



Peace Dale
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PDCC E-Light Newsletter

August 31, 2023

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM

Office Hours

Mon, Wed, Thurs 10am-2pm
(401) 789-7313

Contact Us

SENIOR MINISTER:

THE REV. A. FRED EVENSON
FRED.E@MAC.COM

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

MARYLOU McMILLAN
OFFICE@PEACEDALECHURCH.ORG

Birthdays

Gary Smith	8/30
Danielle Robinson	8/30
Byron Fish	9/1
Christina Wilson Hutcheins	9/1
Sharon Schmid	9/1
David Caswell	9/2
Carolyn Traxler	9/2
Kimberley Simmons	9/8

Visit Our Webpage!

peacedalechurch.org

Follow us on Facebook!

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

Last Week's E-Light

peacedalechurch.org/e-li

Are We Making Excuses?

We all make excuses from time to time, but when it comes to our faith and living into our discipleship, this question becomes front and center.

This Sunday will be part 3 of our series on answering the call. We will consider some folks in the Bible who made excuses. I'll never forget, when I was in high school, I had a wonderfully demanding marching band instructor who said excuses satisfy only those who make them.

Jesus healed on the Sabbath and made no excuses for doing that. Come and join our faith family on Sunday, as we give thanks for God's healing love and consider how we might help others rise above whatever is bringing them down.

See you on Sunday @ 10am, my friends (no excuses 😊)

Peace & Joy,

Pastor Fred

The Church office will be closed
Monday, September 4, 2023



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Gift Cards with a Kick	Youth Connect Back Soon!
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Worship Flowers



The flowers of Sunday, September 3 are given to the Glory of God.

Flowers are a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or simply give to the glory of God. Opportunities are available for flower donations for September and October. If you are interested in donating flowers during these months, please email Wendy Sisson (wendyhighschool@gmail.com) or call or text her at (401) 932-2055. Thank you.

Youth Connect Back Soon!

YOUTH CONNECT
(what we used to call
"Sunday School") will
be back soon!



September 10 – Sign up for Youth Connect will take place on September 10th! (Which is also Grandparents Day!) Head on up to the second floor where Meg Kolodziej will be waiting for you. Refreshments, ice breakers, and fun games will be in full swing while parents complete the necessary paperwork.

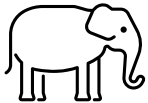
Youth Connect will start on September 17.

Family Sundays: September 24 and October 22. There is no Youth Connect on FAMILY SUNDAYS, but ALL ages are welcome to join in the fun!

We look forward to seeing you back in the fall!

Check out the **Youth Corner** in the E-Light, which features info, thought prompts, and games especially for the youth in our midst!

Submitted by Claudia Swain



White Elephants

OOOooooeee! Some exciting donations.

Work days as we prepare for the 10/7 sale:

- **Tues. 9/5 – 10:30 AM until noon**
- **Wed. 9/6 – 2:30 to 4 PM**

Come see and yes, workers can shop, but we pay a premium price. Thanks for the donations folks! For info contact jane.stabile@outlook.com or 508 395-1172.

Our next sales are Sat. 10/7 and 12/2.

From Church Family Life

White Elephant Jewelry

Currently we have tons of bracelets, necklaces, and clip earrings. Please hold off on donating those items for now. Thank you, Gabby Klensch



On the Calendar

Sunday, Sep. 3 @ 10am –
Traditional Worship

Sunday, Sept. 10 @ 10am
Contemporary **W**orship

Sunday, Sept. 10 @ after
worship Special Congrega-
tional Meeting: proposed
changes to the By-laws

Sunday, Sept. 17 @ 10am
Contemporary Worship &
Youth Connect

Sunday, Sept. 24 @ 10am
Family Worship Service

Sunday, Oct. 1 @ 12:30pm
– Pumpkin Unloading!

Saturday, Oct. 7 – 11am
Pumpkin Palooza, White
Elephant, Food & Games!

Mondays @ 6:30pm
NA Meeting – Learn to
Live

Tuesdays @ 9:30am
Prayer Circle

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm
AA Meeting

Dine With Nine So Fun!



Many thanks to our hosts and guests. It was so wonderful to meet and eat together. Next series in **November!**

Why not think about hosting? Being a host is popular. Check your schedule now and volunteer soon. It's pot-luck; so easy! Contact jane.stabile@outlook.com or 508 395-1172.

Social Justice in Action



For **THIS WEEK'S** list of events and opportunities check out the [Social Justice Committee info](#) on the **Missions** or **Groups** section of our PDCC website. Submitted by Joanne Haynes

September Mission of the Month: UCC Hawaii Wildfires Response

The Hawaii Conference and Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ have both issued appeals to support those impacted by wildfires across Hawaii, including the Maui fire which took more than 100 lives and is being called one of the deadliest US wildfires in the past 100 years.

"As we learn of the rising toll of the wildfires in Maui and see more and more of the extent of the destruction, we hold the people of Hawaii in our prayers, including UCC members and Hawaii Conference leadership," Peter Makari, transitional executive for Wider Church Ministries, said in [this United Church News article](#).

Contributions made through the UCC Disaster Ministries network will focus on bridging the gaps between the assistance offered by first-time responders and community revitalization.

The Hawaii Conference used existing disaster relief funds to issue aid for gas, clothes, toiletries and other immediate aid, according to their website. The Conference has also established the Hawaii 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund, which will both continue to issue immediate aid and be used for long-term recovery.

For additional information, see the UCC website at sneucc.org/newsdetail/how-to-help-in-hawaii-17539151

Peace Dale Congregational Church supports the UCC Hawaii Wildfires Response as our Mission of the Month. You may donate funds by placing your gift in the Missions basket during Sunday service; sending a check to the church office; or clicking the Give now button below to donate online (peacedalechurch.org/ways-to-give). **Checks should be made out to PDCC with "UCC Hawaii" in the memo line.**

Thank you,
The Missions Board

[Give now](#)

A Prayer for Maui

God, we lift to you the people of Maui and all of Hawaii, as they deal with devastating wildfires.

Hold close those whose loved ones have perished and those who cannot locate people about whom they are concerned.

Care for those who have lost their homes, buildings, and precious memories.

Carry local, state, and federal officials, instigating in them the strength, vision, and courage to take bold action that is responsive to the needs of your people today and for the future.

And inspire in each of us the commitment to be good support, while also doing our part to create the climate and infrastructure that can help guard against such tragedy. Amen

Rev. Dr. James D. Ross II
Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Youth Corner

- Sunday, September 10 – Youth Activities
- Sunday, September 17 – Youth Connect
- Sunday, September 24 – Family Worship Service

Youth program coordinator Meg Kolodziej
megkolodziejri@gmail.com



Save the date
PUMPKIN PALOOZA
Party at the Patch
Saturday, October 7
11 am-2 pm
Rain date October 14



**You are
God's
Masterpiece**

Peace Dale Congregational Church
Family Worship Service September 24 10 AM
Join us for a lively celebration of God's amazing creation

“Called by Christ to Create Shalom and Justice for All”

SHALOM in Hebrew



The first, most important, point is to remember that the Hebrew language is written *right to left*. This key fact is the easiest to forget for those of us who were raised on western languages.

The image above shows the word “SHALOM” written in a “modern” Hebrew. The “ancient” Hebrew alphabet consists of (coincidentally) 26 characters, *all of which are consonants*. It does not contain any vowels. In the Middle Ages, however, a group of Jewish scribe-scholars known as the Masoretes developed a system to standardize pronunciation for those who were learning the language. They came up with a system of dots and dashes known as “nikud” to teach how to pronounce words. Each “character” in the above image is color coded to facilitate the description that follows.

⚡ The first character is called “Shin”. It makes the **SH** sound as in “*shin*”. It should not be confused with the ⚡ character “Sin”, which makes the **S** sound. The difference is the location of the dot placed above the character. This is the only case where a dot above a character *does not* represent a vowel.

⚡ The small “T” under the Shin character is the “Kamatz”, which provides the first vowel sound. It represents the long form of the vowel “**AH**” as in the word *autumn*. Together, the Shin with the Kamatz gives us “**SHA**”.

↪ The next character is the “Lamed”. It represents the **L** sound as in “*look*”.

↪ The next character is a little more complicated. It looks like the character “Vav” (ו) with a dot above it. The Vav on its own is the **v** sound as in “*vine*”. However, the dot placed above it silences the **v** sound and transforms the character into the long vowel “**OH**”, which is called the “Cholam”. It is always directly next to the letter it is associated with, which in this case is the Lamed. Together they give us the “**LO**” sound.

□ The final character is the “Mem”, which provides the **M** sound as in “*mom*”.

So there you have it. When strung together from right to left, we have the Hebrew characters that make up the word “SHALOM”.

Submitted by Greg Blasdell

Church Family Life Events – Ideas for Fun

Church Family Life (CFL) suggests ask someone at PDCC to join you! Why not ask during hospitality after church when we're all together? ***Please share events you find or are interested in with Jane Stabile.***

Thursday 8/24 – 8/31 Musical Shows – Various dates, times, entertainers at The Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd., West Kingstown, RI. courthousearts.org/event/events-list-view/

Friday 9/1 – Narragansett Summer Gazebo Concert Series @ 6 PM. Free! Bring everything! narragansettri.gov/546/Gazebo-SummerFall-Concerts

Saturdays through 10/7 – Shops at Long Wharf Free Summer Concert Series, 1-5 PM. <https://www.discovernewport.org/event/shops-at-long-wharf-free-summer-concert-series/79721/>

Now through 10/5 – “Umbrella Sky at Newport’s Brick Market enjoy a canopy of color created from more than 500 umbrellas magically suspended over Newport’s Brick Marketplace.” Rain or shine admire this extraordinary art installation while enjoying shops, art shows, craft fairs and vendors from 8 M to 11 PM. Free. <https://whatsupnewp.com/2023/06/umbrella-sky-newport-exhibit-opens-in-brick-market-place/>

Sun. 9/10 – Friends of RI CASA End of Summer Celebration, Bonnet Shores Beach Club, Narragansett. Benefit to support the needs & wishes of abused & neglected children in family court cases. Food, cash bar, silent auction, raffles, live entertainment by Ron Giorgio (1:30 to 3PM) and 2nd to None (3 to 7 PM). <https://friendsofricasa.org/event-information/>

***NEW!* Sat. 9/2 – RI Dragon Boat Races & Taiwan Day Festival** at Festival Pier. Action-packed all-day entertainment with exciting dragon boat races, cultural performances, authentic cuisine, and the popular dumpling eating contest along the Pawtucket River. <https://www.dragonboatri.com/site/>

***NEW!* Thurs. 9/7 – South Kingstown 300th Anniversary Speaker Series**, “The Life and Times of Oliver Hazard Perry” by Evan Wilson, Assoc. Professor, U.S. Naval War College at 7 PM at SK High School, 215 Columbia St., South Kingstown, RI.

***NEW!* Fri. 9/8 – Sun. 9/10 – PVDfest** – Providence’s free outdoor signature arts festival at Innovation Park. Artisans, makers, food trucks, parade, music, Mavis Staples and Africa Nyaga Drum and Dance Festival. <https://pvdifest.com/>

***NEW!* Anytime RIWalks Challenge** – Search for 34 metal nature inspired designs on trees in special places on Land Trust Trails. Snap a selfie or photo and share it. See photos and get info at: <https://www.riwalks.org/challenge.php>

Clothing Donations and Volunteers Needed

Thank you for your generous donations thus far. We are in need of more children's clothing.

PDCC's new clothing ministry, Tabitha's Closet, will need **individuals to volunteer** regularly on a weekly or monthly basis to sort and prep the clothing, as well as run the shop on Saturday mornings. The committee is also looking for folks with an interest in art or graphic arts to help with logos and signage, a sales/marketing

person who can help us get the word out, anyone with interest or experience in fashion merchandising, and a financial liaison to help with managing the donations. If you can help in any of these areas, we would love for you to join us!



Tabitha's Closet is now accepting donations of **new and gently used fall and winter clothing**. We are asking that only church members donate clothing at this time. We will say "no thank you" to items with bad odors or any torn, stained, worn and please no buggy items. **Items we are NOT accepting are socks, underwear, bathing suits, and formal wear, including men's suits and ties.**

We are asking that donations be laundered and delivered in a clean bag, as we don't have a washer/dryer. **Donations may be placed in the bin at the bottom of the side door stairwell on the first floor.**

Planned opening October 7

Please contact Galen McGovern, our volunteer coordinator at GalenMcGovern@cox.net. For any questions or to learn more about the ministry, please

contact Suzanne Faucher at gsfaucher@gmail.com

Thank you so much!

The Tabitha's Closet Team

Peace Dale Congregational Church

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

for the purpose of reviewing/approving changes to the PDCC By-laws

Sunday, September 10th following worship

PDCC By-laws Proposed Changes

The by-laws of Peace Dale Congregational Church have undergone a thorough review during the past several months to:

- to make them more current with the mission of our church;
- update language and practices to reflect our current century;
- update overall organization of the document to eliminate redundancy and make the document easier to follow.

Changes have been reviewed and approved by the Executive Board and recommended for presentation to the congregation for approval at a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 10th following worship. On the PDCC website, you may find [links to the documents](#) in two forms (one showing all changes in highlight and eliminated language crossed out, and the other showing the document as it will appear when all changes are applied). **A few printed copies will be available at the church if you prefer to read a hard copy.**

Please review these documents on the web @ peacedalechurch.org/leaders-staff prior to the meeting on September 10th. If you have questions or suggestions for further changes, please contact Joanne Haynes (joanne@haynesrandj.com), Sylvia Blanda (sylviablanda@gmail.com), or Darlene Hermes (dhermes44@gmail.com) so we can be prepared to present appropriate changes at the meeting.

Here is a rationale for the changes shown in the documents.

1. Overall reasons for changing the by-laws is to simplify and better organize, make them in-line with what we are actually doing and to make them more current with the mission of our church.
2. Number of people elected to boards
 - Specifying a maximum number provides more flexibility and encourages boards to adopt a practice of using support people to carry out projects and creating ad hoc committees to do specific tasks. Some boards can operate with fewer elected members, while others may need the maximum.
3. Eliminating Associate membership. Those in that classification will be considered active

members with all the rights associated with that classification.

4. Combine Hospitality and Church Family Life
 - There is currently collaboration between these boards and they have similar charters to serve our congregation by hosting activities that promote Christian Fellowship
5. Change from President to Moderator (same responsibilities, just a less hierarchical name).
6. Add an Assistant Moderator
 - Provide help to Moderator
 - Provide training for Moderator position
7. Eliminate past President (Moderator) on Executive Board. Free out-going person to serve in other capacities.
8. Clarified the definitions and responsibilities of members and non-members
9. Added technology ad hoc committee to Executive Board
10. Changed Historian from elected position to appointed position
11. Distinguish between committees and boards
12. Eliminate Flower Committee as congregation-elected position and make it an ad hoc committee of the Deacons.
13. Broaden discretion of the nominating committee to fill positions appropriately
14. Change the covenant to a more current version.
15. Change of budget year
 - The **fiscal** year for the church will remain January through December. All reporting associated with the fiscal year will remain the same.
 - The **budget** year will become July 1 through June 30th.
 - The annual meeting would include a status report of the budget
 - Boards formed in February after the annual meeting will review their strategic plans and establish what they need for their budget effective July 1st.
 - Annual meeting will still happen in February where new officers and board members will be elected.
 - Budget will be approved at special congregational meeting in May, ahead of it taking effect July 1. Allows budget to be approved **before** actually taking effect.
 - Discussion with the treasurer at Kingston Congregational Church indicates that this is a workable plan as they have been on a July 1st budget year for several years.

Submitted by Joanne Haynes

If You Hear This 4-Word Phrase When You Pick Up the Phone, Hang Up Immediately

From a *Reader's Digest* story by Brooke Nelson

Full story at <https://www.rd.com/article/four-word-phone-scam/>

If you've been getting more robocalls lately, you are not alone. Phone call scams have increased a whopping 118% in the past year, according to First Orion, and millions of Americans have fallen victim to phone scammers looking to steal their money and identities.

Here's another common phone scam trick to watch out for. Experts are warning about a robocall that starts with the simple four-word phrase "Can you hear me?" in hopes of recording your response and using it to commit fraud.

Why this phone scam is dangerous

In general, all phone scams "are designed to do two things: gain information about you that can be used to impersonate you [through] identity theft, and get you to give money to the scammer," says Adam Gordon, an instructor at ITProTV, which provides professional IT training.

In this particular phone scam, a recorded voice will ask, "Can you hear me?" when a victim answers the call. The phrase is designed to trick the victim into responding "yes," while the person or computer on the other end is recording. From there, the scammer can use the recording to access important online accounts, make purchases and commit fraud like identity theft. All they have to do is play the recording of your voice saying "yes" when asked to authorize a log-in or agree to a major purchase.

"This phone scam is particularly frightening [because] they simply rely on the human behavior of answering a quick question," says Matthew Shirley, director of offensive cybersecurity operations at Fortalice, a cybersecurity services company.

By getting right to the point, the scammer catches victims off guard and forces them to act fast before they have the chance to think rationally.

The danger of chatbots and AI

This phone scam also reveals the sneaky potential of new chatbots and artificial intelligence (AI) technology to imitate human speech. These days, "AI chatbots are so advanced that they give the 'human touch,' being able to masquerade as a human successfully in many cases, and can be indistinguishable from a human in situations like a phone call," Gordon says.

Unfortunately, scammers are now using this new technology to fool victims into believing they are speaking with a real person on the phone. In a new version of the "Can you hear me?" phone scam, the call begins with a human-like voice saying "Sorry, I'm having issues with my headset."

This tactic makes people think that a real person is on the other line. It also "gives a little room for interpretation of pacing," like odd delays, which would ordinarily tip off the victims that they might be dealing with a phone scam, Shirley says.

Read the rest of the article at

<https://www.rd.com/article/four-word-phone-scam/> – including advice about what to do if you do say "yes" to a phone scammer... at which point they typically hang up immediately because they got what they wanted.

Gift Cards with a Kick



RaiseRight
Formerly ShopWithScrip

You get a card for the full amount and every retailer gives money back to the church for the money you spend.

Use RaiseRight to buy your Groceries and support PDCC at the same time. In support of Stewardship in Action, if you buy a \$100 grocery card on Sunday you will contribute \$4 - \$10 back to the church. No extra money out of your pocket – buy from us before you shop and help bridge the gap in the deficit.

RaiseRight is not *just* for gifts – **use cards for your own personal shopping** of groceries and prescriptions. Remember your reusable bags and gift cards in your everyday shopping trips.

- RaiseRight (formerly SCRIP) table sales are available on Sundays in Fellowship Hall after worship.
- Cards in stock include:
Belmont (\$25 & \$100), Dave's (\$100), Shaw's (\$25 & \$100), Stop & Shop (\$25 & \$100), CVS (\$25), Walgreen's (\$25), Amazon (\$25 & \$100), Applebee's (\$25), Brickley's Ice Cream (\$20), Dunkin' (\$10 & \$25), Marshall's (\$25), Matunuck Oyster Bar (\$50), Old Mountain Lanes (\$25), Panera (\$10 & \$25), Starbucks (\$10 & \$25), Walmart (\$25).



Brickley's is open for the season!! We have \$20 gift cards. Brickley's is giving us a 20% rebate.

Questions? Contact Deb Shaw at dkshaw5@cox.net or stop by the table on Sunday after worship.

Prayer Matters



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 submit the [online form](#). 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

Peace Dale Congregational Church

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