

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



SUMMER EDITION

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH	3	4 
5 5 th Sunday after Pentecost	6	7 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR	8	9 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH	10	11
12 6 th Sunday after Pentecost	13	14 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR	15	16 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH	17	18
19 7 th Sunday after Pentecost	20	21 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR	22	23 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH	24	25 Tag Sale Rental Spaces - 8am - 2pm
26 8 th Sunday after Pentecost	27	28 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR	29	30	31	

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9 th Sunday after Pentecost	3	4 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	5	6 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH	7	8
9 10 th Sunday after Pentecost	10	11 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	12	13 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH	14	15
16 11 th Sunday after Pentecost	17	18 9:30 – 11:30 Mason Jar Painting in the Garden 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	19 6	20	21	22
23 12 th Sunday after Pentecost	24	25 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH,	26	27 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH	28	29 Tag Sale 8 am – 2 pm

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



Pace of Grace

Summer 2020

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

Dear Parishioners of Grace Church:

Reverend Valerie Miller will tentatively lead our congregational service (Eucharist or Morning Prayer) on July 19th.

The cushions, prayer books and hymnals have been removed from the pews. Every other row of pews has been blocked off. We are considering Communion and there will be no coffee hour.

Repair of the parking lot - Our paving contractor has begun to repair our driveway & parking lot. It will be completed in several stages throughout the summer. We will be able to use the parking lot during some of this time. Areas will be clearly marked if they are unusable.

The Vestry has been faithfully calling all parishioners to "check in." If you have not received a call, please contact the Wardens.

Faithfully,

Your Wardens, JoAnn & Walt



Dear Companions in Christ:

Grace to you and peace in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The State of Connecticut anticipates a Phase 3 reopening in early July as we continue to live in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are aware that parishes are beginning to experiment with some form of in-person worship as we move through the phases of the reopening of our state.

And so, we write with an update to our May 20, 2020, communication “Living with COVID19: Protocols and Direction for Clergy and Vestries in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.”

Since mid-February, parishes in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut have been diligent in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 by suspending in-person worship and the distribution of Communion. This suspension was necessary in order to “love our neighbors as ourselves” by not physically gathering together in churches or receiving the bread and wine from the common cup. During this time, we have come to a deeper understanding of what it means to be the worshipping body of Christ by tapping into our theological imagination and embracing many different forms of online worship. Even as we adapted to the realities of living with COVID-19, our church and nation have been called to wrestle deeply with the sins of racism, white supremacy, and anti-Black bias in new and profound ways. And yet, in the midst of these twin pandemics of COVID-19 and racism, we have longed to receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist with reception of Communion in our church buildings.

As we move into Phase 3 of the reopening of Connecticut, we continue to support parishes that choose not to offer in-person worship during Phase 3. This conservative and careful approach that prioritizes the most vulnerable among us is the most compassionate and caring response we can make to COVID-19.

If, in Phase 3, you begin to have in-person worship, we encourage you to refer to the protocols and guidelines that we promulgated in our May “Living with COVID-19” communication with this exception: the number of people worshipping indoors may be increased to $\frac{1}{4}$ of your church’s occupancy with a limit of 100, whichever is smaller; and 150 people for outside worship. Here we want to underscore that epidemiologists conclude that indoor gatherings are much riskier with respect to spreading COVID-19 than outdoor gatherings.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. Acts 4:32-33

BRAND POSITIONING AND TARGET MARKETS

We thus stress that if you are going to offer in-person worship in Phase 3, we highly recommend

outdoor worship as preferable to indoor worship. Further, in Phase 3 we urge you to offer the liturgies of Spiritual Communion, Morning Prayer, Ante Communion, and other services that do not distribute Communion, waiting on the distribution of Communion until Connecticut is in Phase 4 of reopening. We write now to provide you with protocols and directions with respect to the Eucharist, including the receiving of Communion. We offer these protocols and directions at this time to help you begin to prepare for Phase 4, and also so that we have a set of common expectations and guidelines for parishes that are considering the receiving of Communion in Phase 3.

We understand that the decision regarding the timing of the return to in-person worship and the nature of offering the Eucharist is that of the parish Rector or Priest-in-Charge, (or Wardens when the parish does not have a priest) in consultation with lay leadership and under the direction of the Bishops. We give thanks for the collegial and relational manner in which you are approaching decisions regarding in-person worship and we thank God for your incredible and faithful leadership in these difficult times. You might find it useful as you begin in-person worship again to offer a “covenant” for members of your parish seeking to come back to the church building for worship.

We thank you for your faithful participation in God’s mission in the world. These are challenging times and our embrace of God’s love and sharing that love in word and action continues to be an important part of our calling. Please know of our prayers and support for all of you as we step into Phase 3. Reach out to us if you have any questions, or ask your clergy or wardens to bring their questions to the Wednesday morning call with the bishops.

As we pursue our life together as ECCT in this time of COVID-19, let us be of one heart and soul, offering both our online and in-person worship in common, so that we can give our testimony to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus and be filled with God’s grace.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas
The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens
Bishop Diocesan Bishop Suffragan



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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Independence Day July 4	Deuteronomy 10:17-21	Psalm 145	Hebrews 11:8-16	
5 th Pentecost July 5	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Psalm 45:11-18	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
6 th Pentecost July 12	Genesis 25:19-34	Psalm 119:105-112	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
7 th Pentecost July 19	Genesis 28:10-19a	Psalm 1-11, 22-23	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
St. Mary Magdalene July 22	Judith 9:1, 11-14	Psalm 42 1-7	2 Corinthians 5:14-18	John 20:11-18
St. James the Apostle July 25	Jeremiah 45:1-5	Psalm 7:1-10	Acts 11:27-12:3	Matthew 20:20-28
8 th Pentecost July 26	Genesis 29:15-28	Psalm 105:1-11, 45b	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
9 th Pentecost August 2	Genesis 32:22-31	Psalm 17:1-7, 16	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
The Transfiguration	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	2 Peter 1:13-21	Luke 9:28-36
10 th Pentecost August 9	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
St. Mary the Virgin August 15	Isaiah 61:10-11	Psalm 34	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 1:46-55
11 th Pentecost August 16	Genesis 45:1-15	Psalm 133	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15 [10-20], 21-28
12 th Pentecost August 23	Exodus 1:8-2:10	Psalm 124	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
St. Bartholomew August 24	Deuteronomy 18:15-18	Psalm 91	1 Corinthians 4:9-15	Luke 22:24-30
13 th Pentecost August 30	Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26-45c	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28



Greetings and Salutations!

This is a bit different for me as I am writing my ramblings to go out in the Pace of Grace. I hope I don't get confused. I wonder what the "pace" of Grace is right now. I bet it is not what we thought it might be. I know the wardens are writing to let us all know what is going on at our church. This is summer time when our own pace usually slows down or changes direction.

However, since the turtle has already been leading the race, I don't think most of us can slow down much more. We might be able to change direction if we are very cautious and also stay away from certain states. We can still practice staying safe in our activities that hopefully keep us well. We can still keep praying for ourselves and others. We can enjoy the beauty of God in all that surrounds us. Maybe soon we will enjoy the beauty of each other.

We are in the midst of many struggles as the 4th of July approaches us this Saturday. We want to celebrate our Declaration of Independence but these times are not the same for many reasons. We are a great nation, but there is much work to do in and for this nation. But we are not always sure what to do. I suggest that we read the last lines of the upcoming Gospel lesson: Matthew 11:25-30 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Let Jesus guide us in our ways. We must go forth in His love and name with mercy and justice for all.

Our bishops have asked that we place a #blacklivesmatter sign at our church on July 4th as part of our resolution in 2018 to work towards Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation. There is also going to be a brief online service at 9 am on July 4th.

I will continue to write on Thursdays until we start worshipping at Grace. If anyone has a topic they would like to write about or ask me to talk about, please let me know. We all need to feel able to share with one another as Christian sisters and brothers.

I am including a couple of articles that Melissa sent to me. There is one that has an author and one that does not have an author. These are for us to pray about and maybe discuss with someone or say no way. I do not know who wrote the following...

"Can't be made more clear in the simplest terms: 400 years ago white people brought black people over here and enslaved them. And sold them. And treated them as less than human. For 250 years. While white men built the country and created its laws and systems of government. While 10, 15 generations of white families got to grow and flourish and make choices that could make their lives better. And then 150 years ago white people "freed" black people from slavery. But then angry white people created laws that made it impossible for them to vote, or to own land, or to have the same rights as white people.

And even erected monuments glorifying people who actively had fought to keep them enslaved. All while another 5, 10 generations of white families got to grow and accumulate wealth and gain land and get an education. And then 60 years ago we made it “legal” for black people to vote, and to be ‘free’ from discrimination. But angry white people still fought to keep schools segregated. And closed off neighborhoods to white people only. And made it harder for black people to get bank loans, or get quality education or health care or to (gasp) marry a white person. All while another 2-3 generations of white families got to grow and pass their wealth down to their children and their children’s children. And then we entered an age where we had the technology to make PUBLIC the things that were already happening in private--the beatings, the stop and frisk laws, the unequal distribution of justice, the police brutality (police began in America as slave patrols designed to catch runaway slaves). And only now after 400+ years and 20+ generations of a white head start, are we STARTING to truly have a dialog about what it means to be black. White privilege doesn’t mean you haven’t suffered or fought or worked hard. It doesn’t mean white people are responsible for the sins of our ancestors. It doesn’t mean you can’t be proud of who you are. But it DOES mean that we need to acknowledge that the system our ancestors created is built FOR white people. It DOES mean that we aren’t disadvantaged because of the color of our skin and it DOES mean that we owe it to our neighbors-of all colors-to acknowledge that and work to make our world more equitable.

BLACK LIVES MATTER”

Stay safe- Stay well- Stay connected
Peace & Joy
cj



7/10 Nancy Beilman
7/11 Nancy DiPrato
7/15 Sandra Lund
7/18 Shirley Crosswaith
7/19 Camden Tatsapaugh
7/24 Candace Casciano
7/24 Gary St. Amand
7/31 Nicholas Casciano



7/14 Laura and William Lynch



8/4 Valerie Dumont
8/15 Norine Barr
8/15 Elizabeth St. Amand
8/25 Martin Dumont
8/29 Laura Lynch



08/09 Mark and Kathy Shoemaker
08/28 Karen and Frank Halpert



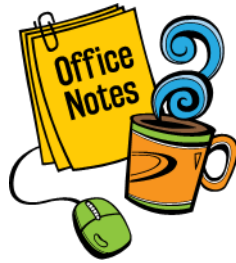
Book Club: The next Book Club meeting will be held on Saturday, September 12 in the Library from 2-4 pm. The book will be *The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter* by Hazel Gaynor.

Melissa Haseley



Happy Fourth of July!!!

The deadline for the September Pace of Grace is Monday, August 17. 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.



Debbie Forrest



We really need you to keep up with your pledges. Although services are not being held at this time, many of the Church's expenses continue. Also, the 2020 Budget included a shortage of more than \$20,000. Please mail your pledges and any other contributions to the Church. As always, if using Blue envelopes for special contributions be sure to indicate by checking a box or filling in the OTHER line the purpose of the contribution. If you do not have envelopes, please mail a check with your name printed on it or attach a note with your name. Mail to: Grace Church 124 Maple Hill Avenue Newington CT 06111

CONTACT information



Email is most commonly used to communicate with our parishioners. While this is cheaper and faster than US Mail, we realize some of you do not have access to or read email on a regular basis. If you prefer US mail as your primary method of communication, please call the Church Office at 860-666-3331 and let us know you prefer the mail. Also, for those of you who get, or would like to get, email, please make sure we have your current email address.

QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: JUNE 30, 2020



	<u>JUNE OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2020 BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 7,324	\$ 34,009	\$ 39,652	\$ 79,304
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 13,424	\$ 49,883	\$ 56,588	\$ 118,534
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 5,790)	(\$ 47,319)	(\$ 68,827)	(\$ 140,342)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	\$ 7,634	\$ 2,564	(\$ 12,239)	(\$ 21,808)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 25,029		<i>End 2019 Checkbook:</i>	\$ 22,206



Creative Energy Team
Summer 2020

Hello Everyone,

I am hoping this summer finds you safe, staying healthy, wearing your mask and washing your hands frequently. Something we all must do to stay well. Lynn and I have made some tentative dates for upcoming fundraisers and fun activities for fellowship. We will let you know as the time gets close what we are able to do.

FUNDRAISERS -

TAG SALES -

1 - Our Tag Sale will be Saturday, August 29th from 8am - 2pm

We will be working in the two weeks ahead time frame sorting and pricing.

Face Masks will be required and gloves will be provided.

Set up will start at 7am. We will need helpers in the early morning, throughout the day and at the end of the tag sale.

We are collecting items now for the tag sale and we are also collecting clothing to sell at the tag sale and for our clothing drive. Please leave items in the Nursery or the Mary & Joseph room. Clothing can be left in the gathering room which is next to the Chapel.

2 - Space rental on Front lawn for Tag Sale.

Saturday, July 25th 8 am – 2 pm

Saturday, September 12th 8 am - 2pm

We will have two other dates where people will be able to rent table space on the front lawn or on the street side of the parking lot. The rental fee is \$15.00 for everyone. You will be allowed a 10ft x10ft space for \$15.00. You must bring your own tables to participate. Creative Energy Team will have a small booth. We will need a few people to help at the Creative Energy Team table, with the bathroom and parking. There will be no food or drink served.

Clothing Drive - Tuesday, October 6th at 4pm.

We will start loading the truck at 2:30pm. Any and all help is appreciated. All items listed below can be placed in clean garbage bags and placed in the Gathering room next to the Chapel. Our clothing drive is thru Savers of Newington. They accept gently-used clothing, linens, jewelry, shoes, accessories - such as belts and purses, and small household goods.

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

We are prepping for the Chocolate Festival. We are not having any meetings yet but if anyone wants to do something at home please contact Valerie Dumont at 860-690-0727. We have a few things we are working on.



Fun Fellowship Activities for Friends & Family of Grace Church

Lynn and I thought something outside on our front or back patio in the shade would be a fun get together.

“Be the Light” Mason Jar painting -

Tuesday, August 18th 9:30am - 11:30am

Cost is \$10.00 and includes all supplies

Sign-up sheet in the narthex

It is payable to Valerie Dumont or Lynn Page

Sign up and pay by Sunday, July 19th.

Please contact one of us if you are interested or have any questions.

Our first planned activity is painting a wood cutout. It is a quality piece of laser cut birch wood that we can paint. Lynn and I chose a mason jar with the saying “Be the light” on it. It is 19” tall. It also has cute summertime fireflies painted on it. It is something easy for everyone to do. The cost is \$10.00 each and includes all supplies. There will be a variety of paint colors if you wish to change the background. You will be required to wear a mask and you will be socially distanced when painting. If you are able to bring your own tray table or card table to paint on so we can more easily social distance that would be great. There will be some basic instructions. If we have more interest than the space we have then we can add another date and different time. There are also many other designs we can try. They are affordable and easy to paint. Contact Lynn Page at 860-667-1835 or Valerie Dumont text or call at 860-690-0727.

We are still 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 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.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Church soon.

Valerie Dumont