

Grace Episcopal Church  
124 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111  
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Holy Eucharist – 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays at  
9 am

Morning Prayer – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9 am




# ***PACE OF GRACE***



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124 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111



# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	2 Blood Drive – 1-6 pm – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L	3 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	4	5
6 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	7 12 pm Hi-Noon 6 pm Boy Scouts - PH	8 6:00 pm Vestry by Zoom 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	9 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L	10 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	11	12 11:00 am HOLD for ECW Board Meeting
13 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Morning Prayer	14 6 pm Boy Scouts - PH 	15 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	16 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	17 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	18	19 11:00 am HOLD – Rain date for ECW Board Meeting
20 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Annual Meeting	21 	22 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	23 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	24 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	25	26 
27 Last Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Morning Prayer	28 6 pm Boy Scouts - PH					

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



# *Pace of Grace*

## *February 2022*

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

Dear Parishioners of Grace Church,

It's February, another month for our mind, body, & spirit. In February we celebrate Black History Month. This is a time that we remember the liberation of our brothers and sisters of color. February was chosen as the month to celebrate the Civil Rights movement because both President Abraham Lincoln and Mr. Fredrick Douglas were born in the month of February.

As we have seen as a faith community, the Civil Rights movement for African Americans is not over; the Black Lives Matter movement over the last several years has been addressing the violence against people of color. It has been calling for our government to dismantle the system that has been oppressing and violently taking the lives of young black men. Is this radical? Yes. Is it what Jesus Christ would be about? Absolutely!

When we look at the oppression of our brothers and sisters of color, it can make us feel like we are powerless to do anything about what is happening around us. There are many Christians who continue, by prayer, to fight against the racism and bigotry that is still present in our nation. We, as Christians, are called by our baptismal covenants to live out our lives longing to grow closer to God and one another.

On Monday, January 17, we celebrated the birthday of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Most of us had that day off from work or school. Did we take the day to remember Dr. King and what he marched for—the freedom for African Americans to be able to have the right to vote in our nation? Today we are still fighting against the fact that many polling sites are being closed earlier in the neighborhoods where our brothers and sisters of color live. We need to speak up when we hear and see racism happening around us. Is it easy, not at all!

What do we have planned as a faith community to address racism? What resources are here within our diocese to grow and learn more about systemic racism in our nation? Many of you may recognize other brothers and sisters within our diocese that are in this short declaration against racism. <https://youtu.be/wlFaFKXQHg8>. We can make a difference within our faith communities, our neighborhoods, work places and schools. We can call out racism when we see it happening in front of us.

**1 Timothy 5:21 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.**

We are called to one, to learn, grow in our relationship with God, one another.

Blessing of God's love be with us always,

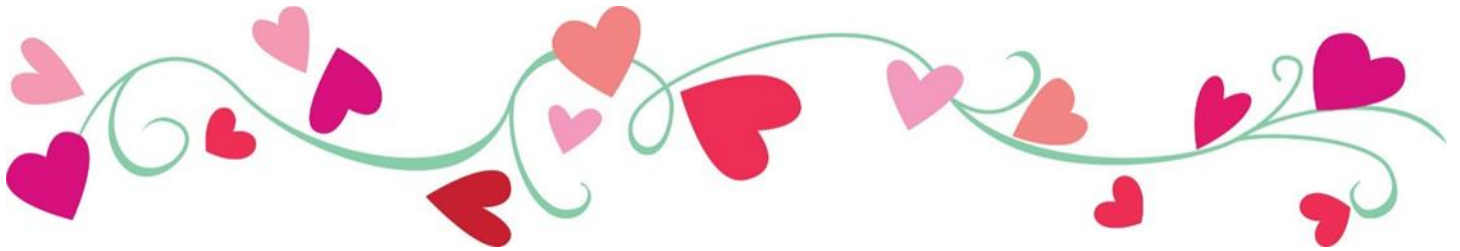
Rev. Val





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

	<b>First reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
The Presentation February 2, 2022	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalm 84	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Fifth Sunday after The Epiphany February 6, 2022	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 13, 2022	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany February 20, 2022	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38
St. Matthias February 24, 2022	Acts 1:15-26	Psalm 15	Philippians 3:13-21	John 15:1,6-16
Last Sunday after Epiphany February 27, 2022	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)





Greetings!

We are now in the "love season" as Valentine's Day occurs this month. I was doing some research about the origin of St. Valentine and the customs we now practice (cause we all know if it is on the internet it must be true, LOL!). There is way too much ambiguity to say what really happened. However, Pope Gelasius I established St. Valentine's Day in AD 496 on February 14th in memory of a worthy man named Valentine. I then learned that perhaps it was in the Middle Ages that love became associated with St. Valentine's Day. This happened due to the fact that in France and England, February 14th was the beginning of the birds' mating season. Geoffrey Chaucer in 1375 wrote a poem indicating that February 14<sup>th</sup> was a day of romantic celebration, "Parliament of Fowles" - nowadays called Parliament of birds. If you need some reading material it is around 700 lines. Who knew that love was for the birds?

We as Christians hopefully know about the love that God has for us when He sent His son Jesus Christ into the world to teach us about loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus then stretched his arms out upon the hardwood of the cross to show us His ultimate love for us. We also have the Good News to read when we need to enrich our spirit. We can share this love in more ways than candy, flowers, dinner, cards, and movies (although I have nothing against any of those ways). We can offer prayers and listen to one another as we just be with someone (in a safe way while Covid still prevails). We can be servants when and where needed as well as other ways that Jesus taught us how to share and show love. The beauty of Christian love is that it is not restricted to just one day for us. It can be, and hopefully is, present every day in our lives.

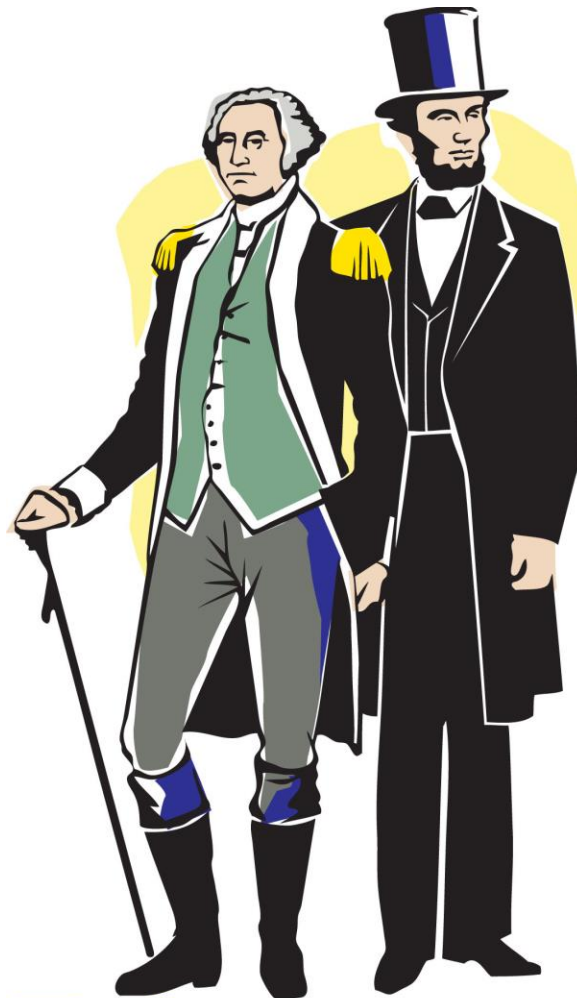
Speaking of love - which I have been doing - how about we all write a love poem to someone? I like to read books by St John of the Cross as in some he wrote love poems concerning Jesus. I never thought about writing love poems about Jesus as I must admit I grew up with the commercialism of Valentine's Day (again, I love candy and going out to dinner). What would you write to Jesus if you were going to write some verses of love to Him? What people in your life past or present, would you write some verses of love to on Valentine's Day, or any day? If writing is not your thing, then perhaps you could just take some moments to offer up a prayer for someone you love or have loved. (animals included, as I have many in my life that I love)

I hope that this winter season is going ok for all of us. The "fun" thing about living in CT is you never really know what the weather is going to be like from day to day. I just know that shoveling and ice chopping are not on my list of favorites. I also hope that Covid 19 is finally coming to a lower level of transmission. I know that I have my list of things to do once I am able to be fully out and about in the world. We have to think of ways to share God's love with each other and the world so that we can continue with outreach projects at Grace. I thank you for your contributions to the diaper project. If there is something that you think would be good for Grace to get involved with, please let me know.

There is one more item I wish to mention before ending my thoughts. We still have the obligation of being involved in projects for racial reconciliation and exploring ways of acknowledging what was done wrong concerning indigenous people. I don't have the answers but I do know that if we don't make any steps towards understanding what happened and changing some of our ways, we will not be loving Christians (I include our community and the world) in the ways Jesus tried to teach us. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

Stay safe-stay well-stay connected-vax to the max  
cj

Ps here is a sample love poem: Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
I love Jesus  
Cause he is so true



February



# February Birthdays

02/04 Jeanne Parker  
02/13 Clare McCusker

# February Anniversaries

02/08 Paul and Shirley Crosswaith



**SENIORS ON THE GO** HI-NOON - All parishioners and their friends are invited to attend the meetings of Hi-Noon. The group's activities vary and are a combination of informative, cultural, social and entertaining events. **Please note:** Events may be cancelled if Covid numbers are too high.

**February 7, Monday – Movie Matinee** in Parish Hall, Bring a bag lunch (coffee, tea, juice provided) and movie treats to share. Movie to be announced.  
**March 4, Monday** (or other date depending restaurant opening) – Epicurean Adventure – During the past two years we visited Portuguese, Polish and Greek restaurants during our March epicurean adventure. This year's selection will be discussed at the February meeting. One suggestion is the Parkville Market in Hartford. It is the largest Food Hall in Connecticut with 21 vendors serving many different cuisines.

**April – Noon Lenten Service at Christ Church Cathedral** - Hartford, the Bishop's seat of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut – Date to be announced.

**May** – Event to be announced - Do you have a suggestion for a place of interest to visit? In the spring the group often travels to a cultural and/or entertaining place.

**June – Annual Picnic** – Parish Hall & Patio

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 6	Holy Eucharist
February 13	Morning Prayer
February 20	Holy Eucharist
February 27	Morning Prayer



The deadline for the March issue is Tuesday, February 22. 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.



The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Wednesday, February 16. We will be discussing Wish You Were Here by Jodi Picoult.





2022 Offering Envelopes are in the narthex. Please pick them up when you come to church. Please contact the office if you would like them mailed to you.

**Safe church Training:** Safe Church Training includes an online course followed by a 3-hour live session on Zoom that will build on and put into practice content from the online course. The online course must be completed two days before the Zoom live session. Dates through May:  
February 8-23-26  
April 5-9-23-27  
May 10-14-15

Registration is through the ECCT website:  
<https://www.episcopalct.org/event/safe-church-training-19>



### Weather Closing

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



Our Annual Blood Drive will be held in the Parish Hall on Wednesday February 2, from 1 to 6 pm.

If you are blood donor, contact the Red Cross to schedule an appointment. To become a new donor, contact JoAnn Cromwell (860-841-6296) to reserve a time. This year we will have appointments only, no walk-ins.



**Newington Food Bank:** We continue to support the food bank by donating shampoo/conditioner, toilet paper, paper towels and grocery store gift cards. You are truly the hands of Jesus serving the poor. Bless you all and thank you for your ongoing generosity.  
*JoAnn Cromwell*



**QUICK UPDATE: December 31, 2021**

	<b><u>DECEMBER OPERATIONS</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date OPERATIONS</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL 2021 BUDGET</u></b>
Pledge Income	\$ 7,085	\$ 68,233	\$ 72,272	\$ 72,272
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>	<b>\$ 16,231</b>	<b>\$ 107,406</b>	<b>\$ 105,062</b>	<b>\$ 105,062</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>	<b>(\$ 9,980)</b>	<b>(\$ 118,447)</b>	<b>(\$ 130,272)</b>	<b>(\$ 130,272)</b>
<b><u>NET CHANGE:</u></b>	<b>\$ 6,251</b>	<b>(\$ 11,040)</b>	<b>(\$ 25,210)</b>	<b>(\$ 25,210)</b>
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 32,797		<i>End 2020 Checkbook:</i> \$ 39,100	

Lay Ministry Schedule  
9:00 AM

	<b>February 6</b>	<b>February 13</b>	<b>February 20</b>	<b>February 27</b>
	5 <sup>th</sup> Epiphany	6 <sup>th</sup> Epiphany	7 <sup>th</sup> Epiphany	Last Epiphany
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer
<b>Clergy</b>	Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller	
<b>Deacon/LWL</b>	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
				Karen Halpert
<b>LECTOR</b>	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Marie Ritchie
<b>PRAYERS</b>	Beverley Manning	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Nancy DiPrato	Pat Rogorzenski	Pat Rogorzenski	Jane Stewart
	Elizabeth Welk	Candy Casciano	Candy Casciano	Kathy Shoemaker
<b>COUNTERS</b>		JoAnn Cromwell		Walt Parker
		Lorraine Belyea		Nancy DiPrato