

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



September

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

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



Pace of Grace

September 2020

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

Dear Parishioners of Grace Church,

Grace Church is open and we welcome you. If you are staying home to protect yourself and others from the virus we fully support your decision. Our average attendance has been about 75% of normal.

Weekly Sunday services resumed July 19th. Most Sundays a Spiritual Eucharist was officiated by The Reverend Valerie Miller. Other Sundays, Morning Prayer led by Deacon CJ assisted by lay readers was held. We have great news to share with everyone about future services. The Rev. Valerie Miller will be our Supply Priest, when we have Eucharist, through the end of 2020, including Christmas. The Eucharist dates are September 6 & 20. 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 September through December and Morning Prayer will be on the second and fourth Sundays.

The format and location of the services have been modified to ensure safe practices. The spiritual communion service follows the traditional Eucharist Prayer Book service with one exception: the Bread and Wine are blessed but not shared. All the services have been held outdoors at the main entrance. While most of the parishioners sit under the entrance canopy, the seating extends into the driveway which is shaded from the morning sun. Everyone wears a mask. The Peace is followed by waves, eye contact and smiles (under the masks), no hugs! Music is provided by Mei using a portable keyboard. Since singing propels breath through masks, no hymnals are provided and parishioners are encouraged to hum along. While some bring their own chairs, seating is provided. After service coffee hour with the sharing of food and drink has been suspended.

If desperately needed rain should fall, the service will move into the sanctuary. Considering the usual attendance, 'social distancing' will not be a problem. Half of the pews have been roped off. The pew cushions, which cannot be adequately cleaned between services, have been removed. Until cooler weather returns, all windows will be opened to provide a steady stream of fresh air. You are encouraged to bring a light sweater in case the outside shade or inside air is cool.

Good news! The parking lot has been resurfaced. No longer are you welcomed by weed-filled cracks and potholes to dodge. Memorial Donations and Capital Improvement Funds were used to pay for the resurfacing.

Thank you to those of you who sent in your pledges while not being able to attend services. To contribute by mail, send your check to Grace Church, 124 Maple Hill Ave, Newington, CT 06111. Placing the check in a weekly pledge or blue envelope is helpful but not necessary.

Our prayers are with all of the Grace Family as you worship with us or stay home.

See you in Church.

Faithfully, Your Wardens, JoAnn & Walt



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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
14 th Pentecost September 6	Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 149	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Labor Day September 7	Ecclesiasticus 38:27-32	Psalm 107:1-9	1 Corinthians 3:10-14	Matthew 6:19-24
15 th Pentecost September 13	Exodus 14:19-31	Psalm 114 or Canticle: The Songs of Moses and Miriam Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Holy Cross Day September 14	Isaiah 45:21-25	Psalm 98	Philippians 2:5-11	John 12:31-36a
16 th Pentecost September 20	Exodus 16:2-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
St. Matthew September 21	Proverbs 3:1-6	Psalm 119:33-40	2 Timothy 3:14-17	Matthew 9:9-13
17 th Pentecost September 27	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32
St. Michael and All Angels September 30	Genesis 28:10-17	Psalm 103	Revelation 12:7-12	John 1:47-51



Remember The Letterman's song "See you in September?" Well that isn't happening unless Covid 19 is going away on summer vacation instead of us. I would not have imagined that we would still be in pandemic mode at this time of the year. I have been thinking about all the things I might have done but thankful that I am safe and well. There are many things that I can do. I have been on a treasure hunt in one of my rooms. It is amazing the stuff that I kept that I thought was going to be so "useful" at a later date. What have you discovered? Life is different but not in a bad way, just different.

It is nice having a church service on Sunday outside. Yes, it is a little bit different but we still say prayers and love the Lord. We can increase our faith by being together either in person or feeling the presence of those not able to join with us in person at our parish. We are united in our beliefs, in our words, in our love even if we are not all in the same area.

We also are still in the pandemic of systemic racism. This is not going away anytime soon. Hopefully this time we are really going to try to understand what changes we need to do with ourselves so that change can happen to get rid of this. I have another song that I was thinking about; do you know the one "Lift every voice and sing?" This is considered the Black National Anthem. Please try to listen to it if you have a chance. I am printing the words to it here because I believe that it is very germane to all of us. (We can sing in our own homes if not in public yet)

"Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.
Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have we not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright start is cast
God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way

Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God where we met Thee
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land”

Of course I cannot forget that Labor Day is happening in September. I can almost smell the burgers, hot dogs, and barbecue as we picnic together in honor and thankfulness of all the workers who helped make this country great. Then I wake up from my dream only to realize that the only smell I will have is my microwave heating up a frozen burger. Oh well, at least I can still get burgers from the grocery store. I am also grateful that I did have a job I enjoyed as well as the one I have now as a deacon. I pray that all those who lost their jobs will be able get reemployed so that they can support their families and themselves. We need to remember that we are a Christian community who must try to help those in need wherever, whenever and however we can.

We also need to keep our children, teachers, and school personnel in our prayers. Education is important but so is the safety of all those mentioned. We must be diligent as to what must be done to proceed with the best safety measures in all the aspects of school and sports.

The fall season will be upon us shortly. I hope we can all get a chance to enjoy the vibrant colors of the leaves and the cool crispness in the air. I also hope this is not the year I have leaves and acorns to rake up. I do enjoy nature but not so much after stuffing 30 bags of leaves.

Please let me know if you have stories that you would like to share with all of us. You can send them to me to include in the next Deacon’s Bench.

Stay safe-stay well-stay connected

cj



09/02	CJ Puskarz
09/06	Jeanne Bailey
09/14	Phyllis Backofen
09/18	George Johnson
09/20	Beverley Manning
09/25	Robert Belyea
09/29	Bette Forcash



*Save
the Date*

09/08	Vestry Meeting
09/12	Book Club Meeting
09/19	ECW Regional Meeting



The deadline for the October Pace of Grace is Tuesday, September 22. 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 September 6 & 20. 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 September through December and Morning Prayer will be on the second and fourth Sundays.

We are very thankful that volunteers have come forward to lead Morning Prayer, Karen Halpert (September 13) and Richard Buika (September 27).



Book Club: The next Book Club meeting will be held on Saturday, September 12 in the Library from 2-4 pm. The book will be *The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter* by Hazel Gaynor.

Melissa Haseley



The ECCT Annual Convention is virtual this year over five days in October 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.



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



In case you haven't noticed, The St. Pauly Textile Shed has been temporarily closed. The pandemic has shut down international borders resulting in the inability to redistribute the majority of clothing that is collected. They are storing millions of pounds of clothing and cannot take any more donations until distribution is possible again. Hopefully they will be able to reopen soon.

Education for Ministry

Program Begins in September

Education for Ministry is a study and reflection program for lay people. It is a four-year program consisting of Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Ethics and Interfaith Encounters as struttred by the University of the South School of Theology. We meet on Monday nights in the academic year with a group minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 and a group mentor. Our current group has members from St. James's and two other local parishes. It is an enriching experience that people treasure. We are forming our new group for September and currently have four openings. If you are interested, please contact Ron Ward for additional information. rtwtmr@comcast.net; Cell: 860 463 8057.

More information is also available at:
<http://stjameswh.org/discipleship/education/efm>
<http://efm.sewanee.edu>



QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: JULY 31, 2020

	<u>JULY</u> <u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2020</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 7,905	\$ 41,914	\$ 45,203	\$ 79,304
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 8,215	\$ 58,098	\$ 64,905	\$ 118,534
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 6,298)	(\$ 53,617)	(\$ 83,927)	(\$ 140,342)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	\$ 1,917	\$ 4,481	(\$ 19,022)	(\$ 21,808)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 26,007		<i>End 2019 Checkbook:</i>	\$ 22,206



Creative Energy Team September 2020

The Creative Energy Team has made the difficult decision to postpone our yearly Tag Sale again because of Covid-19. We are planning for spring of 2021. We will announce a date in the beginning of the 2021. We will be collecting tag sale items until then. They can be put in Room 12 downstairs. Please put your boxed tag sale items in room 12 neatly. Try to keep the boxes piled nicely. Thank you.

Clothing Drive - Our clothing drive is Tuesday October 13th at 2pm.

We will accept any and all help starting around 1:30pm on Tuesday, October 13th to start loading the truck for the clothing drive. A lot of hands make light work.

You can donate your gently used clothes, shoes & sneakers, belts, hats, pocketbooks, wallets, bags, jewelry, bedding, linens, towels, fabric shower curtains, area rugs that can be bagged, pillows, and small household goods. Place all items to be donated in garbage bags and place them in the gathering room upstairs. It is the room next to the chapel. Please be neat when placing items in the gathering room.

Episcopal Convention - It all will be virtual. It is Friday, Oct 9th & Saturday, Oct 10th, 2020.

We have been asked to participate in their microsite to sell our prayer beads.

Chocolate Festival - Tentative date is Saturday, February 6, 2021 10am - 3pm

We are prepping for the Chocolate Festival. We are not having any meetings and are waiting to see how Covid-19 is come Thanksgiving time. If anyone wants to do something at home to help prepare please contact Valerie Dumont at 860-690-0727. We have a few things we are working on that are easy and fun.

We are collecting for future events

We are collecting...Empty wine bottles of all sizes, Frames of all sizes, Mason jars of assorted sizes, Any Valentines items for crafting or to use for food items,

Any heart or Love items we can use - glasses, jars, mugs, craft items and raffle items

Any items for the Chocolate Festival event

Clear food bags, Lunch bags - brown paper or white. Pink, red or white ribbon of different widths.

Clear cellophane on a roll, large raffle basket bags. Big wicker baskets or assorted containers for raffling a basket. Spray paint - colors needed are white, red, pink, purple, black, gold or silver.

Any items to make a raffle basket. If you see something at a fabulous price online, think ahead for the raffle. Let us know. If you want to plan and put together a specific basket we would love the help. Please let us know.

Thank you for all your support in our fundraising efforts. We will be reaching out to you soon to let you know what our plans are for the Creative Energy Team. If anyone else has any ideas please let us know. We are always looking for things to do. It can be a craft, something for a service project or a fundraiser. Call, text or email if you have any questions, want to help with anything or have any ideas to share. Stay safe everyone. Blessings, Valerie Dumont

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

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
	14 th Pentecost	15 th Pentecost	16 th Pentecost	17 th Pentecost
Supply Clergy	Valerie Miller		Valerie Miller	
Deacon/LWL	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz/Karen Halpert	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz/Richard Buika
LECTOR 1	Paul Crosswaith	Mabel Maynard	JoAnn Cromwell	Paul Crosswaith
LECTOR 2	Walt Parker	Karen Halpert	Shirley Adams	Mabel Maynard
PRAYERS	Karen Halpert	Marie Ritchie	Walt Parker	Beverley Manning
USHERS	Nancy DiPrato	Jane Stewart	Mark & Kathy	Brandon & Kathy
	Lorraine Belyea	Paul Crosswaith	Shoemaker	Johnson
ALTAR GUILD	Marie Ritchie	Kathy Shoemaker	Kathy Shoemaker	Pat Rogorzenski
	Candy Casciano	Nancy DiPrato	Nancy DiPrato	Nancy DiPrato
		Jane Stewart	Jane Stewart	Barbara Johnson
COUNTERS	Walt Parker	JoAnn Cromwell	Beverley Manning	JoAnn Cromwell
	Nancy DiPrato	Lorraine Belyea	Nancy DiPrato	Lorraine Belyea