

PARK AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday Worship 10:00 am



REOCCURRING EVENTS

DIGITAL PRAYER

Wednesdays at 10:30 am

BIBLE STUDY

1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

1st and 2nd Sundays at 11:30 am, 3rd Sundays at 9:20 am

CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE

Thursdays at 7:30 pm

THIS MONTH

Regathering Sunday

September 13, 10:00 am

*Includes Blessing of the Backpacks and Potluck after worship.
See the next page for more details! Also, FOOD SUNDAY.*

Coat Boston Drive - Begins now through Nov. 8!

Council of Deacons Meeting

September 14, 7:30 pm on Zoom

PACC Men Dinner

September 15, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Room

Women's Guild

September 17, 11:30 am, Fellowship Room

Arlington Town Day

September 19, 10:30am - 4:30pm



The SPIRE

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

SEPTEMBER 2026



JOIN US FOR

Regathering SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13 10:00 AM

Regathering Sunday marks our return
to active church life after summer.

The service will include the *Chancel Choir*,
Holy Communion, *Blessing of the Backpacks*,
and the start of *Sunday School*.

Join us afterward for our traditional potluck in
the Parish Hall. To help ensure a delicious
spread, please sign up to bring a dish to share.

There's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or you
can scan this QR code to sign up online:



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.

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,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 AT 7:30 PM.



A Pledge Reminder

Please take a moment to **check in on your 2026 pledge** and catch up if you've fallen behind. Every gift helps support the ministries, programs, and mission of our church, and we are grateful for your continued generosity and commitment to PACC.

GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Park Avenue Friends!

Welcome back! There's lots to look forward to this fall in the life of the church, including **Regathering Sunday on September 13th** and our annual potluck afterwards; a workshop on AI and our faith; and a series of workshops on aging and end-of-life decisions, including how to plan your funeral and what legacy giving looks like. We also hope to host a workshop on resources for assisted living and senior living options. Keep your eyes peeled for dates on these events as we confirm details.

When you are next back in the building, be sure to check out the newly rebuilt ramp leading from the back door to the play area which James Rochon and his Scout troop rebuilt as his Eagle Scout project. Thank you, James (and Eric and Christine in support roles) for replacing what was desperately in need of repair and making it useful for our children and adults again!

And if you missed any of our Becoming Theologians conversational sermons over the summer where I talked with people from the congregation about where they see God in their lives, be sure to visit www.pacc-ucc.org/sermons to catch up on the series. We cover everything from mental health to firefighting to poetry to deep space to grief to what it's like to be a therapist and lots more, in ways that will move you and help you see where God is showing up in your own life. Truly, it was a special series and I hope you'll take a listen and join us for our final conversation with Beverly Miller on September 6th.

Whether you've been away for the summer or just enjoying a more relaxed pace, I'm glad to be re-entering the church program year with you and glad for the sense of productive purpose and renewed fellowship that comes with it!

Blessings, Leah

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron

CHRISTIAN ED / YOUTH CHOIR

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

I hope everyone had a fun, restful, exciting, and renewing summer! In Sunday school, we spent the summer becoming theologians like the grown-ups—exploring worship themes and adding our own observations. We also enjoyed activities like building a burning bush and a temple, creating high towers, experimenting with LEDs and lightening dough, and making an obstacle course. It was a wonderful, laid-back summer of learning and being together.

Please note that on **Sunday, September 6**, there will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**. As usual on Labor Day weekend, we're giving our teachers a little break before the new program year begins. Pew pets, books, and coloring pages will be available in the narthex.

Regathering Sunday is September 13! This year we will have two classes: **Elementary** and **Middle School Meetup**. The Elementary class will meet every Sunday, while Middle School Meetup will meet on the first and third Sundays. However, **BOTH classes will meet on September 13** to celebrate the start of the new year!

Join us for our **“Blessing of the Backpacks”** on Regathering Sunday. Bring a bag or case for whatever you do throughout the year—a backpack, knitting bag, briefcase, tackle box, art-supply bag, or anything else! Families will get a detailed email after Labor Day.

Questions? Please contact me. We are also always looking for teachers! If you're interested in teaching or learning more about faith formation at PACC, I'd love to hear from you. Thank you for helping make PACC such a vibrant and caring community!

Jude Martowska, judemartowska@pacc-ucc.org

YOUTH CHOIR

Hello, Youth Choir singers and families! We hope you're enjoying the last days of summer and look forward to seeing you in September!

PLEASE NOTE: There will be **NO Youth Choir on Sunday, September 13**.

OUR FIRST MEETING will be **Sunday, September 20**, at 9:20 AM in the Nicoll Room.

Newcomers welcome! Youth in **3rd grade and older** are invited to join this fun and lively group. We sing a variety of music and perform throughout the year, including the Christmas Pageant, Christmas Concert, and Youth Sunday. **General schedule:** Rehearsals are the 1st and 2nd Sundays after church, with an early rehearsal and worship participation on the 3rd Sunday.

Andy Hart, hartandrea@comcast.net

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

IN CELEBRATION:

Happy Birthday to **Norma Gormley**, who will celebrate her 97th birthday on Sept. 1!

Celebrating the baptism and confirmation of **Sachi Insinger** on, August 23.

With joy and congratulations to **Christine Nihan and Dave Morrisette's daughter, Maddie, and her husband, Matthew**, who are expecting a baby in December.

Congratulations to **Mark Tuttle** on his recent retirement! Congratulations also to **Matthew Tuttle**, who won a bronze medal in his age group in archery at the National Championships in July. He will represent the U.S. on the 26'–27' team for his age group.

Best wishes and congratulations to **Rachel Durning and Carl Damas**, who were married on June 20. Rachel is the daughter of **Tim Durning and Barbara Wagner**.

Best wishes to **Jane Flores**, our dedicated Zoom usher, for a successful knee surgery and a strong recovery!

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Ken Miller, after a recent hospitalization, and for his wife, **Beverly**.

Tanya Ozbey, healing a broken ankle while undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Tim LaVallée, Cindy Manson's husband, healing for an unexpected placement of a stent.

For Jude Martowska's cousins, **Michael Martowska**, recovering from open-heart surgery; **Shirley Grindrod**, dealing with cancer; and **Diane**, who recently passed away.

For **Jennie, Judy Fox's daughter**, who is in the ICU in Hawaii.

For **Leah's family**, especially her children, as they grieve the recent loss of their cat.

For **Cheryl and David Craigie** as they grieve the loss of their beloved cat, Penny.

Please continue to keep in your prayers: Bill Albright and Karen Friedman, Margaret Berman, Bob Burge, Linda and Jim Brinkman, Anita Clarke, Linda and Don Cohn, Cheryl Craigie, Andrew D'Eon, Malcolm Gormley, Bonnie Hayner, Janet Hoffman, Elena Hogan, Marilyn Jannsen, Debbie Lewis, the Lindheim family, Beverly Miller, Chickie Olson, Gwen Phelps, Jody Pickrahn, Bet Rich, Jim Saros, Meredythe Schober, Libby and Jesse Victor, and Diane Wells.

If you or someone you know at PACC is celebrating a milestone birthday, let us know:

careministry@pacc-ucc.org, or to share news to the SPIRE!

PACC GROUPS / MINISTRIES

PACC MEN

All adults connected to PACC, however loosely, who lean toward the male side of gender identity are welcome to join us when we meet in the Fellowship Room at the church on **Tuesday, September 15, at 6:30 pm**. We will order food from a local restaurant and catch up with or get to know each other. Let Mike Rich know if you'll be attending. kidlaw.rich@gmail.com or (781)975-0184.

WOMENS GUILD

All women of the church are warmly invited! We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Room. Mark your calendars!

September 17 – *Pizza lunch and discussion of upcoming projects*

Upcoming Dates: October 15 • November 19 • December 17

Need a ride? Call Beverly at 781-646-0030 or Linda at 781-646-3317.

It's Time for a New PACC Photo Directory!

A photographer from Universal Church Directories will be at PACC on **Tuesday, October 13, and Wednesday, October 14, from 2–8:30 PM**. Each family will receive a free 8x10 portrait, with additional photos and gifts available for purchase.

Sign up online Monday–Friday or in person on September Sundays.

To schedule online, visit www.schedule.ucdir.com Church Code: ma106

Password: arlington1

Questions? Email Laurie Scott at laurielscott@gmail.com.

FOOD SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Regathering Sunday is the next opportunity to participate in **PACC's Food Sunday initiative!** On Communion Sundays, typically the first Sunday of each month, you're invited to bring donations for **Arlington EATS**. Donation bags will be available in the Narthex. Suggested items include granola bars, dried fruit and nuts, dried seaweed, cereal, soy sauce, gluten-free items, dish soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and baby wipes. Thank you for helping support our community!

Travis Woodward and Jane Flores- Mission and Justice Deacons

Craigville Room Available – September 24

A **2-bed room with a private bath** is available for **one night on September 24**.

\$63.50 for the room (not per person), plus \$15 per bed for sheets and towels. Bring your own linens and save even more! Here's your chance to see why everyone raves about Craigville! Contact **Meredythe Schober** at rfschober1@aol.com.



COAT BOSTON - 2026 Drive

PACC is excited to partner with *Coat Boston* again this year to collect new coats for children and families in need throughout Boston! This year, Coat Boston has set a goal of collecting 2,500 new coats to help keep everyone

warm this winter. While they are accepting other items, PACC will focus on providing new coats.

LAST DAY TO DONATE: November 8, 2026. There is a collection box in the Narthex, or you can donate via check, cash, or our online giving option (VANCO). Donations will be used to purchase coats through Coat Boston's Amazon wish list.

We are collecting: New coats, sizes infant to XXXL adult

For more information, visit www.coatboston.org or contact Christine Rochon in the PACC office: office@pacc-ucc.org.

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Thank you to the 43 PACC members who responded to our Spring Fellowship survey!

Based on your feedback, the following events are planned for 2026–2027:

- **Fruit Cup/Ice Cream Social:** Sunday, October 4, 2026
- **Halloween Bash:** Friday, October 30, 2026
- **Community Potluck:** Saturday, February 6, 2027 (snow date: late February)
- **Winter Game Nights & Art Workshops:** Dates to be determined

Many members also expressed interest in an outdoor worship service. If feasible, we hope to schedule one for late spring/early summer.

Interested in participating or joining PACC's Fellowship Working Group? Please contact **Tina Gramm**, Fellowship Deacon, or Membership Deacons **Karen Stark** or **Betty Rich**.





ARLINGTON TOWN DAY

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

Location: Massachusetts Avenue
from Pleasant Street to Mill Street

10:30 am - 4:30 pm

Fireworks at Spy Pond 7:30 pm

Visitors are encouraged to walk to the event

JOIN PACC AT OUR BOOTH

*PACC will be hosting a booth at the event, and
we'd love your help to make it a warm and
welcoming space.*

We're looking for:

- Volunteers to spend an hour or two at the booth during the event
- Helpers for set-up beforehand or clean-up at the end of the day
- Creative ideas for ways we can engage and connect with our community at the booth

*If you're available, please contact
Karen Stark or Betty Rich : membership@pacc-ucc.org*



Eagle Project Update

A huge thank you to everyone at PACC who supported my Eagle Scout project through donations, time, and skilled labor. Thanks to your generosity and hard work, the new ramp is now complete—and the daycare children have already been raving about it!

A special shout-out to **Arlington Coal & Lumber** for their incredibly generous donation towards the materials needed to build the ramp, which helped me reach my goal. I'm so grateful to everyone who helped make this project a success. Thank you for believing in me and supporting my journey toward Eagle Scout!



James Rochon

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

DURING REGATHERING SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, September 13

Bring a bag or case for whatever you do throughout the year—a backpack, knitting bag, briefcase, tackle box, art-supply bag, or anything else!

Sanctuary Flower Donations

Would you like to donate flowers to Sunday Worship?

The cost is \$50

(You can designate more for a larger arrangement)

OR you can **bring your own** flowers to decorate the altar for Sunday Morning Worship.

Right now every Sunday is available!!!

Contact Christine at office@pacc-ucc.org to sign up!



OCTOBER

Blessing of the Pets – Saturday, October 3

Fruit Cup and Ice Cream Social – Sunday, October 4

PACC will host a N.E.A.T. Dinner – Saturday, October 10

Deacon Election Ballots will be passed out on October 11

Photo Directory pictures – Tuesday, October 13 through Wednesday, October 14

Halloween BASH – Friday, October 30

NOVEMBER

Memorial Sunday Worship Service - Sunday, November 1

Deacon Election Count – Tuesday, November 3

Concert Series Concert – Sunday, November 15

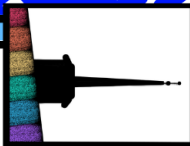
Stewardship Sunday – November 22

Hanging of the Greens – November 28

First Sunday of Advent – November 29

Keep an eye out for more information on:

- A workshop on **AI and our faith**
- A series of workshops on **aging and end-of-life decisions**
- **FALL CLEAN UP**



Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

50 Paul Revere Road

Arlington, Massachusetts , 02476

An Open and Affirming Congregation

(781)643-8680

E-mail: Office@pacc-ucc.org

www.pacc-ucc.org

STAFF

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

OFFICERS

Tim Durning, Moderator
Dave Morrisette, Vice Moderator
Laurie Scott, Acting Clerk
Alicia Tapper, Treasurer