

Grace Episcopal Church  
124 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111  
Phone: 860-666-3331;  
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The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon  
Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist and Choir Director  
Debbie Forrest, Office Manager  
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Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9am  
Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30am



# ***PACE OF GRACE***



Grace Episcopal Church  
124 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111



# December

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday   |
|--|---|--|---|--|--------|--|
|  |   |  |   |  |        | 1<br>5:00 pm Holiday Sing-A-Long and Silent Auction<br> |
| 2 First Advent<br>8:20 am Choir Rehearsal<br>9:00 am Holy Eucharist                  | 3<br>12 pm Hi-Noon Christmas Party<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH | 4<br>8:30 am Morning Prayer - C<br>8:30 am Employment Group - MMR<br>7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR  | 5<br>6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L                            | 6<br>9:30 am Tai Chi - PH<br>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - MMR<br>7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L  | 7      | 8  |
| 9 Second Advent<br>8:20 am Choir Rehearsal<br>9:00 am Holy Eucharist                 | 10<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH                                 | 11<br>8:30 am Morning Prayer - C<br>8:30 pm Employment Group MMR<br>6:00 pm Vestry Meeting - MMR<br>7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR                                   | 12<br>6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L<br>8:30 am Chili Prep - K | 13<br>9:30 am Tai Chi - PH<br>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - MMR<br>7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L | 14     | 15   |
| 16 Third advent<br>8:20 am Choir Rehearsal<br>9:00 am Morning Prayer                 | 17<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH                                 | 18<br>8:30 am Morning Prayer - C<br>8:30 am Employment Group MMR<br>7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR   | 19<br>6:00 pm Drop the Rock - PH                          | 20<br>9:30 am Tai Chi - PH<br>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - MMR<br>7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L | 21     | 22   |
| 23 Fourth Advent<br>8:20 am Choir Rehearsal<br>9:00 am Holy Eucharist                | 24 Eve of the Nativity<br>5:00 pm Holy Eucharist              | 25 <b>THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</b><br>9:00 am Holy Eucharist<br> | 26<br>6:00 pm Drop the Rock - PH                          | 27<br>9:30 am Tai Chi - PH<br>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - MMR<br>7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L | 28     | 29<br>  |
| 30 First Sunday after Christmas<br>8:20 am Choir Rehearsal<br>9:00 am Holy Eucharist | 31  |  |   |  |        |  |

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



# *Pace of Grace*

## *December 2018*

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we sing in Hymn #66:

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free,  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the birth of Christ. There are many devotionals available, in the Narthex and hallway, to help us through this Advent Season.

Come join together with family and friends, to celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve at 5PM and/or Christmas Day at 9AM.

If you need a ride to either service, please contact Walt or JoAnn, by December 22<sup>nd</sup>, to arrange for transportation.

For your convenience there are other Episcopal Church services in the area:

Trinity Church, 300 Main St., Wethersfield – Christmas Eve, 4 PM, Christmas Day, 10 AM

St. Mark's, 147 West Main St., New Britain – Christmas Eve, 4 PM and 9 PM, Christmas Day, 10 AM

St. Gabriel's, 68 Main St., East Berlin – Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day

St. James', 1018 Farmington Ave., West Hartford – Christmas Eve, 5 PM, Pageant and 10:30 Eucharist and Christmas Day 10 AM with Carols

St. John's, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford – Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

St. John's, 851 Stafford Ave., Bristol - Christmas Eve, 3 PM, no Christmas Day

Faithfully,

JoAnn and Walt





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

|  | First reading          | Psalm                     | Second Reading         | Gospel               |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| First Sunday of Advent<br>December 2, 2018                 | Jeremiah 33:14-16      | Psalm 25: 1-0             | 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 | Luke 21:25-36        |
| Second Sunday of Advent<br>December 9, 2018                | Baruch 5:1-0           | Canticle 4 or Canticle 16 | Philippians 1:3-11     | Luke 3:1-6           |
| Third Sunday of Advent<br>December 16, 2018                | Zephaniah 3:14-20      | Canticle 9                | Philippians 4:4-7      | Luke 3:7-18          |
| St. Thomas<br>December 21, 2018                            | Habakkuk 2:1-4         | Psalm 126                 | Hebrews 10:35-11:1     | John 20:24-29        |
| Fourth Sunday of Advent<br>December 23, 2018               | Micah 5:2-5a           | Canticle 3 or Canticle 15 | Hebrews 10:5-10        | Luke 1:39-45 (46-55) |
| Christmas Eve<br>Nativity of the Lord<br>December 24, 2018 | Isaiah 9:2-7           | Psalm 96                  | Titus 2:11-14          | Luke 2:1-14, (15-20) |
| Christmas Day<br>Nativity of the Lord<br>December 25, 2018 | Isaiah 62:6-12         | Psalm 97                  | Titus 3:4-7            | Luke 2 (1-7), 8-20   |
| St. Stephen<br>December 26, 2018                           | Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15 | Psalm 31                  | Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51c-60  | Matthew 23:34-39     |
| St. John<br>December 27, 2018                              | Exodus 33:18-23        | Psalm 92                  | 1 John 1:1-9           | John 21:19b-24       |
| The Holy Innocents<br>December 28, 2018                    | Jeremiah 31:15-17      | Psalm 124                 | Revelation 21:1-7      | Matthew 2:13-18      |
| First Sunday after Christmas<br>December 30, 2018          | Isaiah 61:10-62:3      | Psalm 147                 | Galatians 3:23-25      | 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



**SENIORS ON THE GO** HI-NOON - A group of "Young at Heart" Church friends meets monthly (except August) for lunch and activities in the Parish Hall and/or short excursions. Once again the group had an enjoyable October outing to Gouveia vineyards in Wallingford. While a light rain muted the view of the vineyards and hills that were just starting to show fall foliage, the spirits were high inside the winery.

**Monday, December 3 - Annual Christmas Party.**

Lunch will be provided with holiday merriment following. Noon in the Parish Hall.

**January 7, 2019** - Fun and Games in Parish Hall

**February 4\*** - Movie Matinee in Parish Hall

**March 4\*** - Epicurean Adventure - Restaurant to be announced,

**April 1 and May 6** - Activity to be announced,

**June 3** - Picnic--Parish Hall and Patio



*Save the Date*

December 1 Silent Auction and Holiday Sing-a-Long  
 December 3 Hi Noon Christmas Party  
 December 11 Vestry Meeting  
 December 24 Christmas Eve 5 pm Holy Eucharist  
 December 25 Christmas Day 9 am Holy Eucharist



**BAKE A CAKE** - Every month Birthdays and Anniversaries are celebrated the **FIRST** Sunday of the month with a cake served at Fellowship Time after the service. Please consider baking or buying a cake to be served. Notify Debbie in the Church Office by email or phone the month you will bring a cake: [office@gracechurchnew.org](mailto:office@gracechurchnew.org) / 860-666-3331. A cake baked in a standard 9 X 13 pan using one cake mix package or homemade ingredients is a good size.



**Newington Food Bank:** We have learned through the Newington Hunger Action Team that 1 out of every 5 people in Newington are hungry. We continue to support the food bank with ketchup, cans of fruit in 100% juice, low sodium soups, granola bars, paper towels, toilet paper, and personal hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothpaste).

*JoAnn Cromwell*



December 1 - [Advent Quiet Day: Engaging the Senses, Opening to God](#) at Trinity, Wethersfield from 9:30 am - 2 pm. Through listening, touch, vision and quiet, we will make time to connect with God and each other. This is an opportunity to ground ourselves in the practice of being with God in all things. We will call upon God's grace to help us find stillness, peace, and hope in the very midst of getting ready for the holidays. For more information contact the office at Trinity Wethersfield.



**Advent and Christmas Devotionals:** The advent and Christmas devotionals are in the Narthex on the rack by the doors. There are also some in the hallway. They are free for the taking. Donations accepted, please put your donations in the offering plate.



For the next few months the Grace Church Book Club will morph into more of an Adult Forum format. The intent is to draw more people into the discussion of affirming racial healing and the role of the church in that process. This is a subject the church is devoting a lot of discussion to.

It was a topic of an afternoon workshop at the recent Episcopal Diocese of CT convention. And it is also where the book *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving came from. The Grace Church Book Club had decided to read the book for its September gathering. Those who read the book agreed the book warrants more

time so a meaningful conversation can take place and some of the broader issues can be addressed.

To that end the next 3 months of the standard book club will divide the book into sections. The first date is Saturday, November 10 and we will discuss Sections 1-3, Chapters 1-16.

Since we are following the book club schedule there will be no December meeting. We will resume in January to discuss Sections 4-6, Chapters 17-33. The January date is Saturday, January 12, 2019.

The last discussion will take place on Saturday, February 9, 2019 and will include Sections 7-9, Chapters 34-46.

We are excited to have CJ facilitate our discussions. She attended the convention and will have insight into the important points coming out of the workshop discussions and possible next steps.

Here are the four questions delegates of the conversation voted on to discuss in their workshop:

How do we meaningfully engage ECCT in the existing work of serving God's mission among the poor and the marginalized?

How can ECCT raise awareness of the sin of racism in our Church and promote racial healing toward true racial reconciliation?

In these changing times and the consequent needs of our worshipping communities, what are our expectations of priesthood leadership currently defined in ECCT as missional, provisional, conditional or part time?

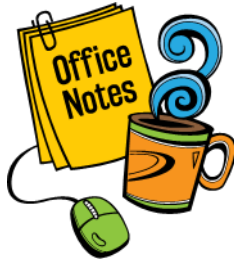
How would the practice of Open Communion change the life of the church?

All thought provoking questions for sure. And not questions to be answered in one afternoon or three afternoons. The history of racism in the Episcopal Church is not unlike the history of racism in this country. The subject deserves our full attention and best practices to heal the divide that continues today.

*"A person who won't read has no advantage over one who can't read"* - Mark Twain

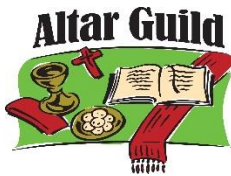
Melissa Haseley

The deadline for the January Pace of Grace is Thursday, December 27th. 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.



Office Hours: Monday 11-4; Tuesday 1-5: and Thursday 11-5.

*Debbie Forrest*



The Altar Guild will be cleaning the church for Christmas on Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> after the 9 am service. They will be decorating the church on December 23<sup>rd</sup> after the 9 am service.

There are slips in the Narthex for Christmas flowers. Please fill out and turn in by Dec 16<sup>th</sup> so the names can appear in the bulletin. Thank you.

*Liz Welk*



make one up for you. Thank you!

With supply clergy celebrating our services, it's important that everyone wear their name tags. If you are in need of one, please leave a note in the office and Debbie will

## **Liturgical Schedule**

Dec. 2 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent -- Rite I in use until December 23

Dec. 9 Angel Tree Ingathering

Dec. 23 Altar Guild will decorate the Church for Christmas.

Dec. 24 Monday – Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 pm

Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service – 9:00 am  
*Beverly Manning*



### **14TH ANNUAL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

This is our 14th Annual Blood Drive. It will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday, December 27, 2018, 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*





## Weather Closing

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



### QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: OCTOBER 31, 2018

| <u>INCOME:</u>     | <u>TOTAL BUDGET</u> | <u>YR-TO-DATE BUDGET</u> | <u>YR-TO-DATE ACTUAL</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pledge Income      | \$ 88,880           | \$ 70,215                | \$ 69,193                |
| Total Income       | \$126,695           | \$ 99,766                | \$ 92,162                |
| <u>EXPENSES:</u>   | (\$140,576)         | (\$117,267)              | (\$105,860)              |
| <u>NET CHANGE:</u> | (\$ 13,881)         | (\$ 17,501)              | (\$ 13,698)              |



## Morning Prayer

Please join us for a peaceful, centering time of prayer and worship. Early week Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at 8:30 AM in the Chapel. All are welcome. Beverley Manning and JoAnn Cromwell rotate leading the service

## Supply Clergy



### Supply Clergy Schedule:

- December 2 Rev. Jim Speer
- December 9 Rev. Jose Martinez
- December 16 Morning Prayer – Beverley
- December 23 Rev. Jose Martinez
- December 24 Rev. Jose Martinez
- December 25 Rev. Jose Martinez
- December 30 Rev. Jose Martinez





**Creative Energy Team  
December 2018**

**Silent Auction  
&  
Holiday Sing-A-Long  
A Season of Love and Laughter  
Saturday, December 1, 2018  
5:00pm - 8:00pm**

Please join us on Saturday, December 1 – all are welcome! Starting at 5 pm there will be a few appetizers and Wine by the Glass for sale. As you sip on your wine and nibble on appetizers browse and bid on the many baskets we have put together this year. There's something for everyone.

At 6 pm we will go into the Sanctuary for the Holiday Sing-A-Long of Christmas carols accompanied by Mei-Tsen Chen's music.

At 7 pm we will be serving coffee and tea along with numerous finger desserts for you to enjoy while putting in your final bids on the Silent Auction Baskets. At 7:45 the baskets will be auctioned off.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Silent Auction and Holiday Sing-A-Long. It is a fun way to start-the Christmas season. A season of Love and Laughter

**One last Thing**

Grace Church has resurrected their Facebook page. If you are on Facebook visit, like and join Grace Episcopal Church of Newington. It will feature all our special events, happenings in area churches, for our North Central Region and for the State. It is a work in progress.


*Thank you, Valerie Dumont - Co Chair of Creative Energy Team*

Lay Ministry Schedule  
9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

|                                | <b>Dec. 2, 2018</b> | <b>Dec. 9, 2018</b> | <b>Dec. 16, 2018</b> | <b>Dec. 23, 2018</b> | <b>Dec. 30, 2018</b>     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
|                                | <b>1 Advent</b>     | <b>2 Advent</b>     | <b>3 Advent</b>      | <b>4 Advent</b>      | <b>1 after Christmas</b> |
| <b>Supply Clergy</b>           | Rev. Jim Speer      | Rev. Jose Martinez  | Morning Prayer       | Rev. Jose Martinez   | Rev. Jose Martinez       |
| <b>LECTOR</b>                  | Shirley Adams       | JoAnn Cromwell      | Paul Crosswaith      | Walt Parker          | Mabel Maynard            |
| <b>MINISTER OF COMMUNION</b>   | JoAnn Cromwell      | Elizabeth Welk      | None                 | Shirley Adams        | Lynn Page                |
| <b>CRUCIFER</b>                | Karen Halpert       | Jane Stewart        | Elizabeth Welk       | Karen Halpert        | Jane Stewart             |
| <b>PRAYERS</b>                 | Karen Halpert       | Paul Crosswaith     | Marie Ritchie        | JoAnn Cromwell       | Walt Parker              |
| <b>USHERS</b>                  | Jane Stewart        | Bob MacCalmont      | Brandon and Kathy    | Mark and Kathy       | Nancy Beilman            |
|                                | Paul Crosswaith     | Charlie Albrycht    | Johnson              | Shoemaker            | Marianne Doolittle       |
| <b>FELLOWSHIP</b>              | Mabel (cake)        |                     |                      |                      |                          |
| <b>NRRRC-10:30am</b>           |                     | Beverley Manning    |                      | JoAnn Cromwell       |                          |
| <b>HTFD REGIONAL CTR - 12n</b> |                     |                     |                      | JoAnn Cromwell       |                          |
| <b>Lay Eucharist Visitor</b>   |                     |                     | Elizabeth Welk       |                      |                          |
| <b>ALTAR GUILD</b>             | Marie Ritchie       | Marie Ritchie       | Elizabeth Welk       | Elizabeth Welk       | Marie Ritchie            |
|                                | Kathy Shoemaker     | Kathy Shoemaker     | Nancy DiPrato        | Nancy DiPrato        | Jane Stewart             |
|                                | Elissa Schumann     | Elissa Schumann     | Kathy Shoemaker      | Kathy Shoemaker      | Elissa Schumann          |
|                                |                     |                     | Candy Casciano       | Candy Casciano       |                          |
| <b>COUNTERS</b>                | Walt Parker         | Melissa Haseley     | Beverley Manning     | Melissa Haseley      | JoAnn Cromwell           |
|                                | Lorraine Belyea     | Bette Forcash       | Paul Crosswaith      | Nancy DiPrato        | Bette Forcash            |

**Lay Ministry Schedule  
Christmas Services**

|                              | <b>Dec. 24, 2018<br/>5 pm</b>  | <b>Dec. 25, 2018<br/>9 am</b>  |
|------------------------------|--|--|
|                              | <b>1 Advent</b>  | <b>2 Advent</b>  |
| <b>Supply Clergy</b>         | Rev. Jose Martinez   | Rev. Jose Martinez   |
| <b>LECTOR</b>                | Mabel Maynard  | JoAnn Cromwell   |
| <b>MINISTER OF COMMUNION</b> | JoAnn Cromwell   | Elizabeth Welk   |
| <b>CRUCIFER</b>              | Karen Halpert  | Elizabeth Welk   |
| <b>PRAYERS</b>               | Walt Parker  | JoAnn Cromwell   |
| <b>USHERS</b>                | Mark & Kathy Shoemaker   | Nancy DiPrato<br>Lorraine Belyea                                     |
| <b>ALTAR GUILD</b>           | Elizabeth Welk<br>Nancy DiPrato<br>Candy Casciano<br>Elissa Schumann | Elizabeth Welk<br>Nancy DiPrato<br>Candy Casciano<br>Elissa Schumann |



*A Season of  
Love and Laughter*

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 1, 2018 ~ 5:00PM

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*Holiday Sing-a-Long  
And Silent Auction*

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PREVIEW SILENT AUCTION 5-6 PM

HOLIDAY SING - A - LONG 6-7 PM

SWEET TREATS & COFFEE 7-8 PM

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GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

124 MAPLE HILL AVE. NEWINGTON CT  
860-666-3331



# 2018 BOOT PARTY



DATE: Saturday December 8, 2018

TIME: 9am-1pm

LOCATION: Christ Church Cathedral  
House

45 Church Street Hartford Ct

ECCT North Central Region is hosting this year's Boot Party in collaboration with Footwear With Care, The Hartford Police Department, Fleet Feet of West Hartford, CT Podiatric Association and several other organizations throughout the Greater Hartford Community.

We expect to serve 400 guests, both male and female. Attendees will receive a snack & coffee, new winter boots, socks, a lunch, a foot exam by medical staff and they will receive a foot massage.

With your help, the North Central Region of ECCT hopes to provide each guest with a New Pair of Waterproof Winter Gloves, a bar of soap, deodorant, and hand lotion. While we appreciate your generosity, please do not provide razors, mouthwash, hand sanitizer, or other items not requested.

Please see our packing list which identifies specific sizes, amounts, and brands for each item; as well as care package drop off sites; and dates packages are needed.

In addition, ECCT is seeking volunteers to serve at the Boot Party from 8:30 am through 1pm. Perhaps you can volunteer some time to clean a guest's feet and provide a gentle touch foot massage while listening to the stories the guests need to tell. If Gentle touch massage and a listening heart are not one of your gifts, we need volunteers to act as hosts, distribute lunches and serve as Boot Runners. We need volunteers for part or all of the day. Free parking will be available in the MAT garage on the day of the Boot Party.

For more information or to volunteer please contact The Rev Bonnie Matthews, Deacon, at [bmatthews228@comcast.net](mailto:bmatthews228@comcast.net)

## Boot Party Glove and Personal Care Packages

All Care packs should be contained in 1 gallon zip lock bags

Collection dead line December 1, 2018

(more info to come on collection pick up)

### Men's Care Package

Men's Lge Resistant Gloves

4oz Bar Dove Soap

3oz Degree Men's Deodorant

3oz Hand Lotion

### Women's Care Package

Women's Lge Water Resistant Gloves

4oz Bar Dove Soap

3oz Dove Women's Deodorant

3oz Hand Lotion

Please contact CJ with any questions. Donations should be dropped off at the church no later than Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.