PDCC E-Light Newsletter

Peace Dale
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

March 12, 2026

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

Richard Adham
Cheryl Beckmann
Hope Evenson
Don Hermes
Matthew McGovern
Sue Parkinson
Tim Redmond
Mary Szrom
William Wallace

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peacedalechurch.org

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Facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch

Last Week's E-Light

peacedalechurch.org/e-li

Envisioning Life from Death

Ezekiel 37:1-14

In Ezekiel 37:7, we read, "'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'"1 Have you ever felt this way? Do you feel like this verse is speaking to us today? There is some good news here, as we keep reading. I invite you to read this section - this pericope, as we prepare for our Sunday Worship at 10 am. We read that even in the face of these dry bones, God will offer life. We read, "I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live," (Ezek. 37:14)

This reading can seem rather stark, especially given the harsh realities that are marking these days, but let's spend some time with it and see if we can hear God speaking to us. Let's also turn to prayer. I invite you to pray for all who have been and are being impacted by violence in it's various forms. Let' pray for All God's children, for peace, for shalom, for justice, for new life filled with God's Spirit! Let's remember in prayer not only our human family, but let's also prayerfully lift up, and be mindful of, the rest of God's good creation as well.

Peace and Shalom, Brother Fred

Join Us for Easter Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 29
10 AM – Traditional Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 2
6 PM – Soup & Bread
6:30 PM – Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 5
7 AM – Sunrise (outdoors)
9 AM – Contemporary Worship
11 AM – Traditional Worship

Worship Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers of March 15 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 March or April, please contact Lynn McCall.

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On the Calendar

Sunday, March 15 @ 10am Contemporary Worship

Sunday, March 22 @ 10am Family Worship

Saturday, March 28 @ 11a-2p Children's Eggstravaganza

Sunday, March 29 @ 10am Palm Sunday Traditional Worship

Sunday, April 5 @ 7, 10 & 11 AM Easter

Sunday, April 19 @ potluck after worship

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

Tuesdays @ 9:30am Prayer Warriors / Prayer Circle

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm AA Meeting

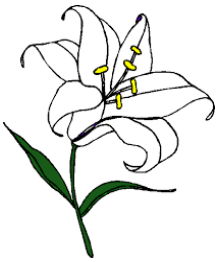
Tuesdays @ 6:30pm Bell Choir rehearsals

Thursdays @ 1-3pm Shawl Knit & Crochet

Thursdays @ 6pm Contemporary Choir reh.

Thursdays @ 7:30pm Traditional Choir rehearsal

EASTER LILIES



If you wish to donate lilies to decorate our church sanctuary for the Easter season, please complete the order form below and return it to the church office with your payment by **March 26, 2026.** The suggested donation is **$15**. After Easter Services, deacons will deliver the plants to our members who are homebound, are over age 85, or who recently experienced a loss or illness. If you would enjoy delivering your plant yourself, please indicate below to whom you will be taking it.

Given by: _____

Check one: ☐ In celebration of: _____

☐ In memory of: _____

☐ In honor of: _____

What to do with your lily after Easter Sunday worship?

☐ I want to take the plant home with me.

☐ I will deliver the plant to: _____

☐ I want to leave the plant at church for someone else to deliver

Total amount enclosed: $ _____

March Mission of the Month: Welcome House

The Welcome House of South County is a long-standing nonprofit homeless services organization in Peace Dale, Rhode Island. It was established in 1987 with the goal of addressing homelessness in Washington ("South") County. Serving the community for nearly four decades. the organization has operated an emergency shelter and expanded services to include a soup kitchen, transitional housing, and supportive services for individuals in need. Over the years, Welcome House has become a trusted local resource for those experiencing crisis, helping hundreds of people with shelter, meals, and pathways toward stable living situations.

In 2022, Welcome House became part of the broader WARM Center network (Westerly area) which helped strengthen its programs while keeping its core mission intact and continuing the compassionate services the community has relied on. (warmcenter.org/welcome-house/)

The mission of Welcome House is to end homelessness and support people in finding stability and dignity. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, it provides:

- Emergency shelter with safe, sober accommodations for adults in crisis.
- A soup kitchen that has served thousands of meals annually to those in need.
- Transitional housing and case management services designed to help individuals move toward permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Through these services, Welcome House works to offer safety, support, and opportunities for long-term stability to people facing homelessness, treating each person with respect and dignity as they work toward rebuilding their lives.

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

The PDCC Missions Board has chosen to support Welcome House with your Mission of the Month donations in March. 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 "Welcome House" in the memo line** or 3) clicking the Give now button here to donate online (peacedalechurch.org/ways-to-give).

Give now

It's Time for Dine with Nine Again

Break bread, Sip wine, Share some laughter!!

This **March 20, 21, 22,** Church Family Life/Hospitality would like to invite everyone to a Dine with Nine event.

This is a potluck dinner event for 9, (or 8 or 10) people from our church family to share dinner and friendly conversation at a host's home.

The way it works:

- A host volunteers to host dinner at their home on one particular night.
- People sign up for dinner that night. The host coordinates with guests to bring something to support the meal.

This is a great way to spend time getting to know people you may have not interacted with, or new members that have just joined the church.

Our last Dine with Nine was a great success! A lot of fun was had by all!! Let your Light Shine!

SIGN UP in Fellowship Hall **by SUNDAY MARCH 15th** for your preferred date:

- FRIDAY /MARCH 20TH,
- SAT/MARCH 21ST, or
- SUN. MARCH 22nd

****Please indicate if you would like to be a host. (we need 3-5 hosts) ****

(Being a potluck dinner makes hosting so easy!)

QUESTIONS?? Call Christine Grevstad @ 401-284-6483 Submitted by Christine Grevstad (christinegrevstad@ hotmail.com)

The Febuary Mission of the Month has collected to date $1,788.41 for Support for Afghan Girls' Education (SAGE).

Great Stewards 2025

The Deacons have selected five Great Stewards for 2025. Each of these people has served in many roles over quite a few years and we hold them up as an example as how to serve in our church. Their names will appear with years of others on the Great Stewards plaque near the elevator.

Bob Congdon served as a Deacon and on our Property Management Board for a number of years. He has often been found helping with our church events, especially our mission ones, by serving every week, doing dishes or setting up or breaking down after an event. He, along with his wife Jeanne, volunteers weekly for the Dinner Table and has organized the meals and made sure all the bags are filled correctly and setup for drivers to deliver throughout our community.

Don Hermes has served on the Board of Missions many times and on Deacons. He taught Youth (middle school Sunday School) and served as a host for "Dine with Night". He organized events recognizing the dangers of Climate Change and pulled together an Ecumenical Social Justice Group still active today. He started the Green Team here and saved the church money by getting solar panels put on the church.

Gabby Klensch has volunteered for decades teaching Sunday School, playing bells with the Bell Choir, serving on the Church Family Life, the Deacons, and the Missions Board, and performing in our mystery theater production. She served as our representative with Habitat for Humanity. She stepped up to help with the Overnight Shelter program. Giving her time has been the best gift – to winding our church clock, serving as our delegate to the RI UCC Conference, and working on our white elephant mission events, and selling pumpkins.

Sharon Lankford was instrumental on the Casserole Crew (bringing food to church members), helping with the holiday events, ushering, and even helping in the office when there was a need. She gave so much to our Hospitality Board for years. She reorganized the kitchen numerous times, scheduled volunteers, served as hostess for Dine with Nine, and made the best soups for tens of events. She served as the Chair of Hospitality, finding new ways to open our church to wonderful activities.

PDCC Capital Campaign Update

At our Annual Meeting on February 8, 2026, there was a unanimous vote to proceed with a capital campaign. This campaign will raise funds to pay for repairs and maintenance to our aging, historic building and to make additional changes to position us to continue our commitment to the People of Peace Dale and the surrounding community to be there for them as well as our congregation.

Over the next 1-3 years we envision:

- Completing necessary historical repairs on the roof, windows and walls of our church building
- Creating more functional and welcoming meeting and worship spaces
- Updating our kitchen and facilities to better support our ministries
- Strengthening our ability to serve the wider community

This is about more than maintaining a building. It is about investing in the future of our mission while honoring the faith and generosity for those who came before us.

To help us with our campaign we have engaged the services of the UCC Church Building & Loan Fund Capital Campaign Services. Through their consultant, Jill White, they will be guiding us through the process beginning with a Feasibility Study. Jill will conduct individual interviews with a selected group of our members to gauge our readiness for the campaign. This will be conducted via virtual interviews on March 24-26.

As more information becomes available about planned changes, we will be sharing that with you.

This is an exciting time at PDCC. May we step forward together in faith, gratitude, and hope.

Joanne Haynes and Maria Cassaday

Deb Shaw has served as our delegate to the RI UCC Conference for years – attending and summarizing all the meetings for the congregation. She stepped up to be the Regional UCC Delegate and still serves in that capacity today. She served on the Stewardship Board and provided financial advice when needed. She organized URI basketball events for our congregation. When our Scrip (Raise Right) program was about to go away, she found her calling to continue the program, which provides thousands of dollars to help meet our church's financial needs.

Got Unwanted Greeting Cards?

Outside the office is a cardboard box for you to put greeting cards or note cards in – it is next to the spinning display of cards.

We collect and make cards available in hopes that people who need free cards may use them. And it keeps them out of the landfill. Submitted by Gabby Klensch

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 and/or Don Hermes at dhermes33@ gmail.com

Plan Ahead – Spring Sale

Save the Date!
May 2

Are You Interested in Joining PDCC & Our Faith Family?

We are planning new member "classes" for April (1.5 hour to meet others wishing to join and to discuss topics such as who is PDCC and what does it mean to be UCC). If you would like to consider joining and *have not already filled out a pew card* telling us this, please tell Pastor Fred, fill out a pew card, or contact the office@peacedalechurch.org

Once-a-Month Singers – 3/22

Do you want to express yourself through singing? Please join us for **family service on Sun. 3/22**. Enthusiasm encouraged, super singers - not so much, we appreciate everyone. You don't have to read music. We know these tunes. **CONTACT** jane.stabile@ outlook.com for music videos, lyrics and info

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

Volunteer for Bistro Dinner Table on Tuesdays

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

We really have a **need for additional volunteers** for the Bistro. It **does not need to be an every-week commitment**.

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

Tabitha's Closet Open for Spring

Open Saturdays 9:30am–12:30pm and 3rd Tuesday of each month 4-7pm

WE NEED… At this time, we particularly need spring and summer men's clothes and children's clothes. Thank you.

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.**

DONATE We are happy to accept spring and summer items for men, women, and children, as well as costume jewelry. Please hold on any not spring/summer clothing donations given our limited storage space. 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.

TABITHA SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITY

We serve people every week whose need exceeds their ability to pay and who are happy to gain new-to-them clothing and shoes. We also have shoppers who contribute the full "ticket price"or more for items, knowing that we reinvest the funds in the church and our missions, and to support community partners.

We are reinvesting the money raised to support social services in our community – such as the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Church World Service Kits, Peace Dale Dinner Table, Gratitude Tree w Jonnycake Center, Tri County Community Action Agency, and Youth LGBTQ Closet (Youth Pride RI).

VOLUNTEER!! We would love more voulnteers! If you would like to help sort clothes, staff this effort, or do marketing, please contact tabitha@peacedalechurch.org

MORNING VOLUNTEERS?

Interested in volunteering at Tabitha's, but our afternoon time slots don't work with your schedule? Great news! We are looking for volunteers for a morning from 9-11 am. If we can recruit enough interest, we will establish a morning weekly session. If you're interested or have questions, please contact Lynne at tabitha@ peacedalechurch.org

LATEST UPDATES on Instagram #shoptabithascloset.

Thursday Knit and Crochet

Come! Our Prayer Shawl makers are meeting together with the I Care Shawl Project makers every Thursday from 1-3pm in the Community Room. All knitters and crocheters welcome! We can help you learn, too. Make prayer shawls, warmth for cancer patients, small teddy bears and kittens, etc.
Contact (401) 580-1712

Donate – Prayer Shawl/I Care Shawl Project will gladly accept donations of yarn, knitting needles, or crochet hooks.

Cancer Comfort – The I Care Shawl Project is working with Brown Health Cancer Center in East Greenwich to comfort those going through chemotherapy.

Multi-Generational – Last week we had 11 adults and 5 high school students.

Donate Supplies for Church World Service KIDS Kits

We finish in March and kits will ship out in April.

Please help us collect supplies! We continue to collect for the Kids' Kits.

There is a collection box on stage in Fellowship Hall.

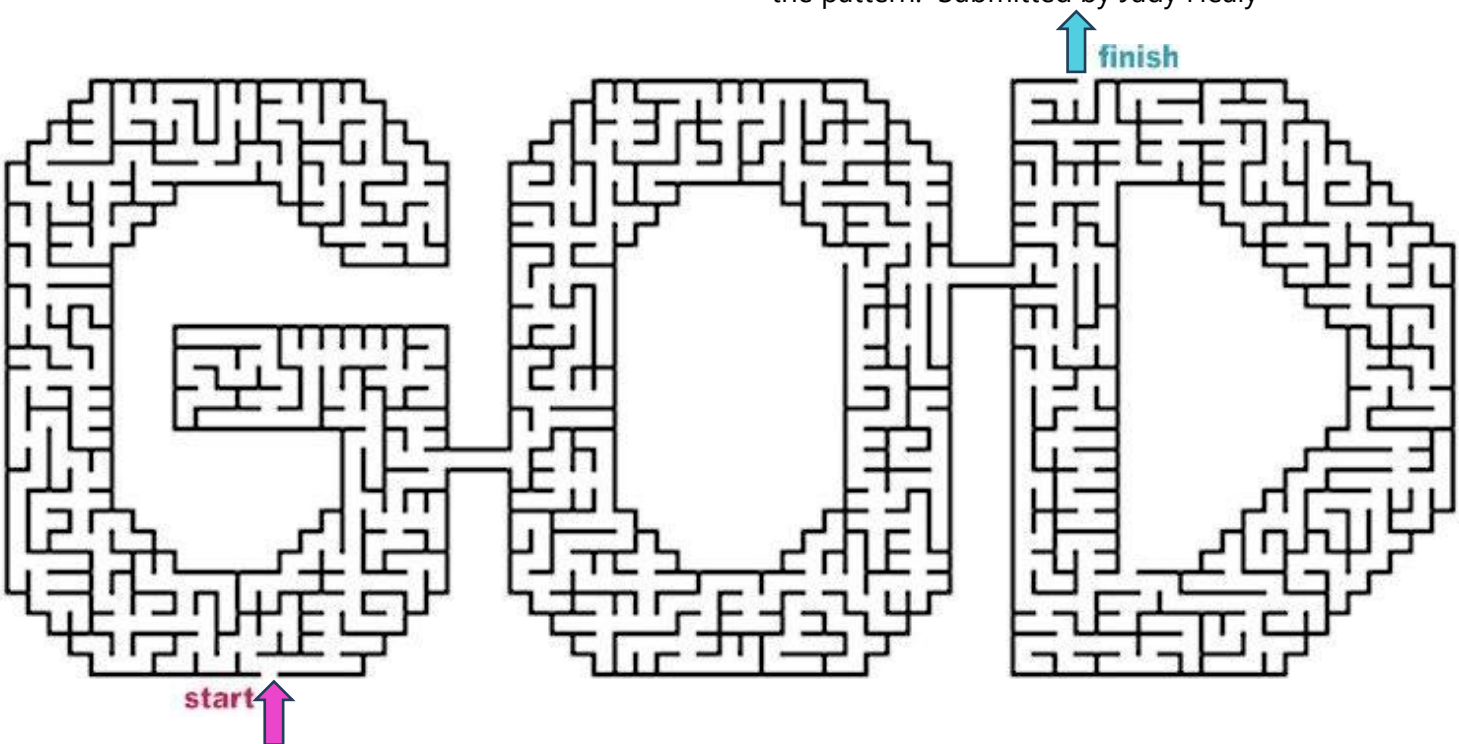
With the help of our congregation, Women's Fellowship has continued to increase the number of kits we make each year. Kits are sent to areas where natural disasters have occurred. Please add these items to your shopping lists and leave them in boxes provided in Fellowship Hall. We have found these items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

Thank you for helping to make another successful year supporting this world-wide mission. UPDATED supplies list:

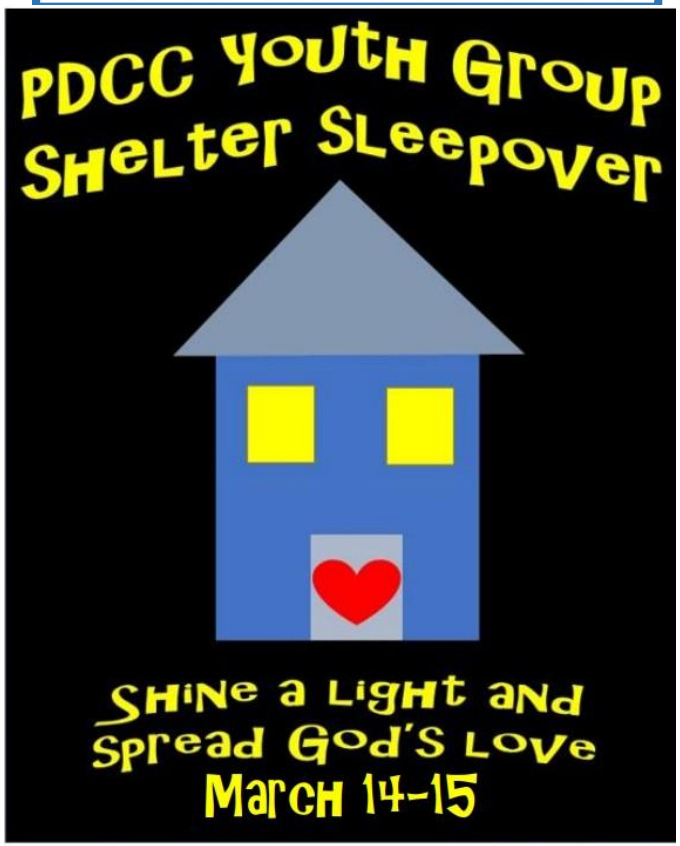
Kids Kit

- *Glue stick (new item)*
- *Box of 12 colored pencils (new item)*
- *2-pocket folder (new item)*
- Rounded tip scissors
- 70-count spiral bound notebooks
- 12 inch ruler
- Hand-held pencil sharpener
- Large eraser
- Unsharpened pencils
- 24 pack crayons

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



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



To sign up contact Meg Kolodziej
megkolodziejri@gmail.com

2026 PDCC Youth Calendar

March: You Can Make a Difference

Sunday 1 Youth Connect 10 AM
- Join the scramble: Plan our biggest Eggstravaganza and Egg Drop yet!

Sunday 8 Youth Connect 10 AM
Saturday 14 Youth Group Homelessness Awareness Sleepover 7 PM
Sunday 15 Youth Connect 10 AM
Sunday 22 Family Service: The Good Samaritan 10 AM
Saturday 28 Eggstravaganza 11 AM to 2 PM
Sunday 29 Youth Connect 10 AM
- Join our Palm Sunday procession and create a community sidewalk art gallery for Easter

April: You Were Created for a Purpose

Sunday 5 Easter Sunday
Sunday 12 Youth Connect 10 AM
- Take charge! Plan our 2026 Earth Day Celebration

Sunday 19 Spring Break: No Youth Connect
BIG Beach Cleanup Time TBD
Sunday 26 Family Service: The Sower of the Seed 10 AM
Earth Day Celebration 11 AM to 12 PM

May: Jesus Is Always With You

Sunday 3 Youth Connect 10 AM
- Create Flower Bouquets for Moms

Sunday 10 Happy Mother's Day: No Youth Connect
Sunday 17 Youth Connect End-of-the-Year Celebration: Breakfast with Jesus 10 AM

Congregational Care: Caring for Each Other

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).

Gift Cards with a Kick

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, family, birthdays, and special occasions.
- **cards for your own personal shopping** of groceries, etc.

IN STOCK CURRENTLY – Amazon, Applebee's, Dunkin, TJ Maxx/Marshalls, Matunuck Oyster Bar, Old Moutain 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* ahead of time.

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

Peace Dale Congregational Church

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