



Peace Dale  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

# PDCC E-Light Newsletter

261 Columbia Street  
Peace Dale, RI 02879  
(401) 789-7313

May 22, 2025

## SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM

### Office Hours

Mon, Wed, Thurs 10am-2pm

### Contact Us

SENIOR MINISTER:

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

MARYLOU McMILLAN  
OFFICE@PEACEDALECHURCH.ORG

## Birthdays This Week

Aiden Hurley  
Kelly Polhemus  
Scott Stafford  
Katharyn Shaughnessy  
Derek Dowgiallo  
Susan Sward  
Bob Clark  
Sue Dimon  
John Golberg

### Visit Our Webpage!

[peacedalechurch.org](http://peacedalechurch.org)

### Follow us on Facebook!

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

### Last Week's E-Light

[peacedalechurch.org/e-li](http://peacedalechurch.org/e-li)

## Resurrection

Acts 9:36-43

This weekend is Memorial Day Weekend, but you probably already knew that. We will give thanks for those who have put their lives on the line for others and ended up making the ultimate sacrifice.

You will also hear a story you may not have heard before; **it's about Tabitha**. I invite you to ponder this question: What does your resurrection look like?

Sisters and brothers let's gather on Sunday - for God is Good!

Peace and Love, Brother Fred

## Youth Connect Yay!



Thank you to our extraordinary Youth Connect teachers and many talented Family Service volunteers who make God's words leap off the page and into our hearts. It was an unforgettable year!

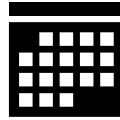
Look for more photographs from our CE year in next week's E-Light.



The church office will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 26, 2025. The office will reopen Wednesday, May 28.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Church Family Life Events  
 Come Make Music with Us  
 Gift Cards with a Kick  
 Good Bye Weeds – and a recipe  
 Join the Green Team  
 May Mission of the Month: Shower to Empower  
 On the Calendar  
 Once-a-Month Singers  
 PDCC Seeks Worship Music Director  
 Prayer Matters  
 Sabbatical and Vacation  
 Social Justice in Action  
 South Kingstown High School Project Hearing – 5/29  
 Tabitha's Closet  
 Worship Flowers  
 White Elephants – work days 5/23, 6/6  
 Youth Connect Yay!  
 Youth Group Sleep Out Packing List



## On the Calendar

**Saturday, May 24** Youth  
 Group Homelessness  
 Awareness Sleep-Out

**Sunday, May 25 @ 10am**  
 Contemporary Worship

**Thursday, May 29 @ 6pm**  
 Praise Team rehearsal

**Thursday, May 29**  
 @7:30pm Traditional Choir  
 rehearsal

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

Tuesdays @ 9:30am  
 Prayer Warriors /  
 Prayer Circle ALL  
 WELCOME!

Tuesdays @ 4:30pm  
 Bistro Dinner at Peace  
 Dale Dinner Table

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm  
 AA Meeting

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm  
 Bell Choir rehearsals  
 ALL WELCOME!

## Spring Sale Thank You!

Our Spring Sale was a success due to the hard work of many volunteers. Although I can't name them all, I must name a few who worked so diligently behind the scenes. Christine Grevstad, our CFL Chair, who coordinated volunteers, bought the food and baked cakes and prepared the strawberries with the help of Lynn McCall. Master jam maker Patty Hare! Mary-Gail Smith who helped with the advertising. Jane Stabile who coordinated everything for the White Elephant sale. Guy Cassaday who designed the banner/flyer. Pastor Fred who blessed the animals. Our artist and crafters who brought wonderful gifts of their talents. A huge thank you to all involved. Like in the song, "We are family", it shows. Carol Edwards

## Worship Flowers



**The flowers for Sunday, May 25 are given to the glory of God and in commemoration of military members who lost their lives in service.**

Flowers are a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or simply give to the glory of God. **If you are interested in donating Sanctuary flowers** for June, please contact Roberta Norman at (401) 226-7123.

## White Elephants



Good job team! We sorted, cleaned, priced, boxed, set up and put items out, sold a lot of them, saved others and then relaxed.

Whew! It was worth it. Plus we saw and made friends, about \$900 and kept goodies out of the land fills. Thanks donors and workers.

Next **WORK DAYS** (yes, there's more stuff) -  
 Fridays 5/23 & 6/6 from 10 to 11:30 AM

## PDCC Seeks Director of Music



Our open position for Director of Music and Organist has been posted on several websites. You may also view the posting on the church website. Please share the notice if you know someone who might be interested or who may know possible candidates.

## May Mission of the Month: Shower to Empower

**Restoring Dignity. Building Trust. Creating Pathways Forward.**



Imagine going days – or weeks – without a shower. No clean clothes. No place to shave, wash your hair, or simply feel human. For those living unsheltered in Rhode Island, this is daily life.

But dignity can arrive on wheels.

Launched in 2018 by House of Hope CDC in partnership with Team Williams and the City of Providence, Shower to Empower is a one-of-a-kind mobile outreach program that brings compassion, care, and connection to people experiencing homelessness—right where they are.

Our 20-foot mobile unit travels five days a week to Providence, Woonsocket, Pawtucket, and West Warwick. At every stop, it offers more than just hot showers. It offers hope - haircuts that renew confidence, medical navigation that restores health, basic necessities that remind people they are not forgotten, and case management and street outreach that open doors to shelter, treatment, and housing.

For someone sleeping in a tent, car, or under an overpass, a warm shower can mean the world—a moment to feel clean, seen, and cared for. But Shower to Empower is about more than hygiene. It's about trust. It's about connection, and it's about change.

Through daily interactions with our team, we meet people in their most vulnerable moments—with no judgment and no conditions. It's this consistent, compassionate presence that helps guide individuals from crisis to stability, from the streets to housing, from surviving to truly living.

Since its launch, Shower to Empower has delivered over 10,000 showers, 1,800 haircuts, and 2,300 medical services—but the true impact goes far

beyond the numbers. Each act of care is a seed planted – seeds that grow into new beginnings.

Help us continue this work.

Help us empower change—one shower, one haircut, one conversation at a time. Your support can restore dignity. It can rebuild trust. It can help change a life.

More information on [thehouseofhopecdc.org/shower-to-empower/](https://thehouseofhopecdc.org/shower-to-empower/).

Thank you for your generosity,  
The Missions Board

PDCC supports Shower to Empower as our May Mission of the Month. You may donate by 1) placing your gift in the Missions basket during Sunday service, 2) sending a check to the church office @ 261 Columbia Street, Peace Dale, RI 02879,

**Checks should be made out to PDCC with “Shower to Empower” in the memo line** or 3) clicking the **Give now**

button here to donate online ([peacedalechurch.org/ways-to-give](https://peacedalechurch.org/ways-to-give)).

**Give now**





## Church Family Life Events

PLEASE DO keep posting your flyers on the Event Bulletin Board. For more coverage send your details to [jane.stabile@outlook.com](mailto:jane.stabile@outlook.com) ahead of time to appear in the E-Light.

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**TODAY Thurs. 5/22 from 6 to 8 PM, Night of the Arts at South Kingstown High School**, 215 Columbia St., Wakefield. The SKHS Arts Dept. invites everyone to enjoy the music and various forms of art of their talented students. There will also be an art sale and limited refreshments. Free.

**NEW Sun. 5/25 from 1 to 2:30 PM Fairy Tea Party at Kinney Azalea Gardens**, 2391 Kingstown Rd., Wakefield. Calling all fairies and gnomes! Join harpist Mary King for a special musical performance, followed by a children's parade around the beautiful Kinney Azalea Gardens. Children (and adults!) dress as your favorite fairy, gnome (or any favorite mythical creature!) Try the scavenger hunt and bring a picnic! Could be muddy.

[southcountyri.com/event/fairy-tea-party-at-kinney-azalea-gardens/18005/](http://southcountyri.com/event/fairy-tea-party-at-kinney-azalea-gardens/18005/)

**Wed. 5/28 Two shows 4 & 7 PM, RISD Apparel Design Runway Show Collection 2025** at Waterfire Arts Center. Every spring, Apparel Design seniors debut a unified body of work in the department's senior thesis show. The show lets students work across mediums to share the latest fashion emerging from RISD studios. \$25 PP  
[risd.edu/academics/apparel-design/senior-thesis-show](http://risd.edu/academics/apparel-design/senior-thesis-show)

**Sat. 5/31 @ 6 – 10:30 PM Light on the Water, A Night of Hope** for the Domestic Violence Resource Center. The Dune's Club, 137 Boston Neck Rd., Narragansett. The evening begins with cocktails and a silent auction followed by a seated dinner and dancing to the tunes of the Boston based band, Hot Mess! (Our favorite band.) Tickets  
<https://dvrcsc.org/events/> Order soon; if desired, ask to sit at Jane & Steve Stabile's table. For some of us this event is becoming a tradition.

**NEW Sun. 6/1 @ 3-4:30pm Songs of Faith – Building Community, Building Hope.** Local area churches and their choirs coming together to combine their voices in worship and praise. Free will offering to benefit South County Habitat for Humanity. Reception to follow. At Wakefield Baptist Church, 236 Main Street, Wakefield.  
[facebook.com/story.php/?story\\_fbid=1105135081648152&id=100064550120061](https://facebook.com/story.php/?story_fbid=1105135081648152&id=100064550120061)

**Usual hours 9 AM to 4 PM Roger Williams Park Zoo & Carousel Village.** Enjoy the Zoo's amazing animals, nationally recognized events, and award-winning educational programs. [rwpzoo.org/visit/](http://rwpzoo.org/visit/)

**NEW Thurs. 6/5 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM right here in our own PDCC Sanctuary TUNES & TACOS.**

Enjoy the great acoustics as you listen to prize winning musical performances by the Splendid Strings, unbelievable harmonies by eSKape choir and wonderful upbeat music by the Jazz Band. Also, enjoy a taco dinner (meat & vegan) with Mexican salad and ice cream sundae bar. Events also include student art & raffles. These amazing teens swept the awards in Hershey, PA this April. \$25 adults; \$10 kids under 18 and free if under 3 yr. See Jane Stabile for tickets or on line  
<https://www.skfaboosters.org/>

**NEW Fri. 6/6 from 9 to 11 AM Guided Hike at DuVal Trail.** Walk through tunnels of bursting pink and white Mountain Laurels on this roughly two-mile guided hike. You'll also be listening for birds and keeping an eye out for interesting plants, mushrooms, and wildflowers. All ages welcome. Binoculars and boots recommended. No dogs allowed. Map at this link - [Guided Hike at DuVal Trail – South Kingstown Land Trust](#)

**Daily 10 AM to 4 PM, Save The Bay's Hamilton Family Aquarium is now open!** 23 America's Cup Ave, Newport, RI This one-of-a-kind 7500 square foot destination brings you face-to-face with the critters and species that live beneath Bay waters, and informs us about the issues that challenge the health of this beautiful natural resource.  
<https://savebay.org/family-fun/>

**Here are some sites I use to find events.** Why not try them out when you are looking for something to do. I am going to start tapering off listing events in the e-light but will maintain the bulletin board.

- <https://heyrhodymediaco.com/hey-rhody-newsletter/>
- <https://patch.com/rhode-island/narragansett/calendar>
- <https://narlib.org/>
- <https://patch.com/rhode-island/narragansett/calendar>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ourtownsk/events>

<https://www.facebook.com/skpubliclibrary>

## Youth Group Sleep Out

We're looking forward to the Youth Group Homelessness Awareness Sleep-Out this weekend. 5th-12th graders are welcome. Check out the packing list below. If you have any questions, please contact Meg Kolodziej.



### Suggested Packing List For Sleep-Out

- Sleeping bag and sleeping pad (no tents)
- Blankets
- Pillow
- Warm clothing and raincoat
- Toiletries
- Towel
- Flashlight
- Chair

### Among the Items that We Will Supply

- Tarps for ground and overhead
- Fire pits
- Light supper on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday\*
- Beverages
- Plates, cups, and silverware
- Table and chairs
- Lanterns
- First aid kit and hand sanitizer
- Games

\* Please let us know if you follow a special diet.

## South Kingstown High School Project Public Hearing – 5/29

PDCC is a property owner within the notice radius of this proposed land development project. A public hearing is scheduled for 6:30pm on Thursday May 29, 2025 in the Council Chambers at the South Kingstown Town Hall, 180 High Street, Wakefield.

An printed plan of the project is available on our copier room door, or online at [southkingstownri.gov/1378/South-Kingstown-High-School](https://southkingstownri.gov/1378/South-Kingstown-High-School)

## Tabitha's Closet

**Buy One Get One Free until May 31**

Open Saturdays 9:30am–12:30pm.  
Open third Tuesday of each month 4-7pm during Bistro.

Tabitha's Closet, PDCC's clothing ministry, offers new and gently-used clothing for affordable suggested donations. **Get what you need, pay what you can.**

**DONATIONS.** Tabitha's Closet is accepting **spring & summer donations.** We ask that donations be laundered and delivered in a clean bag, as we don't have a washer/dryer. See [peacedalechurch.org](https://peacedalechurch.org) for a list of what we do and do not accept.

**VOLUNTEER!!** We would love more volunteers! If you would like to help sort clothes, staff this effort, or do marketing, please contact [gsfaucher@gmail.com](mailto:gsfaucher@gmail.com) or [lynnehandayan@gmail.com](mailto:lynnehandayan@gmail.com)

**LATEST UPDATES** on Instagram  
[#shoptabithascloset](https://www.instagram.com/shoptabithascloset)



**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE\***  
**UNTIL MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2025**

Open Saturdays 9:30-12:30pm  
Third Tuesdays 4-7pm



Office Door from Parking Lot,  
downstairs  
Peace Dale Congregational Church  
261 Columbia St. Peace Dale RI 02879  
[peacedalechurch.org](https://peacedalechurch.org)

\* Suggested donation

# Sabbatical and Vacation

Hello, my faith family! I have some news to share with you. During a portion of the summer months, I will be taking some sabbatical leave. You may be asking, why do ministers take sabbatical leave? According to the UCC – (2024 Clergy Compensation Guidelines for the SNEUCC) – “Sabbatical, leave offers a time of sustained study, travel, and personal and professional renewal, enabling ministers to be of greater service within their ministry setting over time.” This section on sabbatical leave also says, “To meet conference guidelines a church should offer 12 weeks of paid sabbatical leave every five years.” (It’s bolded in the guidelines.) I plan to take a total of 7 weeks sabbatical leave during the summer months beginning on June 19th (I took some leave time in 2022).

## Some Sabbatical Plans are as follows:

As part of the Green Team’s efforts of helping our church become a Green Church we are now sometimes incorporating prayers that allude to and/or are related to environmental stewardship. During my sabbatical I will be putting together a collection of prayers, written by others or by myself, for use during worship services, as environmental stewardship prayers. My goal will be to compile a collection of 30 such prayers.

Hopefully this will help us focus on our goal of becoming a green church, and ultimately help facilitate our mission of being called by Christ to create shalom and justice for all (including All creation).

Also, during my sabbatical, I hope to speak with representatives of at least 5 Green Teams from the UCC and/or other denominations. I plan to visit some of the churches I am contacting. Hopefully this will yield some information about what other churches are doing in terms of environmental stewardship, and/or what they are doing in terms of creation justice. I wonder, if in these churches, the Green Team functions as the Creation Justice Team? Do they see it all as basically the same thing? Do they see their own efforts contributing to creation justice ministries? What do they hear our “still speaking God” saying to them and through them?

I have registered for an event on 6/21/25 at Wolfe’s Neck Center for Agriculture and the Environment in Freeport Maine entitled “Green Teams Gathering”. It’s organized by the BTS Center - “Spiritual

Leadership for a Climate-Changed World”. You can find out more about that through this link - [thebtscenter.org/green-teams-gathering-2025/](https://thebtscenter.org/green-teams-gathering-2025/). Are you interested in joining the green team and coming too? You can register for the event through that link.

## Coverage during this time

In addition to my sabbatical, I will also be taking 4 weeks of vacation time. This all adds up to me being away from the church/out of the pulpit, from June 19-Sept. 4. But don’t worry, the Deacons have a plan! They are assigning one Deacon per pastor/speaker and they will connect with them to help facilitate the pulpit coverage during my absence. The Rev. Steve Sayer and The Rev. Enid Watson will be handling emergency pastoral care calls and funerals during this time – Rev. Sayer will be on call from June 19 – July 7 and Rev. Watson will be on call from July 7 – Sept. 4. You can reach them through the church office and you can also find their phone numbers in Breeze and contact them directly.

By the way, Pastor Emeritus, The Rev. Dr. Larry Washburn will be in the pulpit on 2 of the Sundays while I’m on leave.

## Coming Back...

After I return, I plan to have the above-mentioned prayers to share with you, as well as some information and hopefully some good ideas that I will have gathered from talking with Green Team members from other churches. Thank you to the Executive Board, thank you to you, PDCC - our faith family, for allowing me this sabbatical leave. I do appreciate it! And of course, I appreciate the vacation leave I will be taking as well.

May God bless us during the time we will be apart. Hopefully you will benefit from having others in the pulpit, and we will all find some sabbath rest this summer. May this experience rejuvenate us personally and help motivate/inspire us in terms of our mission, “to create shalom and justice for all” - especially when it comes to Environmental Stewardship and Creation Justice.

Peace and Joy, my Siblings in Christ,

Brother Fred



## Come Make Music with Us!



Our Praise Team, Traditional Choir, and Bell Choir welcome you! Rehearsals are once a week, typically in the evening. Ask a choir member after worship about rehearsal dates, check the Breeze EVENTS calendar, or check the On the Calendar feature on page 2.

## Once-a-Month Singers



We have a somewhat animated group who sing with the family service the 4th week of each month (**next up is May 18**). You do not need to read music, just enjoy singing together and show it. I

email you videos and music/lyrics of all the pieces ahead of time so you can practice. We rehearse just once at 9 AM before the family service. **Feel free to try us out. 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



## Join PDCC Green Team!

For anyone, of all ages, interested in learning more about the "Green Team", please contact George Faucher at [glfaucher@gmail.com](mailto:glfaucher@gmail.com) and/or Don Hermes at [dhermes33@gmail.com](mailto:dhermes33@gmail.com)

## Good-Bye Weeds!



For those of you who are following the ecologically beneficial practices of invertebrate habitat sustainability, the caterpillars, bees, and especially birds thank you. By leaving those leaves and flower stems on your beds

until we have a sustained period of 50 degrees in the evening for a week, the insects have a safe place to rest until the cycle of renewal begins once again.

In keeping with a safe environment for all creatures including human beings, there is another practice we can follow for those pesky weeds that crop up in our walkways and driveways. (did you know you can eat many of them when they are young and tasty ... but that's for another time.)

An **easy to make, inexpensive, non-toxic solution** appropriately called "organic" Roundup can be used to kill them. But as it is non-selective, care must be exercised not to let it come in contact with desired plants or grasses. The most effective application method is to apply on a still, warm sunny day. The weeds should yellow and die within a number of hours.

Make sure to completely wet the leaves and then apply to the center of the plant. This will not kill the seeds so expect that you will have to reapply as new weeds emerge.

### NON-TOXIC ROUNDUP

1 Gallon white vinegar

1 ¼ cups salt

2-3 Tbsps. dish detergent

Add vinegar and salt to large pot.

Bring to low-medium heat, enough to dissolve salt.

Add dish detergent.

Cool to room temp.

Fill spray bottle.

Good-bye weeds!

## Gift Cards with a Kick



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 **gift cards** for teachers, service providers, and family.

Use RaiseRight to buy **cards for your own personal shopping** of groceries, etc. 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).

**Questions?** Contact Deb Shaw at [dkshaw5@cox.net](mailto: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 E-Light newsletter, send email to [office@peacedalechurch.org](mailto:office@peacedalechurch.org) or call the church office at (401) 789-7313 (leave message for MaryLou).

Shalom, Pastor Fred

## Peace Dale Congregational Church

261 Columbia Street  
Wakefield RI 02879

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