

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor

Park Avenue Congregational Church

CELBATING 125 YEARS

You are joyfully invited to join us
for our 125th Anniversary
Woship Service and Luncheon.

**Sunday, March, 10, 2024
10:00 am**

*Please R.S.V.P for the luncheon by March 1, 2024
office@pacc-ucc.org or (781)643-8680*

Please send an e-mail to office@pacc-ucc.org or call the office (781-643-8680)
to RSVP for the Luncheon after the service.

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.

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): (929) 205 6099

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.

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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!



Tim Durning

A Message from our Moderator

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

The next meeting will be on Zoom,
Monday, February 12 , at 7:30 pm.

Let our newly appointed Moderator, Tim Durning know if you would like to address the Council or have any agenda items to suggest.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE THE PACC MODERATOR?

The Moderator is chosen annually by the incoming Council of Deacons from among its members at a meeting before the Annual Meeting. The Moderator shall preside at all congregational and Council of Deacons meetings. The Moderator is authorized to sign as the chief executive officer on behalf of the Church. The ANNUAL REPORT has more information about Council of Deacon positions and the ministries they lead.



MEET YOUR 2024 DEACONS



TIM DURNING
Moderator & Property Deacon

VALERIE CENSABELLA
Vice Moderator & Christian Education
Deacon



LAURIE SCOTT
Administration Deacon



HONG CHIN
Fellowship Deacon



DAMON SIDEL
Mission & Justice Deacon



PAM LEPRI
Care Deacon



DEBBIE DOUGLAS
Finance Deacon



MIKE RICH
Music Deacon



DAVE MORRISSETTE
Worship
Deacon



SCOTT JONES
Care Deacon



CINDY MANSON
Membership Deacon



SHARON HAMILTON
Stewardship Deacon



BARBARA WAGNER
Christian Education
Deacon



JANE FLORES
Mission & Justice
Deacon



TINA GRAMM
Worship Deacon



CHRISTIAN ED./YOUTH CHOIR

Greetings, PACC families!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our wonderful Sunday School teachers continue to enjoy spending time with our youngest PACC folks and their great ideas as we discuss parables and stories about Jesus and his teachings. In January, we began meeting with our 2024 Confirmation Class, which will continue through the winter and spring. *Curious about what our young PACC peeps are up to? 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, or help with Youth Activities!*

Watch your e-mail for more news soon about upcoming Lenten Events, and a special invitation to a multi-church-youth Mardi Gras party on Sunday, February 11!

(First Friday Pizza and Game Nights are on hold for a few months.)

Be sure to join in the **Game Nights** hosted by our Membership Deacons on **February 24** and **March 23!**

YOUTH CHOIR

Thank you all for your beautiful singing in January!

February schedule is as follows: Rehearsals **February 4** and **11** after church, and early (9:20 am) rehearsal and singing in church on **February 18**.

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 am - 12:15 pm). 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. If you would like to sing in this fun and lively group, come give it a try! (*3rd grade and older*).



THANK YOU, Andy Hart
Youth Music Director and Acting CE Director

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

IN CELEBRATION:

Todd and Rebecca Ferreira who had a baby boy, **Baylor Ferreira**, on January 11.
Gwen Phelps is Baylor's grandmother.

Congratulations to **Buck and Nadine Lombard**, who celebrated their 50th anniversary in January.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Linda Cohn, who moved to The Commons in Lincoln to continue her recovery from a car accident.

Jane Flores, who is in Manila trying to get medical care for her dad, **Federico**, who had a serious stroke.

Betty Gitlin-Rich's sister, Barbara Gitlin, whose partner passed away unexpectedly.

Tom Janssen, who is dealing with some health issues.

Buck Lombard's father, Leon Lombard Sr., who has entered hospice care.

Christine Rochon and her family, after the death of her aunt, Ginny Lamar.

Please continue to keep in your prayers: **Anita Clarke, Connie Dugan, Yvonne Crockett, Linda Fenner, Forté Family, Jim Gibbons, Janet Hoffman, Nancy Jacobo, Tom Janssen, 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TO YOU! Each month we list members and friends of PACC's birthdays in the SPIRE so that we can all celebrate together. Is your birthday missing from the list? Send an e-mail to office@pacc-ucc.org and let us know so we can celebrate with YOU! *(Please only send in requests for yourself, not on behalf of others).*

Messages from our PACC friends and family

Thank you for the Christmas greetings and for the beautiful large white poinsettia that is lasting well. Thanks to Barbara Wagner for delivering the poinsettia and visiting.

Regards, Norma Gormley

Thank you with love to Scott Jones who brought Chickie and I poinsettias on Christmas day. It was a wonderful surprise and dearly appreciated. Also, to Hong Chin for all his visits. It's a pleasure seeing you! *F.R.O.G. (forever relying on God), Margaret Berman*

PACC MINISTRIES

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY



We need hosts for Coffee Hour.

Please tell Hong if you can help set up/clean up one Sunday a month OR provide some goodies once a month OR both!
Hong Chin: (857)998-2287 and hong2446@gmail.com

MISSION AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

HYGIENE SUPPLIES DRIVE, 125th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The Mission & Justice Ministry invites you to participate in our first quarter hygiene supplies drive of 2024! This year, we're teaming up with the 125th Anniversary Committee. *We met our goal for January and donated 125 cans of soup to Arlington Eats!*

For February, we will collect supplies to create Period Kits for Church World Services (CWS). Last year we sent 39 kits in February and 54 kits in May as well as additional non-period kit supplies to the Somerville Homeless Coalition in February and November.

As part of the 125th Anniversary, we are setting an ambitious goal:

Let's collect supplies for 125 period kits this February!

THREE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

1. [Sign up for an item on the list \(http://tinyurl.com/hygiene-supplies-drive\)](http://tinyurl.com/hygiene-supplies-drive) and bring it to church on or **before February 18**
2. Make a monetary donation by February 18 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/. Each Period Kit, including shipping, costs about \$12 (*shall we call it \$12.50 for our 125th?*)
3. Help sort and assemble supplies after service on February 18 and / or on February 25. We will take a first tally of assembled kits on the 18 and purchase more supplies for the 25 to knock it out of the park!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Damon.

If you want to help even more, you can volunteer to deliver the donated items. Food supplies go down the hill on Park Ave and hygiene supplies go to the post office or Davis Square depending on the month. Contact Damon for more details.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

JOIN US FOR GAME NIGHTS!

The next game night will be February 24 at 5:30 pm. Over 20 of us met in January and had a great time. This is a family-friendly event.

Contact Betty Rich bgr642@gmail.com or Cindy Manson cynthia.manson@gmail.com for questions.



MEET YOUR PACC NEIGHBORS

Join us via Zoom on **February 15 at 7:30 pm** for a Valentine-inspired Meet Your PACC Neighbors Night! Pam Lepri will warm our hearts with her photos of her trip to Alaska, and Meredythe Schober and Margaret Berman will share how they met their significant others. We still have room for other tales of how you met your special someone, and we'll take a poll of the attendees, too.

PACC GROUPS

PACC MEN

We will meet on **Tuesday, February 6, at 6:30 pm**. We're having dinner at City Streets Restaurant, 411 Waverley Oaks Rd, Waltham. Please let Mike Rich know by mid-afternoon on the 6th if you will be joining us so that I can make the reservation. Please reach out if you need a ride. Hoping to see you there.

SARAH'S CIRCLE

Our selection for Black History Month is "Between the World and Me" by Ta Nehisi Coate. It is a New York Times bestseller, hailed by Toni Morrison as required reading, and named one of the most influential books of the decade by CNN. What is it like to inhabit a Black body and find a way to live within it in today's world? The author attempts to answer this question in a letter to his adolescent son as he shares the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world

We will meet on **Saturday, February 17, at 11:00 am** by Zoom only. Please contact Merrith Sabo Jones to receive the Zoom invitation.

WOMEN'S GUILD

On **Thursday, February 15, at 11:30 am** in the **Fellowship Room**. It will be a regular bag lunch with coffee, tea and dessert provided. As always in the winter months our meetings are weather dependent. If it is snowy or icy, we will cancel the meeting. We want everyone to be safe!

CARD MAKING WORKSHOP

Save the date! Even if you can't draw, you will be able to make a beautiful collage greeting card. **Saturday, March 9, at 2:00 pm.** Gwen Phelps and Karen Stark will be teaching different techniques to create a wonderful card. Supplies will be provided. If you want to give a small donation offsetting the supply cost that would be appreciated, but not necessary at all to attend this event. **Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 5** to Gwen Phelps. This workshop is geared for adults and teens but younger children are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

PACC SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

We're in the thick of winter now but before we know it, spring will be here. And you know what that means: the annual PACC Rummage Sale! It will be on **Saturday, April 27.** Are there items you have accumulated you no longer need or want that you could donate to the sale? The list of items you can donate is long. It includes gently used men's, women's, and children's clothing (*all clean and in good condition*), baby items, toys, housewares, books, CDs, DVDs, sporting and gardening equipment, tools, small appliances (*all must be in working condition*), craft items, baskets, holiday decor, paintings, pet items, small furniture, and jewelry and accessories (*like scarves and handbags*). **Please do NOT donate TVs and computers. We also ask that you do NOT donate any sort of linens or stuffed animals.** We will be setting up and sorting the items two days prior to the sale. In addition to collecting items for the sale, please mark your calendars now for those three days and plan to participate in this fun and useful annual event. Besides being an important fundraiser for our church and a time of fellowship, this is an event the wider community anticipates and greatly appreciates. Thank you!

PACC 2024 ROSTER

We are updating the PACC Roster, and would love to include you! The roster is distributed only among PACC members and friends, and it is a wonderful way to stay connected. ***If you have any updates to your current information OR would like to be added to the PACC Roster, please contact Christine Rochon at office@pacc-ucc.org or (781)643-8680. **Please send your information by 2/15/24*****

** The Roster is a directory of Park Avenue Congregational Church Members and friends. It is the property of Park Avenue Congregational Church, and may only be used for church purposes.*

MARCH SPIRE deadline - 2/27

If you have an article or a note, you'd like us to run in next month's SPIRE, please send it into Christine in the office by February 27 at office@pacc-ucc.org.

CLOSED CAPTIONS FOR ZOOM SERVICES

If you would like add closed captions to your Zoom meeting, at the menu at the bottom of your screen, click on "*Show Captions*" option. You may need to choose and save your language. *If you have any questions during the service, you can use the chat function to reach out to me, Dave Morrisette.*

SANCTUARY FLOWER DONATIONS



Have you ever noticed the altar flowers on Sunday morning? They are generously donated by PACC friends and members who wish to honor loved ones or to announce special celebrations. We have the following

Sundays available:

2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24.

The cost is \$50 (*you could also supply your own*). Send an e-mail to the church office with your requested date and dedication for the bulletin. Thank you!!

Please welcome our newest Members!

On Sunday, February 28, 2024, PACC gained two new members.



Jonathan Levinson is a graduate of Harvard A.B. (mathematics) and Princeton M.A. (philosophy). His hobbies are reading, especially in Eastern Religions and Detective stories with a supernatural twist, and walking. He worked as a software developer for 44 years, and now is grateful to have more time to spend on his hobbies. PACC's inclusive humanism attracted Jonathan to the church.



Chris Ziegler was born in San Francisco and spent her life in the Bay Area until moving to Arlington 9 years ago to be a live-in Grandma for her son's family. Besides Andy (*with Margi and granddaughters Annika and Yvonne*), she has a daughter, Karin, living in Germany (*with Andreas and grandchildren Anne and Noah*). She enjoys playing handbells, piano, hearing the BSO, and participating in lots of weekends which a second house in western MA involves. Meredythe Schober introduced her to PACC!

PACC'S LENTEN STUDY SERIES 2024

The Abrahamic Faiths



LENTEN STUDY SERIES 2024: The Abrahamic Faiths

Join us for a six-week series on **Judaism, Islam, and our connection as Christians to both**. We'll learn about the basics of each faith, hear from **guest speakers** of both religions, and take two **field trips** to visit a mosque and a synagogue. We'll meet on **Wednesdays from 7 - 8:30 pm, February 14 - March 20** (*no meeting during Holy Week*). The series will be **hybrid**; you can participate online or in person in the Fellowship Room. Field trips will likely be on Fridays and are optional.

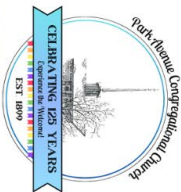
Contact Pastor Leah with any questions.

Don't forget to join us on Ash Wednesday morning from 7:30 – 9:30 am for Ashes and a Blessing to go on the Sanctuary steps.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 Weston Rochon
Travis Woodward
10 Dave Morrisette,
Roger Nicoll
11 Steve Colello
13 Rachel Sexton
14 Mark Sexton

15 Alex Brush
16 Jackie Kim
17 Caleb Englander
19 Aaron Ford
23 Ariana Minot
24 Margaret Berman,
Justin Lawless



Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

50 Paul Revere Road

Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

An Open and Affirming Congregation

(781) 643-8660

E-mail: Office@pacc-ucc.org

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

Tim Durning, Moderator

Valerie Censabella, Vice Moderator

Linda Cohn, Clerk

Mark Tuttle, Treasurer