

DECEMBER

Park Avenue Congregational Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM



Digital Prayer

Weds. @
10:30 am

Bible Study

1st & 3rd
Weds.
@ 7:00 pm

PACC Men

12/2 from 6:00 pm

Christmas Concert

12/7 at 3:00 pm

Council of Deacons Meeting

12/8 at 7:30 pm

Christmas Pageant

12/14 during Worship

Service of Lament and Hope

12/17 at 7:00 pm

Women's Guild

12/18 at 11:30 am

Christmas Eve Afternoon Service

12/24 at 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

12/24 at 10:00 pm

Service of Lessons and Carols

12/28 during Worship

Youth Choir Practices

1st & 2nd Suns.
@ 11:30 am,
& 3rd Suns.
@ 9:20 am

Chancel Choir Practice

Thurs.
@ 7:30 pm



The SPIRE

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

DECEMBER
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 to sign up.

HOW TO ATTEND 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
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,
DECEMBER 8, 2025 AT 7:30 PM.

*All are
Welcome!*



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Park Avenue Congregational Church

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 7 AT 3:00 PM

Join us for a Christmas Concert hosted by our Chancel Choir in our Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 14 DURING WORSHIP

Our Youth Choir and children share the Nativity through song and story.

SERVICE OF LAMENT AND HOPE

DECEMBER 17 AT 7:00PM

This service is for anyone feeling the weight of the holiday season. Come with your grief, your loneliness, your anxiety -- and find rest.

CHRISTMAS EVE - Afternoon Service

DECEMBER 24 AT 4:00PM

This youth-friendly service will feature carols and the Nativity story.

CHRISTMAS EVE - Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 24 AT 10:00PM

Traditional candlelight service with communion.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 28 AT 10:00AM

We will tell the story of Christmas through scripture and carols.

All services are in our Sanctuary and online via ZOOM.

GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear PACC Friends,

Advent is upon us—the season when we prepare for Jesus, God's love made human, to once again come into our world and into our hearts. It's a time of reflection, awareness, and preparation; amidst the hectic buildup to the holidays, it can be a really rich and restorative season if we let it be.

Normally, we savor this season by singing Advent-specific hymns and reading Advent-specific scripture, like John the Baptist heralding the arrival of Jesus, or Isaiah looking ahead to the coming of the Messiah. But this year, Advent falls just after we have finished the Women's Lectionary and just before we embark on a new one (which you'll hear more about in January), so we are going to do something a little different!

Each Sunday will have the same traditional theme as in years past: **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**. And each Sunday we'll focus on some of the characters from the Nativity story: the **shepherds and angels; the Magi and the innkeeper; and Mary and Joseph**. (The third week our children and youth will tell the Christmas story through our beloved **Christmas pageant!**)

We'll still talk about preparation and longing, but anticipating the Nativity a little bit gives us a chance to dwell on the impact of the Incarnation, both on those who experienced it firsthand and on us. It also gives us a chance to sing a few more Christmas carols during Advent, which I know many of you love to do.

So, join me as we prepare our hearts for the best gift of all: when God's Love becomes human and, in the words of *The Message*, moves into the neighborhood!

Blessings, Leah

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron

END-OF-YEAR REMINDERS

- **2025 Contributions Due by December 31**
To receive a 2025 charitable contribution for tax purposes, all donations to PACC must be received or postmarked by December 31.
- **Bills and Reimbursements Due by December 29**
To ensure our financial reports accurately reflect all 2025 activity, please submit and approve any outstanding bills or reimbursement requests by December 29.
- **Annual Reports Due January 2:** Feel free to send one sooner to office@pacc-ucc.org



CHRISTIAN ED / YOUTH CHOIR



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hello PACC families!

It continues to be such a joy for Jude, me, and all of our teachers to spend time with your children and youth in Sunday School, Middle School Meet-Up, and beyond. As we enter the season of Advent, we'll be reflecting on this beloved story and anticipating the coming of Jesus together! We are looking forward to sharing this special season and Christmas with you and your wonderful families!

DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

- **November 30 & December 7: Regular Sunday School**
- **December 7: Middle School Meet-Up**
- **December 14: Annual Christmas Pageant** - a treasured PACC tradition where our children and youth share the story of Jesus' birth. You'll receive more details in class and via email about ways for your child to participate.
- **December 21**, we'll join Pastor Leah in bringing the manger scene to life during our All Ages Together worship service, followed by a fun Christmas craft in Sunday School.

We hope you'll join us for our **Youth friendly Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00 PM** — a beautiful celebration for all ages.

YOUTH CHOIR

Hello Youth Choir singers and families!

We're looking forward to a joyful month of music together!

We have an exciting month ahead — here's our December schedule:

- **Sun, Nov 30** — Rehearsal, **11:30 AM**, Nicoll Room
- **Sun, Dec 7** — *Brief* rehearsal, **11:30 AM**, Nicoll Room
Sing in Christmas Concert at **3:00 PM**
- **Sat, Dec 13** — **Caroling at ACMI**
Meet **4:30 PM** (PACC Narthex), walk over at 4:45, finish ~5:15
- **Sun, Dec 14** — **Christmas Pageant**
Arrive **9:20 AM**; Pageant during 10:00 AM service
- **Wed, Dec 24** — **Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 PM** (Arrive early to rehearse)
- **Sun, Dec 28** — **No rehearsal**

Andy Hart, cedirector@pacc-ucc.org and Jude Martowska, judemartowska@pacc-ucc.org



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



IN CELEBRATION:

Warmest birthday wishes to **Claire Gibbons** who will celebrate her 96th birthday on 12/31!

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Ann Marie and Bruce Peterson, after the recent death of their sister-in-law, **Bev Peterson**. Prayers also for Bev's family.

Diane Wells, who is home after a lengthy hospitalization and stay in rehab.

Holly Stumpf's daughter **Andrea Stumpf** who is recovering from successful surgery.

Sharon Hamilton's daughter **Kate** who is recovering from recent surgery.

Jim and Claire Gibbons, who have moved to Sunrise of Arlington. Their new address is: Sunrise of Arlington, 1395 Mass. Ave., Room 423, Arlington, MA 02476.

Laurie and Steve Scott's daughter **Kathy Brantley** who is home after a hospital stay and waiting for test results.

Valerie Censabella's sisters-in-law **Sandie** who is suffering from dementia and **Ann** who recently received a cancer diagnosis.

Aaron Ford's stepmother **Rhonda Ford** who suffered a stroke. Prayers also for Aaron and his sisters who are caring for her and their father.

Andrew D'Eon who continues to receive treatment for cancer.

Mackenzie Martin Terry and Greg Terry have a new address:
c/o Megan Short, 7037 Oak Valley Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80919

*Please continue to keep in your prayers: **Bill Albright and Karen Friedman, Margaret Berman, Linda and Jim Brinkman, Jeffrey Brody and Richard Sizensky, Jeff Carver, Anita Clarke, Linda and Don Cohn, Bonnie Hayner, Janet Hoffman, Marilyn Janssen, Carrie Keeler, the Lindheim family, Mackenzie Martin Terry, Chickie Olson, Jody Pickrahn, Gwen Phelps, Jim Saros, Norma Sherwood, Anne Varian, and Chris Ziegler.***

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



PACC GROUPS



PACC MEN

PACC Men will meet **Tuesday, December 2, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Room** at PACC. We'll order our Advent repast from a local restaurant, and watch "Existential Crossroads," Ken Burns 2024 Commencement address at Brandeis. Thanks to Laurie Scott for recommending it to me. I enjoyed it so much that I want to watch it again with others. We have funds put aside, so please don't let financial concerns keep you away. We're a congenial bunch and would be glad for us to get to know each other better.

WOMEN'S GUILD

All women of the church are invited to attend the **Women's Guild Christmas Luncheon** on **Thursday, December 18, at 11:30 am**. Please email Linda Carew to **RSVP by December 12** as lunch will be catered: Lindagcarew@gmail.com. **To join our annual Yankee Swap**, bring a \$10 gift to exchange. It's always a lot of fun! Need a ride? Questions? Please call Beverly Miller (781-646-0030) or Linda Carew (781-646-3317).

2026 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 2026: Tim Durning, Tina Gramm, Julia Lee, Leanne Marden, Dave Morrissette, Betty Rich, Karen Stark, and Travis Woodward**. We congratulate and thank them for accepting this call to serve. *These newly elected Deacons will join the following Deacons who have one year yet to serve in their two-year term: Jane Flores, Maureen Igoe, Sharon Kabelitz, Eric Rochon, Laurie Scott, Alicia Tapper, and Barbara Wagner.*

December BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Jeffrey Brody
- 3- Sharon Kabelitz
- 5- Josh Young
- 6- Margeneta Dokos
- 7- Christina Kay & Michael German
- 10 - Debbie Lewis
- 15- Jeffrey Chin and Reese Lynch
- 19 - Amy Hrobak
- 27- Tim Durning
- 30- Betsy Hale
- 31- Claire Gibbons



PARK AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH'S
35TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

CHRISTMAS STORIES

Christmas is a season of gathering—of music, memories, and shared stories. Featuring the **PACC Festival Choir**, **PACC Youth Choir**, and **special guests**, this year's **Christmas Stories** concert begins with music from the time of Christ's birth and journeys forward to today's holiday traditions. The program includes audience sing-alongs, solos, choir selections from classical works to cozy favorites, rousing instrumental pieces, and even a delightful duet of Elvis Presley's beloved "Blue Christmas."

Enjoy the stories and music of Christmas—and plan to stay afterward for a festive reception in the Fellowship Room. While this concert is PACC's gift to the community, we welcome contributions in support of our historic E.M. Skinner pipe organ and the music program.

Suggested donation: \$10–\$15.



Join the PACC tradition of not sending individual Christmas cards to all of your PACC friends but instead displaying a single card from you or your family on the Christmas tree in the Narthex. You can put the card on the tree yourself or mail it to the church office. Of course, you may want to send individual cards to church friends too and especially to those listed below who would appreciate hearing from their church family.

Anita Clarke, 555 Main Street, Apt. 1, Medford, MA 02155

Jim and Claire Gibbons, Sunrise Assisted Living, Room 423, 1395 Mass. Ave, Arlington, MA 02476

Carrie Keeler, 37 Drake Rd, Apt. 217, Arlington, MA 02476

Peg Kyle, AVIVA Country Club, Apt. 404, 3 Rehabilitation Way, Woburn, MA, 01801

Connie Lindquist, New Horizons at Choate, 21 Warren Ave, #389, Woburn, MA 01801

Norma Sherwood, 10818 Fillmore Drive, Boynton Beach, FL 33437

Mackenzie Martin Terry and Greg Terry, c/o Megan Short, 7037 Oak Valley Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Libby Victor, 108 Bow St, 2nd Floor, Lexington, MA 02420

Jeanne Woodin, 16 Mohawk Rd, Arlington, MA 02474

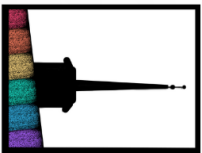
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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 \$12 per plant. Orders are due by December 5, 2025.

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.



Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

**50 Paul Revere Road
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476**

An Open and Affirming Congregation

E-mail: Office@pacc-ucc.org

(781)643-8680

www.pacc-ucc.org



STAFF

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

OFFICERS

Tim Durning, Moderator
Dave Morrissette, Vice Moderator
Linda Cohn, Clerk
Laurie Scott, Acting Clerk
Mark Tuttle, Treasurer