

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111
Phone: 860-666-3331;
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The Rev. David C. Parachini, Missional Priest
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
Father David: eakp@aol.com

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

PACE OF GRACE





DECEMBER 2017

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7:00 PM Silent Auction and Concert – Parish Hall
3 1st Sunday of Advent Bishop Ian Douglas Parish Visit- 60 th Celebration of Consecration of the Nave 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	4 12:00 PM – Hi Noon 6:00 PM Cub Scouts - PH	5 8:30 AM Morning Prayer – C 8:30 AM Employment Group MMR 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	6 6:00 PM Drop the Rock – L	7 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal MMR 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR,	8	9
10 2 nd Sunday of Advent 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	11 6:00 PM Cub Scouts - PH	12 8:30 AM Morning Prayer – C 8:30 AM Employment Group MMR 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting - MMR 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	13 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 6:00 PM Drop the Rock – L	14 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal MMR 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	15	16
17 3 rd Sunday of Advent 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	18 6:00 PM Cub Scouts – PH	19 8:30 AM Morning Prayer – C 8:30 AM Employment Group MMR 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	20 6:00 PM Drop the Rock – L 6:30 PM Pastoral Care Committee Meeting - MMR	21 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal MMR 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	22	23
24 4 th Sunday of Advent 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Eucharist 	26 8:30 AM Morning Prayer – C 8:30 AM Employment Group MMR 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	27 6:00 PM Drop the Rock – L	28 9:30 AM Tai Chi - 1:00 PM Blood Drive – PH 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal MMR 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	29	30
31 1 st Sunday after Christmas 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist Ceruti Baptism						

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



Pace of Grace

December 2017

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



Dear Grace Church Family,

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7

God sent Jesus to save us because we also are His children. Advent is a special time to remember this special gift from God our Father. We can share His gift, loving and sharing with all our brothers and sisters all the gifts He has given us, especially to those less fortunate than us.

Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!

Blessed Christmas to all!



JoAnn Cromwell
Senior Warden



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

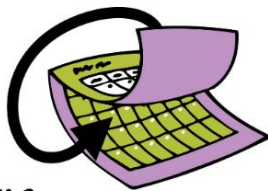
	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2017	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2017	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2017	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126 or Canticle 3 or Canticle 15	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
St. Thomas December 21, 2017	Habakkuk 2:1-4	Psalm 126	Hebrews 10:35-11:1	John 20:24-29
Nativity of the Lord - Proper I December 24 & 25, 2017	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
Nativity of the Lord - Proper II December 24 & 25, 2017	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2 (1-7), 8-20
Nativity of the Lord - Proper III December 24 & 25, 2017	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)	John 1:1-14
St. John December 27, 2017	Exodus 33:18-23	Psalm 92 or 92:1-4, 11-14	1 John 1:1-9	John 21:19b-24
The Holy Innocents December 28, 2017	Jeremiah 31:15-17	Revelation 21:1-7	Matthew 2:13-18	
First Sunday after Christmas December 31, 2017	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 147	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18



12/01 Kathy Johnson
 12/12 Paul Bailey
 12/12 Steven Tatsapaugh
 12/14 Brandon Johnson



12/27 Donald and Charlotte Buckingham



Save the Date

December 2nd: Silent Auction and Sing-Along
 December 3rd: Bishop Visit and 60th Anniversary of Consecration Of the Nave
 December 4th: Hi Noon
 December 12th: Vestry Meeting
 December 20th: Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
 December 24th: 4th Advent Eucharist 9 am
 December 24th: Christmas Eve Service at Our Savior's 4 pm
 December 24th: Christmas Eve Service at Grace 5 pm
 December 25th: Christmas Day Service 10 am



HI-NOON - A group of "Young at Heart" Church friends meets monthly (except August) for lunch and activities in the Parish Hall and short excursions. All are welcome!

December 4, Monday - Christmas Party – Lunch provided, Donation for meal

2018

January 8, Monday - Fun and games in Parish Hall, Bring bag lunch and snacks to share.
February 5, Monday - Movie Matinee, Bring bag lunch and movie snacks to share. Movie to be announced.
March - Restaurant Adventure (Place & Date TBD)
April – Prudence Crandall Center Tour, New Britain - Following bag lunch in Parish Hall, car pool to Center. (Date TBD)
May – Quinnipiac Valley Alpaca Farm will bring an alpaca to our meeting. (Date TBD)
June 4, Monday – Picnic in Parish Hall. Meal provided – volunteers for salads/desserts. Donation for meal.
 July (dated TBD) Lobster Roll Dockside in Clinton & Hammonasset Park.



December 24, 9:00 am 4th Advent Service
 December 24, 4:00 pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1655 Main Street, Newington
 December 24, 5:00 pm, Grace Episcopal Church
 December 25, 10:00 AM: Christmas Service at Grace Episcopal Church





13TH ANNUAL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

This is our 13th Annual Blood Drive. It will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday, December 28, 2017, from 1:00 PM until 6:00 PM.

It is our privilege to offer our Parish Hall for this Blood Drive and work closely with the local Red Cross. This is a simple way to serve our local community and allow us to be involved.

Volunteers are needed for the registration and refreshment tables. Let me know if you can help out any time between 1 PM and 6:30 PM, in 3 hour shifts.

If you are a current blood donor, the Red Cross will contact you to set an appointment. To become a new donor, contact JoAnn Cromwell (860-667-0030) to reserve a time.

To donate baked goods for our blood drive refreshment table, please mark them and leave in the kitchen or on The Narthex shelf.

Thank you,
JoAnn Cromwell, Blood Drive Coordinator



Footwear with Care Boot Party: Help the North Central Region serve 600 homeless and disenfranchised people in the Great Hartford area at Hartford City Hall on December 9th by providing 20 personal care packages with travel size essentials. Each parish's contribution will help the North Central Region serve 600 people on December 9, 2107. Each package should consist of: toothbrush and toothpaste, antiperspirant, shampoo, soap, hand/body lotion, and Gold Bond Foot Powder. Packages can be dropped off at the Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06109 Monday-Thursday from 9 am to 12 noon prior to December 9th. They are also looking for 20-30 volunteers for December 9th from 9-11 am, 11 am – 1 pm, or 9 am – 1 pm. No experience is necessary;

everyone will be trained. For more information, please see or call CJ. 860-833-0750 or cicj48@comcast.net



Thank you for making a contribution to the Food Bank as part of our food in-gathering. Please continue to support the Food Bank throughout December. Many of the kinds of foods you brought for Thanksgiving are perfect for the December Holidays.

Shirley Adams



The Altar Guild had the 2 Brass Vases refinished and they were dedicated by Bishop Douglas in the name of Walt Block.

The Altar Guild will be cleaning and decorating for Christmas on Sunday December 17th after the 9 am service. We will need some men to help with the heavy items.

There are slips in the Narthex for Christmas flowers. Please fill out and turn in by Dec 17th so the names can appear in the bulletin. Thank you.

Thank you to all the members of the Altar Guild for all your hard work this year. All of you work well together in this important Ministry. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Liz Welk



Weather Closing

Cancellation of services due to weather will be posted on NBC Connecticut (channel 30) and WFSB (channel 3) and on their websites



Creative Energy Team
December 2017

Fall Festival 2017

The Fall Festival of 2017 was a huge success this year. We designed new flyers that were very eye catching. The Team utilized social media to attract the vendors and to advertise our event. It worked to our advantage. We were able to increase the number of vendors and had to turn some people away because we were full. We had 46 vendors who all seemed very happy this year. There were many new vendors and some repeat ones. Some vendors took up 3-4 spaces this year too. All of the vendors had a nice variety of crafts and direct sales items to sell. We were even able to get the Alpaca lady to come in spring of 2018 to show and talk about her beautiful alpacas to the High Noon group.

Grace's Cafe was sold out by the end of the day!! We made and sold over ten gallons of chili. A new record for us! The Creative Energy Team implemented a "To Go" menu that offered free delivery for lunch to our vendors. It was very popular. This is something we will do again. Thank you to Marty Dumont, Mari Merwin, Shirley Adams, and CJ Puskarz for running the kitchen this year. Thank you to Elissa Schuman for being our cashier. It all ran smoothly without any problems! Thank you to our delivery waitresses of the "To Go" menu - Chelsea Belyea, Jesse Lynch, Michelle Dumont & Colleen Skeehan. Another new idea this year that was very popular was the complimentary coffee, tea and free water table. We received many compliments and thank yous for this new idea! Thank you to Walt Parker for keeping the coffee pots full and the water ice cold all day.

Grace Filled Creations table also did well in its new location. We had several tables filled with items to sell. There were many new crafts for sale this year that sold. Thank you to Lorraine Belyea and Nancy Diprato for setting up, selling and packing up our booth this year. And thank you to our helpers - Karen Halpert and Phyllis Backofen.

The Bake Sale & Sweet Treats table was a sell out again. What little was left we sold the next morning. Thank you to all who baked. It looked delicious. Thank

you to Barbara Johnson and Jeanne Parker for being in charge of this table. Thank you to Norine Barr for helping out at this table again.

Thank you to Jane Stewart and Laura Lynch who were my runners that day to take care of all the little popup issues or to help the vendors. Thank you to Marty Dumont for all your help being the "go to" guy and helping with so many details. It was a big help knowing I had knowledgeable, confident people to help me. Thank you to Nancy Beilman, Marianne Doolittle and Bette Forcash for helping upstairs all day. I appreciate all that you did. And a huge thank you to Mark Shoemaker for help planning our space, setting up and taking down. We couldn't have done it without you!! Thank you to Robert Belyea, Paul Crosswaith and Brandon Johnson for helping too.

Also a huge thank you to the Creative Energy Team for all your help with the Fall Festival of 2017. It was very successful this year. We doubled our profits, increased our vendor participation and had many new guests coming to see us! We increased our advertising by using as much "free" in print space as we could. Our members are Lynn Page, co-Chair, Lorraine Belyea, our mentor, Melissa Haseley our publicity and advertiser, Mari Merwin, Jane Stewart and Laura Lynch.

See you all at the Fall Festival 2018!!

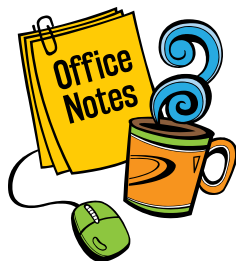
Silent Auction and Holiday Sing-a-long

What a great evening we shared listening to beautiful music and enjoying the Christmas season. For our first time doing this, it was huge success!!! The music was really exceptional! The addition of Christmas music to sing-a-long with helped put us all in the holiday spirit too!

The Silent Auction was successful with every basket having multiple bids. We were very successful in the amount raised too. We also had a "Wine by the Glass" that did very well overall. We even decided to keep the table open all night. Many people enjoyed having some beautiful music and some wine to enjoy. At the conclusion of the concert we had a Sweet Treats area with some delicious desserts this year. Many dessert items were from David Glass. A true artist in the dessert world! There also were some yummy homemade sweet treats. They all looked delectable. Thank you to Mei-Tsen Chen for your beautiful selection of guest artists and your selection of music! We are truly blessed to have you! It was a beautiful evening of music. Enjoyed by all.

Thank you to all who made this evening successful!! By helping in any way small or large, by baking, by bidding on a basket or for just for being a guest! Thank you to the Creative Energy Team - Valerie Dumont, Lynn Page, Lorraine Belyea, Melissa Haseley, Laura Lynch, Jane Stewart & Mari Merwin. Also thank you to Mark & Kathy Shoemaker for donating the David Glass desserts and for all your help this past week with setup. Thank you to Laura Lynch for setting up the "Wine by the Glass" table. Thank you to Marty Dumont, Michelle Dumont & James Dumont for serving the wine. Thank you to Walt Parker for doing coffee again. You are a true coffee master! Thank you to all who helped fill our baskets! It was very helpful. And lastly thank you to everyone that helped in any way. It is truly appreciated!! I do believe this will be an event that will continue in the future. We are already thinking of what we can do.

Valerie Dumont

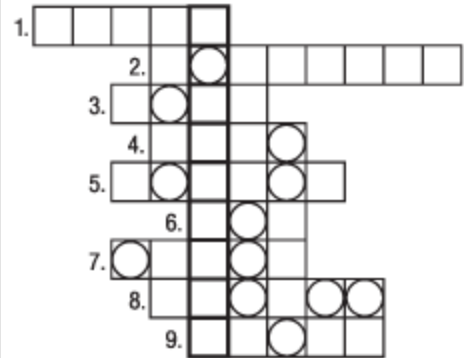


- ✎ Deadline for January *Pace of Grace* - **Wednesday, December 27th**. Please make every effort to meet this deadline to allow us to distribute the issue promptly.
- ✎ We normally prepare the bulletin on Thursday. All items to be included in the calendar insert should be received by Wednesday evening.
- ✎ Normal Office hours are Monday 11-4, Tuesday 1-5 and Thursday 11-5.
- ✎ The office will be closed on Monday, December 25th, Christmas Day

Debbie Forrest

Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the word from the boldface vertical column. Also unscramble the circled letters to reveal a seasonal phrase.



1. Carolers and instrumentalists make this
2. What happens at malls
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to her
4. You'll find this under a Christmas tree
5. He was a carpenter
6. Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem
7. The "ship of the desert"
8. Cattle eat out of this
9. Shepherds tend this

Bold word: _____

Seasonal phrase: _____

Answers: music, shopping, Mary, gift, Joseph, tax, camel, manger, sheep, Christmas, peace on earth



	December 3, 2017	December 10, 2017	December 17, 2017	December 24, 2017	December 31, 2017
	1 Advent	2 Advent	3 Advent	4 Advent	1 after Christmas
LECTOR	JoAnn Cromwell	Shirley Adams	Paul Crosswaith	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert
MINISTER OF COMMUNION	JoAnn Cromwell	Liz Welk	Shirley Adams	Lynn Page	Karen Halpert
CRUCIFER	Karen Halpert	Jane Stewart	Elizabeth Welk	Karen Halpert	Jane Stewart
PRAYERS	Mabel Maynard	Nancy Tatsapaugh	Beverley Manning	Karen Halpert	Paul Crosswaith
USHERS	Bob MacCalmont Charlie Albrycht	Brandon & Kathy Johnson	Nancy Beilman Marianne Doolittle	Mark & Kathy Shoemaker	Nancy DiPrato Lorraine Belyea
FELLOWSHIP					
NRRRC-10:30am		Beverley Manning		JoAnn Cromwell	
HTFD REGIONAL				JoAnn Cromwell	
CTR-12n					
ALTAR GUILD	Kathy Shoemaker Marie Ritchie Jane Stewart	Kathy Shoemaker Marie Ritchie Jane Stewart	Elizabeth Welk Nancy DiPrato Candy Casciano Elissa Schumann	Elizabeth Welk Nancy DiPrato Candy Casciano Elissa Schumann	Pat Rogorzenski Kathy Shoemaker Barbara Johnson
COUNTERS	JoAnn Cromwell Nancy DiPrato	Melissa Haseley Lorraine Belyea	Walt Parker Paul Crosswaith	JoAnn Cromwell Bette Forcash	Beverley Manning Nancy DiPrato

