



Peace Dale
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PDCC E-Light Newsletter

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

December 11, 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

Noonie Adham
Ben Foster
Gabby Klensch
Laura Lehrman-Kelly
Neil Redmond
Curtis Schmid
Steve Stabile
Peter Swain
Matthew Vetter
Butch Wegimont

Visit Our Webpage!

peacedalechurch.org

Follow us on Facebook!

Facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch

Last Week's E-Light

peacedalechurch.org/e-li

It's Music Sunday!

This Sunday is a Music Sunday! Come and support our music ministry and enjoy a worship service full of music! Come and celebrate the joy of the Advent season as we will light the pink Joy candle during this special worship service. Also, if you would like a visit, please reach out and let us know. See you soon. Peace and Joy, Pastor Fred

Advent & Christmas Eve Services

Join us at PDCC to celebrate this Advent season. There is so much warmth in our congregation. Come share!



Sun. 12/14 @ 10am Music Sunday Worship. **Joy**

Sun. 12/21 @ 10am Family Worship Service. **Love**

Christmas Eve @ 4pm Candlelight Contemporary

Christmas Eve @ 10pm Candlelight Traditional with Communion

Sun. 12/28 @ 10am Hymn Sing Worship Service

Will You Help Deliver Poinsettias?

After Christmas, the poinsettias from the Sanctuary will be delivered to members of our congregation who are experienced adults (over 85), have recently lost a loved one, or experienced illness or challenge. Please contact Sue Blackerby.



Once-a-Month Singers



We're back and joining in for the next **Family Service**. Our emphasis is on enthusiasm. You do not have to read music. To practice ahead, we'll supply a video, lyrics and usually the music for each song. Only one optional rehearsal at 9 AM before the service. Come meet Dan Monte, our new music director and join us for a fun singing experience.

CONTACT jane.stabile@outlook.com

Worship Flowers

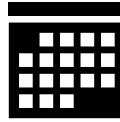


The flowers of December 14 are given to the glory of God.

Flowers are a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or simply give to the glory of God. If you are interested in donating Sanctuary flowers for January or beyond, please contact Lynn McCall 401-742-3949.

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On the Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 14 @
10am Music Sunday

Sunday, Dec. 21 @
10am Family
Worship

Sunday, Dec. 21 @
4pm Blue Christmas

Wed. Dec. 24 @
4pm Christmas Eve
Contemporary

Wed. Dec. 24 @
10pm Christmas Eve
Traditional

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

Tuesdays @ 9:30am Prayer
Warriors / Prayer Circle

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm AA
Meeting

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm Bell
Choir rehearsals

Thursdays @ 6pm
Contemporary Choir reh.

Thursdays @ 7:30pm
Traditional Choir rehearsal



Thank You, Joy!

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

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2025 ORDER FORM



If you wish to donate Christmas poinsettias to decorate our church sanctuary for the Advent season, please complete this order form and return it to the church (office or offering plate) with your payment by **December 14th**. The suggested donation is \$16 per plant. Following Christmas Services, poinsettias will be delivered to our members who are homebound, members who are over age 85, and those who recently suffered a loss. If you would enjoy delivering your plant yourself, please indicate below to whom you will be taking it.

Given by: _____

Given in: _____ Celebration of _____

_____ Memory of _____

_____ Honor of _____

What would you like to happen to your plants?

____ I want to take the plant home with me

____ I will deliver the plant (to whom? _____)

____ I want someone else to deliver it (to an elder, homebound, other)

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

The Fabulous Christmas Bazaar



What a wonderful day it was. Greenery, baked goods, Cookie Stroll, White Elephants, Grandpa's Attic, Tabitha's Closet, jewelry, soups, and local

vendors! Comradery and festivity everywhere! Rumor has it there were so many cars that our local friends in blue stopped by...

So much of us goes into producing this wonderful event and all of its pieces. A labor of PDCC love and pride that includes many friends who are not PDCC members but who love to make greens, and soups, and keep Tabitha's going, and...and...and. There were so many very happy people who thanked us for the great time they had. The whole bazaar was outstanding. Thank you workers and shoppers!

Winter Book Study: What If We Get It Right?



In January, we will launch a book study on [What If We Get It Right?](#) by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson—a hopeful and inspiring look at practical, community-rooted climate solutions. Pastor Fred Evenson will lead the study **VIA ZOOM**, with details to follow.

JOIN IN! If you are interested in joining or would like further information, please contact Pastor Fred or George Faucher. All are welcome!

"Sometimes the bravest thing we can do while facing an existential crisis is imagine life on the other side. This provocative and joyous book maps an inspiring landscape of possible climate futures.

"With clear-eyed essays, vibrant interviews, data, poetry, and art, Ayana guides us through solutions and possibilities at the nexus of science, policy, culture, and justice."

Gratitude Tree – Bring Gifts Through Sunday, Dec 14



Thank you for taking tags from the Gratitude Tree outside the church office and in Fellowship Hall for this partnership with **Jonnycake Center** to benefit the children of South County.

You can bring gifts to church through Sunday, December 14. Gifts may be put in the box at the foot of the Gratitude Tree.

QUESTIONS: call/text Gabby at 401 932-8350

Blue Christmas Service – 12/21

The Board of Deacons is offering a special Blue Christmas service on **Sunday December 21 at 4PM in the sanctuary.**



Blue Christmas is a way to acknowledge that amidst the joys and celebrations of the season, there are people hurting from many forms of loss. Though we know that God is with us, sometimes we feel adrift amongst holiday festivities.

Please join us for a short Blue Christmas service, not that we may forget our losses, but that we can celebrate the new life promised by the Holy Birth.

2026 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

Special Order RaiseRight Gift Cards for Christmas by 12/14



If there are gift cards you would like to give for Christmas or year-end

that are not on our usual list, please let Deb Shaw know you would like to purchase a special order. Deadline December 14. Cards available are those on the RaiseRight list at <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

SPECIAL ORDER DEADLINE — Sunday, December 14 is the last day for special orders to guarantee pickup on Dec 21. Here's a link to the full listing of cards available...[Retailer List \(RaiseRight.com\)](#)

Gift Cards with a Kick ... Christmas is Coming

Stop by the RaiseRight table in Fellowship Hall after service each Sunday and let us help you with your shopping.

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.
- **cards for your own personal shopping** of groceries, etc.

IN STOCK CURRENTLY – Amazon, Applebee's, Dunkin, TJ Maxx/Marshalls, Matunuck Oyster Bar, Old Mountain Lanes, Panera, Starbucks, VISA, and Walmart as well as all the local grocery stores.

PLANNING TO TRAVEL? RaiseRight offers Airline gift cards, Gas gift cards, and Hotel gift cards. All of these cards can be special ordered.

QUESTIONS? Contact Deb Shaw or stop by the table on Sunday after worship.

Our Nativity Set

Our Nativity Set in the Sanctuary 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 crèche figurines in memory of her daughter



Come Sing or Ring with Us!



Our **singers** welcome you! Rehearsals are Thursday 6pm for Praise Team and 7:30pm for Traditional Choir.

Our **bell ringers** welcome you! Teenagers on up in age. Ability to read music is a plus. Practice Tuesdays @ 6:30pm.



Ask a choir member after worship or send an email to [office@ peacedalechurch.org](mailto:office@peacedalechurch.org)

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

December Mission of the Month: Peace Dale Dinner Table

On February 19, 2025, the Peace Dale Dinner Table celebrated our 11th anniversary of operation. With our numbers at the Dinner Table continuing to increase, this is a perfect time for the Dinner Table to have been selected as the Mission of the Month.

We are currently preparing more than 250 meals each Wednesday. Our increase reflects a continued statewide trend of more people seeking food assistance. A recent report by the Rhode Island Community Food Bank states that 38% of all households within the state are considered food insecure – having difficulty affording adequate food – an increase of 11 percentage points over last year, due to rapid cost increases in rent, utilities, transportation, childcare and health care, and basic annual expenses.

At the Dinner Table, we serve more than 270 meals per week to our neighbors in need, children and their families, those alone, and those hungry. That computes to over 24,000 meals per year.

In addition to Wednesday delivery/pick-up meals, we reintroduced a Tuesday sit-down meal “The Bistro” for food and community; we are welcoming 35 diners each Tuesday to this community dinner.

Our crew of more than 150 incredible volunteers do the work that makes this mission possible! Thus, donors know that every cent they give, goes to the purchase of food and materials needed to prepare meals to feed people.

Deep thanks to all the volunteers who make this mission possible: the bakers, the drivers, the baggers, the runners, the servers, those who package and pick up the bread, the dishwashers, the chefs and cooking crews, the reservation takers, the driving coordinator and our volunteer organizer.

Without the generosity of all who donate financially to our church’s premier mission, the Peace Dale Dinner Table would not exist. Thank you for your continued generous support.

More information about Dinner Table is available at peacedalechurch.org/dinner-table

Thank you for your generosity,
The Missions Board
www.peacedalechurch.org/missions

The PDCC Missions Board has chosen to support the Peace Dale Dinner Table with your Mission of the Month donations in December. 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 “Dinner Table” in the memo line** or 3) clicking the **Give now** button here to donate online (peacedalechurch.org/ways-to-give).

Give now

The November Mission of the Month has collected to date \$1,740.41 for the Church World Service. The Fifth-Sunday Mission collected \$461 for the RI Community Food Bank

Volunteer for Bistro Dinner Table on Tuesdays



every-week commitment.

Bistro sit-down community dinners in Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays at 4:30pm!

At this time, we really have a **need for additional volunteers** for the Bistro. It **does not need to be an**

The Bistro serves approximately 35 guests at tables, much like a restaurant. We need help to prepare and cook the meal, prepare salads, serve patrons (salad, dinner, dessert, coffee and tea), as well as cleanup and dishwashing. We also have a volunteer to make individual desserts. If you can help out, or are interested, but want more information, please contact Cynthia Cherney (or the Church Office at office@peacedalechurch.org 401 789-7313).

Local Events Listing

Please email any non-political event info/listings here to jane.stabile@outlook.com Flyers welcome

NEW Various days & times, **Visit w/Santa at the Wakefield Mall**, 160 Old Tower Hill Rd., Santa will be available for photos with the young and young at heart! See schedule at:

https://www.facebook.com/events/853063207260787/853063227260785?active_tab=about

NEW Various days & times, **Kinney Azalea Gardens 2025 Festival of Trees**, 2391 Kingstown Rd., Wakefield. The garden trails have been transformed into a whimsical winter wonderland. Stroll through a stunning display of trees, each uniquely decorated with nature-inspired ornaments. There are also crafts and activities.

<https://www.kinneyazaleagardens.com/festival-of-trees>

NEW Thurs. 12/11, 4 – 6 PM, **The Peace Dale Tree Lighting** at the rotary with a bonfire, crafts, Boom-Box Santa, cocoa & popcorn, sort of reindeer (goats) and horse & carriage rides. Google it for details.

NEW Fri. 11/12 from 5 – 9 PM (21+ only) and **Sat. 12/13** from 12 – 6 PM (21+ only after 5 PM), **11th Annual Whiskey Wonderland Holiday Bazaar** at Sons of Liberty Spirits Co., 1425 Kingstown Rd., Wakefield with *Field of Artisans* – 30 vendors, food trucks, live music, The Grinch on Fri. FREE, families on Sat. Details:

https://www.facebook.com/events/1132435765537429/1132435775537428?active_tab=about

NEW Sat. 12/13, 10 AM – 3 PM, **Peace Dale Elementary School's 21st Holiday Fair**, 109 Kersey Rd., Peace Dale. Featuring jewelry, crafts, local youth vendors, baked goods and MORE! Amazing raffle baskets, book fair with Wakefield books, music from local SK student musicians.

<https://washingtonri.macaronikid.com/events/69373260cab5d61592088430/%EF%B8%8F-pdes-holiday-fair>

NEW Mon. 12/15 (inclement weather 12/22), 5 PM, **Westerly Light Parade** with floats, music and festive holiday displays at this special nighttime parade which features thousands of LED lights.

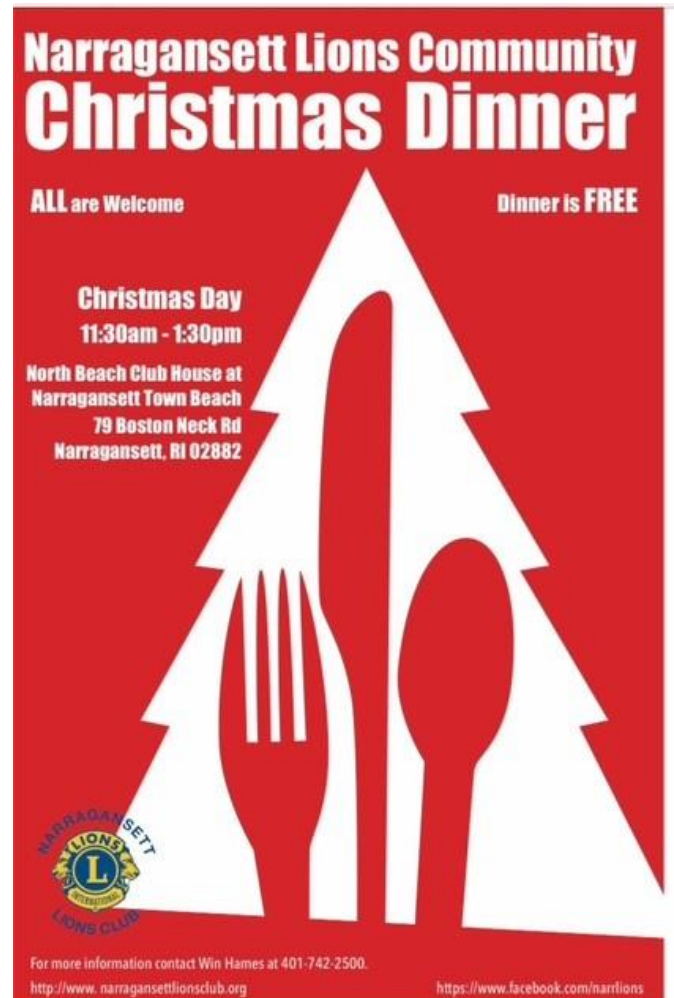
<https://allevents.in/westerly/westerly-light-parade/200027792659130>

NEW Thurs. 12/18, 6 PM, **South Kingstown High School Holiday Concert** with Choirs, Strings, Bands and Symphony Orchestra.

<https://www.skfaboosters.org/calendar.html>

NEW Sat. 12/20, 12 – 4 PM. **Santa's Workshop at The Pump House**, 1464 Kingstown Rd., Wakefield with arts n'crafts, ornament making & decorating, cookie decorating, face painting, Santa, snowball fight dance for children 2 to 4 PM. Live band. Please bring non-perishable food for Johnnycake Ctr. Free entry, suggest \$5 donation.

<https://www.pumphousemusicworks.com/event-calendar>



Celebrating a Historic Milestone for PDCC

Thank You for Helping Us Become Rhode Island's First SNEUCC Green Congregation

On **December 7th**, Peace Dale Congregational Church reached a milestone that is both joyful and historic: **PDCC was awarded the Southern New England Conference's Green Congregation designation — achieving Levels 1, 2, and 3 — making us the first United Church of Christ congregation in Rhode Island to receive this distinction.**

This remarkable accomplishment reflects years of commitment, collaboration, and faithful action across our entire church community. It is a testament to what becomes possible when a congregation lives out its love for creation with purpose and hope.

At the heart of this journey is our **Green Team**, whose guidance, creativity, and persistence helped shape every step along the way. We extend deep appreciation to:

Don Hermes, Pastor Fred, Mary Gail Smith, Katherine Condon, Claudia Swain, Jim Chrisafulli, Kim Picard, Darryl Keith, and Wally Young.

But this achievement belongs to far more than a single committee. It grew from the steady, often unseen work of many individuals, ministries, and teams who strengthened our efforts and expanded our vision. With gratitude, we acknowledge the contributions of:

Sylvia Blanda, Jim Blackerby, Jackie Kanis, Christine Grevstad, John Hobgood, James McMonigle, Jane Stabile, Suzanne Faucher, Meg Kolodziej, Vivian Skipper, Joanne Haynes, Gabby Klensch, and Peter Swain — along with **countless others** whose dedication, innovation, and willingness to step forward helped bring this recognition to life.

Whether through our solar installation, building improvements and energy conservation, recycling and composting, sustainable landscaping, educational programs, advocacy work, or the many small acts of stewardship that happen quietly and consistently, **each effort played a vital role** in helping PDCC earn this distinction.

On behalf of the PDCC Green Team, thank you for the gifts you bring and the spirit you share. Becoming the first UCC congregation in Rhode Island to reach this level of recognition is an achievement for our entire church family.

As we celebrate this moment, we also look ahead. Achieving Levels 1–3 is not an endpoint, but a foundation. The Green Team is already preparing for the next chapter of our journey, and we are committed to pursuing Level 4 in the year ahead. We invite anyone in the congregation who feels called to be part of this meaningful work to join us. Whether you bring a passion for advocacy, hands-on skills, fresh ideas, or simply a desire to learn, you are welcome, and your presence will strengthen our shared ministry.

With appreciation,
George Faucher
Co-Chair, PDCC Green Team



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 and/or Don Hermes at dhermes33@gmail.com



Donate Supplies for Church World Service Kits

Please help us collect supplies! With the help of our congregation, Women's Fellowship has continued to increase the number of kits we make each year. Kits are sent to areas where natural disasters have occurred. Please add these items to your shopping lists and leave them in boxes provided in Fellowship Hall. We have found these items in Job Lot, Wal-Mart and Dollar Tree.

Thank you for your help in making another successful year supporting this world-wide mission.

Supplies needed

SCHOOL KIT

- Rounded tip scissors
- Three 70-count bound notebooks
- 12 inch ruler
- Hand-held pencil sharpener
- Large eraser
- Six pencils
- 24 pack crayons



HYGIENE KIT

- Hand towel
- Wash cloth
- Wide-tooth comb
- Fingernail or toenail clipper
- Bath-size bar of soap in wrapper
- Toothbrush in original package
- Ten standard size band-aids



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

Submitted by Judy Healy

Tabitha's Closet Open Saturdays 9:30am–12:30pm

At this time, we particularly need:

- Volunteers for Friday 3-5pm to sort
- Volunteers Saturday mornings 9:00am-1:00pm

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 We are taking fall and winter items for men, women, and children, as well as costume jewelry. Please hold on any spring/summer clothing donations given our limited storage space.; we are almost full.

We ask that clothing donations be laundered and delivered in a clean bag, as we don't have a washer/dryer. We happily accept current-season clothing: shirts, pants, skirts, dresses, shorts, sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, hats, gloves for children and adults, belts, purses, costume jewelry. We accept shoes that are new or lightly-used. See 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 tabitha@peacedalechurch.org

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

Congregational Care: Caring for Others

WE NEED YOU! Congregational care has always been one of the most important missions of Peace Dale Congregational Church and we need you. There are three ways you can enhance this very important part of our church family's mission:

1. **JOIN.** Join the Prayer Circle (meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the church's community lounge on the third floor) or the Prayer Shawl Group that meets once a month (Carol Edwards is there to teach knitting and crocheting if you want to learn).
2. **DO.** If you can help with any of the following efforts to provide a special sense of support or just a caring thought, please let us know:
 - send cards,
 - make phone calls,
 - deliver flowers or prayer shawl,
 - visit someone.
3. **SHARE.** Let someone on Prayer Circle (listed below) know of anyone you think could use prayers, a prayer shawl, a card, a phone call, or a visit, so we can fulfill a thoughtful caring gesture. Prayers can also be requested in church during Joys and Concerns or using the colorful pew cards; or through the [online form](#) on our website.

LET US KNOW! Sometimes we do not hear about folks who could use a special extra touch of caring; please let us know if you need our caring.

Shalom with love, Prayer Circle

Linda Jeans (LTJeans@ verizon.net), Carol Edwards (caedwards760@ gmail.com), Joanne Haynes (joanne@ haynesrandj.com), Betsy Nelson (betsynelson10@ verizon.net), Paula Campbell (phedbat9@gmail.com), Norma Brooks, Darlene Hermes (dhermes44@ gmail.com), Christine Grevstad (christinegrevstad@ hotmail.com), Bea MacGregor (bmacgregor47@ gmail.com), Thomas Mather, Laura Lehrman (lauralehrmankelly@ gmail.com), Claudia Swain, Cindy Fish (cbfish0171@ gmail.com), Enid Watson (watsonenid@ gmail.com), and Pastor Fred (fred.e@ mac.com).

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and
nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love
And wonders, and wonders of his love.



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