

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

Pastor Trish Cunningham, Missional Priest
The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist and Choir Director
Debbie Forrest, Office Manager
Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org
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Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9am
Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30am

PACE OF GRACE





December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Advent 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 1:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	2 12 pm Hi-Noon Christmas Party 6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH	3 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 8:30 am Employment Group - MMR 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR	4 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L 5:30 pm Property Committee Mtg - MMR	5 9:30 am Tai Chi - PH 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal - MMR 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - MMR 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L	6	7
8 Second Advent 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Holy Eucharist Angel Tree Ingathering	9 6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH	10 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 8:30 am Employment Group - MMR 6:00 pm Vestry Meeting - MMR 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR	11 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	12 9:30 am Tai Chi - PH 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal - MMR 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - MMR 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L	13	14
15 Third Advent 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	16 6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH	17 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 8:30 pm Employment Group MMR 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR	18 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	19 9:30 am Tai Chi - PH 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal - MMR 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - MMR 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L	20	21
22 Fourth Advent 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Lessons & Carols	23	24 Eve of the Nativity 4:30 Christmas Carols 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist	25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - PH 	26 9:30 am Tai Chi - PH 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - MMR 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L	27 1 pm - 6 pm Blood Drive in Parish Hall	28
29 1 st Christmas Holy Innocents 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	30	31 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 8:30 am Employment Group MMR 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR				

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



Pace of Grace

December 2019

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

*From the
Missional Priest*



The season of Advent, beginning on December 1st, with its themes of darkness and light, and of Christ coming not once, but twice into the world, may be a good time to assess your end of life plans. The days are getting shorter and shorter as we count down the last few weeks of 2019. With two recent funerals in our memories, the fragility of life and the fleeting nature of human existence may seem ever more real as we deal with less sunlight in which to accomplish our daily goals. Since our mortality is an unavoidable fact, it is wise to have plans in place to make our final transition as smooth as possible.

End of life planning is a fear-provoking idea for some, but for those of you who want to help their loved ones to make necessary decisions in a time of heightened emotion and grief, documentation of your wishes is a loving gift. There are two general categories for end of life decisions. The first is a statement of your medical wishes. At what point in your care do you want medical intervention and when do you want it to stop? The link below will take you to the Office of the State Attorney General, William Tong, and includes guidelines and forms for creating a Living Will, Appointing a Health Care Representative, in the event that you are not able to speak for yourself, and Advance Directives to make your wishes known. <https://portal.ct.gov/AG/Health-Issues/Connecticuts-Living-Will-Laws>

The other reality that must be addressed as you make your end of life is the disposition of property and assets. Do you have a legal will? If not, again, you may be creating a difficult situation for your survivors. Arguments over money and property among family members are unseemly at best, and sadly, can sometimes create irreconcilable rifts in relationships. Preparing a legally executed will can alleviate this stress for your family. As you prepare the list of your bequests, we ask you to consider including the church among your beneficiaries.

On a happier note, what are you most looking forward to in this holiday season? As families gather, the expectations of creating picture-perfect events can sometimes create stress. If we can focus on cultivating gratitude for our friends, our family and the joy of just being together, I guarantee that the holidays will be less stressful. Who are you grateful for this holiday season? I am grateful for all of you!

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Trish



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

	First reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel
First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2019	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalms 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2019	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2019	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalms 146:4-9	James 5:7-10 Canticle 3 or Canticle 15	Matthew 11:2-11
St. Thomas December 21, 2019	Habakkuk 2:1-4	Psalms 126	Hebrews 10:35-11:1	John 20:24-29
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2019	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
Christmas Eve Nativity of the Lord December 24, 2019	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalms 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
Christmas Day Nativity of the Lord December 25, 2019	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalms 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2 (1-7), 8-20
St. Stephen December 26, 2019	Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15	Psalms 31	Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51c-60	Matthew 23:34-39
St. John December 27, 2019	Exodus 33:18-23	Psalms 92	1 John 1:1-9	John 21:19b-24
The Holy Innocents December 28, 2019	Jeremiah 31:15-17	Psalms 124	Revelation 21:1-7	Matthew 2:13-18
First Sunday after Christmas December 29, 2019	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalms 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
- 12/25 Jesus Christ



*Save
the Date*

- December 2 Hi Noon Christmas Party
- December 4 Property Committee Meeting
- December 8 Angel Tree Ingathering
- December 10 Vestry Meeting
- December 24 Christmas Carols at 4:30
- December 24 Christmas Eve 5 pm Holy Eucharist
- December 25 Christmas Day
- December 27 Blood Drive



SENIORS ON THE GO Hi-Noon – The group meets monthly (except August) for lunch and activities in the Parish Hall and/or short excursions. Activities planned though June 2020 are listed below. All are welcome!

Barker Character Comic and Cartoon Museum - Our visit to the museum in Cheshire last month was fun and entertaining. Our group only had time to see some of the 80,000 antique toys and collectibles! We never got to the backroom or upstairs displays during our trip down memory lane. Those attending voted unanimously to return to see more of the collection of games, toys and cartoon characters exhibited that took us back to our childhood.

December 2, Monday – Annual Holiday Party – A Pasta Lunch and Holiday Sing-a-long will highlight this event. If able please bring a salad or dessert to share. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be served. Thank you Nancy for again providing the homemade pasta main dish. We will meet either in the Parish Hall or an easier-to-heat classroom.

2020

- January 6, Monday – Fun and Games in Parish Hall
- February 3, Monday – Movie Matinee
- March – Restaurant adventure – Location and Date to be determined
- April & May – Do you have a suggestion for a place of interest to visit?
- June – Annual Picnic – Parish Hall & Patio



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 / 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.



Weather Closing

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



Liturgical Schedule

- Dec. 1 1st Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 8 Angel Tree Ingathering
- Dec. 22 Lesson & Carols at the 9 am service
- Dec. 22 Altar Guild will decorate the Church for Christmas.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm, with Carols at 4:30
- Dec. 29 Holy Innocents – 9 am service

Beverley Manning



Saturday, December 14 - The Hartford Chapter of the Companions of the Holy Cross invite all women of the parish to their Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, December 14th at Christ Church Cathedral from 10:00- 1:00. Charlotte LaForest, the assistant at St. James's, West Hartford will be our leader. We will hear several meditations followed by silent reflection time, concluding with a group Eucharist. Please bring a bag lunch if you wish to stay for fellowship. Parking will be across Church St. in The Hartford Stage parking garage. For further information and to sign up, please email Kate Smith at kate48smith@comcast.net or call 860-519-1591 by December 12th.



The next gathering of the Grace Church Book Club is Saturday, January 4 at 2 pm in the church library (no December meeting). The book selection is *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah. We usually meet the second Saturday of the

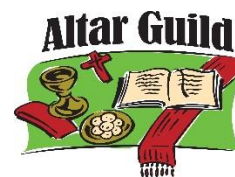
month and that will continue to be the case. By determining our next few reads, it is hoped that one or more of the titles will peak someone's interest and that they will join us that month for the discussion. The books we have selected thus far are:

- December – no meeting
- January 4th – *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah
- February 15th – *The Giver of Stars* by JoJo Moyes
- March 14 – *Educated* by Tara Westover

Even if you don't join us for book club, if you like to read, the above titles are an excellent selection of best seller, recently published books. Please know we also meet in April, May and June. We also select one or two books to read over the summer to discuss at our September meeting.

We are an informal, fun-loving group that enjoys reading. Most of our discussion are not only about the book, but also usually touch on a variety of related topics as well. Please join us!
Happy Reading!

Melissa Haseley



The Altar Guild will be cleaning the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 21st at 9 am. They will be decorating the church on December 22nd after the 9 am service.

Decorations will be taken down on January 5th after the 9 am service.

There are slips in the Narthex for Christmas flowers. Please fill out and turn in by December 15th so the names can appear in the bulletin. Envelopes are in your box of offering envelopes.

Liz Welk



Vestry Nominating Committee Request:

Vestry has met to pray about and consider who might have the gifts and call to serve on the Grace Church Vestry.

Since several current members have completed their terms of service, but have agreed to continue for another year, we will need at least one new Vestry member. The commitment is for a one year term, renewable for another year.

As part of our discernment process, we invite anyone in the parish to prayerfully suggest the names of people you believe might have the gifts and call to serve God and Grace as part of the Vestry.

Please submit names to the Nominating Committee or the Church Office by Sunday, January 5, 2020

A discernment time for potential Vestry nominees to explore what is involved in this ministry will be held January 14, 2020 at 5:30 PM, just prior to our regular Vestry meeting

We ask everyone in the parish to pray for God's guidance in this process.

Members of the Nominating Committee; JoAnn Cromwell, Karen Halpert, Mabel Maynard and Jane Stewart



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.



15TH ANNUAL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

This is our 15th Annual Blood Drive. It will be held in the Parish Hall on Friday, December 27, 2019, from 1:00 PM until 6:00 PM.

It is our privilege to offer our Parish Hall for this Blood Drive and to 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 (860-841-6296) to reserve a time.

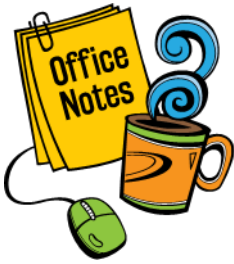
To donate baked goods for our blood drive refreshment table, please mark them and leave in the kitchen or on The Narthex shelf.

Thank you,
JoAnn Cromwell, Blood Drive Coordinator



Newington Food Bank: We continue to support the food bank with oregano, shampoo/conditioner, pasta, toilet paper. Also needed are reusable shopping bags. In addition to food, personal and home supplies are also needed to fill our Outreach Box in the Narthex. Watch the sales and promotions at CVS, Walgreens and other stores. Recently CVS had Colgate toothpaste available for \$1.00 after using coupons or receiving Extra Bucks. Also deodorant, laundry soap, shampoo and other needed supplies are sometimes available at almost give away prices. For a couple of dollars you can provide to those in need. Many of these items are available at the Dollar Tree for \$1.00 all the time. Thank you for helping those in need!

JoAnn Cromwell & Walt Parker



The deadline for the January Pace of Grace is Thursday, December 19th. 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. Information received after this date may not be published.



Office Hours: Monday 11-4; Tuesday 1-5; and Thursday 11-5. The office will be closed on Christmas Eve, December 24 and Christmas Day, December 25.

Debbie Forrest

QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: OCTOBER 31, 2019

<u>INCOME:</u>	<u>TOTAL BUDGET</u>	<u>YR-TO-DATE BUDGET</u>	<u>YR-TO-DATE ACTUAL</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 87,558	\$ 69,171	\$ 70,373
Total Income	\$125,908	\$ 99,296	\$ 98,383
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$125,328)	(\$ 104,328)	(\$ 88,720)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	\$ 580	(\$ 5,031)	\$ 9,663



Please see flyers on the bulletin board for various activities offered at Camp Washington!



Merry Christmas

[Support the Save our Seas 2.0 Act!](#)

Oceans sustain life on earth, and protecting the oceans is one important way for us to care for creation. As studies have [shown](#) and [confirmed](#) over the years, oceans are dangerously polluted. In fact, a [study](#) by the National Institutes of Health notes that plastic, in particular, represents between 50% and 90% of global marine debris and that each year between 5 and 12 metric tons of plastic enter our oceans. The scale and accumulation of this plastic have devastating consequences for all life on land, in the air, and in the sea. Plastics not only kill marine life directly, but by contaminating sea life, they can pass on dangerous chemicals to people, animals and birds. Directly and indirectly, marine debris threatens communities and cultures that are dependent on sea animals for food and economic prosperity.

TAKE ACTION

On November 13th, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee considered the [Save Our Seas 2.0](#) Act. This legislation would make significant progress towards The Episcopal Church's [goal](#) of working and advocating for the restoration of oceans and marine life for the benefit of future generations. In October 2018, President Trump signed into law the first Save Our Seas Act, which took several [important steps](#), including reauthorizing The Marine Debris Program that has removed over 17,000 metric tons of debris, or trash, from U.S. waters since 2006. The law also instructed the State Department to begin conversations with the countries that produce most plastic debris.

The reauthorization of existing programs under the Save Our Seas Act represented a modest but critically important step in public policy. Today, Save Our Seas 2.0 would take a significant second step by expanding existing efforts to clean trash, particularly plastics, from the world's oceans and the North American Great Lakes through grants, prizes and studies. This legislation would therefore encourage and inspire technological innovations to potentially prevent plastics from entering water, expand and better coordinate existing programs and encourage a much more robust international engagement to tackle this global problem.

TAKE ACTION

In the future, legislation will need to address and implement some of the efforts currently being piloted by individuals,

companies, and states to significantly reduce the amount of plastics we use each day. However, as private, corporate, and state-level programs test and learn from hundreds of ideas to find the right federal policy to address this global issue, we cannot wait to begin cleaning up and repairing the oceans.

[Call on Congress to pass Save Our Seas 2.0 this year!](#)

Additional Resources:	General Convention Resolutions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Save Our Seas 2.0 Act• Ocean Conservancy: What We Love About Save Our Seas Act Version 2.0• Sullivan, Whitehouse, Menendez Launch New Effort to Combat Marine Debris, here• EPPN Creation Care Series: Clean Water• SDG 14: Life Under Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2018-C063: Advocate for Ocean Health• 1997-A041: Reaffirm Resolution on Environmentally Sound Behavior• 1994-A044: Adopt Environmentally Sound Practices at Church Meetings

Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

	Dec. 1, 2019	Dec. 8, 2019	Dec. 15, 2019	Dec. 22, 2019	Dec. 29, 2019
	1 Advent	2 Advent	3 Advent	4 Advent	1st Christmas
Clergy	Rev. Valerie Miller	Pastor Trish Cunningham	Pastor Trish Cunningham	Pastor Trish Cunningham	Pastor Trish Cunningham
Deacon/LWL	JoAnn Cromwell	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz
LECTOR	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Shirley Adams	Paul Crosswaith
MINISTER OF COMMUNION	Lynn Page	Paul Crosswaith	Karen Halpert	Kathy Johnson	Mabel Maynard
CRUCIFER	Karen Halpert	Jane Stewart	Elizabeth Welk	Jane Stewart	Karen Halpert
PRAYERS	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	Beverley Manning
USHERS	Nancy DiPrato	Mark & Kathy	Jane Stewart	Bob MacCalmont	Brandon & Kathy
	Lorraine Belyea	Shoemaker	Paul Crosswaith	Charlie Albrycht	Johnson
FELLOWSHIP					
NRRRC-10:30am		Beverley Manning		JoAnn Cromwell	
HTFD REGIONAL CTR - 12n				JoAnn Cromwell	
Lay Eucharist Visitor			Elizabeth Welk		
ALTAR GUILD	Jane Stewart	Jane Stewart	Marie Ritchie	Marie Ritchie	Elissa Schumann
	Candy Casciano	Candy Casciano	Nancy DiPrato	Nancy DiPrato	Candy Casciano
	Elissa Schumann	Elissa Schumann	Pat Rogorzenski	Pat Rogorzenski	Jane Stewart
			Elizabeth Welk	Elizabeth Welk	
COUNTERS	Beverley Manning	Melissa Haseley	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Melissa Haseley
	Lorraine Belyea	Nancy DiPrato	Paul Crosswaith	Lorraine Belyea	Nancy DiPrato

	Dec. 24, 2019 5 pm
	Christmas Eve
Clergy	Pastor Trish Cunningham
Deacon/LWL	CJ Puskarz
LECTOR	Walt Parker
MINISTER OF COMMUNION	JoAnn Cromwell
CRUCIFER	Karen Halpert
PRAYERS	Beverley Manning
USHERS	Nancy DiPrato
	Lorraine Belyea
ALTAR GUILD	Marie Ritchie
	Nancy DiPrato
	Pat Rogorzanski
	Elizabeth Welk



Provide Personal Care Items:

- Men's wool socks
- Unscented soap bar 4 oz. size
- Antiperspirant 2.85 oz.
- Lotion 3 oz.

For those with a knitting ministry, a new ask is for handmade scarves

Volunteer to serve on Dec. 7

BOOT PARTY

Help the North Central Region serve 500 homeless and disenfranchised people in the Greater Hartford Region at UCONN Hartford Campus on December 7



HELP SUPPORT THE FOOTWEAR WITH CARE BOOT PARTY

By providing 25 personal care kits - items listed on other side (Please do not bag items; our guests will be given the opportunity to choose items according to their own needs).

Your parish's contribution will help the North Central Region serve 500 people **ON DECEMBER 7, 2019.**

Packages can be dropped off at our Cathedral
45 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103
Monday-Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm by December 5th

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR 20-30 VOLUNTEERS

For Dec. 7th from 9 am - 11 am, 11 am - 1pm, or 9 am - 1 pm.
No experience necessary. Everyone wishing to help will be trained.

For more information and to sign-up
Visit: <http://bit.ly/BootParty2019>

Please contact CJ with any questions. Donations should be dropped off at the church no later than Friday, December 6th.

Please join us in remembering those we love and have lost

Holiday Remembrance Service

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Come and share in this meaningful celebration of the people and the times that are important in our lives.

This program is complimentary and open to all.
Reservations are recommended.

860-666-0600

BURRITT HILL

332 Burritt St. - New Britain

1:00 p.m.

NEWINGTON MEMORIAL

20 Bonair Ave. - Newington

4:00 p.m.

