NOVEMBER 2026

SPIRE NEWSLETTER

Park Avenue Congregational Church
Arlington, Massachusetts

The Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron
Pastor



MEMORIAL SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
DURING SUNDAY WORSHIP

Welcome, it's November at **Park Avenue Congregational Church!** As we head into this season of gratitude and togetherness, take a look at what's happening around PACC and all the wonderful ways to connect with our community. Be sure to save the dates for some great upcoming events. We look forward to gathering, celebrating, and sharing this season with you!

RECURRING EVENTS

DIGITAL PRAYER
Wednesdays at 10:30 am

BIBLE STUDY
1st & 3rd Wed.'s at 7:00 pm

YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE
1st & 2nd Sundays at 11:30 am
3rd Sundays at 9:20 am

CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE
Thursdays at 7:30 pm

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

November is Stewardship Month

A time to reflect on all that our church community means to us and consider how we can give back. Through financial gifts, volunteering our time, sharing our talents, or supporting our ministries, every contribution helps PACC continue to grow and serve others. Together, we can make a meaningful difference at PACC and the wider community.

SAVE THE DATES

DEC 6 — **PACC Christmas Concert**

DEC 13 — **PACC Christmas Pageant**

NOVEMBER 2026 CALENDAR

11/1 - Memorial Sunday
11/3 - Deacon Ballots DUE
11/8 - Nervous System EFT Workshop
11/9 - Council of Deacons Meeting
11/10 - Fiber Arts Group
11/10 - PACC Men
11/14 - Fall Clean-Up
11/15 - Fall Sale
11/15 - Concert Series Concert
11/17 - NAMI Family Support Group
11/19 - Women's Guild
11/22 - Stewardship Sunday
11/28 - Hanging of the Greens
11/29 - First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Michael Morrissette
Keith Truesdale
2 Elena Hogan
William Gibbons
3 Beverly Miller
5 Sue McNary
6 Joey Daniels
Mark Ewen
8 Evan Brush
11 Scott Jones
15 Bob Forté & Ken Miller
18 Nadine Lombard
21 Lauren Evans
24 Taryn Hogan
Peggy Kyle
Norma Sherwood
28 Dan Murphy

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,
NOVEMBER 9, 2026 AT 7:30 PM.



Election of 2027 Council of Deacons Ballots should be RETURNED to the box in the narthex no later than November 1 or delivered/mailed to the church office **so that they are received by 5:00 pm on November 3.**

The Election Committee will meet on the evening of November 3 to count the votes.





Greetings from our Pastor



Hello Park Avenue Friends,

From Memorial Sunday, to the Coat Drive to a revived Fiber Arts group (page 6), to a nervous-system calming EFT workshop (page 6), to the Fall Sale (page 9), to our first Concert Series of the 2026-27 season (page 8), there are a lot of great things happening at PACC this month! I hope you'll check them out in these pages and in person.

I wanted to take this space, though, to share what I announced in worship on Oct. 25 about our beloved music director, Jeffrey Brody. Jeffrey is doing alright; he is currently at Encompass Rehab in Woburn following a short hospitalization last week.

He has given me permission to share that his Parkinson's symptoms have increased over the last few weeks, and we've agreed that he'll be on medical leave through the end of this calendar year, at which point his retirement will take effect.
This was not an easy decision; Jeffrey asked me to share with the choir that he very much would like to be able to keep creating beautiful music with them for all of us to enjoy. Our hope is that retiring will allow him to focus on his health and well-being.
For the next few months, Andy Hart will be organizing a roster of subs to fill in on piano or organ, as well as helping to direct the choir; I'm so grateful to Andy for stepping in this way with her experience and expertise.

While Jeffrey's shoes are impossible to fill, we will start the search for a new music director as soon as we can, with the goal of having someone in place early in 2027. As I said to Jeffrey last week, a big part of his legacy here at PACC is a choir that can weather such a transition because of the repertoire he's built with them and the musical capabilities he's helped them nurture. Thank you to our Chancel Choir for your flexibility and your deep care for Jeffrey.

This coming Holy Week marks 20 years of Jeffrey's role here at PACC, so we will be organizing a celebration recognizing his ministry sometime in the near future, depending on his health. Please do keep him in your prayers; with the loss of his partner Richard in the spring it has been a tough year. Following a short hospitalization last week, he is currently at Encompass Rehab in Woburn with plans to be discharged soon.

Blessings, *Leah*

Reverend Leah Lyman Waldron

Christian Ed / Youth Choir

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School is going very well. The children are engaged and learning. The teachers are absolutely fantastic in how they interact with the children and especially in their commitment to our Sunday School.

We are adding a new exciting element for our **Middle School Meetup** and all those in high school. **We are going to focus time each month on a service project**. We're starting off on **November 1** by making fleece hats which we will donate to help keep people warm in the cold weather. We're also planning to gather together outside of Sunday morning to bake cookies for the Fall Sale cookie walk. Every month there will be an opportunity for the youth to truly live out their faith by serving others.

If you have any questions about Sunday School or simply want to know more about what happens downstairs on a Sunday morning, please feel free to ask me or any of our teachers. *Jude Martowska, judemartowska@pacc-ucc.org*

YOUTH CHOIR

Hello, Youth Choir singers and families! Thank you for the beautiful singing you are doing this fall, with special instrumentals too. **For November** We've got some fun YC and All Ages music coming up -- and we'll be getting ready for Advent and Christmas. We'll meet November 1st (11:30 am), 8th (11:30 am), and 15th (9:20 am rehearsal and sing in church). We may also have an extra rehearsal on November 29 - I'll be in touch about that via email later in the month. *Andy Hart, hartandrea@comcast.net*





Church Family News



IN CELEBRATION

Congrats to **Olivia** and her partner **Zoe**, on their one-year anniversary.

Congrats to **Peter** and **Chloe Domenichella,** who are expecting a baby boy in January.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jeffrey Brody, as he recovers in rehab following a brief hospitalization and prepares to retire and focus on his health.

Brenda Wesinger and family, as they mourn the unexpected loss of her grandson, **Christopher**, at age 25.

Gwen Phelps, as she continues to recover from surgery and prepares for back surgery.

Bonnie Hayner, giving thanks for being pain-free following recent treatment and for being able to drive again after many months.

Carrie Keeler, as she adjusts to a new diagnosis of diabetes.

Jane Flores, as she recovers from a procedure related to her knee replacement.

Betty Rich, for patience as she waits to begin Alzheimer's treatment in November.

Sharon Hamilton, for her sister, **Niki**, as she deals with a recurrence of health issues.

Paul Domenichella, for his brother-in-law, **Anthony** (**Jeanne's** brother), who is now in hospice care following a stroke several years ago.

Linda Cohn's sister, **Mary**, who suffered a fall in Italy but made it home safely.

Please continue to keep in your prayers: **Bill Albright and Karen Friedman, Margaret Berman, Linda and Jim Brinkman, Bob Burge, Anita Clarke, Cheryl Craigie, Andrew D'Eon, Elena Hogan, Marilyn Jannsen, Tim Lavallee, Ken Miller, Dave Morrissette, Chickie Olson, Tanya Ozbey, Jody Pickrahn, Jim Saros, Meredythe Schober, Libby & 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

Notes from our PACC Friends…

Dear Friends of PACC, I would like to express my gratitude for the cards, phone calls and prayers extended to me and my family on the death of my grandson. It is very much appreciated.
Sincerely, Brenda Wesinger

We enjoyed a wonderful off-season getaway at the Manor House in Craigville, with beach walks, shopping, puzzles, shared meals, mosaic art, our traditional thrift-shop fashion show, and a meaningful communion service led by Rev. Derek van Gulden. Sharing rooms/meals kept costs at $65 per night! Save the Date for next year: September 13–17, 2027. *– Meredythe Schober*



PACC Groups & Ministries



Nervous System Regulation Workshop featuring EFT

November 8, after worship in the Fellowship Room

Feeling overwhelmed by the stress and uncertainty of life? Join us for an introduction to Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT), a gentle, practical approach to calming the nervous system, releasing emotional tension, and finding greater peace and balance in challenging times. This workshop will be led by our very own Lorrie Herzberg, a licensed independent clinical social worker and MDiv with extensive experience in EFT and other nervous system regulation techniques.

FIBER ARTS GROUP

Second Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Room; first meeting November 10

Attention fiber artists, crafters and more: we are reviving our fiber arts group and you are invited to join! All skill levels and types of fiber arts welcome; friends and neighbors welcome too. Thank you to Olivia Boyd for organizing us; she'll have patterns for crocheting hats for those with medical hair loss if you are looking for an easy new project.

PS If you are interested in a fiber arts group that meets during the daytime, please let Pastor Leah know; we have some interest and are looking for someone to lead it.

PACC MEN

Due to the 11/3 election, our November meeting will take place on the second **Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30pm**. We will meet at a local resturant to be determined. Let Mike Rich know if you'll be attending. *kidlaw.rich@gmail.com or (781)975-0184.*

WOMEN'S GUILD

All women of the church are warmly invited! Guild is a caring group focusing on fellowship and supporting church activities. Join us! We meet on the third Thursday of each month. **We will meet on November 19, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Room**. Please **bring a bag lunch**; coffee and tea will be provided. We will talk about plans for our Christmas luncheon and sign Christmas cards. Mark your calendar! **Need a ride?** Call Beverly at 781-646-0030 or Linda at 781-646-3317.

Fall Church Grounds Cleanup – Saturday, November 14

Join the Property Committee from **8:00 AM to noon** to rake leaves, sweep sidewalks, and tidy up the church grounds. Stop by anytime! Coffee and donuts will be provided. Bring a leaf rake, battery-operated leaf blower, or gloves if you have them. Questions or planning to attend? Contact Property Deacon Eric Rochon at ericrochon_11@hotmail.com *(← there is an _ before the 11)* or 570-233-4326.

NAMI Cambridge/Middlesex
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Concerned About a Loved One's Mental Health?

NAMI Family Support Groups are **free support groups** for family members, friends, and caregivers of people living with mental health conditions. Led by NAMI-trained facilitators who are also family members, these groups offer support, hope, community, and an opportunity to share experiences, learn from others, and discover local resources. **PACC hosts a monthly meeting in our Fellowship Room at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month**. The next meeting is **Tuesday, November 17**.

Questions? Contact Janet Forté at forte.janet@gmail.com.

COAT BOSTON

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. **We could use a few more 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 .

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.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY - *Seeking, Becoming, and Sharing Our Gifts*

Greetings, friends may you all have had a few moments, and hopefully more, to enjoy this fall weather; either nice and cozy inside or out and about in the brisk air. As we plan for 2027, I invite you to consider how you would like to steward this important PACC community with your time, talent, and treasure.

Looking ahead with promise as we approach Stewardship Sunday on November 22, may we think about leading with our hearts as we give life to our *Why Statement* throughout the year. In 2025 we had 38 pledges. In 2026 we had 49 pledges. ***As a community, let's consider a goal of a few more pledges for 2027.*** As the Deacon of the Stewardship Ministry, I would also like to measure not only pledges, but also how we are sharing our time and talent with this community. **Please look for the 2027 pledge letter in mid-November.** Matthew 6:21: *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Sharon Kabelitz, Stewardship Deacon



A Journey of Musical Stories: Arias, Songs & Duets

On **Sunday, November 15, at 2 PM** directly after the Cookie Walk, the PACC Concert Series presents *"A Journey of Musical Stories."* Besides works by Handel and Bizet, the program includes several works by Sondheim and a highly dramatic Lady Macbeth mad scene composed by our own Jeffrey Brody. The highly expressive singers include soprano Sara Michale Smith, mezzo-soprano Leslie Jacobson Kaye, and contralto Joanna Porackova. Each of them has performed with multiple opera companies and to acclaim in a broad range of other musical venues. One of pianist Nathan Johnson's compositions is included in the program.

Email concertseriestix@pacc-ucc.org or call 781-643-8680 to reserve at the lower advance price of $18 for adults, and $12 for seniors/ students. We will make note of the reservation for payment at the door. Please include 1. your name, 2. email address/phone number, and 3. #s of each type desired (adult, senior or student). Without advance reservations, the price at the door is $23 and $15.



Mark your calendars for PACC's Fall Sale! Come browse a great selection of gently used books for all ages, stock up on puzzles and games, satisfy your sweet tooth at **Connie's Cookie Walk**, and get a jump on your holiday shopping. We'll also have **beautiful greeting cards featuring Linda Cohn's photography** and a **caricaturist** on hand to create fun, personalized drawings during the sale!

Donations Welcome: Please ask your family and friends to donate books, games, and puzzles, too! **Books:** Recently published titles and popular authors are especially appreciated. Please, no bulk donations, textbooks, reference books, study guides, or workbooks. **Games & Puzzles:** New or gently used, with all pieces intact.

Donation Drop-Off: If possible, please bring donations in boxes.
Sun., Nov. 1: 9–10 am and 11 am–1 pm, **Sun., Nov. 8:** 9–10 am and 11 am–1 pm, and **Sat., Nov. 14:** 9 am–5 pm

Connie's Cookie Walk
Help make our Fall Sale a success by donating homemade cookies, including sugar-free and gluten-free varieties! Donate one or more batches of your favorite cookies. Please ensure cookies are **less than 3½ inches in diameter** to fit inside a coffee tin.

Sign up to bake by contacting Tina Gramm (acg@grammau.net) or Bonnie Hayner (bmwjh@comcast.net), using the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or online at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044FA8AA22A1FB6-66835645-2026
Baking instructions will be available at the usher stand in the Narthex and sent to volunteers.
Cookie Drop-Off in Parish Hall:

- Saturday, November 14, 9 AM–4 PM
- Sunday, November 15, 9–9:45 AM

Thank you for sharing your baking talents, remembering our dear friend Connie Dugan, and supporting our Fall Sale!

Volunteers Needed!
Setup: Sat., Nov. 14, 9 am–5 pm
Day-of Help: Sun., Nov. 15, during the sale and for cleanup afterward
Remaining items will be picked up by the Epilepsy Foundation.

Spread the Word! The sale is open to the public, so please invite family and friends, post online, hang posters *(coming soon to the Narthex)*, and share with your communities.



Among those we especially remember on Memorial Sunday, November 1, 2026

MEMBERS OF PARK AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Laurel Collins, PACC member

Jim Gibbons, PACC member and husband of Claire Gibbons

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PARK AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Jeff Carver, former PACC member.

Sandie Censabella, sister-in-law of Valerie Censabella.

Sarah Dawley, friend of Sharon Hamilton.

Lindsey Ford, sister of Aaron Ford, sister-in-law of Polly Ford, and aunt of Ella and Sadie Ford.

Tom Ford, father of Aaron Ford, father-in-law of Polly Ford, and grandfather of Ella and Sadie Ford.

Douglas Hart, uncle of Andy Hart.

Andrew Hertig, friend of Sharon Hamilton.

Edrie M. King, mother of Taryn Hogan and Tracey Lawless.

Mackenzie Martin Terry, wife of Greg Terry.

Kathryn McGeorge, friend of Laurie and Steve Scott.

Richard Sizensky, partner of Jeffrey Brody.

Michael Sligh, colleague of Abby Youngblood.

Jean Valin, friend of Norma Allen.

Stephen Waldron, uncle of Chris Lyman Waldron.

Linda Wood-Boyle, friend and colleague of Chris Lyman Waldron.



The poinsettia deadline approaches quickly. Another reminder will be sent via Church News at the end of the month.

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 4, 2026.
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
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Jeffrey Brody, Music Director/Organist
Andrea Hart, Youth Music Director
Rev. Jude Martowska, Minister of Faith Formation
Victor and Sue McNary, Sextons



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