

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111
Phone: 860-666-3331

The Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller, Priest-in-Charge
Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist and Choir Director

Debbie Forrest, Office Manager

Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org

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Holy Eucharist – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays at
9 am

Morning Prayer – 2nd & 4th Sundays at 9 am

PACE OF GRACE



Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



JUNE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	2	3 Book Sale - SALE
4 Trinity Sunday: 1 st Sunday after Pentecost 9 am – Holy Eucharist 10 am – Parish Meeting & potluck brunch 11:30 am – 2:30 pm KNA - S	5 12:00 pm Hi-Noon 6:00 pm Scouts-PH	6 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH,MR	7 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L 6:30 pm Men's Group – PH	8 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	9	10
11 2 nd Pentecost 9 am – Morning Prayer 11:30 am – 2:30 pm KNA - S	12 6:00 pm Scouts-PH	13 6:00 pm Vestry 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH,MR	14 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L 6:30 pm Men's Group – PH 	15 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	16	17 6 pm – North Central Region picnic in the Parish Hall/Garden
18 3 rd Pentecost 9 am – Morning Prayer in the Music Room All day - KNA – S 	19 6:00 pm Scouts-PH	20 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH,MR	21 12 pm Book Club – L 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L 6:30 pm Men's Group – PH	22 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	23	24
25 4 th Pentecost 9 am – Holy Eucharist 11:30 am – 2:30 pm KNA – S	26	27 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH,MR	28 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L 6:30 pm Men's Group – PH	29	30	

Room Key: PH=Parish Hall; L=Library; MMR= Music Meeting Room; MR=Meeting Room; C=Chapel; S=Sanctuary; MG=Memorial Garden



Pace of Grace

June 2023

"The Pace of Grace" is a monthly publication of
Grace Episcopal Church, 124 Maple Hill Avenue, Newington, CT

Dear Grace Parishioners,

I grew up in Florida, a place of beaches, sunsets, seagulls, and fun in the sun. Yet where I really had fun was spending my summers in New England here in Connecticut. My family has a cottage that has been shared for generations. We all take turns staying at the cottage every summer, each family taking a couple of weeks.

The fun would start with the first day's trip to The Point O' Woods beach in Old Lyme Connecticut. My family--my parents, my younger brother, my cousins, my aunt, uncles, and last but not least my grandmother--would walk to the beach from our cottage. We looked like a gaggle of geese with our packed beach necessities.

It was during the week that the beach community always had a movie on the beach at night. One of the movies I remember was *The Love Bug*, with Herbie the talking race car. My family and I laughed at the humor of the countless movies we saw over the years. We would spend our days running after the ice cream trucks. The ice cream was even better when you finally caught up with the truck with its legendary bell that could be heard for miles. Most other nights we would walk to the Dairy Mart for more sweet treats to snack on. We would walk our dog. As we walked with my cousins we would have to stop our two year old cousin from trying to ride our dog like a horse.

It was all the many summers here in Connecticut that I fell in love with this state as well as New England. As a family, we are now welcoming new generations with my nieces and nephew to experience fun summers.

What were your summer fun memories? Do you plan on creating summer fun memories this summer of 2023? I hope everyone has a safe, healthy, happy summer.

Rev. Valerie Miller



**The Future of Grace Church
Parish Meeting
Sunday, June 4
(following worship service)**

Your Voice Matters!

Grace Church needs to reorganize how we do things in order to sustain ourselves for the future. Over the past 10 years our parish has shrunk to less than 20% of what it was and it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain Grace Church as we know it with a dwindling population and rising prices.

We have always prided ourselves on being able to sustain ourselves on the income from pledge envelopes and when our membership included over 100 families, we were able to do that. But today's reality is that it is no longer a viable option for the long term with the attrition rate where it is. People die, people relocate and kids graduate from school and the need for church and all that it offers is no longer important. Additionally, we all get tired of doing some of the lay responsibilities of running a church; we then have to hire or outsource some of the maintenance responsibilities and that obviously costs money.

At the June 4 meeting, we will talk about some of the various options available to us including selling the rectory, reducing our expenses, renting out additional space, looking at additional fundraising opportunities, repurposing parts of the building or property for opportunities we haven't thought about (this would be done in conjunction with a company the diocese has contracted with) and of course merging with another parish and maybe even closing our doors. The possibilities are many and it is up to us to find the right solution or combination of solutions to make it happen or not happen, as in not closing the church.

In the meantime, please fill out the question/comment card found in the Narthex with any ideas and possibilities you may have. Also, please sign-up to bring a dish for our pot luck brunch we will be having prior to the meeting. Thank you and see you on June 4.

Faithfully,

Your Vestry



Here are the lectionary readings for each Sunday and Holy Day in June

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Trinity Sunday June 4, 2023	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
2 nd Pentecost June 11, 2023	Genesis 12:1-9	Psalm 33:1-12	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
St. Barnabas June 12 (from June 11)	Isaiah 42:5-12	Psalm 112	Acts 11:19-30, 13:1-3	Matthew 10:7-16
3 rd Pentecost June 18, 2023	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7	Psalm 116:1, 10-17	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8-23
Nativity of St. John the Baptist June 24	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85	Acts 13:14b-26	Luke 1:57-80
4 th Pentecost June 25, 2023	Genesis 21:8-21	Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
Sts. Peter and Paul June 29	Ezekiel 34:11-16	Psalm 87	2 Timothy 4:1-8	John 21:15-19



Back-to-Black

For those of you who were in church on May 1, you may have noticed the Back-to-Black envelopes back in the pews. At the May Vestry meeting it was agreed we would again actively promote the Back-to-Black envelopes that were introduced somewhere in the 2010 timeframe. The intent was to generate a consistent “little something extra” to help cover some of our expenses.

At that time, parishioners contributed on a consistent, routine basis and a line item was added to the operating budget so it could be tracked over time. And while the amounts declined over time, there were still consistent contributions up until the pandemic hit when many things changed. We need go back and meet pre-pandemic levels. Will it totally solve our needs – no it won't but it is another cog in the wheel that allows us to continue to move forward.

In the meantime, please get into the habit of using the Back-to-Black envelope on a regular basis with whatever pocket change you might have left over. Or consider skipping that extra cup of coffee or special treat that your diet says you shouldn't have anyway and adding it to your envelope. Every “little something extra” helps.

Thank you.

Your Vestry





06/06	Angela Hale
06/09	Kathy Shoemaker
06/10	Michelle Dumont
06/10	Christopher Page
06/14	Charlotte Buckingham
06/20	Karen Halpert
06/21	Barbara Block
06/24	Marianne Doolittle



06/06	Martin and Valerie Dumont
06/13	Paul and Jeanne Bailey
06/29	Walt and Jeanne Parker



June 3	Book Sale
June 4	Holy Eucharist
	Parish Meeting/Potluck Brunch
June 11	Morning Prayer – Beverley Manning
June 13	Vestry Meeting
June 17	North Central Region Picnic at 6 pm
June 18	Morning Prayer – Kathy Johnson
June 21	Book Club Meeting
June 25	Holy Eucharist



SENIORS ON THE GO

Hi-Noon – All parishioners and their friends are invited to attend the meetings of Hi-Noon. The group's activities vary and are a combination of informative, cultural, social and entertaining events.

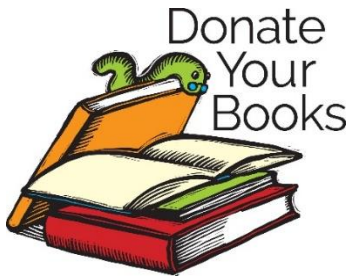
Upcoming Events:

June 5, Monday: Annual Picnic – Parish Hall and Patio – Hot Dogs and Hamburgers provided – Pot-luck picnic – please bring your favorite salads or desserts or other yummy picnic foods to share.



The deadline for the Summer issue (July and August) is Tuesday, June 20, 2023. Please make every effort to meet this deadline to allow us to distribute the issue promptly. The earlier you submit, the easier it is to publish the issue.

SAVE THE DATE: June 4th – Parish-wide meeting and brunch immediately following the service. This is very important, as it will have an impact on the future of our parish.



June 3 Book and media sale. Please get your donations to the church as soon as possible.



Our next book club meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 21. We will be reading *The Day the World Came to Town* by Jim DeFede.

Below is a list of reads for the rest of the year.

Summer Reads:

Take My Hand by Dolen Perkins-Valdez

The Horsewoman by James Patterson and Mike Lupica

September 20 Our Summer Reads

October 18 *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen

November 15 *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

December 13 Holiday Luncheon no book to read – the luncheon will be at Kathy's house and catered by the Italian Gourmet

The book discussions start at 12 noon unless otherwise noted, bag lunch and wrap up by 2:00.

Happy Reading!
Melissa Haseley



Newington Food Bank: We continue to support the food bank by donating bar soap, Kleenex, pancake mix and canned fruit in juice. You are truly the hands of Jesus serving the poor. Bless you all and thank you for your ongoing generosity.

JoAnn Cromwell

Notes from the ECCT, North Central Region:

Save the Date: June 17, 2023

There will be a North Central Region Picnic Supper here at Grace beginning around 6 pm.

Parishioners from around the region will be attending. The dinner will be a potluck picnic held in the Parish hall and outside on the patio.

Bring your family and friends! Bring the children and grandchildren!

Bring your favorite potluck main dish, salad or dessert. Paper products will be provided by the NCR leadership team.

If you have any questions please let me know. I am now the representative from Grace Church.

Liz Welk



Coffee Hour – Easy to do!

Anyone can easily set up coffee hour. Providing snacks would be nice, but not required. The coffee pot is in the

Narthex and all supplies are in the file cabinet in the Narthex Closet (except creamers / Mini-Moos which are in pastor's office refrigerator). Instructions are posted in the Closet. It's easy: 10-minute set-up, 5-minute clean-up.

Walt Parker



QUICK UPDATE: APRIL 30, 2023

	<u>APRIL OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2023 BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 5,339	\$ 19,832	\$ 20,442	\$ 61,946
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 9,525	\$ 33,748	\$ 32,297	\$ 99,061
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 8,761)	(\$ 41,934)	(\$ 47,463)	(\$ 133,596)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	\$ 764	(\$ 8,186)	(\$ 15,166)	(\$ 34,535)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 6,272	<i>End 2022 Checkbook: \$ 14,570</i>		



We are still collecting ink and toner cartridges.
Please drop off in the box on the shelf in the narthex.

Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM

	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist
CLERGY	Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller			Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller
LWL		Beverley Manning	Kathy Johnson	
LECTOR	Marie Ritchie	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker
PRAYERS	Beverley Manning	Walt Parker	Marie Ritchie	JoAnn Cromwell
CRUCIFER	Elizabeth Welk			
CHALIST	Mabel Maynard			Lynn Page
USHERS	Mark & Kathy Shoemaker			
ALTAR GUILD	Elizabeth Welk	Elizabeth Welk	Pat Rogorzinski	Pat Rogorzinski
	Barbara Johnson	Barbara Johnson	Lorraine Belyea	Lorraine Belyea
COUNTERS		Walt Parker		JoAnn Cromwell
		Melissa Haseley		Nancy DiPrato