



Peace Dale
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PDCC E-Light Newsletter

December 22, 2022

CHURCH SERVICE 10:00 AM

Office Hours

Mon, Wed, Thurs 10am-1pm

Contact Us

SENIOR MINISTER:

THE REV. A. FRED EVENSON

FRED.E@MAC.COM

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

MARYLOU McMILLAN

OFFICE@PEACEDALECHURCH.ORG

Birthdays

Barbara Bradley	12/20
Jeannette Gamache	12/20
Olivia Rich	12/20
Mary Lou Riley	12/20
Bob Hackey	12/22
Carol Anne Hayes	12/25
Linda Green	12/30

Visit Our Webpage!

<http://www.peacedalechurch.org>

Follow us on Facebook!

[Facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch)

Last Week's E-Light

Christmas Worship Services

Please join us to celebrate the love of the season!

December 24 Saturday, Christmas Eve Services

5PM – Candlelight Service with Youth Connect
"Hallelujah" Christmas Song nativity

11PM – Candlelight Service with Communion

December 25 Sunday, **10AM** Christmas Day service – Lessons & Carols



The Work of Christmas?

With all the gift buying, present wrapping, and coordinating of family get-togethers, we may be starting to weary of the "work" of Christmas. But then we remember that this is really all about the manger and that amazing little baby whose arms are reaching out to embrace the world with God's unending love!

I recently received an email from David Figliuzzi with the Southern New England United Church of Christ Conference reminding us that God's redemptive work continues through Christmas and especially on the other side of Christmas. God continues to be about the business of healing our broken world – inviting us to join in this adventurous mission of love and justice. David references Howard Thurman who wrote:

"The Work of Christmas"

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.*

Yes, it does begin with Christmas, and you are invited to celebrate the birth of the Christ child with your faith family on Saturday at 5pm or 11 pm and/or on Sunday at 10 am. **continued** ⇒

And then let's roll up our sleeves and once again get to "work" sharing the joy and love of God with all we meet. For those who answer, it is a joyful calling!

Thank God for the baby who offers us all new beginnings, and who also eventually calls us to such challenging and rewarding work. I like that Howard Thurman ended his poem including making music in the heart as part of the work of Christmas. As we sing Joy to the World, you may notice the line - Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns, Let all their songs employ. As we celebrate the

birth of the savior and move through the 12 days of Christmas, may the music in your heart be employed by the One whose great power is expressed through Love!

May the Love of God surround you this Christmas and resonate within the music of your heart as you find yourself employed by the most loving, welcoming boss in the universe!

Amen, and Merry Christmas!

Pastor Fred

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Worship Flowers



The poinsettias adorning the Sanctuary celebrate the **Glorious** of God and God's **Love** that we feel in Advent.

Flowers are a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion or simply give to the glory of God. Anyone interested in donating flowers please contact CarolAnne Hayes at (401) 487-9127 or carolhayes44@gmail.com. Opportunities are available for January and February flower donations.



Office Closed Monday 12/26

The church office will be closed Monday, December 26th.

Contribution Envelopes



Contribution envelopes are available on the table in the hallway outside of Hoxie Lounge. If your envelopes are missing, there is a sign up sheet there as well.

Submitted by David Nelson

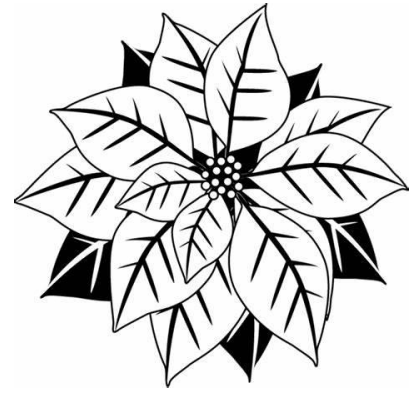
On the Church Calendar



Sunday Service
December 25 @ 10am
Lessons and Carols

Healing Gong: Wolf Moon
Sunday, January 8 @ 3-4:30pm
With Marion Hearn in Fellowship Hall

Christmas Poinsettias



The Christmas poinsettias that adorn the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by:

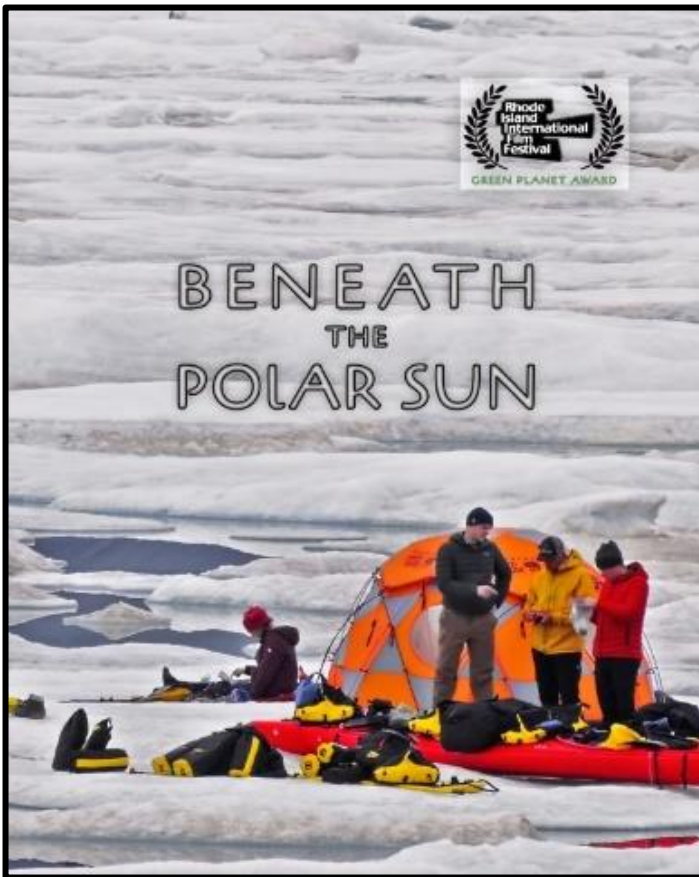
- Anonymously* In memory of Peg, George, Margaret, and Rosaire
- Richard & Linda Arnold, Mary
 Bannister, Ellen & John Hefler In memory of Alfred & Marie Arnold
 Marilyn Gould Browning In memory Howard & Eleanor Gould
 Keith Bruns In memory of Mildred and Edwin Bruns
 Steve & Paula Campbell In memory of Loved Ones
 Richard & Carolyn Curtis In memory of our parents, Charles & Christina Dansie and Raymond & Muriel Curtis
- Cindy & Byron Fish and Family In memory of our parents, brother Brad, and sister Barbara
 Rod & Barbara Gilbert In memory of Harold & Janet Smith and William & Margaret Smith
 Christine Grevstad & John Hobgood
 David & Carolyn Hayes In memory of Albert & Lois Hayes and Richmond & Dorothy Spencer
 Donald Hayes In memory of his mother, Marath Paparelli
 Judith Hayes In memory of her mother, Jessica McShane
 Tom & Lori Heald In memory of Jack & Libby Heald
 Ed Holt In memory of my mom and dad
 Alisin Huggins In memory of Alice Huggins and Joan Beaumier
 Bea & Bruce MacGregor In memory of Joan Picone
 Roberta Norman In memory of Jim Norman
 Sue & Dave Parkinson In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Guy DeRocco and Mr. & Mrs. William Parkinson
 Mary Lou J. Riley In memory of Parents Helen & Harold Jennings
 The Senerchia Family In memory of Doug & Jean Wright
 The Senerchia Family In memory of Joe & Betty Congdon
 Jean Simpson In celebration of family
 Mary-Gail Smith In memory of my loving husband, Lester Smith
 Shelley St. Coeur In memory of Thelma & Bernard Selden
 Claudia & Peter Swain In memory of Molly & Bill Swain and Matty & Russ Ernest
 The Szrom Family In memory of Donald Szrom
 The Thompson/Silkes Family In memory of our parents
 Ron Ulmschneider & Lynn McCall In memory of Carol Ulmschneider and Ken McCall
 Colleen Wegimont In memory of Henry & Dotty Wegimont
 Jim & Marlene Williams In celebration
 David Worthen In memory of Loved Ones
 Wally Young & Sylvia Blanda In memory of our parents: Walter & Lucy Young and Tony & Dottie Blanda
 Wally Young & Sylvia Blanda In memory of Richard Swan
 Wally Young & Sylvia Blanda In celebration of PDDT Volunteers
 Wally Young & Sylvia Blanda In celebration of Pumpkin Patch Volunteers

** If you inadvertently submitted your Poinsettia Order form without your name on it, please let the church office know so that we may correct this. (401) 789-7313 or office@peacedalechurch.org*



Nativity Set

Our Nativity Set was given in loving memory of Susan Brison Berry by Anna and John Couchon, Ann and David Caswell, and Gail Birchell. Anna Couchon made and donated the creche figurines in memory of her daughter.



The Green Team sponsors a video produced by Diane Kushner & Stephen Smith (Husband & Wife team from Hope Valley, RI.) Watch and discuss the video with the Producers.

Where: Peacedale Congregation Church, 261 Columbia St.

When: January 6, 2023, 7pm

<https://beneaththepolarsun.org/>

When ice on the Arctic Ocean vanishes, the sea's surface no longer reflects solar energy. The dark sea absorbs the sun's heat. And global temperatures rise.

Five hundred nautical miles from the North Pole, a scientific expedition is caught in the grip of the ice it has come to study. Tiny specks in a frozen maelstrom, something has to give.

Submitted by Don Hermes

Christmas Eve Offering

The special offering that will be taken at the Christmas Eve Services is for the UCC Christmas Fund. Additional information about the fund and how your generous donations are used is available online by clicking the graphic to the right or going to https://www.pbucc.org/images/pbucc/ministerial_assistance/2022_Promotional_Resources/2022_Christmas_Fund_Bulletin_Insert_1.pdf

In 2021, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 231 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,104,479)
- Health benefits supplementation for 87 retired clergy and lay employees (\$177,600)
- Emergency grants for 53 individuals and families (\$150,338)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 509 retired clergy and lay employees (\$254,000)

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

From the PDCC Missions Board

Advent Food Drive

Missions is running a food drive this Advent to benefit the pantry at the Jonnycake Center. Boxes for items will be placed near the office door and in the front entrance to the sanctuary. The collection will run through the month of December. We would like to especially promote bringing in items on Christmas Eve.

The [Jonnycake Center](#) will accept all types of donations but has indicated a special need for canned fruit, jelly/jam, crackers, and condiments. They currently have a sufficient amount of canned vegetables.

Submitted by James McMonigle

Church Family Life Events



Ideas for local fun!

Church Family Life also invites you to join in some togetherness.

Tues. 12/27 National Visit Zoo Day – FREE, 10 AM – 3 PM. <https://www.rwpzoo.org/event/visit-the-zoo-day/>

Through January 1 – Slater Park Winter Wonderland, Pawtucket, RI. On non-festival days, the display will be lit each night through Jan. 1 until 9 p.m. for driving through or walking. <https://www.facebook.com/PawtucketWinterWonderland/>

Last Minute Christmas Gift Idea! Mavis Staples



Tickets are going fast if you're interested. If you get tickets and want to do dinner and a show with us, contact Christine Grevstad @ 516 694-9154 or christinegrevstad@hotmail.com

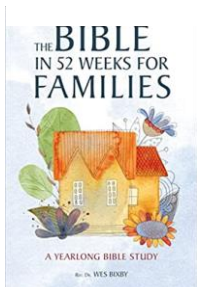
MAVIS STAPLES – Hailed by NPR as “one of America’s defining voices of freedom and peace,”

Staples is the kind of once-in-a-generation artist whose impact on music and culture would be difficult to overstate. She’s both a Blues and a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer.

GREENWICH ODEUM
March 11, 2023 @ 8:00PM, Doors open 7:00PM
Tickets \$87–\$96
59 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818
401.885.4000 info@greenwichodeum.com

Feasting on God’s Word

BIBLE STUDY



We are excited to offer a Bible study that will take us through the Bible in a year beginning in January! We will be using a book entitled, *The Bible in 52 Weeks for Families*, by Wes Bixby. Books are available in the church office (\$16). Let’s dive in and see what our still speaking God has to say, today.



FREE Movie Night – 12/29

Come enjoy the original 2009 AVATAR in the church sanctuary on the big screen!

Thursday 12/29
Pizza @ 5:30 pm – Film @ 6 pm

Free!

With blue treats for sale at intermission
Contact Kathy Bamford 401 218-3546 to sign up
“Avatar: The way of the Water,” the sequel movie hits theaters 12/16. Come see the original Avatar movie with us! Multiple spiritual and environmental themes exist in this virtual masterpiece from 2009.

CFL events submitted by Jane Stabile and Christine Grevstad

Safe Playgrounds

Looking for the perfect Christmas present for the person who has everything? Consider giving a gift on their behalf of that special person, to the efforts we have undertaken to provide a safe place for children to play.

HOPE IS ON THE HORIZON


HELP US REBUILD THE PLAYGROUNDS AT CHAMPAGNE HEIGHTS AND FOURNIER ESTATES

HOPE Is On The Horizon, will take down the unsafe playgrounds at Champagne Heights and Fournier Estates, and build back a safe and enjoyable place for children to gather and play in their own backyards.

Gift cards are available to send to the recipient of your gift. Contact Claudia Swain at (401) 265-8226.

To find out more about this effort, look for the red logo above on the Missions page at peacedalechurch.org/missions.

Submitted by Claudia Swain



Oh
Holy
Night

December Youth Calendar

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5PM
"Hallelujah" Christmas Song Nativity

All preschool through college students are welcome to be a part of the Nativity. For more information, please contact Meg Kolodziej (megkolodziejri@gmail.com).



Thank You Joy

Thank you to Joy Rich for hanging the wreaths on the exterior church doors. Joy's business is Flowerthyme.com

Giving Tree Roundup

Thank you to all who participated in sharing our love and treasures during this season by participating in the Giving Tree for Jonnycake Center clients. There were 100 tags on the tree to begin with. Our congregation fulfilled 65 requests for children and teens – from art supplies and toys, to sweat shirts and pants to gift cards for local retailers. This is one of our activities in ongoing partnership with the Jonnycake Center and the good work they do with residents in our area.

We received the following gifts accompanied by their tree tags: 25 gift cards to various shops, 4 LEGO sets, 4 beauty/make-up kits, 4 PJ's and socks, 16 Sweatshirts and Sweatpants, 12 Arts & Crafts supplies. Many thanks for your participation this year.

Submitted by Gabby Klensch



Donate Supplies to Church World Service Kit Projects

Please help us collect supplies! When Women's Fellowship met in September, we decided to continue the Church World Service (CWS) Kit Projects our church has participated in for years.

Last year, with donations from the PDCC congregation, we assembled 39 Hygiene Kits and 28 School Kits. In 2021, CWS distributed 83,760 Hygiene Kits and 33,240 School Kits to disaster victims, families in refugee camps, and impoverished communities in our country and around the world.

Supplies needed for Hygiene Kits



- Cotton hand towel (approx. 15x28 to 16x32)
- Sturdy wide-tooth comb with at least 6" of teeth
- Fingernail or toenail clipper
- Bath size bar of soap in original package
- Toothbrush in original package
- 10 standard size Band-Aids
- (We have enough face cloths)

Supplies needed for School Kits



- Blunt round-tip scissors
- 3 70-count bound notebooks totaling 200-210 pages
- 12-inch rulers
- Large erasers (no pencil cap erasers)
- Unsharpened pencils with erasers
- Boxes with 24 crayons
- (We have enough handheld pencil sharpeners)

We also need handmade cotton bags/cloth handles for School Kits. See Sally Bradley for the pattern.



The Hygiene and School Kit supplies can be left in the Narthex Boxes at the church entrance and in Fellowship Hall. Most of the items can be found at Job Lot or the Dollar Store. We spend our January to March meetings assembling the kits and they are then delivered in April. Hopefully with your help, we can beat last year's totals!

Women's Fellowship meets the second Thursday morning of the month in Hoxie Lounge.

Submitted by Judy Healy



Consider Making Charitable Contributions from Your IRA for the Tax Advantage

We make our contributions to the church and other charities with the intent of helping those organizations that meet our social, environmental, or spiritual objectives. So, the tax consideration is not the foremost consideration for taking that action. But there are tax benefits for making the contribution. Historically we have been able to deduct the amount of those contributions from our taxable income. However, recent tax law changes have created a standard deduction that virtually eliminated the charitable deduction for over 80% of taxpayers. That becomes an important reason for making a charitable contribution from your IRA. This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

How QCDs work. You must be 70½ or older to make QCDs. You direct your IRA trustee to make a distribution directly from your IRA to a qualified charity. The distribution must be one that would otherwise be taxable to you. You can exclude up to \$100,000 of QCDs from your gross income each year, thereby avoiding taxation on those amounts. If you file a joint return, your spouse can exclude an additional \$100,000 of QCDs. *Note:* You don't get to deduct QCDs as a charitable contribution on your federal income tax return — that would be double-dipping. QCDs count toward satisfying any required minimum distributions (RMDs) that you would otherwise have to receive from your IRA, just as

if you had received an actual distribution from the plan.

The bottom line is if you are making charitable contributions, they should all come from your IRA if you are over age 70 ½ because you will avoid paying income tax on that withdrawal, which you would have had to pay if it is part of your required distribution. For example, if you would normally donate \$5,000 to the church and other charities, you probably would not be able to take a tax deduction. But if your required distribution from your IRA is \$5,000 and you make the charitable contribution from your IRA then you avoid federal and state income tax on your \$5,000 required distribution. You should consult a tax advisor regarding these matters.

Again, the priority for making a charitable contribution is to help those organizations that are important to you. Giving through an IRA provides a tax bonus. Regardless, we hope that you will Let Your Light Shine on Peace Dale Congregational Church through a thoughtful contribution to the church.

On behalf of Stewardship,
Jim Blackerby



December Mission: Peace Dale Dinner Table

During this season of thanks and joy, we at the Peace Dale Dinner Table (PDDT) give

thanks for all the wonderful members of this church and community who give so generously of their time, talent and treasures to make this PDCC mission successful. As a result of your generosity, we are able to provide free, nutritious meals to our neighbors in need. With the participation of many volunteers, we prepare and deliver almost 200 meals each Wednesday and Friday to local individuals and families. Since January 2022, the PDCC team has served 8,285 meals just on Wednesdays.

All who have shepherded this mission are so pleased at how others have embraced this work. PDDT volunteers bring friends into the fold, and we have been joined by high schoolers. Almost two years ago, our brothers and sisters in Christ from St. Francis of Assisi's chapter of St. Vincent de Paul joined us. That meant that our outreach literally doubled. Our colleagues from SVDP do the cooking and delivery of meals on Fridays, out of the PDCC kitchen. In November, the Narragansett chapter of the NFWC Women's Club of South County joined our efforts. This enthusiastic group cooked their first meal on November 8th and will be cooking, serving and even delivering meals once each month. Not only does their help give PDCC volunteers a week off, it spreads the Dinner Table mission further into the community.

The work of the Dinner Table has been further validated by some generous donations from the Rotary Club, as well as a \$1000 anonymous donation. As of this writing we await word on our application for a Grow Hope Grant from the Women's Club. We also were the recipients of a huge amount of tuna, caught right off our coast, donated to the Jonnycake Center and then donated to us. All of that is in addition to the

generosity of those who give annually and/or monthly to this mission, as well as those who support the St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser and the golf tournament. We at the PDDT are so thankful.

The Dinner Table not only feeds the tummies of all whom we serve, but feeds the souls of those wanting to help others. Our intergenerational group of volunteers continues to grow; they work side by side cutting bread, serving meals and delivering food to cars. Our reservation system, so carefully monitored by Val Lowell provides us with the data needed to cook and deliver meals. Our drivers, runners, packers and servers ensure that everyone gets their meal.

Since January, the PDCC team has served 8,285 meals just on Wednesdays.

It is humbling to learn from our clients what a difference these meals make in their lives. A recent message in response to a Facebook posting about one of our dinners stated that not only were the meals delicious, receiving the PDDT dinners had helped this woman's family during a very tough time. Another family has let us know how much they count on

these meals to get them through the week. On occasion, we receive a call from someone whose meal has not yet been delivered. Their fear that they have been missed is palpable. Time and again, God lets us know that PDCC's mission and outreach to the community is making a difference to the vulnerable (and often invisible) among us.

Please consider contributing to the Peace Dale Dinner Table as PDCC's Mission of this Month.

Blessings to you all for all that you do.

Submitted by Sylvia Blanda

[Give now](#)

Ways to Support PDCC



Amazon Smile for PDCC

Generate donations to the church when you shop on smile.amazon.com and select Peace Dale Congregational Church as your benefit organization.



RaiseRight
Formerly ShopWithScrip

Gift Cards with a Kick

Every retailer gives money back to the church for the money you spend.

- RaiseRight table sales will not be available for the next two Sundays over holidays – Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. The table will resume on Sunday, January 8th, 2023 in Fellowship Hall after worship.
- If you need cards prior to January 8th, please reach out to Deb Shaw (dkshaw5@cox.net) to arrange for pickup.

Thanks to all for your continued support throughout 2022 and enjoy the Christmas season with family and friends!!! Here’s a link to the full listing of cards available...

<https://www.raiseright.com/shop>

Questions? Contact Deb Shaw at dkshaw5@cox.net



Prayer Matters...

Prayer Matters in the E-Light provides a way to share a request for prayer more broadly within the PDCC community.

To build fellowship and make full use of the congregational power of prayer, we offer this Prayer Matters space to allow members of our community to lift up their names and requests for prayer. This adds to the opportunities for congregants to lift up their prayers during Sunday service, and to request the care of the [Prayer Circle](#) that gathers every Tuesday morning or of our [Called to Care](#) ministry.

How to share your prayer

You may choose to use all or any combination of: Joys & Concerns on Sunday morning, Prayer Circle ministry, Called to Care ministry, and the new Prayer Matters section of the newsletter.

- To lift up your prayer during **Sunday Service**, simply raise your hand, voice your joy or concern and then say, “this is my prayer”; the congregation responds “this is our prayer”. Prayer requests made during Sunday service are shared aloud with those in attendance.
- To request the care of **Prayer Circle**, submit the [online form](#) or call the church office at (401) 789-7313. These requests are shared only with members of this group.
- To request the support of our [Called to Care](#) ministry team, call the church office at (401) 789-7313 or contact Rene Lamontagne at her number found in Breeze. These requests are shared only with members of this group.
- To request your prayer be included in the published **Prayer Matters** in the weekly E-Light, send email to office@peacedalechurch.org or call the church office at (401) 789-7313 (leave message for MaryLou).

Shalom, Pastor Fred