

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

The Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
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

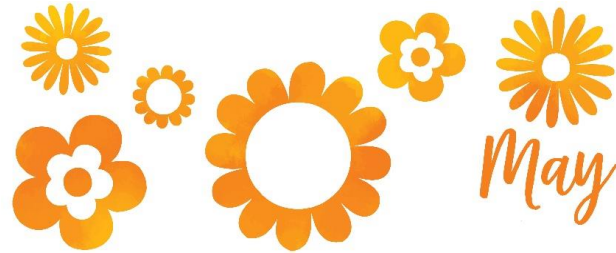
Morning Prayer – 2nd & 4th Sundays at 9 am
Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30 am




PACE OF GRACE



May

2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 All day - Pinewood Derby - PH 
2 5 th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Holy Eucharist via Zoom	3	4 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	5 4:00-8:30 pm Dance Studio - PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	6 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	7	10
9 6 th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom 	10	11 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 6:00 pm Vestry by Zoom 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	12 4:00-8:30 pm Dance Studio - PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	13 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH 	14	15 All day - Scrapbooking - PH 
16 7 th Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day 9:00 am Holy Eucharist via Zoom	17	18 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	19 4:00-8:30 pm Dance Studio - PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	20 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	21	22 11 am - Elissa Schumann funeral 9 am - 3 pm ECW Meeting - PH
23 The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday 9:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom	24	25 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 7 pm Narc Anon - PH	26 4:00-8:30 pm Dance Studio - PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	27 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	28	29
30 1 st Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday 9:00 am Holy Eucharist via Zoom	31 					

Room Key: PH=Parish Hall; L=Library; MMR= Music Meeting Room; MR=Meeting Room; C=Chapel; K=Kitchen



Pace of Grace

May 2021

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

Dear Grace Church Community,

I want to start my reflection this month by thanking Grace Episcopal Community for providing their new rector with some rest and relaxation. This past week has been one of reflection and joy for me. I have taken several walks in nature. It is during times like these when I'm in nature that I stand in awe at the wonders of our Creator. One of my projects for relaxation was to carve my new walking stick I acquired when walking in nature. It was while I was whittling away at my stick with sand paper that I started to think of how God can help us to shed the things that no longer serve us, such as bad attitudes, broken promises, and hurtful words.

Our community of Grace has continued our worship via Zoom in the safety and comfort of our homes. I know this is not ideal or what many of us want. Yet, it is the safest until our town of Newington can lower its numbers, graduating out of the red zone via Governor Lamont's wisdom and that of the CDC.

We were able to hold a safe and peaceful visit with our Bishop Laura Ahrens this past month on Palm Sunday. We had the welcoming of the newest member of our community and Christ's everlasting community with the baptism of Angela Merritt. We had a beautiful Easter celebration via Zoom. Hope is forever in front of us with the love of Jesus.

I can't help during this most difficult time but recall the early Christian communities of the time of our brother, St. Paul and sisters like Lydia who worshipped from their homes in small numbers. They worshiped in a time of hardship and fear. It might not have been because of a pandemic, even though illness was a part of their everyday lives. It was not from the importance of keeping safe from other religions such as Pagans and Jews. No, it was the Roman authority and the terrible pressing thumb of Roman leaders like Claudius and Nero who saw Christians as the enemy of the state. Jews and Christians alike were persecuted.

We are not living in a time of persecution, thanks be to our God! Yet, we are living in a time of a pandemic. As a hospital chaplain, I have seen whole families devastated; recently within the last month I have had three members of one family who have died of Covid-19. I have even had a patient who believes that she might have contracted Covid-19 from her worshiping community. I don't mean to scare us. No, I want us to remember that safety and worshiping at home via Zoom or with Morning Prayer is a way to be together, much like our early Christian brothers and sisters under a time of hardship. We can look to them for inspiration and hope. Early Christians did not have to stay in small groups forever to worship. In our Christian history we know of the Roman Emperor who welcomed Christians, Constantine and his mother Helena. Our Christian communities could worship in huge cathedrals in safety of the government not

meddling or killing you for worshipping Jesus. We will not have to worship from home forever, even if it might feel like it at times.

Once we are out of the red zone according to CDC guidelines, we can worship in person with masks and distancing. Communion will return in time as well. We need not live in fear, but rely on the hope of Jesus. Thank you to everyone who has been keeping their faith front and center during this time of the unknown and “trying on” new ways of worshipping via Zoom from home. Thank you for being able to share your time and talents in ways not always known. Reading scripture, Prayers of the People from our couches and dining room tables. We will have a time when we can embrace each other with a handshake and a welcomed hug in giving the sign of peace to each other in the name of Jesus. Jesus left his peace with his disciples as he leaves his peace with us today.

Peace and Joy,

Rev. Val



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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles May 1	Isaiah 30:18-21	Psalm 119:33-40	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	John 14:6-14
5 th Sunday of Easter May 2	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:24-30	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
6 th Sunday of Easter May 9	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
Ascension Day May 13	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or 93	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
7 th Sunday of Easter May 16	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
The Day of Pentecost Whitsunday	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Trinity Sunday First Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary May 31	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Psalm 113	Romans 12:9-16b	Luke 1:39-57



Greetings and Salutations to all who are interested in reading this,

The merry month of May is fast approaching us. We are looking forward to blossoming trees, blooming flowers, and lawn cutting (ok, 2 out of 3 for me). The clean fresh air is not quite as special this year as last due to more cars being back on the road again. There is something to be said about walking - more or not all of us just one on one with our cars. The vaccine is allowing more individual freedom with moving around and dare I say--- yes I dare-- socializing? BUT- caution cannot be gone. We still must be mask-careful, hand washing, and I say unless sure - social distancing until the all clear is given in all states and countries. We are being diligent in CT but there are a lot of other places that are not so good about it.

Has everyone caught up on their new favorite TV series? I can't believe how many shows I did watch. It is more than time for me to turn off the TV, phone, laptop and whatever other device that I have (for part of the day anyway) so that I can be back outside enjoying the beauty of nature and the company of others. I did learn some really great recipes over this past year that I intend to continue cooking. I hope that someday the Potluck Supper can return. I am interested in tasting what others have been cooking. There is only so much grab and go that even I can do!

It is also time to expand upon the resources and knowledge that we have hopefully learned about how much anti people of color we are in this country. We need to do something to ensure that Black Lives Matter. We need to let our own families know the heritage of what white supremacy has done to the way history has and is playing out. The time is now to take a stand to change our ways. Thank you Jesus for showing us how to love all people.

I have some pictures that I want to share with you that I took at Easter at our church. I also have pictures of my stuffed car from all the generosity of Grace Church for the Lenten Project. I thank you so much for all that you do and continue to do to help those in need. I especially thank the Shoemakers for helping load everything into my car. There are still people in need in this community, state, and world. Please remember to keep giving in whatever way you can. There is always the power of praying. We can all still be together on a spiritual journey no matter what is going on in the physical world.

It is time for me to go frolic in the dandelions before the rains come. No not really - I didn't even do that back in the 1960s. I preferred to go to the beach. I also enjoyed saltwater fishing and boating. I hope that I will be doing some of that this summer. I hope that all of you will be doing more of what you enjoy this summer. Please share with the rest of us some of your adventures.

Stay safe- stay well-stay connected-get vax to the max
cj

PS: useless facts-May Day is celebrated in most of the of the world to honor the laborers, but not the US as we have Labor Day in September instead as we did not want to remember the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago

May Day is also halfway between spring and summer so party time
Mayday distress call started in 1920s





05/01	Paul Barr
05/08	Richard Webber
05/14	Nathaniel Page
05/15	Richard Buika
05/24	Mitch Page
05/29	Lynn Page



May 2	Holy Eucharist
May 9	Morning Prayer
May 16	Holy Eucharist
May 23	Morning Prayer
May 30	Holy Eucharist



05/07 Nicholas and Candace Casciano



The deadline for the June issue is Thursday, May 20. 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.



In case you haven't heard, services are being held every Sunday morning at 9 am via Zoom. Please contact the church if you are missing it and would like to be added to the list.



Safe Church Training Spring 2021 All ECCT Safe Church Training (SCT) includes an online course followed by a 3-hour live session on Zoom. This training is grounded in our call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and respect the dignity of every human being. It offers an opportunity to increase and enhance our ability to live out our Baptismal Covenant within our communities of faith and in the world beyond.

Register for one of these live Zoom sessions by clicking on the listing (May and June sessions TBA):

- [Please fill out this Safe Church Training evaluation form after your training](#)
- [Sunday afternoon, May 2, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday evening, May 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.](#)
- [Saturday morning, May 22, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon](#)
- [Monday evening, June 7, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.](#)
- [Saturday morning, June 12, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon](#)



The Grace Church Book Club selected *Children of the Stars* by Mario Escobar for the June discussion. Kathy Shoemaker is placing an order for the paperback edition. If you are interested in ordering the book please let either Kathy or Melissa know by Friday, May 7. The price is a little over \$6.00 and is payable to Kathy when you receive the book. The date of the June meeting is still TBD. Thank you.

Church Rental Opportunities

Rental of Church facilities provides a needed source of income. Along with the rental of the Rectory, these rentals provide approximately 20% of our annual income. The Parish Hall, classrooms and patio/lawn area are available. Rentals have/will include a Scrap Booking Event (held pre-Covid and scheduled again for May), a dance studio, Vacation Bible School of Greater Hartford Church of Christ (pre-Covid and again this summer).

The Vestry has established policies related to rentals. If you are aware of an individual or organization needing a one day or ongoing space, please contact the Church Office at 860-666-3331. Questions about rentals should be directed to Melissa Haseley - Call or text 860-977-4181.



QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: MARCH 31, 2021

	<u>MARCH</u> <u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2021</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 5,430	\$ 16,502	\$ 18,791	\$ 72,272
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 17,623	\$ 30,364	\$ 27,145	\$ 105,062
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 10,770)	(\$ 31,068)	(\$ 33,808)	(\$ 130,272)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	\$ 6,852	(\$ 704)	(\$ 6,663)	(\$ 25,210)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 42,497		<i>End 2020 Checkbook:</i>	\$ 39,100



Creative Energy Team May 2021

Scrapbooking - Leona Adams will be hosting another Scrapbooking day here at Grace Church on Saturday, May 15, 2021. It runs from 10 am – 10 pm. The cost is \$25 - \$35 per person. Please see the attached flyer for details.

We will be setting up the tables and chairs on Friday, May 14, 2021. I will be sending an email blast about the time we will be setting up. If you are available please consider coming to help us set up. Many hands make light work. This is a fundraiser for us too.

TAG SALE - Saturday, June 5, 2021. It is from 8 am - 2 pm. Set up starts at 7 am. The Rain Date is Saturday, June 12, 2021, at the same times.

We will be renting spaces on the front lawn and parts of the parking lot. A space rents for \$15. Payment is made the day of the Tag Sale.

We have started sorting, pricing and throwing away the items that will not sell. If you are available to help sort through boxes or price items, let us know. We can let you know the day and time for the next time we meet. We meet approximately once a week until the week before the Tag Sale, then we meet daily the week before the Tag Sale.

We will need help from our parishioners in the following areas...

Help sorting and pricing items

Help setting up on Friday, June 4th during the day

Help the Tag Sale customers on the day of the Tag Sale

Help taking down on the day of the Tag Sale

If you wish to donate, help or have questions, please contact Lynn Page at 860-841-2539 or Valerie Dumont 860-690-0727.

After the tag sale we will be packing up items into garbage bags. On Monday, June 7, 2021, the Vietnam Vets of America will be picking up 25 bags for us at our front door. All other items will be brought to Savers or to an appropriate place to donate any leftover items. If you are available to drive any leftover items to a place to donate, please let Lynn or I know.

If you plan on donating anything, please put items in the Nursery only. If you are donating large items, please reach out to us to see where you can put them.

We look forward to seeing everyone for our Tag Sale.

Faithfully, Valerie Dumont



As we continue our journey learning about Black History, you may be asking yourself, why are we doing this? After all, Black History month was in February and it is now May.

Think about that for a moment: we devote the shortest month of the year, a 28 day month, to Black History! I don't know about you, but I have always felt that by confining the history of an entire race of people to one short month further diminishes the significance of their achievements and contributes further to the anti-black bias in this country.

And as a result, we learn only about the notable black individuals and their contributions: the Martin Luther King Jr.'s, the Harriet Tubman's, the John Lewis's, the Washington Carver's of the world. The outdated history books do not include the rich history of ordinary individuals doing extraordinary things against the greatest of struggles and odds and not letting the circumstances of their birth write their life story for them.

We need to know the real stories of others to know where the abundant context and texture of America comes from. And the stories we need to know should come from all marginalized groups: women, native Americans, Asians and Latin people to name a few. There is nothing more powerful and motivating than knowing about and seeing people who look like you achieve great things. This is true no matter what color your skin is or what gender you are.

Racism and discrimination on the basis of skin color continues to be a visible blemish on our country. By telling the stories of individuals we have an opportunity to change our thoughts and behaviors that contribute to the racist and hate culture in this country. It also helps us gain a better understanding of our fellow citizens. As CJ said in her April Deacon's Bench, "we still need to be working towards understanding our part in social injustice with anti-black bias, white supremacy and the need for racial reconciliation. We must educate ourselves with how we got here and what we do now." This is an initiative of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. And by focusing each month on a story of an individual making a historic contribution or a notable first, we slowly understand what they have had to deal with and the trauma of how difficult it has been to be a person of color in America.

Black History Month actually started as a Black History week! In 1926 when it was started it was called "Negro History Week" which became the precursor to Black History Month which was formalized in 1976 after the Civil Rights Movement. In 1915, a gentleman by the name of Carter G. Woodson created an organization called the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and launched a quarterly publication called *The Journal of Negro History*. Dr. Woodson was an educator and historian and was the founder of "Negro History Week" and is known today as the "Father of Black History." He is also known today for his scholarly legacy.

He was the son of former slaves and wasn't able to attend school for much of his childhood and didn't start high school until he was 20. He was self-taught and managed to teach himself enough of the basic school fundamentals to receive his high school diploma in two years. He went on to attend Berea College and earned a degree from there until they closed their doors to African Americans. Because of that he had to start over and earned his second BA as well as a Master's degree from The University of Chicago and was the second African American to earn his doctorate from Harvard University. He was the founder of Associated Publishers, which became the leading African American owned publishing firm. He was also the founder and editor of the *Negro History Bulletin*. He authored more than 30 books and is best known for his publication of *The Mis-Education of the Negro* published in 1933 and still pertinent today for its criticism of the established school curriculum.

Black History Month is observed in February because Black people traditionally celebrated the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass both of whom were born in February. Dr. Woodson's vision wanted to celebrate the achievements of black people as a race and not just one or two individuals because he recognized that Blacks were part of the history of the country since the very beginning and that Black history is American history.



Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM

	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
	5th Easter	6th Easter	7th Easter	Day of Pentecost	1st Pentecost
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist
Clergy	Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller
Deacon/LWL	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
				JoAnn Cromwell	
LECTOR/ RESPONDER	Walt Parker	Marie Ritchie	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell
PRAYERS	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Marie Ritchie
ALTAR GUILD	Candy Casciano	Kathy Shoemaker	Kathy Shoemaker	Pat Rogorzenski	Pat Rogorzenski
	Jane Stewart	Marie Ritchie	Marie Ritchie	Nancy DiPrato	Nancy DiPrato
COUNTERS			Walt Parker		Melissa Haseley
			Lorraine Belyea		JoAnn Cromwell



National Scrapbook Day 2021

Grace Episcopal Church

124 Maple Hill Avenue, Newington CT 06111

Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 10 am - 10 pm

Two payment options available:

\$25 for the day will include NSD project recipe kit
\$35 for the day includes the NSD Customer bundle

6 ft table or round table scrapping & crafting space
12 hours of crafting, stamping, and scrapbooking fun
Packaged Snacks will be provided. No meals included.

Water, Coffee or Tea provided

Creative Memories Products For Sale - Cash & Carry as well!!

Raffles & Prizes Available

Receive a Bonus Raffle Ticket if you bring a friend!

Gift For Coming

Registration is required to ensure that we have enough tables set up

.FIRST COME FIRST SERVE - (Limit of 25)

Please make your check payable to Leona Adams and send to
address included below by May 10th:

Leona Adams, 323 Hillhurst Avenue, New Britain Ct 06053 or paypal
her through family and friends at crafty.leona@gmail.com

For More Information: Contact Leona @ 860-378-4032 or
Lgadams1956@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY TAG SALE

**** COME SELL ~ COME SHOP ****

**** DONATIONS ACCEPTED ****

Saturday, June 5, 2021

8:30am ~ 1:30pm

Grace Episcopal Church

124 Maple Hill Ave, Newington, CT

Rent a space for \$15.00 Bring your own Table

Set up at 7am

Rain Date is June 19, 2021

Contact Lynn Page for info 860-841-2539

COME SELL

COME SHOP

DONATIONS
ACCEPTED



COME SELL

COME SHOP

DONATIONS
ACCEPTED