



Peace Dale
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PDCC E-Light Newsletter

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

December 31, 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

Barbara Bradley
Cynthia Cherney
Jeannette Gamache
Linda green
Bob Hackey
Carol Anne Hayes
Asa Poppe
Olivia Rich
Mary Lou Riley
Dante San Antonio
Joe Sisson
Ron Ulmschneider

Visit Our Webpage!

peacedalechurch.org

Follow us on Facebook!

Facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch

Last Week's E-Light

peacedalechurch.org/e-li

Happy New Year!

Luke 2:1-12; Ephesians 3:1-12

This Sunday will be a Traditional Worship Service that will include Holy Communion. We will consider the importance of welcoming the Gentiles. What a great way to welcome the new year! One question we might ask is how have we been Gentiles ourselves? Hopefully we were welcomed. How are we doing at being the welcomers? During the year to come, let's all think about ways we can offer an extravagant welcome to others.

May Christ's Joy be yours in 2026, and may God bless our faith family and all creation. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Shalom, Brother Fred

The Church office will be closed Thursday, January 1. Reopening Monday, January 5, 2026.



Membership Notes

A Celebration of Life for **Richard Hogdson**, husband of Linda Tucker, will be held at Peace Dale Congregational Church on **Saturday, January 3 @ 2:00 pm**. Rick's obituary may be found on the [Providence Journal online](#).

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.

Will You Help Deliver a Few More Poinsettias?



We still have some poinsettias from the Sanctuary that need to be delivered to members of our congregation who are experienced adults (over 85), or who have a special need currently. Please check the list in Fellowship Hall.

Thank You, Joy!

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



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Local Events Listing

The Local Events Listing in the E-Light will be paused for several weeks and although the bulletin board will be available for anyone to post upcoming (non-political) events, I will not be making regular additions.

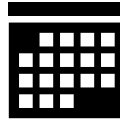
Sources for local things to do are: South Kingstown and PDCC Facebook Pages, The Independent, SK Patch, Eventbrite and our libraries (note the Peace Dale library will be closed from 1/5/26 for 2 or 3 months, Hale & Kingstown branches will remain open.) Jane Stabile

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.



On the Calendar

Saturday, Jan. 3 @
2pm Service of
Remembrance for
Richard Hodgson

Sunday, Jan. 4 @
10am Traditional
Worship with
Communion; no
Youth Connect today

Sunday, Jan. 11 @
10am Contemporary
Worship; Youth
Connect is back

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

Happy New Year!

By John P. Read

Brush away old heartaches.
Learn from our mistakes.
Another year is finally over.
A new dawn awakes.

Let the old year out.
Welcome the new one in.
Bury the bad things of the past
As a new year now begins.

Make your New Year wishes
As simple as you can.
Pray for peace and love,
Not for wealth or fame.

Pray for health and happiness.
Pray for your fellow man.
Pray for all the ones you love.
Pray for those who've lost their way.

As the midnight hour chimes,
We leave the old and embrace the new.
I wish the things you wish for yourself,
And may God's love stay with you.

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.”

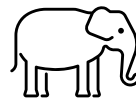
Thank You from Middlebridge

To our friends at Peace Dale Congregational Church,

Thank you for being such wonderful partners to Middlebridge School and for providing amazing learning opportunities at Tabitha's Closet and the Dinner Table. Our students always look forward to volunteering, and we appreciate you always welcoming us into a warm and loving community.

With gratitude and wishing you all happy holidays,

Ellen and the Middlebridge Community



White Elephants

Don't stop recycling now. Yes, white elephants will take your packaging materials including tissue; the cookie cans from the bazaar Cookie Stroll; overstocks of gifts and the items you have replaced with new gifts, decorations, gift boxes, candles and unused cards. Thanks for making 2025 a great year for white elephants. It also helped to keep items out of our landfills and shopping made people so happy. We all love bargains. Our best wishes for your own wonderful 2026 - the White Elephant team!



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

Walker Available

A walker donated to us may be just what you need. Contact the church office (call 401-789-7313 or email office@peacedalechurch.org).



Lost and Found

Found: a pair of eyeglasses. Lost and Found is in the Church Office

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

Once-a-Month Singers



We're back and joining in for the next **Family Service – January 25**. 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

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 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 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).

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).

Snow Day Sale

January 3rd only

Choose any kids/infant item

and get a kids/infant

Hat

FREE



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 December Mission of the Month has collected to date \$7,324 for the Peace Dale Dinner Table.

The Christmas Eve offering collected \$984 for the UCC Veterans of the Cross Fund to support emergency funds for retired UCC clergy and employees.

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).

January Mission of the Month: Domestic Violence Resource Center

We begin the new year by supporting a critical organization in our community as our mission of the month. The Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County is a non-profit making an important difference in the lives and futures of many individuals and families here in South County.

From their webpage:

"The Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County (DVRSC) is a nonprofit agency that works toward a future free of violence, and to build a community in which each individual shares the responsibility to create a culture of safety and personal dignity."

"We work collaboratively to offer safety, support, advocacy, education and a network of services to the residents of Washington County. The DVRSC is dedicated to both preventing and responding to domestic violence by working to change the social conditions, beliefs, and social actions that perpetuate abuse."

DVRC provides a comprehensive range of services for victims of domestic violence and their children, including a confidential Safe Home, Transitional Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing units, a Helpline & Drop-In Center, Support Groups, One-on-One Counseling and Court Advocacy.

All services – residential, counseling, court advocacy – are provided free of charge to all clients regardless of their financial situation. Gifts allow DVRC to continue this life-saving work by directly assisting clients and their children who are experiencing domestic violence.

More information about the DVRSC is available at <https://dvrcsc.org/>

Donate by putting your gift in the offering basket during worship, sending a check to the church, or clicking the Donate Now button on this page.

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

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Checks should be made out to PDCC with "DVRC"

in the memo line or 3) clicking the **Give now** button here to donate online (peacedalechurch.org/ways-to-give).

Give now

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 helping to make 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).

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

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

QUESTIONS: call/text Gabby at 401 932-8350

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
facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch