

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

The Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller, Rector  
The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon  
Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist and Choir Director  
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Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer  
Sunday at 9 am

# ***PACE OF GRACE***



Grace Episcopal Church  
124 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111

# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	2 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	3 3 pm – 9 pm Newington Children's Theater	4
5 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Holy Eucharist	6 	7 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	8 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	9 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	10 3 pm – 9 pm Newington Children's Theater	11 
12 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Morning Prayer	13	14 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	15 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	16 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	17	18 9 am – 1 pm ECW Meeting - PH
19 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Annual Meeting	20	21 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	22 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	23 1:30 pm Book Club Meeting 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	24	25
26 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Morning Prayer	27	28 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	29 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	30 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH		

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



# *Pace of Grace*

## *September 2021*

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

Dear Grace Community,

This month I wanted to focus on the word recognition. What does it mean to be recognized, to be known to others? For these good friends, Marilyn Monroe and Ella Fitzgerald, recognition was what helped strengthen their bond as true sisters of the heart. During the 1940s and 1950s, African Americans were not able to be in the same public spaces as white people—restaurants, movie theaters, bars, schools, or even our houses of worship!

Marilyn and Ella first met at a nightclub. Marilyn simply fell in love with Ella and the beautiful voice that God had given her to share with the world. Ella's beautiful voice could not shine as brightly as it needed to for everyone to hear and recognize her and her beautiful gift. When Ella was not allowed to sing at a local Hollywood nightclub, Marilyn put a stop to this and told the manager that if he did not permit her to sing in the nightclub, she would not either. Marilyn also shared with the manager that she would come to hear Ella sing to support her and her talent. Marilyn knew that she could put this club on the map, so to speak.

Ella's music was able to shine to all audiences. I know that I am writing this to members of our community who have lived through this time period where racism was rampant. The issues of racism are still here today; they simply show up within our society in different ways. Racism has the same evil impact. Marilyn knew Ella's talent could not be closed off because of segregation. They each recognized the beauty that God had placed within each other.

Ella and Marilyn learned that they had a lot in common, more than they could have ever imagined. Their childhood stories were very similar and they both had amazing gifts/talents to share with the world. They connected over these similar experiences in life, growing into sisters/friends.

Ella and Marilyn gave each other the recognition they each deserved. As people of God, we deserve to be recognized, to be truly seen for who we are – the blessings, the personalities that are our own. Our neighbors, our friends, can see us and know us. This is how God wants everyone to connect. Leviticus 19:18 says "Do not take revenge on anyone or continue to hate him, but love your neighbor as you love yourself."



Who in our life needs to be given recognition for how they touch us?  
Who do we need to connect with in our community?  
Who has recognized the beauty of God within you recently?

Peace, Joy, Love,

Rev. Val



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

	<b>First reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> Pentecost September 5	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	Psalm 125	James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
Labor Day September 6	Ecclesiasticus 38:27-32	Psalm 107:1-9	1 Corinthians 3:10-14	Matthew 6:19-24
16 <sup>th</sup> Pentecost September 12	Proverbs 1:20-33	Psalm 19	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
Holy Cross Day September 14	Isaiah 45:21-25	Psalm 98	Philippians 2:5-11	John 12:31-36a
17 <sup>th</sup> Pentecost September 19	Proverbs 31:10-31	Psalm 1	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
St. Matthew September 21	Proverbs 3:1-6	Psalm 119:33-40	2 Timothy 3:14-17	Matthew 9:9-13
18 <sup>th</sup> Pentecost September 26	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	Psalm 124	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50
St. Michael and All Angels September 30	Genesis 28:10-17	Psalm 103	Revelation 12:7-12	John 1:47-51



Welcome to everyone!

I can't believe that summer is almost over. I hope that everyone was able to have a more fun summer this year than last. I did get to go to Point Pleasant, NJ. It was nice to have a change of scenery from the inside walls of my house. I also went on a day trip to a really interesting place called 3 Sisters Sanctuary in Goshen, MA, It is where art and environment blend together. My friends and I stopped at a blast-from-the-past diner in Florence, MA for lunch (masks on except when eating). I am including a couple of pictures to show you where I was. I hope you share pictures of what you did this summer. I also think we should have a time to verbally share what we did this summer or wished we could have done. We are still a community based upon our Christian love of Jesus and our neighbor so let's showcase this and, to quote a certain game show, "come on down" and let's talk with one another. We still have zoom, phones and computers for communication tools. I remember the days of party lines (landline phones should someone from a younger generation than me be reading this).

Speaking of talking, the North Central Region is having its convocation (fancy word for meeting) on October 3, 2021 on zoom from 3-6 pm. The topic centers on how our mental health is doing in a spiritual sense during the Covid 19 crisis time. We hope that all will join to share their Christian faith experiences of the good, the not so good and the ok. How have you and God been in touch with each other? This will be a safe haven for sharing and learning with others what we can do together or alone. There will be more information coming out about this in emails from the North Central Region. Our missionary is now Maggie Breen. Also, please vote for our region's new representatives for the Mission Council. The ballots are out via email.

Our parish was able to donate flip flops to the Friendship Center. We also collected school supplies for those in need in Newington. Thank you to all those who contributed. We still collect for the Newington Food Bank and Friendship Center. There is a list of items needed in our bulletin each week. We still can help those outside our parish but we can also help those who are in our parish community. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way.

There is a new flag poster in our front yard (if we didn't lose it in the tropical storm) that is known as the Progress Pride Flag. Someone stole our Black Lives Matter sign so I have replaced it with this one. The Pride Flag is the classic Rainbow Flag for the LGBTQ+ community. This progressive flag also includes stripes for black and brown marginalized LGBTQ+ communities of color plus pink, light blue and white stripes from the Transgender Pride Flag; in addition it represents those living with HIV/Aids and those who have died from it. We are a Believe Out Loud Church so let's show it. We welcome all to Grace!

I hope everyone survived the Tropical Storm ok. I made sure that my laundry and dishes were done early in case I lost power (which I did not). I spent most of the storm watching BBC crime shows. If the show involved a church I recognized the hymns played. I have had way too much time on Hulu/Netflix.

I hope you had some time this summer to read more about racial reconciliation which is encouraged by our ECCT. This topic is not going away. We have much work to continue doing,

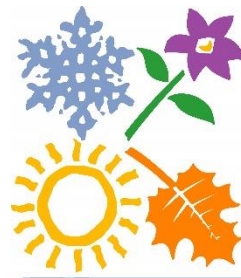
Stay safe-stay well-stay connected-vax to the max  
cj

p.s. interesting summer activities - July 4th NY hot dog eating contest - won by Joey Chestnut who ate 76 hot dogs in ten minutes - it would take me at least 4 years to eat that many. A British engineer stacked 5 M&M's to set a record. How many can you do? I stacked one on top then ate the rest!





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



## ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, September 19, 2021.** The Annual Meeting, postponed from January, will be held following the service. The meeting will be both in person in the sanctuary and on Zoom.

The Annual Reports have been emailed to everyone and are also available in the narthex and the blue bin outside the front door of the church. If you would like one mailed home, please contact the office.

This is the time we thank outgoing Vestry Members and welcome in the new Members. We will also take care of any business brought before this group.

While most of the present Vestry Members will continue there is at least one opening to be filled. Currently Vestry Meetings are held via Zoom. The Zoom meetings will continue indefinitely. The requirements and responsibilities of membership are simple: Be a communicant of Grace Church in good standing, have an interest in the future of the Church, and be available for monthly meetings on the second Tuesday (no regular meetings in the summer). That's it, no additional time required. While most members of the Vestry as well as many of the Grace Church family are involved in additional committees and activities, being a Vestry member does not require more of a time and work commitment than the meetings listed above. Any Grace Parishioner may nominate themselves. If you are interested in being part of the governing body of Grace Church, contact Senior Warden JoAnn Cromwell, Junior Warden Walt Parker or leave a message with Debbie at the Church.



The Grace Church Book Club is taking its summer hiatus for July and August. We will reconvene in September. The September book club date is Thursday, September 23 at 1:30 pm. We will be meeting

outside at the church weather permitting. Should it be inclement weather, we will meet in the library.

We selected two reads for the summer: *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah and *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. We will be discussing both in September. Should you read any other good books this summer, please keep track of them so they can be included in our consideration of future selections. Happy Reading!

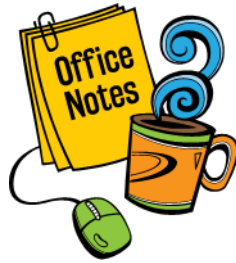
*Melissa Haseley*



September 5	Holy Eucharist
September 12	Morning Prayer
September 19	Holy Eucharist
September 26	Morning Prayer



The deadline for the October Pace of Grace is Tuesday, September 21. 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.



### **Church Rental Opportunities**

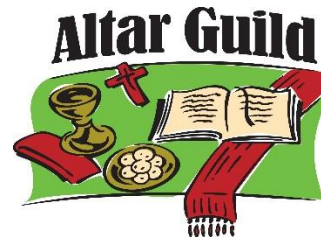
Rental of Church facilities provides a needed source of income. Along with the rental of the Rectory, these rentals provide approximately 20% of our annual income. The Parish Hall, classrooms and patio/lawn area are available. Rentals have included Scrapbooking Events, a dance studio, Vacation Bible School of Greater Hartford Church of Christ, and the Newington Children's Theater.



**In case you haven't heard, services are being still being broadcast via Zoom at 9 am. Please contact the church if you are**

**missing it and would like to be added to the list.**

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.



I am pleased to announce that as of September 1, 2021 I will resume my position as the Altar Guild directress. I want to thank Kathy Shoemaker for doing this ministry for me the last 12 months while I was ill and recovering. I am pleased to say I am Cancer-free! I thank the Altar Guild and everyone at Grace Church for the prayers, cards, food, visits, emails and text messages. At this time I will not be changing any Altar Guild duties. I will be able to help if someone is not available on a week they have a conflict and cannot attend church. Since we only have 2 persons on every week it is important to find someone to take your place. As changes occur with ECCT I will notify everyone. The Altar Guild is an important ministry and everyone works together. Thanks be to GOD. I can be reached by phone at 860-559-0414 or email at [elizabeth.welk30@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.welk30@gmail.com).



**QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: July 31, 2021**

	<b><u>JUNE</u></b> <b><u>OPERATIONS</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b> <b><u>OPERATIONS</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b> <b><u>BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL 2021</u></b> <b><u>BUDGET</u></b>
Pledge Income	\$ 4,293	\$ 38,060	\$ 41,195	\$ 72,272
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>	<b>\$ 5,172</b>	<b>\$ 57,348</b>	<b>\$ 60,150</b>	<b>\$ 105,062</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>	<b>(\$ 11,144)</b>	<b>(\$ 72,525)</b>	<b>(\$ 78,087)</b>	<b>(\$ 130,272)</b>
<b><u>NET CHANGE:</u></b>	<b>(\$ 5,972)</b>	<b>(\$ 15,177)</b>	<b>(\$ 15,177)</b>	<b>(\$ 25,210)</b>
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 28,284		<i>End 2020 Checkbook:</i> \$ 39,100	



## Creative Energy Team September 2021

The Creative Energy Team has talked and discussed many ideas since COVID-19 started. Many dates and ideas have been cancelled for the same reason...COVID-19. We are now taking it month-by-month, week-by-week or even day-by-day. The ideas are on paper and we will work from there.

We are planning another Clothing Drive this fall.

All of your clothing items can be placed in plastic bags in the nursery.

We are accepting all clothing items, shoes, sandals, boots, pocketbooks/handbags, wallets, hats, jackets and coats, scarves, gloves, mittens, all bed and bath linens, towels, curtains and any other soft items. We will not accept any books or hard items.

We will start advertising to the public at the end of September and will be making use of the blue bin outside our front doors. If you happen to be at Church and there are bags of clothes outside by the bin...please bring them into the Narthex. We can take them back to the Nursery from there.

The Clothing Drive will end on Sunday, November 7, 2021. This will give us time to check, organize & count the bags.

Our drop-off date will be Tuesday, November 16, 2021. This is the day we will be loading the truck... from 1:30pm - 2:30pm.

Please consider coming to help us load up the truck!

Many hands make light work.

Please reach out to either Lynn Page or myself if you have any questions.

*Thank you,  
Val Dumont*



*Education is the Most Powerful Weapon Which You Can Use to Change the World – Nelson Mandela*

Late August, early September is traditionally the time of year when kids go back to school, or maybe start school for the very first time. The first day of school is usually a mixture of nervousness, excitement and maybe a little sadness because summer is over.

The education of America has mostly been white and racist, and for our Black brothers and sisters getting an education hasn't been a routine occurrence. Over the years the denial of Black education has been used to curtail or contain Black agency and slave rebellion in our history of slavery. Most Southern states had laws forbidding the enslaved to read and write. In 1830 the Virginia State General Assembly voted to forbid the free or enslaved to read or write. Education became a secret, communal effort on Southern plantations – slaves learned from parents, older family members, spouses and some were even taught by the master or hired tutors, at great risk to everyone involved if they were caught.

It wasn't until after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation that education for Black children became more commonplace. Prior to that, there was the establishment of primary schools in some northern cities, such as in the District of Columbia, Philadelphia, New York City and in the Boston area. Lowell High School in Lowell, MA claims to be the first school, regardless of grade level, to accept Blacks and pupils of all races. The earliest known Black student to attend this school was Caroline Van Vronker who was there in 1843 according to school records. She was the child of freed slaves and it is not known if she graduated.

In the Jim Crow South it was almost impossible for African Americans to receive an education; discrimination was blatant and systemic and became institutionalized when the Supreme Court in 1896 ruled that racially segregated public facilities were legally permissible as long as they were equal in quality. This basically led the way to legalized segregation in schools. This legislation stood until the *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 when the Supreme Court ruled that racially segregated schools were unconstitutional because essentially it was not possible to make an African American student equal when the white students had a head start in their learning. It is important to note that education, in general, until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was not as commonplace and mandatory as it is today.

But we all know that the hatred, violence and continued discrimination didn't stop with that landmark legislation. The doors to equality were slow to open. In some communities they opened swiftly and without any backlash. In others the thought of even limited integration gave way to old hatreds and gave new life to misinformation about race. Probably one of the most significant and historic of the struggles to desegregate schools happened in 1957 from a group that came to be known as the Little Rock Nine.

The Little Rock Nine was a group of nine African American students who were enrolled in Little Rock Central High School, an all-white school. A year earlier, the Little Rock Board of Education voluntarily agreed to integrate the schools. On September 3, 1957, Governor Orval Faubus, ordered the National Guard to surround Central High School to prevent and

block the students from entering the school. President Eisenhower had to order the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division into Little Rock to insure the safety of the nine teens. The Little Rock Nine became an integral part of the fight for equality in American education as the move by Eisenhower, a known segregationist, upheld the ruling of the Supreme Court. The Little Rock Nine was a test of the Supreme Court ruling, and what happened there provoked an intense debate nationally and marked all that would be in store for our country in the years to come.

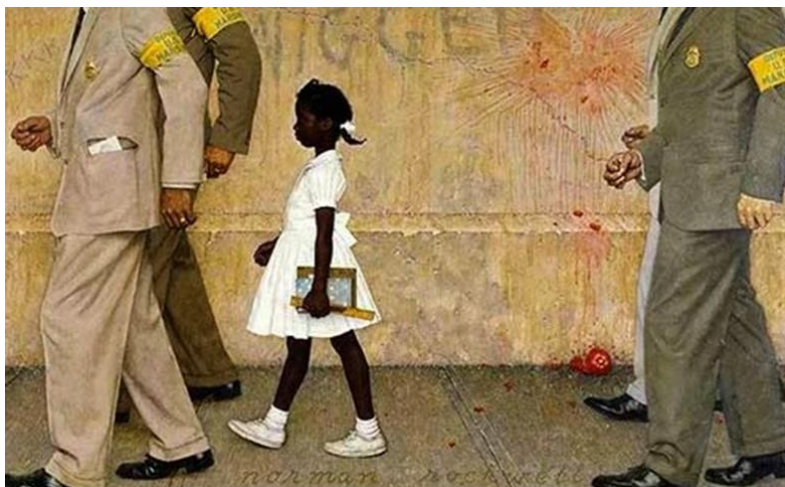
Ernest Green, one of the nine, graduated the following year. He was followed by Carlotta Walls Lanier in 1959. The third graduate was Jefferson Thomas. He served in Vietnam and was an accountant for the Defense Department. He died in 2010. The names of the other nine include: Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Patilo, Terrence Roberts and Gloria Ray Karlmark. In interviews over the years the students characterized their time at Central as going to war every day. They were jeered at, spat on and generally bullied by white students and faculty alike.

Another heroic name in the effort to desegregate Southern white schools is Ruby Bridges. She was only six years old when she was accompanied by her mother and four federal marshals to a white elementary school in New Orleans. Prior to that, she attended a segregated New Orleans kindergarten; a year later a federal court ordered Louisiana to desegregate the New Orleans school district. The district created a series of entrance exams for African American children to take to see if they could compete with white students academically in an all white school. Her parents understood the importance of this opportunity and encouraged Ruby every step of the way. Ruby was one of four Black children who passed the exam and was then chosen to integrate the all-white William Frantz Elementary School.

They were accompanied by marshals to school and the other three went to a different school. Ruby persevered and every day she walked through the angry crowds who were shouting at her, bullying her and throwing rocks and trash at her. None of the teachers at the school wanted her in their classroom as they didn't want to teach a black student and the other students were afraid of her. The school had to import a white teacher from the North to teach her, Barbara Henry, who was amazed by her poise at such a young age and also by her sense of purpose.

Ruby Bridges is still alive and is the mother of four sons and lives in New Orleans. She established a foundation in 1994 called the Ruby Bridges Educational Foundation to encourage parental involvement in schools. In 1995 she received an honorary degree from Connecticut College. She volunteers in the New Orleans school system as a parent liaison.

Bridges' school experience became the subject of the famous 1964 painting by Norman Rockwell entitled *The Problem We All Live With*. It depicts her walking with four federal marshals on her way to school. President Barack Obama invited her to the White House in 2011 to view the painting and commented that if it wasn't for her and the other brave young Black children breaking the color barriers in education "it is fair to say I wouldn't be here today."



The desire to learn and the value of education was a huge motivator to both free and enslaved individuals. The early, cobbled together school rooms flourished with activity and opportunity for slaves of all ages. Children, mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers would all sit together eager to learn as they knew it would lead to a better life; the core belief of the African American culture at that time was that there is a transformative power of education. And we have learned in our Black History articles about individuals achieving their hopes and dreams, against all odds through education. Equal access to quality education remains today an unfinished piece of business of our racial reconciliation.

*Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember you have within you the strengths, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. – Harriet Tubman*

Lay Ministry Schedule  
September 2021

	September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26
	15 <sup>th</sup> Pentecost	16 <sup>th</sup> Pentecost	17 <sup>th</sup> Pentecost	18 <sup>h</sup> Pentecost
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer
<b>Clergy</b>	Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller		Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller	
<b>Deacon/LWL</b>	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
				Karen Halpert
<b>LECTOR/ RESPONDER</b>	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Marie Ritchie
<b>PRAYERS</b>	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Candy Casciano	Marie Ritchie	Marie Ritchie	Kathy Shoemaker
	Pat Rogorzenski	Jane Stewart	Jane Stewart	Nancy DiPrato
<b>COUNTERS</b>				