

# MARCH

## ***Sunday Worship 10:00 am***

**Digital Prayer** • Weds at 10:30 am

**Lenten Study** • Every Wednesday during  
*(Begins on Ash Wed, March 5)* LENT at 7:00 pm

**Youth Choir Practices** • 1st & 2nd Suns at 11:30 am  
and 3rd Suns at 9:20 am

**Chancel Choir Practice** • Thursdays at 7:30 pm

**PACC Men** • 3/4 at 6:30 pm

**Ash Wednesday - Ashes to Go!** • 3/5 at 7:30 am - 9:30 am

**Council of Deacons** • 3/10 at 7:30 pm

**PACC Neighbor Night** • 3/12 at 7:30 pm

**Women's Guild** • 3/16 at 11:30 am

**Soup-er Bowl** • 3/23 after worship

**Game Night** • 3/29 at 5:30 pm



**The SPIRE**

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

**MARCH 2025**

JOIN US FOR

# SUNDAY WORSHIP

You can join us in person OR virtually at 10:00 am.  
An e-mail is sent weekly with a link to Zoom.  
Contact [office@pacc-ucc.org](mailto:office@pacc-ucc.org) to sign up.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY

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.

**Did you miss live worship? Visit: [www.pacc-ucc.org/sermons](http://www.pacc-ucc.org/sermons)**  
for a video and an audio recording of the sermon.

**THANKS, NICK DOKOS, FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE!**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR TIM DURNING



You are invited to attend and participate in the discussions at the Council of Deacons meetings. Let Tim know if you would like to address the Council or have agenda items to suggest.

**THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING  
WILL BE ON ZOOM,  
MARCH 10, 2025 AT 7:30 PM.**

# GREETINGS, FROM OUR PASTOR



**Dear, Park Avenue Friends!**

Lent begins this week with **Ash Wednesday** and an opportunity to come by **Ashes to Go from 7:30am-9:30am** on the steps of the sanctuary. Come by for ashes and a blessing - and if you can't make it, take the blessing anyway: "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Remember that God brings beautiful things out of the dust."

Why do we say this? Lent is a season of repentance, from the Greek *metanoia*: to have a change of mind or, even better, a change of heart. It's a time to reflect on where we might be missing the mark or simply missing connection with God, and to intentionally draw closer to the One who has made us through spiritual practices like fasting, prayer, or taking on a positive commitment, like working to be kinder, more forgiving, or braver as we stand with those in need. (If that last one sounds intriguing, join us on **Wednesdays in Lent** for our **Lenten Study Series** where we'll be reading **How We Learn to Be Brave**, by Bishop Mariann Budde. See more info on page 8.)

Lent is also a time to think about our own mortality: that we humans were made (at least in the biblical story!) out of dirt or dust and that when we die, we will return to the earth. And it's a time to remember Jesus' 40 days in the desert as he prepared himself for the challenges of ministry including, ultimately, his own death.

Sounds like a bit of a bummer, doesn't it? But while we are in this spiritual wilderness with Jesus, reflecting on how we can draw closer to God and more fully be who God has made us to be, God is busy at work bringing beautiful things out of that dust and dirt - like a pile of compost, or a barren landscape after a wildfire. Even in our most desolate times, Lent reminds us, God is moving to comfort us, strengthen us, and bring new life out of what can sometimes seem like a trash heap.

So, dear ones, this Lent may you indeed discover the blessings of ashes and dust - and remember that it's okay to be in the wilderness. In fact, it's one of the places we are most likely to encounter the God who loves us so wonderfully and wildly!

*Blessings,*

*Leah*

**Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron**

# CHRISTIAN ED/YOUTH CHOIR



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hello , PACC Families! We've had a bit of disruption in our Sunday School program - TWO Snowy Sundays of virtual church. But we are back on track, with stories and fun activities as we explore special WOMEN in the Bible.



If you haven't yet met our new **PACC Faith Formation Coordinator, Jude Martowska**, I hope you'll come to Sunday School soon to do so. Jude comes to PACC with a wealth of experience in church and family ministry, and has started coordinating our Sunday School program. He has been teaching Sunday School since mid-January, and it's wonderful to see him getting to know our youngest PACC-ers.

Next week begins the season of Lent, when we find special ways to think about Jesus' life, and God's presence in OUR lives. **Jude has a special series of Sunday School lessons planned for Lent, to learn more about The Lord's Prayer.**

**PARENTS OF Middle and High Schoolers** - I'll be reaching out soon with a few possible dates for a Youth Group Movie Night.

*And as always – Please reach out to Jude or Andy if you'd like to join our great crew of Sunday School teachers.*

## YOUTH CHOIR

Hello Youth Choir singers and families. Schedule challenges and SNOW have disrupted our singing schedule lately, and I miss you!

**BUT -- we're getting back on track in March**, with regular 11:30 am rehearsals on March 2 and 9, and early rehearsal on March 16 to sing in church that morning. Looking ahead, we'll also be preparing to sing on Easter Sunday, April 20.

*Sending warmest wishes,  
Andy*

*Andy Hart, [cedirector@pacc-ucc.org](mailto:cedirector@pacc-ucc.org)  
Jude Martowska, [judemartowska@pacc-ucc.org](mailto:judemartowska@pacc-ucc.org)*

# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

## IN CELEBRATION:

Warmest wishes to **Jeanne Woodin** who will celebrate her **95<sup>th</sup> birthday** on 3/7.

Congratulations to **Tanya Ozbey** and **Todd Spalding** who were married at PACC on 2/11.

## IN OUR PRAYERS:

**Gwen Phelps**, who is dealing with multiple health issues.

**Stephen Kasparian**, who is recovering from recent stent surgery and meeting with his cardiologist to determine if additional surgery is needed.

**Sharon Hamilton's** sister-in-law, **Helen**, who is in hospice care.

**Mandy Brush's** mom, **Pam Scheinfeldt**, who is currently in the hospital.

**Katie Colello's** mom, **Anne Varian**, who is regaining her strength after cancer treatment and in preparation for more possible treatment.

**Sharon Kabelitz's** sister, **Jody Pickrahn**, who is recovering from ankle surgery and recently celebrated a birthday.

**Norma Allen's** niece, **Debbie Allen**, who has been transferred to a long-term care facility closer to relatives in PA.

**Chris Lyman Waldron's** cousin, **Dave**, who is being treated for cancer.

**Andrew D'Eon**, who will be returning home from St. Jude's after responding well to treatments for cancer. Prayers also for his family, **Kristin, Brian and Kaelyn D'Eon**, and his grandparents, **Edith and Bob Burge**.

**Meredyth Schober's** granddaughter (**Nadine** and **Buck Lombard's** daughter), **Elena Hogan**, who is undergoing treatments for health issues related to previously undiagnosed Lyme disease infections.

*Please continue to keep in your prayers: Aaron Bailey, Zachary Bradford, Linda and Jim Brinkman, Jeffrey Brody and Richard Sizensky, Anita Clarke, Don and Linda Cohn, Cheryl Craigie, Jim Gibbons, Bonnie Hayner, Janet Hoffman, Nancy Jacobo, Marilyn Janssen, Carrie Keeler, the Lindheim family, Chickie Olson, Jim Saros, Norma Sherwood, Diane Wells, and Maria Zakaria.*

*\* If you or someone you know at PACC is celebrating a milestone birthday (80's or 90's), please let Barbara Wagner or Maureen Igoe know at [careministry@pacc-ucc.org](mailto:careministry@pacc-ucc.org).*

# PACC MINISTRIES

## MISSION AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

### **COOK! Souper-bowl MMXXV, Take 2!**

***Let's get cooking for Sunday, March 23!***

A snow storm kept us from our kick-off, but we're ready to try again! This will build on Beats for EATS, Arlington EATS' annual gala and fundraiser and lead into our April food drive (so bring some food donations along with your soup!).

**Sign up here:** <https://tinyurl.com/souperbowl-2025-take2>

We'll provide plastic containers on the previous two Sundays, the 9 and 16, and we'll set up a time on Sat, Mar 22 to drop off the soup if you can't make Sunday. While football season is over, we can still help tackle hunger and score a touchdown for those in need! If the number of cooks volunteering is as high as last time, we hope to give a shout out to the broader Arlington EATS support community to come and buy some soup.

### **PARTY! Arlington EATS: Beats for EATS**

***Let's party on Saturday, March 22!***

***Beats for EATS on March 22 is Arlington EATS*** (<https://www.arlingtoneats.org/>) biggest annual event and is a big part of meeting their goal of raising \$120,000, which will allow them to continue to serve Arlington residents who are food insecure.

We at PACC are committed to supporting Arlington EATS, and the Mission & Justice ministry is working hard to make our impact each year bigger than the last. This year we gave the majority of our annual outreach gift early in the year in order to be Gold Sponsors of this event.

This year's event will begin with a cocktail hour featuring creative cuisine, beer from local Arlington Brewing Company, and quiet music by a trio of musicians. Next EATS will share how they are serving local residents and hear personal stories of EATS' impact.

Then you can dance the night away with live music from the popular Soul City band.

Throughout the night you can catch up with friends, get your photo taken, and browse and bid on the silent auction filled with exciting items from your favorite local businesses or schools, extraordinary experiences, and more!

### **PARTY! Somerville Homeless Coalition: Spring Into Action Gala**

***Get ready to Gala! Thursday, March 27***

The Somerville Homeless Coalition invites you to join them for a special celebration on Thursday, March 27 as they commemorate 40 years of service to the Greater Boston community. Enjoy specialty cocktails, delicious delights from local favorites Redbones and Dave's Fresh Pasta, and vibrant live music to sway to by West of Willows and The Loomers! PACC supports the Somerville Homeless Coalition and, as with Arlington EATS, the Mission & Justice ministry has been working to deepen our partnership with them to do more good right here in our community.

## **CHALLENGE! Nation-wide SNAP challenge - Live off of \$6/day/person for food**

Could you get the nutrition you need on just \$6 a day? That is the daily reality for more than 40 million people across the country who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Take FRAC's SNAP Challenge, set for March 18–20, to get a glimpse of what life is like for tens of millions of people who struggle to put food on the table. Learn more about Challenge guidelines, find sample social messages, and learn why you should participate in FRAC's SNAP Challenge 2025.

**Register:** <https://frac.salsalabs.org/SNAPChallenge2025/index.html>

**Toolkit:** <https://frac.org/research/resource-library/snap-challenge-2025-toolkit>

## **GIVE! One Great Hour of Sharing**

Every year the United Church of Christ holds four special offerings. The first is "One Great Hour of Sharing," held during Lent to support disaster relief, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. This year we are called to "be the light, bringing out the God-colors in the world" (Matthew 5:14) so that our own blessings can be shared like beautiful light scattered by a prism in a rainbow of dazzling colors.

→ See the next page for information from the UCC.

Please consider giving to One Great Hour of Sharing this year by March 30. Give by sending or bringing cash or a check (write One Great Hour of Sharing or OGHs in the memo line or on the envelope) to church or by giving online at [www.pacc-ucc.org/give/](http://www.pacc-ucc.org/give/).

## **MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY**

### **GET READY FOR THE LAST GAME NIGHT OF 2025!**



There will be one more game night in March.

**Saturday, March 29, 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Room.**

This is a family-friendly event. Bring an appetizer and game to share.

Don't forget to invite your friends too!

Questions? Contact Pam Lepri or Cindy Manson, [membership@pacc-ucc.org](mailto:membership@pacc-ucc.org)

## **WORSHIP MINISTRY**

**We are seeking Liturgists, Ushers, Greeters and Acolytes!**

These roles are fantastic ways to participate in worship at PACC. No experience is needed. We will guide you through the steps. If you would like to know more, please contact Tina Gramm or Dave Morrissette at [Worship@pacc-ucc.org](mailto:Worship@pacc-ucc.org).



# BE THE LIGHT

## SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY.

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn't just *work* with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.



*You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—**shine!***

— Matthew 5:14-15





**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

MARCH  
5



**ASHES  
TO  
GO**  
7:30 am -  
9:30 am

Join us on our front steps at the corner of  
Park Avenue and Wollaston

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

Stop by Park Avenue on  
Ash Wednesday (MARCH 5)  
and get your ashes to go!  
*All are welcome!*

**PACC LENTEN STUDY SERIES BEGINS  
ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**

**PACC**

**LENTEN  
STUDY SERIES**

**WEDNESDAYS IN LENT, 7- 8:30PM  
IN THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM AND ON ZOOM**



**HOW WE LEARN TO BE BRAVE**

*Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*

*Mariann Edgar Budde*

Join us in reading ***How We Learn to Be Brave***, by Bishop Mariann Budde of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C. Bishop Budde writes about learning to respond with courage to the "decisive moments" in our lives, whether private or public, chosen or thrust upon us. We'll read about such moments from scripture, history, and ordinary people, and explore how we can prepare for these moments in our own lives and carry their momentum forward in ways that change us and our world.

# PACC GROUPS

## PACC Men

Please join us in the **Fellowship Room at 6:30 pm, on Tuesday, March 4.** In recognition of Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras, we will order food from Blue Ribbon or somewhere else local with a good measure of fat, sugar, and other things that are usually banished during Lent.

## Women's Guild

We will meet on **Thursday, March 16, at 11:30 am** in the **Fellowship Room.** Please bring any book recommendations you have and/or an activity you've participated in that might be of interest to other members of the group. We will be ordering pizza for lunch and will share the cost so bring a few dollars. The Guild is open to all women of the church for fellowship and fun. We look forward to being with you.

## Tai Chi at Park Avenue Congregational Church!

Timothy LaVallee teaches a Tai Chi class at PACC on Tuesday evenings. **The class is free for all Park Avenue members.** If friends come along the cost is \$100 per month. Class starts promptly at 6:45 and will run between 45 minutes to an hour. Please email Tim at [tjlwoosmartialarts@gmail.com](mailto:tjlwoosmartialarts@gmail.com) to get on the list.

## PACC Neighbors Night

Because of the weekly Lenten Series March 5 through April 16, our next Neighbors Night will be May 14. We still plan to talk about jobs -- your best, your worst, your funniest, your first. More details to follow. Questions? Email [laurielscott@gmail.com](mailto:laurielscott@gmail.com).

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

**1** Olivia Jones

**4** Fae Manson

Anna Olson

Jim Williams

**6** Todd Ferreira

**7** Jeanne Woodin

**8** Damon Sidel

**11** Mark Tuttle

**21** Ken Woodin

**22** Glenn Hale

**24** Janet Gormley

Bill Albright

**26** Christie Getto Young

**31** Norma Allen, Katie Colello

## Annual Rummage Sale, Saturday, April 26

These cold days are a perfect time to sort through your closets, basements, attics and other hiding spots for items to donate to the PACC annual rummage sale. It will be held on Saturday, April 26, from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. We'll be setting up all day on Thursday and Friday before the sale and will need workers on the day of the sale to sell merchandise and clean up afterwards. Please check your calendars now and plan to volunteer and support this important PACC fundraiser.

The Epilepsy Foundation (EF) will pick up the remaining items after the sale.

### **The following items can be donated based on EF's guidelines:**

Gently used clothing (clean and in good condition), shoes, baby items, toys, housewares, books, CDs, DVDs, sporting equipment, hand tools, small appliances (must be in working condition), paintings, picture frames, knickknacks, small furniture, jewelry, and accessories (scarves, belts, handbags, etc.).

### **These items are NOT accepted by EF and we ask that you not donate them:**

TVs, computers, medical equipment, pet items, gardening tools/items (including pots for plants), power tools, craft supplies, office supplies, seasonal decorations other than Christmas decorations, baskets, mirrors, stuffed animals, and linens.

If you have questions about the suitability of an item, please contact one of us listed below. Please let your family and friends know they can donate to the sale too. We are NOT able to store donations at church until the week of the sale starting on Sunday, April 20.

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 for your support!

Barbara Wagner (781-929-1466/781-648-8228, [bcwtad@gmail.com](mailto:bcwtad@gmail.com))

Judy Miller (781-643-9877, [judyamiller@mac.com](mailto:judyamiller@mac.com))

Diane Wells (978-692-9176, [dwells518@comcast.net](mailto:dwells518@comcast.net))

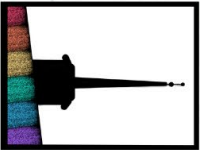
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**SAVE THE DATE: PROPERTY SPRING CLEAN UP – Saturday, April 5, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm**

### **PACC 2025 ROSTER**

We have updated the PACC Roster. A new copy will be distributed only among PACC members and friends, and it is a wonderful way to stay connected. Contact the office if you'd like a hard copy mailed to you. The electronic copy will go out soon.

*\* 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.*



**Park Avenue Congregational Church**

*The United Church of Christ*

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*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

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**STAFF**

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron, Pastor  
Christine Rochon, Office Administrator  
Jeffrey Brody, Music Director/Organist  
Andrea Hart, Youth Music Director & Int. CE Dir.  
Jude Martowska, Faith Formation Coord.  
Victor and Sue McNary, Sextons

**OFFICERS**

Tim Durning, Moderator  
Dave Morrisette, Vice Moderator  
Laurie Scott, Interim Clerk  
Mark Tuttle, Treasurer