

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

The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist and Choir Director
Debbie Forrest, Office Manager

Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org

Email: office@gracechurchnew.org


Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9 am
Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30 am

PACE OF GRACE



Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH	2	3
4 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	5	6 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH	7 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - PH	8 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH	9	10 All Day – Scrapbooking Hall Rental - PH
11 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Morning Prayer	12	13 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH 6:00 pm Vestry by Zoom	14 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - PH	15 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH	16	17
18 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	19	20 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	21 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - PH	22 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH	23	24
25 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Morning Prayer	26	27 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	28 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - PH	29	30	31 

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



Pace of Grace

October 2020

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

Dear Parishioners of Grace Church,

While writing this letter on the first day of Fall, we are reminded that not only seasons change, but also our personal lives and the activities at Grace Church.

The Year 2020 will be remembered as the year of the Virus. All of us have had our lives affected. Every Sunday, as part of our service, we say a prayer that helps put our life changes in perspective. For those of you who are unable to attend weekly services, the prayer follows.

Covid-19 Prayer

May we who are merely inconvenienced Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the economic tumult Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our economy, Let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Credit: St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Lincoln, MA

Saying this prayer every morning should help us move through these challenging times.

For those able to attend, our Sunday services have been held outside at the front entrance. The cooler weather of the Fall season will bring us into the sanctuary. When comparing the size of the sanctuary to our usual attendance, social distancing will not be an issue. Until cold weather sets in, the windows will

be partially opened to help circulate fresh air. Bring a sweater and hum along in joy as we praise the Lord while Mei plays our magnificent 100+ pipe organ and we wave to each other at the Peace.

As previously announced, The Reverend Valerie Miller will host a 'Spiritual Eucharist Service' the first and third Sundays (as well as the fifth Sunday of November) throughout 2020. She will also be with us Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Morning Prayer will be celebrated on alternate Sunday mornings.

For those of you able to attend, we look forward to seeing you in church. For those staying safe at home, our prayers are with you.

Faithfully, Your Wardens, JoAnn & Walt



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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
18 th Pentecost October 4	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Psalm 19	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
19 th Pentecost October 11	Exodus 32:1-14	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
20 th Pentecost October 18	Exodus 33:12-23	Psalm 99	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
St. Luke October 19	Ecclesiasticus 38:1- 4, 6-10, 12-14	Psalm 147	2 Timothy 4:5-13	Luke 4:14-21
St. James of Jerusalem October 23	Acts 15:12-22a	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Matthew 13:54-58
21 st Pentecost October 25	Deuteronomy 34:1- 12	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46
Sts. Simon and Jude October 29	Deuteronomy 32:1-4	Psalm 119:89-96	Ephesians 2:13-22	John 15:17-27



Greetings and Salutations from the ending of the summer season. I write today with the possibility of wearing gloves with my outfit as it is a wee bit chilly. I much prefer warm weather to cold. However it is nice with the changing seasons (as long as winter does it quickly) in CT. How is everyone doing? It's been a long spring and summer. Hopefully we got to do something besides waiting for the Fedex person, delivery food person or grocery delivery. I enjoy the grab and go cause it gets me out of the house for a pandemic minute (instead of a New York minute, although we still can go to New York).

We met inside the narthex last Sunday for the first time for church. There was too much of a chill in the air. We will decide each Sunday for the time being as to whether we will be outside or inside. We continue to pray that the Coronavirus will be over or at least take a break. Maybe a vaccine will be discovered. We do not know what the next few months will bring us except that our faith must continue to fire up our willingness to share our love of Jesus to all the people we meet. We have the God-given gifts and talents that we must use to show we are Christians. There are still family, friends, and neighbors that need our help. We might be in need of help for ourselves. Please reach out to someone if you do. There have been many months of a different routine. Some of us can deal with this while some of us might not be ok dealing with this. Let go - Let God help you by getting in touch with prayer or conversation with someone else. God did not create us to be alone.

I hope everyone is going to make an effort to vote this year. The requests came out to complete if you want to vote by absentee ballot. I had to do that 4 years ago when I had my cancer surgery on Election Day. I am still - thank you Jesus - cancer free. It is important that everyone exercise their right to vote. It has not always been the case that all could vote. However, I am not giving us a history lesson on that subject.

I also hope that everyone who can use Zoom will sign up for the convocation on October 4, 2020 from 3-5 pm for the North Central Region of which we are a member. We are going to be talking about racism. How do we create a brave space to talk about and actually try to do something about racism, anti-racism, systemic change, and anti-black. This is still a priority with ECCT and our bishops. We will be working on resolutions around this important matter at our diocese convention this October.

I just want to state again that Black Lives Matter "is not saying that only black lives matter or that all lives don't matter or that white lives don't matter. The issue is that is white lives have always seemed to matter more; all those lives matter equally. Black lives have to matter just as much as everybody else's." Shaka Hislop.

Our ECCT convention starts October 14th and goes through October 18th. You can sign up to be a part of that if you want. There is no charge for non-voting members. There is a schedule of events on the ECCT website. There will be a big church service on Sunday the 18th at 10 am. This will have been pre-recorded and available to watch on Facebook or Youtube.

So as we used to say in the 60's - be there or be square!

Stay safe-stay well-stay connected
cj

PS... did anyone read any good books, or get hooked on an interesting TV show or learn a new crafting skill? I have been watching the progress of the new panda cub born at the Smithsonian Zoo in Washington DC.



10/24 Mark Shoemaker
 10/29 Susan Raimondo
 10/29 Marie Ritchie

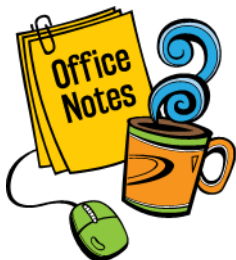


10/03 Gary and Elizabeth St. Amand
 10/22 Paul and Norine Barr
 10/29 Mitch and Lynn Page



Save the Date

10/13 Vestry Meeting (Zoom)
 10/21 Book Club Meeting



The deadline for the November Pace of Grace is Tuesday, October 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.



We have great news to share with everyone. The Rev. Valerie Miller will be our Supply Priest when we have Eucharist, through the end of 2020, including Christmas. The Eucharist dates are October 4 & 18. November 1, 15 & 29. December 6 & 20, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Eucharist will be celebrated the first, third and fifth Sundays of October through December and Morning Prayer will be on the second and fourth Sundays.



The ECCT Annual Convention is virtual this year October 14-18 and open to everyone. Non-members/non-voters are able to register at no charge and participate/view any parts as you wish.

Go to <https://ecctconvention.org/registration> to register today.



To my Grace Church Family. I miss all of you and wish I could be with you on Sundays, but I never know what kind of day I am going to have. Some days I have energy; other days I am so tired I just want sleep all day. Crystal gets in my lap at least 3 times a day and goes to sleep. She still thinks I get up at 5 am to feed her!!! Crystal and I sit and pray for all of you who are praying for. Thank you for the cards, the text messages and Mei who brought me delicious soup. I will be having a Cat scan at the end of this month after my 5th round of chemo. This is to find out if the medications are working. Peace and good health to all.

Love Liz and Crystal



Book Club: The Grace Church Book Club met on Saturday, September 12 outside on the front entryway where we worship on Sunday. It was a delightful late summer day, and with the days getting shorter we had lovely shade

both on the porch and in the driveway area by the handicap parking spots.

We missed a few of our members who weren't able to make it. We had a good discussion facilitated by Laura using the Readers Guide questions. We all enjoyed the book and found it very engaging as well as informative. The title was *The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter* by Hazel Gaynor.

We selected the next 3 books for our meetings. We also changed the day and added a December meeting since we all agreed we wouldn't be doing the same types of holiday activities as we have done in years past. The following dates are on **Wednesdays**. The time is the same from 2 to 4 pm. Weather permitting, for October we will meet outside. Where we meet in November and December will be determined at a later time.

For October we will read *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. The date is October 21.

The November date is Wednesday, November 18. We will be reading *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate.

And in December we will be meeting on December 9. We will read *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith.

With these selections we worked from the notes and lists of previously suggested titles. Under separate cover a bit later this evening, I will be sending you a list CJ gave to us. It is from her granddaughter's honors English class I think she said. CJ, please clarify if I misstated where it came from. And our December selection comes from this list. And very few of us have read it!

Stay well and enjoy our lovely fallish weather.

Happy Reading,

Melissa Haseley



On Saturday, August 22, Grace Church sponsored a contactless, drive through Food Drive to benefit the Newington Food Pantry. It was put together in a short period of time.

With the expiration of the federal unemployment benefit, there are many more individuals and families who are food insecure. We all have seen the lines on TV of people waiting to pick up a box of food to feed their families. Historically food donations are down during the summer months. That, coupled with the increased need because of the pandemic, led us to do the donation drive to build up the inventory at the food bank.

Our newly sealed driveway was set up with tables and popup tents for donations. Thank you to the town highway department for letting us borrow orange construction cones that were used as guides for people in and out of the parking lot.

Two hard working Boy Scouts, Ethan and his mom Laurie and Seth/Joseph and his mom, Avril and dad, Joseph helped us. The boys carried the donations from the parking lot to the Narthex where they were sorted, boxed and labeled.

There were many people who helped make the drive a success. A special thank you to Mark Shoemaker who worked tirelessly with the set-up, collection and clean up. He also helped load and unload the donations at the food bank. Thank you to Kathy Shoemaker, Walt Parker, Richard Buika, CJ, Jane Stewart, Laura Lynch, JoAnn Cromwell and Neil Scott, Melissa's husband, for their help. Special thanks to: Brandon Johnson for his truck that took all the donations to the food bank and his help loading and unloading; Roy Zartarian who posted the flier on the church website; and Lynn Page who posted the flier on the Newington Facebook page.

We collected \$425 in grocery store gift cards and the church matched that amount with a monetary donation. Not only was food collected, but also toiletries and school supplies were donated by the generous residents of Newington.

I would also like to thank Stew Leonard's and Price Chopper for their generous gift card donations.

Due to the success of this drive and the ongoing need, we are considering doing another Food Drive perhaps in early November for the holidays or next spring. We hope you will consider helping us or donating if you didn't have a chance to this time.

*Melissa Haseley
Food Drive Coordinator*

**MIDDLETOWN, CROMWELL, DURHAM AND
MIDDLEFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
SEASONAL FLU CLINICS**

- **Oct 7** 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
City Hall Council Chamber, 245 deKoven Drive Middletown
- **Oct 14** Noon - 6:00 PM
Town Hall Gymnasium, 41 West Street, Cromwell
- **Oct 16** 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
MARC Community Resources, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown
- **Oct 21** 9:00 AM - Noon
Community Center, 405 Main Street, Middlefield
- **Oct 28** Noon - 6:00 PM
Town Hall Gymnasium, 41 West Street, Cromwell
- **Nov 3** Noon - 6:00 PM
Activity Center, (2nd floor), 350 Main Street, Durham
- **Nov 7** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Town Hall Gymnasium, 41 West Street, Cromwell
- **Nov 10** 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Cross Street AME Zion Church, 440 West Street, Middletown

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Must be at least 18 years of age and in good health
- Vaccine free of charge and no co-pay with most insurance (bring your insurance card)
- Appointments not taken (first-come, first-served); residency not required
- Face masks required / Social distancing enforced

Pneumonia & shingles vaccines also available (bring your insurance card)

Save time, complete your Vaccine Informed Consent Form on-line:

For more info call:

Cromwell	www.cromwellct.com/health-department	860.632.3426
Durham	www.townofdurhamct.org	860.349.8253
Middlefield	www.pshd.org	860.276.6275
Middletown	www.middletownct.gov	860.638.4962

Vaccines provided by





QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: AUGUST 31, 2020

	<u>AUGUST OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2020 BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 9,270	\$ 51,220	\$ 49,962	\$ 79,304
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 15,520	\$ 73,618	\$ 74,577	\$ 118,534
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 13,359)	(\$ 66,976)	(\$ 95,911)	(\$ 140,342)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	\$ 2,161	\$ 6,642	(\$ 21,334)	(\$ 21,808)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 29,207		<i>End 2019 Checkbook:</i>	\$ 22,206



Creative Energy Team
October 2020

CLOTHING DRIVE

Grace Episcopal Church - Newington
124 Maple Hill Avenue Newington CT 06111

We will be collecting clothing & the items listed below through Monday, October 12, 2020.

Please put all of your items in plastic garbage bags. Bring them to the front entrance at Grace Episcopal Church - Newington and leave in the plastic bins at the front-main entrance.

*For church members please put your bags in the nursery. It is on the first floor, last room on the left.

This is what we are collecting - all kinds of clothing for men, women & children, coats, shoes, boots, sneakers, sandals, belts, pocketbooks, wallets, linens - bedding items such as sheets, blankets, comforters & quilts, fabric table clothes, fabric napkins & curtains, bathroom items such as towels, bathroom rugs & fabric shower curtains, area rugs, decorative pillows, kitchen towels, beach towels.

For questions contact the office at 860-666-3331. Someone will get back to you if you leave a message. Thank you for your donations. It helps support our church & the work we do within our community.

Face Masks

Lorraine Belyea and Valerie Dumont have face masks available if anyone needs one or wants to purchase one. They are made with really good quality quilting material, come with a sewn in bendable nose piece and a removable filter. The face masks can be hand or machine washed. The filter must be hand washed. Call Lorraine at 860-666-3959 or Valerie at 860-690-0727. Thank you.

Val Dumont

Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
	17 th Pentecost Holy Eucharist	18 th Pentecost Morning Prayer	19 th Pentecost Holy Eucharist	20 th Pentecost Morning Prayer
Supply Clergy	Valerie Miller		Valerie Miller	
Deacon/LWL	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz/Beverley Manning
LECTOR 1	JoAnn Cromwell	Shirley Adams	JoAnn Cromwell	Shirley Adams
LECTOR 2	Walt Parker	Karen Halpert	Walt Parker	Karen Halpert
PRAYERS	Karen Halpert	Marie Ritchie	Walt Parker	Beverley Manning
USHERS	Nancy DiPrato	Jane Stewart	Mark & Kathy	Brandon & Kathy
	Lorraine Belyea		Shoemaker	Johnson
ALTAR GUILD	Pat Rogorzenski	Kathy Shoemaker	Kathy Shoemaker	Marie Ritchie
	Nancy DiPrato	Candy Casciano	Candy Casciano	Elissa Schumann
	Barbara Johnson	Jane Stewart	Jane Stewart	Barbara Johnson
COUNTERS	Walt Parker	Beverley Manning	Melissa Haseley	JoAnn Cromwell
	Melissa Haseley	JoAnn Cromwell	Lorraine Belyea	Beverley Manning