



Peace Dale  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

# PDCC E-Light Newsletter

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

March 5, 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

Kathy Bamford  
Martha Beazley  
Jim Blackerby  
Kelly Cardente  
Darryl Hays  
Paul Krasnov  
Laurie Nelle

### Visit Our Webpage!

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

### Follow us on Facebook!

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

### Last Week's E-Light

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

## Hanging in There...

Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:1-11

I have a photo of a burned through telephone pole, taken by my brother Rudy Evenson, that I hope to display during worship on Sunday. You may have seen it, or something like it, before. This image can symbolize different things. We could look at it as a reminder for us to "hang in there" even when, perhaps especially when, we don't feel like it.

With all that's going on in the world these days, I think a reminder like this can be helpful. During worship on Sunday we will consider suffering and the question of theodicy. I will reference Rabbi Harold S. Kushner's book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. Why do you think good people sometimes end up suffering? How do you answer such a question? Maybe that will be the question of the day.

In any event, let's remember to hang in there, for as others have noted, we are a religion of hope. Thank God for hope and for God's love for us, in and through Christ (Romans 8:38-39).

See you on Sunday! Shalom, Brother Fred

## Worship Flowers



The Sanctuary flowers of March 8 are given to the glory of God, in loving memory of Michael Swain, By Peter and Claudia Swain

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.

## Handicap Ramp Remains Closed

Please note the handicap ramp continues to be closed due to ice buildup. Please use the Church Street side entrance until the issue is resolved and the ramp can safely reopen. Property management has explored options; however, we will need continued thawing before conditions can be fully addressed. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.



## Eggstravaganza's Coming!

Save the Date!

March 28 @ 11 am – 2 pm

Volunteers of all ages are welcome!  
**SIGN UP** this Sunday in Fellowship Hall.



## Get Ready for Easter Lilies

The form will be available next week.

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Are You Interested in Joining PDCC?  
 Bring Your Unwanted Greeting Cards  
 Capital Campaign Update  
 Church World Service Kits – donate kids supplies  
 Come Sing or Ring with Us  
 Concert: Musica Dolce @ PDCC – 3/8  
 Congregational Care: Caring for Each Other  
 Conversation with Sheldon Whitehouse – POSTPONED  
 Dine with Nine – sign up by 3/15  
 Easter Lilies – Get Ready  
 Eggstravaganza’s Coming – Sign up to volunteer  
 Gift Cards with a Kick  
 Great Stewards 2025  
 Join Green Team  
 Knit and Crochet on Thursdays  
 March Mission: Welcome House  
 Membership Notes – Nedwidek, Ramaker  
 On the Calendar  
 Once-a-Month Singers – 3/22  
 Social Justice in Action  
 Spring Sale Plan Ahead – 5/2  
 Tabitha’s Closet – CLOSED 3/7  
 Volunteer for Tuesday Bistro  
 Worship Flowers  
 Youth Calendar Spring 2026  
 Youth Group Homelessness Sleepover – 3/14



**Membership Notes**

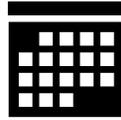
Saturday, March 7 will mark the one-year anniversary of the passing of **Iris Nedwidek**. Her family hopes that Iris is remembered as an active and involved member of the PDCC faith family for 45 years.

**Artie Ramaker** died last week. A Celebration of Life will be held at Peace Dale Congregational Church on **April 25**. Her obituary may be read at [csori.com/obituaries/artemis-ramaker#!/Obituary](http://csori.com/obituaries/artemis-ramaker#!/Obituary)



**Plan Ahead – Spring Sale**

Save the Date!  
 May 2



**On the Calendar**

**Sunday, March 8 @**  
 10am Contemporary  
 Worship

**Sunday, March 8 @**  
 2pm Musica Dolce  
 Concert (Sanctuary)

**Sunday, March 15**  
 @ 10am  
 Contemporary  
 Worship

**Sunday, March 22**  
 @ 10am Family  
 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

*Musica Dolce*  
 Magnificent Marvelous Miraculous

Wolfgang  
 MOZART



**CHAMBER MUSIC  
 CONCERT**

**Sunday, March 8 – 2 pm**  
 Peace Dale Congregational Church

Suggested  
 Donation \$20

Children &  
 Students Free

Robert Hayden *clarinet*  
 Ann-Frances Rokosa *violin*  
 Gillian Gallagher *viola*  
 Megan Koch *cello*  
 Paul Rosenbloom *piano*

Violin Sonata in E Minor, K. 304  
 Clarinet Quartet in B Flat, K. 358  
*transcription by Rosenbloom*  
 Piano Quartet in G Minor, K. 478

For more information, please call 401-294-6520  
 or visit [musicadolce.org](http://musicadolce.org)



## 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.

**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.



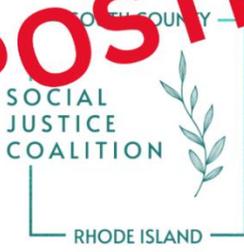
**A Conversation  
with  
Senator  
Sheldon  
Whitehouse**

Moderated by  
The West County Social Justice Coalition  
followed by audience questions.

**POSTPONED**

**Sunday  
March 8, 2026  
2 PM**

South Kingstown  
High School  
Auditorium



Scan for PRESS RELEASE at  
<https://bit.ly/Whitehouse3-8-26>

*Due to recent current events, the office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, in collaboration with the South County Social Justice Coalition, is postponing this scheduled public meeting.*

## 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/](http://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](http://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](http://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 15<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:christinegrevstad@hotmail.com))

The February Mission of the Month has collected to date \$1,543.41 for Support for Afghan Girls' Education (SAGE).

## 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

## 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

## Are You Interested in Joining PDCC & Our Faith Family?

We are planning new member “classes” for March (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](mailto: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 Preparing for Spring

## CLOSED SATURDAY, MARCH 7

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

### PAUSE FEB 27

Please pause donations to Tabitha's beginning February 27 to allow us to transition the closet to our new seasonal offerings.

### RESUME MARCH 9

We will be accepting donations of spring/summer gently used clothing and shoes for women, men and children as well as costume jewelry beginning March 9.

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.**

**PAUSE DONATIONS UNTIL 3/9** We will be taking spring/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](http://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 volunteers! If you would like to help sort clothes, staff this effort, or do marketing, please contact [tabitha@peacedalechurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:tabitha@peacedalechurch.org)

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

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**Give now**

## 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 the 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.

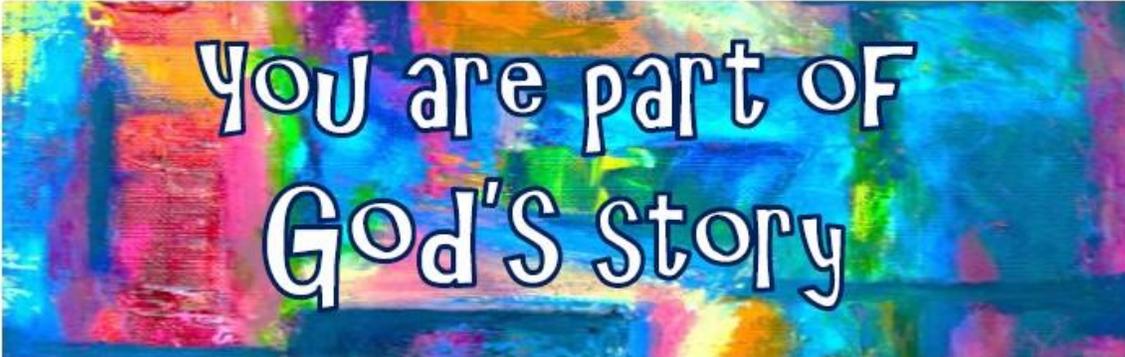
Submitted by Judy Healy

## Youth Group Homelessness Awareness Sleepover – 3/14-15

Get ready! Our Youth Group Homelessness Awareness Sleepover is moving to the weekend of March 14–15. We'll be sleeping inside our church, which was once a warming shelter for people experiencing homelessness, and the UU Church Youth Group is planning to join us. It's going to be an unforgettable, educational, and fun night!

The sleepover will start on Saturday, March 14, at 7 p.m. and wrap up after breakfast on Sunday, March 15 at 9 a.m. Invite your friends!

**PLEASE RSVP** by contacting Meg Kolodziej or signing up in Fellowship Hall this Sunday 3/8.



**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

Sunday 15 Youth Connect 10 AM

~~Saturday 21~~ Youth Group Homelessness Awareness Sleepover 7 PM ← Sleepover rescheduled to March 14-15

Sunday 22 Family Service: The Good Samaritan 10 AM

Saturday 28 Eggstravaganza 11 AM

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

**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).

## 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)



## 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 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* ahead of time.

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

## Peace Dale Congregational Church

261 Columbia Street  
Wakefield RI 02879

p: (401) 789-7313 f: (401) 789-6127  
web: [peacedalechurch.org](http://peacedalechurch.org)  
[facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch](https://facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch)