



Peace Dale
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

PDCC E-Light Newsletter

December 18, 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@PEACEDEALECHURCH.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

Christmas is Coming!

Luke 2:1-20

This Sunday is the 4th Sunday of Advent where we will light the candle of Love. **At 10 am we will have a Family Worship Service.** If you're looking for a Christmas pageant, this is the service to attend.

On Sunday afternoon **at 4pm you are invited to attend our Blue Christmas Worship Service** – especially for people who have experienced some kind of loss, grief, or have been hurt in some way. You are invited to come express lament and also to hopefully receive some hope. Come, light a candle if you feel so moved, be present with your feelings and offer it all to God. Thankfully, Christ meets us where we are.

On **Christmas Eve**, we offer a 4pm Contemporary Worship Service and a 10 pm Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion. Both services include lighting of candles and the beloved Christmas carol, "Silent Night".

Once again, perhaps even in the midst of pain and loss, we celebrate the light of Christ coming into our lives and into the world. Thank God for the gift of Christ! May the Peace, Hope, Joy and Love of the season be yours. Blessings, and an early - Merry Christmas to you! Pastor Fred

You're Invited...

Traditional Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21 at 10 AM

Follow the children to Bethlehem to see the baby, listen to the King James Version of the Christmas Story (which children will recognize from "A Charlie Brown Christmas"), sing beloved Christmas carols, and receive the greatest gift ever-- God's love!



Advent & Christmas Eve Services

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

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

Sun 12/21 @ 4pm Blue Christmas Worship (see p. 2)

Christmas Eve @ 4pm Candlelight Contemporary

Christmas Eve @ 10pm Candlelight Traditional with Communion

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



The Church office will be closed Christmas week. Reopening Monday, December 29.

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Membership Notes

Richard Hogdon, husband of Linda Tucker, died earlier this week. A Celebration of Life will be held at Peace Dale Congregational Church on **Saturday, January 3 @ 2:00 pm**. Rick's obituary will be found on Avery-Storti.

Christmas Eve Mission Offering

During our Christmas Eve services @ 4pm and 10pm, our mission collection will support the **UCC Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund**. This UCC fund has been "caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas 'Thank You' gift checks to our lower-income retirees." Learn more at [UCC](#).



On the Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 21 @
10am Family Worship

Sunday, Dec. 21 @
4pm Blue Christmas Worship

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

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.

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. Please contact Sue Blackerby or sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Poinsettias 2025

The Christmas poinsettias that adorn the Sanctuary are given by

Anonymous

Deborah Belknap

In memory of Mike Belknap

Jim & Sue Blackerby

In memory of Charles & Pauline Clark and Robert & Beverly Blackerby

Sylvia Blanda & Wally Young

In celebration of Ged Henry

In memory of Lucy & Walter Young and Dot & Tony Blanda

Kirk Brown

Carol Dawley, Bonnie & Bill

In memory of Arthur Dawley

Cindy & Byron Fish & Family

In memory of our parents, sister Barbara, and brother Brad

Christine Grevstad & John Hobgood

In celebration of Christmas

Ira and Patty Hare

In memory of our parents and siblings

Jeff, Stephanie, and Maia Healey

In memory of Richard Healy and Richard Iovino

Ellen A. Hefler

In loving memory of John J. Hefler and Linda J. Arnold

George E. Herchenroether & Renee Lamontagne

In memory of Sherry B. Herchenroether and Mr. & Mrs. Rosaire Lamontagne

Darlene & Don Hermes

In honor of Prayer Circle Warriors and the Green Team

Ed Holt

In memory of Mom and Dad

Lee & Linda Jeans

In memory of our parents

Sue Kilgore

In memory of Michael Belknap

Gabby Klensch

In memory of my parents, Copper Klensch & Chuk Klensch

Roberta Norman

In memory of Jim Norman

Kim Picard

In memory of Jeffrey Michael McGuire

The Senerchia Family

In memory of Doug, Jean and Glen Wright

In memory of Joe & Betty Congdon

The Silkes & Thompson Family

In memory of our parents, and brother Gary, and sister Susan

Mary-Gail Smith

In memory of Lester E. Smith, beloved husband

Claudia & Peter Swain

In memory of William & Molly Swain and Matty & Russ Ernest

The Szrom Family

In memory of Donald Szrom

Jim Thomson & Cynthia Cherney

In memory of daughter, Betsy Thomson

Ron Ulmschneider & Lynn McCall

In memory of loved ones

Larry Washburn

In memory of Lenore

Enid Watson

In memory of Nancy & John Malek and Karin & Lloyd Burghart

The Worthen Family

In memory of loved ones



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.”



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



learning more about the “Green Team”, please contact George Faucher at gfaucher@gmail.com and/or Don Hermes at dhermes33@gmail.com

Join PDCC Green Team!

For anyone, of all ages, interested in

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.



Worship Flowers

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 February, please contact Lynn McCall 401-742-3949.

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



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

Tabitha Supports Our Community

Tabitha's Closet is PDCC's get-what-you-need-pay-what-you-can clothing ministry. We serve people every week whose need exceeds their ability to pay and are happy to gain new-to-them clothing and shoes. We also have people who contribute the full "ticket price" or more for items on display, knowing that we reinvest the funds in the church and our missions, and to support community partners.

We are reinvesting the money raised from this mission to support various social services in our community:

Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$2,500
PDCC Church World Service Kits \$500
Peace Dale Dinner Table \$3,500
Gratitude Tree w Jonnycake Center \$500
Tri County Community Action Agency \$2,000
Youth LGBTQ Closet \$1,000. (Youth Pride RI)

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.

Once-a-Month Singers



We're back and joining in for the next **Family Service – January**. 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



We Will Take Tissue Paper

We would appreciate having non-ripped holiday tissue paper (not wrapping paper) to use for White Elephant & Grampa's Attic delicate items in storage. This also helps divert trash from our landfills.

There will be a box next to the copy room just for tissue paper until 1/18/26.

Thank you, Gabby.

QUESTIONS: call/text Gabby at 401 932-8350

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.



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 every-week commitment.**

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

Local Events Listing

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

Various days & times, **Visit with 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/853063207260785?active_tab=about

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>

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

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

NEW Thurs. 12/18, 5 – 9 PM, Holiday Field Night at Whalers Brewing Co. with Field of Artisans, 350 Columbia St., Wakefield.

facebook.com/events/1054677533496957

NEW Fri. 12/19, 2 – 7 PM, Holiday Market at Wilcox Tavern, 5153 Old Post Rd., Charlestown with cocktails as you stroll through local wellness & craft vendos. Presented by Bend Studio & Caf Bar.

facebook.com/events/wilcox-tavern/holiday-vendor-market/25266995916228581/

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.

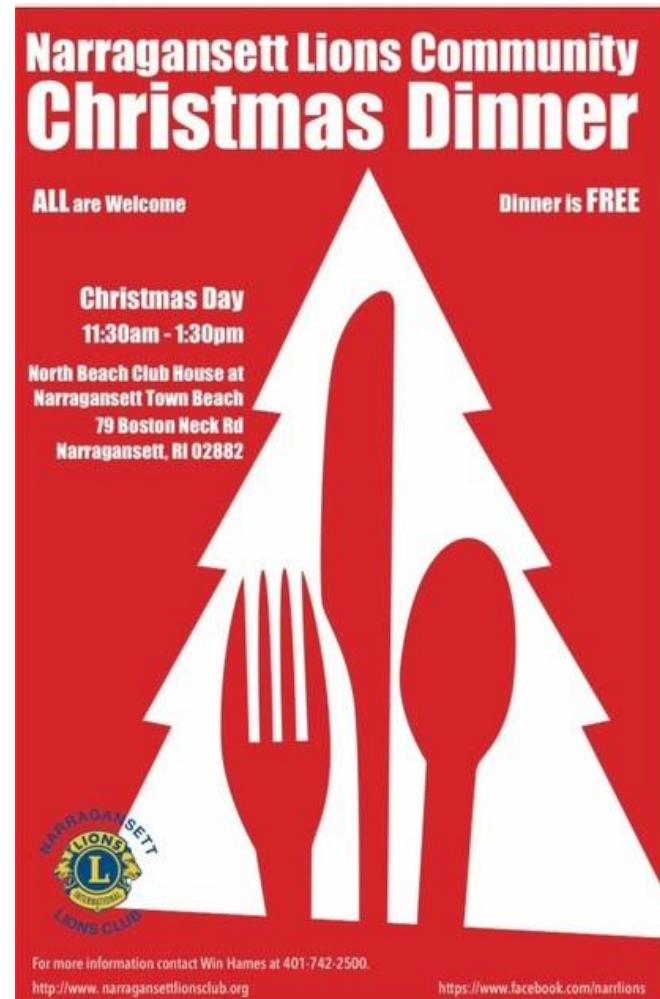
<https://www.pumphousemusicworks.com/event-calendar>

NEW Sun. 12/21, 4:30 – 5:30 PM, Wakefield Lantern Parade meeting at the pedestrian bridge

by CTC. Bring a lantern or an instrument. Lantern Making Workshop – Thurs. 12/18 from 5:30 – 7PM at 1679 South Rd., Kingstown, **bring a headlight or flashlight**. FREE. Info steve@concretelouch.org

NEW Thurs. 12/25, 11:30 – 1:30 PM, Narragansett Lions Community Christmas Dinner at the North Beach Club House. Info. Win Hames 401 742-2500. FREE.

<https://narragansettlionsclub.org/>



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



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).

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