

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111
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The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
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Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9am
Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30am

PACE OF GRACE




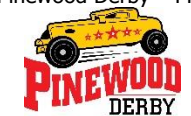


February 2019

FEBRUARY



2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 
3 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Morning Prayer Vestry Installation	4 12 pm Hi-Noon 6:30 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 4:30 PM Property Committee Mtg - MMR	7 9:30 am Tai Chi - PH 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - MMR 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L	8 3:00 pm Creative Energy Team Meeting - MMR	9 2:00 pm Book Club Meeting - Library
10 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Reconciliation Sunday 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Church School	11 6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH	12 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 8:30 am Employment Group MMR 6:00 pm Vestry Mtg - MMR 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR	13 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 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	18 	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 - PH	21 9:30 am Tai Chi - PH 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - MMR 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L	22	23 All Day Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby - PH 
24 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Church School	25 6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH	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 - PH 7:00 pm Pastoral Care/Life Committee Mtg - MMR	28 9:30 am Tai Chi - PH 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - MMR 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L		

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



Pace of Grace

February 2019

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

Dear Grace Church Family,

In wondering what to write about for this month, I was led to old issues of the Pace of Grace and found this very appropriate letter from Father David Parachini. Read and you will understand why your Wardens felt we should share this with you again.

Love is All Around

February is Love Month (saw that in the copy for an ad a few weeks ago) at least according to the floral, confectioners, jewelry, greeting card and dining industries who have worked so hard over many years to turn a very minor saint's day in the middle of the winter (February 14 as we all know) into the premier commercial "love feast" known to human kind. It is Valentine's Day and we are all remiss if we don't engage in the appropriate celebratory activities most of which involve the support of the Valentine's Day commercial infrastructure. Don't get me wrong, I'm certainly not opposed to a celebration of love but, as Christians, we need to put it in the proper context and recognize that the love we celebrate is not limited to one day, a few persons or the giving and receiving of material gifts. Exactly how Valentine's Day grew into the commercial juggernaut it has become is not really clear. If you consult volumes on the lives of the Saints, you quickly discover that there may be as many as three identifiable Valentines in the array of loyal and faithful followers of God and yes, at least one of them was probably martyred for the faith. Very little is known about any of them and according to conventional ornithological wisdom the date of February 14 may have more to do with the timing of the return of several bird species to central Italy from their winter grounds in north Africa than it does to any particular saintly personage, however obscure, in the footnotes of the history of the church.

Is it possible to refocus the celebration of Saint Valentine's Day in a more meaningful and appropriate direction? Whenever I ponder this question, which seems to be every year at about

this time – isn't that interesting – I am transported back a number of years now when one of the most popular "sitcoms" on television was the Mary Tyler Moore Show, the details of which I won't go into, with its theme song Love is All Around which became a kind of anthem for those looking for love in their lives. One of the young people in a Confirmation class I was teaching chose the theme "love is all around" for the homily all of the confirmands were required to give. She transformed the title of the song to "God's love is all around" and as she "unpacked" this notion she was clear that in addition to being all around, God's love is not limited to a particular date or to a select group of people. God's love is available always and everywhere at all times and for all who need it. When you think about love, especially God's love as it is uniquely and perfectly represented in God's Son, you realize that there are no limits to it. God's love is indeed all around and since it is, in the lyrics of the song, why not take it, embrace it, share it and rejoice in it.

How is this accomplished? It is through our response to God's love for us that we discover that God is calling us to be ambassadors of love. We are invited to receive God's love in order to share it with others. To "pay it forward" (to use perhaps an overworked phrase these days) in order to advance God's loving purposes in what is for too many of our brothers and sisters a broken, loveless and troubled world. Indeed, God's love is all around us. It is not limited to the 14th of February and it is not reserved for those able to purchase the transient tokens of affection. God's love, channeled through us, is for all who will receive it and, having received it, are willing to join with us in seeking to accomplish God's mission of reconciliation, grace and above all, love.

Faithfully,
David+

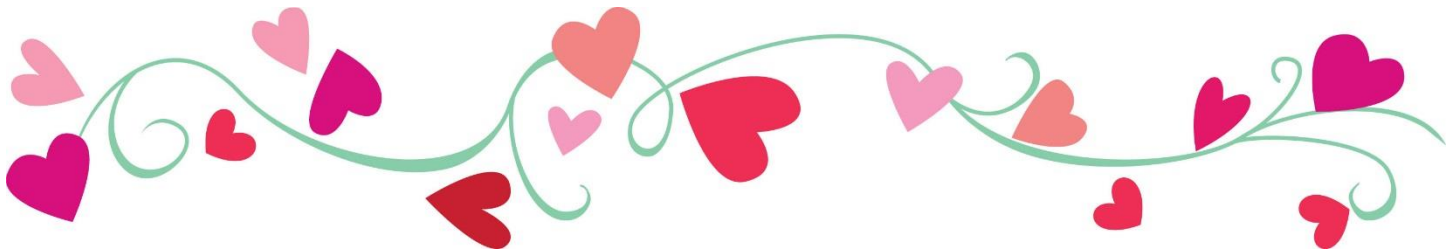
Blessing from your Wardens

JoAnn & Walt



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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
The Presentation February 2, 2019	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 84	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany February 3, 2019	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany February 10, 2019	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 17, 2019	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany February 24, 2019	Genesis 45:3-11,15	Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42	1 Corinthians 15:35-38	Luke 6:27-38
St. Matthias February 25, 2019	Acts 1:15-26	Psalm 15	Philippians 3:13-21	John 15:1,6-16





02/04 Jeanne Parker
 02/13 Clare McCusker



02/08 Paul and Shirley Crosswaith



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 2019 are listed below. All are welcome!

February 4, Monday – Movie Matinee in Parish Hall, Bring a bag lunch (coffee, tea, juice provided) and movie treats to share. The group will vote on which of four movies to watch.

March 4, Monday – Epicurean Adventure – During the past two years we visited Polish and Greek restaurants during our March epicurean adventure. This year’s selection will be discussed at the February meeting.

April 1 and May 6 – Activity to be announced,
June 3 – Picnic - Parish Hall and Patio



Save the Date

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| February 4 | Hi Noon |
| February 6 | Property Committee Meeting |
| February 8 | Creative Energy Team Meeting |
| February 9 | Book Club Meeting |
| February 10 | Reconciliation Sunday |
| February 10 | Church School |
| February 14 | Valentine’s Day |
| February 12 | Vestry Meeting |
| February 18 | President’s Day |
| February 24 | Church School |
| February 27 | Pastoral Care/Life Committee Meeting |



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 or 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 continue to support the food bank with dry oregano, shampoo & conditioner, pasta, toilet paper and Chunky soups.

JoAnn Cromwell



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.

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?

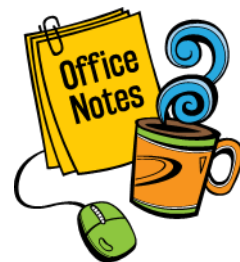
In these changing times and the consequent needs of our worshipping communities, what are our expectations of priesthood leadership currently defined in ECCT as missional, provisional, conditional or part time?

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 March Pace of Grace is Thursday, February 24th. 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



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 make one up for you. Thank you!



Weather Closing

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



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



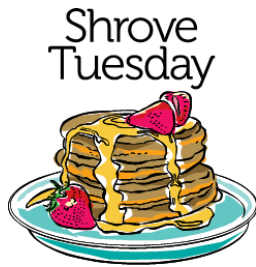
Supply Clergy Schedule:

February 3	Morning Prayer
February 10	Jim Speer



QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: DECEMBER 31, 2018

<u>INCOME:</u>	<u>TOTAL BUDGET</u>	<u>YR-TO-DATE ACTUAL</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 88,880	\$ 86,353
Total Income	\$126,695	\$117,154
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$140,576)	(\$125,101)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	(\$ 13,881)	(\$ 7,947)



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
March 5, 2019

Save the date - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is on March 5th from 5 - 7 PM. Please consider donating one of the ingredients, i.e. pancake mix that needs only water, syrup (any kind), bacon, sausages and applesauce. Any special topping you like to put on your pancakes at home would be an added treat for everyone, if you bring some to share.

We will have volunteer sign-up sheets for set up/ clean up/ cooking and serving as we get closer to Shrove Tuesday.

Also, for planning purposes, there will be a signup sheet if you are coming to the supper.

There will be a \$5 Donation. Children under five, FREE.

JoAnn Cromwell

Puzzle!

Love is a fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Identify another fruit that can make Valentine's Day — and every day — special. First, write a word that fits each clue below. Then unscramble the letters from the bold, vertical column to find another fruit of the Spirit. Write it on the blanks below.

LEAVE									
CHAPEAU									
TRANQUILITY									
BECOME MATURE									
RESPOND									
SPHERE									
OLD TESTAMENT QUEEN									
DISCOVER									
CONFIDENCE									
ALWAYS									

Answer: depart, hat, peace, grow, answer, ball, Esther, find, trust, ever, gentleness



Creative Energy Team February 2019

Your Creative Energy Team has planned a year of fundraisers for Grace. This is a much needed ministry for Grace Church. Please consider how you can help or which ones are a good fit for you to work at. We have a lot of fun and great fellowship. There is usually a monthly meeting that anyone is welcome to attend or you can join our team. If you have any ideas or suggestions please let us know. All ideas will be seriously considered.

Our next meeting is Friday, February 8th at 3pm in the Music Meeting room.

GRACE CHURCH FUNDRAISER DATES FOR 2019

- ***EASTER FLOWERS** - Buy them for April 21, 2019
Sign up sheet will be up a few weeks before Easter.

- ***TAG SALE** - Saturday, April 27, 2019 - outdoors - 8:30am - 2pm
You may drop off your donations starting 3/1/2019
Vendor space \$15.00 Rain Date - May 4, 2019

- ***BEE & BUTTERFLY GARDEN SPEAKER** - April 2019
Details will be coming

- ***ECW LUNCHEON** - Thursday, May 2, 2019
Aqua Turf in Southington

- ***DINING FOR DOLLARS** - Thursday, September 19, 2019
at Bertucci's in Newington - tentative date

- ***FALL FESTIVAL 2019** - Saturday, October 19, 2019 10am – 3pm

- ***EPISCOPAL CONVENTION** - Convention Center in Hartford
Saturday, October 26th - Sunday, October 27th
We will be selling our prayer beads & religious jewelry

- ***SILENT AUCTION & HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG** - to be determined

If you wish to join the Creative Energy Team, help in any way or have any suggestions, please see one of our CET members—Lynn Page, Valerie Dumont, Lorraine Belyea, Melissa Haseley, Mari Merwin, Jane Stewart

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

Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
	4 Epiphany	5 Epiphany	6 Epiphany	7 Epiphany
Supply Clergy	Morning Prayer	Rev. Jim Speer	Open	Open
LECTOR	Walt Parker	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell
MINISTER OF COMMUNION		Elizabeth Welk	Shirley Adams	Lynn Page
CRUCIFER	Karen Halpert	Jane Stewart	Elizabeth Welk	Karen Halpert
PRAYERS	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Mabel Maynard	Beverley Manning
USHERS	Brandon & Kathy Johnson	Nancy Beilman Marianne Doolittle	Mark & Kathy Shoemaker	Nancy DiPrato Lorraine Belyea
FELLOWSHIP	Walt Parker			
NRRRC-10:30am	Beverley Manning		JoAnn Cromwell	
HTFD REGIONAL CTR - 12n			JoAnn Cromwell	
Lay Eucharist Visitor			Elizabeth Welk	
ALTAR GUILD	Elizabeth Welk Jane Stewart Marie Ritchie	Elissa Schumann Pat Rogorzenski Kathy Shoemaker	Elissa Schumann Pat Rogorzenski Kathy Shoemaker	Candy Casciano Marie Ritchie Jane Stewart
COUNTERS	JoAnn Cromwell Lorraine Belyea	Walt Parker Nancy DiPrato	Melissa Haseley Paul Crosswaith	Beverley Manning Bette Forcash

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