



Peace Dale  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

# PDCC E-Light Newsletter

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

January 16, 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 This Week

William Nelle  
Alex Dowgiallo  
Erica Manchester  
Carmine San Antonio  
Cindy Stram  
Claudia Swain

### 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)

## Planting Seeds...

(Dt. 34:1-12)

Dear siblings in Christ, this is a big one! You won't want to miss this Sunday's worship service! As we prepare to officially honor The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 20<sup>th</sup> during worship on Sunday I will invite us to consider a concept called the butterfly effect. We will ponder how small variances, seemingly small events, small seeds that we are planting, might eventually have large consequences. What will happen if you don't come to worship on Sunday morning? What will happen if you do come? What other choices are you making? What might be the far-reaching consequences of such a choices? What are the seeds that you are planting?

Hopefully you choose to come and I'll see you on Sunday!

Blessings, Brother Fred

## Worship Flowers



**The flowers of January 19 are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the birthdays of their mothers, Lois Drummond Hayes and Dorothy Goff Spencer by David and Carol Anne Hayes.**

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 February or March, please contact Carol Anne Hayes at 401-487-9127 or [carolhayes44@gmail.com](mailto:carolhayes44@gmail.com)

The church office will be closed Monday, January 20 in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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## On the Calendar

**Friday, January 17 @**  
10am Prayer Shawl Group  
(see p. 7)

**Sunday, January 19 @**  
10am Contemporary  
Worship. Special Youth  
Connect Mission Project.

**Thursday, January 23 @**  
6pm Praise Team Rehearsal

**Thursday, January 23 @**  
7:30pm Traditional Choir  
Rehearsal

**Saturday, January 25 @**  
10am Living in a Climate  
Crisis World - A Call to  
Hope and Action (see p. 3)

**Sunday, January 26 @**  
10am Family Worship

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

Tuesdays @ 9:30am  
Prayer Warriors /  
Prayer Circle ALL  
WELCOME!

Tuesdays @ 4:30pm  
Bistro at Peace Dale  
Dinner Table

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm  
AA Meeting

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm  
Bell Choir rehearsals  
ALL WELCOME!

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays @ 10am  
Women’s Fellowship  
ALL WELCOME



## Hospitality Could Use Some Help

If you have enjoyed our fellowship coffee hours you can see the effort and time

that goes into it each week. Next month marks the end of our church committee terms. **We would love to have a few more members join our team.**

It only requires time **one Sunday a month** after church service.

If you would like to be a part of our coffee hour team, call or email Christine Grevstad (christinegrevstad@ hotmail.com) or talk to her at church.

**Save  
the  
Date**



## Annual Congregational Meeting February 9

The 167th Annual Meeting of Peace Dale Congregational Church will be **Sunday, February 9, 2025**, following 10 am worship

## Jim Antal: Living in a Climate Crisis World – A Call to Hope and Action – 1/25



Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 10am to 12pm

### Chili lunch and light refreshments to follow

Join us at Peace Dale Congregational Church, 261 Columbia Street, Wakefield RI 02879.

Join us for an inspiring and thought-provoking talk by author and speaker Jim Antal (<https://www.jimantal.com>), exploring the profound moral and theological challenges of our time. Together, we'll reflect on the grief, hope, and action required to address the climate crisis as faithful stewards of God's creation.

Together, we'll reflect on the grief, hope, and action required to address the climate crisis as faithful stewards of God's creation. We will examine the most recent science, and we will ponder how a few generations of humans have reaped immeasurable profits by devastating God's great gift of creation as they built the modern world. We will see how we are living amidst a theological emergency in which the preservation of God's creation has been reduced to an ideological debate. And we will receive God's call to faithfully engage a new vocation as we respond to the long emergency.

*Snow date Sunday, January 26 @ 1pm*

If threat of snow, refer to <https://www.peacedalechurch.org/green-team>



**Southern New England Conference**  
United Church of Christ  
*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

## January Mission of the Month: Domestic Violence Resource Center

We will start the new year by supporting a critical organization in our community as our mission of the month. Many of you may remember that Kathy Carland spoke to us in early November about The Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County, a non-profit that is making an important difference in the lives and futures of many women and children here in South County.

From their webpage:

"The Domestic Violence Resource Center (DVRC) of South County is a Trauma-Informed Agency whose main focus is to help victims of domestic violence break the cycle of abuse in their lives. Each department, Advocacy, Case Management, and Counseling are all here to provide resources, guidance, and support to help victims get to safety, become independent, and heal."

"The DVRC is working to change the social norms that contribute to the continuance of violence. Our goal is to help a victim break the cycle of violence and heal in order to have healthy relationships in the future."

"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."

Please visit their webpage at <https://dvrcsc.org/> for more information. We welcome you to donate by putting your gift in the offering basket during the month of January, or you can hit the Donate Now button on this page.

Thank you for your generosity!

The Missions Board

**Give now**

PDCC supports the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County as our January Mission of the Month. You may 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 "DVRC" or "domestic violence" in the memo line** or 3) clicking the **Give now** button here to donate online ([peacedalechurch.org/ways-to-give](https://www.peacedalechurch.org/ways-to-give)).

## UCC California Wildfire 2025 Relief Effort

On January 7, 2025, wildfire activity began in Los Angeles County, California. Immediate reports indicate that this fire has caused substantial damage throughout LA County, making this event the largest fire disaster in the county's history. At the time of this writing, nearly 30,000 acres have been consumed by the blazes. One hundred eighty thousand people are currently displaced from their homes due to devastation or evacuation orders, and these fires continue to spread, causing additional destruction.

Since the onset of this disaster, the [UCC Global HOPE](#) team has communicated with the Southern California and Nevada Conference Minister. The team will coordinate with ecumenical partners and a national network of voluntary organizations active in disasters (VOAD) as it shapes our long-term response.

We received confirmation that the fires destroyed the Altadena Community Church, United Church of Christ. They posted an update on their Facebook page.

The Global HOPE team is helping to connect Southern California and Nevada Conference staff, churches, and others affected by the wildfires with immediate resources while also preparing to support long-term recovery efforts.

As we continue to pray for and support those who experienced unimaginable loss, we invite you to support the UCC's recovery efforts. Your gifts will support the community's immediate needs and long-term recovery efforts as we work with local communities to ensure an equitable approach to their long-term recovery.

PDCC supports the UCC California Wildfire 2025 Relief Effort as a special January Mission. You may 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 "UCC Wildfire" or "CA Fire" in the memo line** or 3) clicking the **Give now** button here to donate online ([peacedalechurch.org/ways-to-give](https://peacedalechurch.org/ways-to-give)).

## Donate Supplies for Church World Service Kits

**We will be assembling kits on Thursday, February 13 @ 10am. Feel free to join us!**

**Please help us collect supplies!** This is an annual mission of PDCC and with the help of our congregation, we have increased the number of kits processed each year. These kits are sent to areas around the world 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 providing kits for Church World Service's world-wide mission.

### Supplies needed

#### HYGIENE KIT

- 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



#### SCHOOL KIT

- Rounded tip scissors
- 70-count spiral notebooks
- 12-inch ruler
- Hand-held pencil sharpener
- Large eraser
- Six 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



## Benefit for Dinner Table



**BIG SOUP PARTY**

**Sunday \* February 23, 2025**  
**4:30 - 6:30PM**

Homemade Soups, Bread and Desserts  
Donations Accepted

BENEFITS  
Peace Dale Dinner Table Weekly Community Dinners  
Bring A Friend - All are Welcome

**Peace Dale Congregational Church**  
261 Columbia St, Wakefield RI

[www.Peacedalechurch.org](http://www.Peacedalechurch.org)  
[www.facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch)

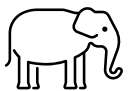
## Big Soup Party Dessert Makers Needed

It's not too early to sign up to bake – or even shop for – a dessert for our Big Soup Party on 2/23/25.

Sign-up by:

- Talking to Gabby at Church
- Write on the clipboard in Fellowship Hall
- Call or text 401-932-8350
- Email [gklensch1@gmail.com](mailto:gklensch1@gmail.com)
- Or talk to Gabby at Salk's ACE Hardware on Wed/Thurs from 8:00-1:00, where I am a Cashier.!

Thank you so much, Gabby (The Big Soup Party Dessert Organizer)



## White Elephants

### New – Free box at Saturday Tabitha's Closet

Work in the cellar starts next week! Anyone can help – workers get first choice but pay premium pricing and we all have fun!

**WORK DAYS:**       Tues. 1/21 from 10 AM – 12 PM  
                              Fri. 1/24 from 2:30 – 4 PM

**THANK YOU** for consistently donating. If you're not sure if we will take an item call Jane Stabile and ask. 508 395-1172

## Church Family Life Events

### Shrek, The Musical – 2/6 – 2/9

Thanks to Paula C., Priscilla A., Joan L., Mary R. Jane & Steve S., other community members and parents of SKHS students we completed 17 costumes for the musical this week at PDCC. They are creating a lot of interest, along with the small and BIG Nazo puppets, dance routines, great singing and acting and the new catwalk – SKHS is bursting with creativity and talent. You will love it! Midsection seats are pretty much sold out, but there are still seats on the sides. See what's happening and get tickets at: <https://www.facebook.com/RebelTheaterGroup/>

## Tabitha's Closet in Winter Swing

Open Saturdays 9:30am–12:30pm. 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.**

**WINTER WARM UP EVENT\***

**FREE SWEATER WITH YOUR DONATION OF \$10.00 OR MORE**  
THRU FEBRUARY 15

**NEW EXPANDED HOURS!**

**THIRD TUESDAYS AT TABITHA'S**  
STARTS  
**TUESDAY JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**4PM-7PM**

TABITHA'S CLOSET WILL BE OPEN ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

OPEN SATURDAYS 9:30am-12:30pm  
Office door from parking lot, downstairs  
Peace Dale Congregational Church  
261 Columbia St. Peace Dale RI 02879

TABITHA'S CLOSET  
GENTLY USED CLOTHING

## Maximize Your Clothing Donation

The New York Times Wirecutter recently published an article containing recommendations for responsibly donating unwanted clothing and shoes. Some excerpts from the article are provided below, or you may read the full article at <https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/guides/how-to-get-rid-of-old-clothes/>

If you're starting the new year looking to organize your closets and downsize your clothing collection, Tabitha's Closet would gratefully accept donations and offers the following guidelines to make our work efficient.

Please resist the temptation to throw everything in one bag and drop off to us

Please carefully inspect each item. Items should be clean and free of stains, tears and pet hair. Separate the wearable clothes by type and label bags for easier sorting on our end.

Stained and damaged items should be set aside for [repurposing](#) or [textile recycling](#).

Everything you donate should respect the potential future recipient. Garments that don't make someone feel good—or wouldn't fetch any money if they were resold—are unlikely to find a second home. If you don't want it because it is stained, damaged or worn out—it's very likely no one else will. Our experience over the first year at Tabitha's is nearly 25% of donations do not meet our quality threshold.

If you have seasonal items to donate, it's best to hold on to them until the time of year when they'll be usable. So if you have extra winter coats, please wait until late fall to donate them. And save short-sleeved and lighter-weight items for springtime.

Taking these steps helps ensure that your garments are going to people who need them, but also spares the volunteers sifting through donations from having to throw away or find another home for the items that do not meet our standards.

**DONATIONS.** Tabitha's will be accepting winter clothing donations through February 1st. We ask that all donations be paused for the month of February while we offer our final winter inventory. We will be accepting spring/summer clothing donations beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>.

We ask that donations be laundered and delivered in a clean bag, as we don't have a washer/dryer. See [peacedalechurch.org](http://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 [gsfaucher@gmail.com](mailto:gsfaucher@gmail.com) or [lynnehandayan@gmail.com](mailto:lynnehandayan@gmail.com).



## Got boxes?

Missions is looking for 12 of these style boxes for an upcoming food drive. Do not need the lids. Please leave any empty boxes at the office with Gabby's name on them. Need by 1/27. Thank you, Gabby

## Come Make Music!



Our Praise Team, Traditional Choir, and Bell Choir welcome you! Rehearsals are once a week, typically in the evening. Ask a choir member after worship about rehearsal dates or check the Breeze EVENTS calendar or check the On the Calendar feature in the E-Light (on page 2). If you are interested in a Once-a-Month commitment, see below for contact info to sing with Family Worship Services.

## Once-a-Month Singers



We have a somewhat animated group who sing with the family service the 4th week of each month (**next up is January 26**). You do not need to read music, just enjoy singing together and show it. I email you videos and music/lyrics of

all the pieces ahead of time so you can practice. We rehearse just once at 9 AM before the family service. **Feel free to try us out. CONTACT** jane.stabile@outlook.com or 508 395-1172.

## Social Justice in Action

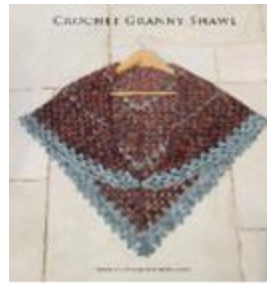


For THIS WEEK'S list of events and opportunities, check out the [Social Justice Committee info](#) on the Missions or Groups section of our PDCC website. Submitted by Joanne Haynes

## Join 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



## A Prayerful Invitation

Crocheters and Knitters are invited to meet with our prayer shawl group to help us add to our comfort wraps to those in need.

Can't crochet or knit? No problem! All are welcome. We have teachers and supplies to help you in this wonderful ministry.

Come join us **Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am** in the Community Room.

## I Buy Raise Right Gift Cards Because...

No cost to me – benefit to PDCC!

Heads up – I buy Raise Right Gift Cards on Sunday after worship from the Raise Right table in Fellowship Hall – run by Deb Shaw, Cindy Dowgiallo, and whoever is helping that week.

If I buy a card for Belmont, they give back 10% to the church; Shaw's gives 4%, and so forth.

I am not a shopper, but just for groceries I was able to give to the church through this program approximately \$180. Can you imagine if 100 families did the same, it would increase our church funds by \$18,000 a year.

Some of the give backs:

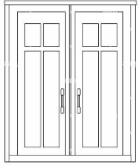
- Shaw's – 4%
- Stop and Shop – 3.5%
- Belmont's – 10%
- Dave's – 5%
- Walmart – 2.5%

I could have also gotten cards for home goods, electronics, restaurants, or clothing where the return on cards through raise right was even higher. LLBean – 16%, Starbucks – 4.5% to mention a couple of examples but this time of year they increase the percentage. Stop and Shop card can be used for groceries or gas.

The best thing is that it didn't cost me anything!! I just had to remember to bring my check book to church Sunday and take a few minutes to get the cards.

Submitted by Darlene Hermes





## Please Lock Up When You Leave

It is a blessing to have such a busy church building. However, we are frequently finding exterior doors unlocked and the building unsecured, even overnight. If you are here with an event or meeting, please check all doors on your way out. **Please, please, please make sure to lock the house when you leave.**



## 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

## Music Academy

Peace Dale Congregational Church offers a Music Academy and Scholarship program to help students of all ages to begin, enhance, or fine-tune musical aspirations. We currently offer lessons in piano and voice with instructor Meera Mennillo.

Meera is an enthusiastic, lively teacher who instills the love of music in her students. Her lessons are fun, engaging and tailored to the specific needs of the student. She teaches both contemporary and classical styles and advises in both performance and songwriting.

meeramennillo@gmail.com  
(401) 430-5336  
Fee: \$40.00/hour



## Free Homeowner's Insurance Webinar January 21

South County Habitat for Humanity is partnering with Chris Slocum of Slocum Insurance to host this free webinar. *Open to everyone!*

Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6 - 7PM

Location: Virtual! A zoom webinar link will be sent the day prior

Advanced registration is required - Register at <https://form.jotform.com/242043983144152>

About the workshop: Everything you need to know about purchasing a homeowner's insurance policy.

The following topics will be covered:

- Understanding what to look for when you are shopping for a policy, including what to ask about and how to determine if you are getting a fair rate.
- Understanding what is covered and basic terminology explained when reading your policy.
- The difference between an insurance agent and broker and common pitfalls to avoid when shopping for your policy.



## Gift Cards with a Kick



**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.

Use RaiseRight to buy **cards for your own personal shopping** of groceries, etc. Remember your reusable bags and gift cards in your everyday shopping trips.

- RaiseRight (formerly SCRIP) table sales are available on Sundays in Fellowship Hall after worship.
- Cards in stock include:  
Belmont (\$25 & \$100), Dave's (\$100), Shaw's (\$25 & \$100), Stop & Shop (\$25 & \$100), CVS (\$25), Walgreen's (\$25), Amazon (\$25 & \$100), Applebee's (\$25), Brickley's Ice Cream (\$20), Dunkin' (\$10 & \$25), Marshall's (\$25), Matunuck Oyster Bar (\$50), Old Mountain Lanes (\$25), Panera (\$10 & \$25), Starbucks (\$10 & \$25), Walmart (\$25).

**Questions?** Contact Deb Shaw at [dkshaw5@cox.net](mailto:dkshaw5@cox.net) or stop by the table on Sunday after worship.



## Prayer Matters



To build fellowship and make full use of the congregational power of prayer, we offer this Prayer Matters space to allow

members of our community to lift up their names and requests for prayer. This adds to the opportunities for congregants to lift up their prayers during Sunday service, and to request the care of the [Prayer Circle](#) that gathers every Tuesday morning or of our [Called to Care](#) ministry.

### How to share your prayer

You may choose to use all or any combination of: Joys & Concerns on Sunday morning, Prayer Circle ministry, Called to Care ministry, and the new Prayer Matters section of the newsletter.

- To lift up your prayer during **Sunday Service**, simply raise your hand, voice your joy or concern and then say, "this is my prayer"; the congregation responds "this is our prayer". Prayer requests made during Sunday service are shared aloud with those in attendance.
- To request the care of **Prayer Circle**, submit the [online form](#) or call the church office at (401) 789-7313. These requests are shared only with members of this group.
- To request the support of our [Called to Care](#) ministry team, call the church office at (401) 789-7313 or submit the [online form](#). These requests are shared only with members of this group.
- To request your prayer be included in the E-Light newsletter, send email to [office@peacedalechurch.org](mailto:office@peacedalechurch.org) or call the church office at (401) 789-7313 (leave message for MaryLou).

Shalom, Pastor Fred

## Peace Dale Congregational Church

261 Columbia Street  
Wakefield RI 02879

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