

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 – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays at
9 am

Morning Prayer – 2nd & 4th Sundays at 9 am

PACE OF GRACE




january 2022

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2 2 nd Sunday after Christmas 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	3 Hi-Noon - CANCELLED	4 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	5 The Epiphany 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L 	6 2:30 pm Piano Lessons - S 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	7	8
9 1 st Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Morning Prayer	10	11 6:00 pm Vestry by Zoom 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	12 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	13 2:30 pm Piano Lessons - S 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	14	15
16 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	18	18 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	19 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	20 2:30 pm Piano Lessons - S 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	21	22
23 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Morning Prayer	24	25 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	26 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	27 2:30 pm Piano Lessons - S 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	28	29
30 4 th Sunday after Epiphany 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

January 2022

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

Dear Parishioners of Grace Church,

Do you remember being in school sitting at your desk getting ready to write the date on your paper? You then realize that you have written the incorrect year. Well, here we are as a community of faith entering into the new year of 2022. We all are feeling various emotions as we enter into the unknowns of the new year.

Our faith is what keeps us glued together both as individuals and as a community of hope as we are at Grace. William, "Bill" Kondrath in his book, Facing Feelings in Faith Communities, addresses the various aspect of faith communities and the feelings they have about a number of things. Bill has been a consultant for all types of worshiping communities. I happen to know Bill from my seminary education at Episcopal Divinity School; he was my field education leader. Yet, Bill has worked alongside communities of faith for more than thirty years.

Bill's book in the chapter entitled, *Power*, shares a wonderful example of how a community's outlook can change their way of dealing with things that come along in life. Bill recalls the children's story The Little Engine That Could. We all know the story's hero is the smallest engine that carries the heaviest load of toys over the mountain to a city full of children anxiously waiting for the toys to arrive. The little engine does not pout or blow smoke up in the air violently with disappointment. No, instead the little engine chants aloud, "I think I can, I think I can." He then makes it over the mountain chanting a new phase, "I thought I could, I thought I could."¹

How we as humans, families, communities of faith, co-workers take on the heaviness that life can throw at us makes a huge difference in how we embrace change and hardships. We as a community this past year have really "tried on" new ways of being in community. We worshiped at home online. We came together with masks. We took communion out of medicine cups; is there a sermon somewhere in receiving our communion in medicine cups? We embraced worshiping both in-person and on-line.

¹ Kondrath, William, M, *Facing Feelings in Faith Communities*, Alban, Herdon Virginia, 2013,102.

I think as the community of Grace Episcopal Church we have been saying within our hearts, with the loving comforter of our Lord Jesus Christ, I think we can! This is a continued outlook we can have as we are going over the mountain from 2021 into the new place of 2022.

It will be amazing to see what God has in store for us. We can walk side by side as a community of Christians. We are held together by 'His' love.

Be of good cheer,

Blessing of God's love be with us always,

Rev. Val



Our Beautiful Bulletin Board. Thank you Val!



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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Holy Name of Jesus January 1	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21
Second Sunday after Christmas January 2	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 84	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Luke 2:41-52
The Epiphany January 6	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:107, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
First Sunday after Epiphany The Baptism of our Lord January 9	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21- 22
Second Sunday after Epiphany January 16	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Confession of St. Peter January 18	Acts 4:8-13	Psalm 23	1 Peter 5:1-4	Matthew 16:13-19
Third Sunday after Epiphany January 24	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5- 6, 8-10	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Conversion of St. Paul January 25	Acts 26:9-21	Psalm 67	Galatians 1:11-24	Matthew 10:16-22
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany January 30	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30



Greetings!

I hope everyone had a blessed and safe Christmas. (I should say will have as I am writing this before Christmas.) It is a special time of the year to think of all that has gone on during the past 12 months. We are getting ready to welcome in another new year. We already said hello to our church's new year. We take time to say thank you Jesus for being willing to come among us to show us the way to understanding what it means to be a Christian and live the life in preparation for the heavenly banquet yet to come. We can stumble on the pathway but Christ is there to help pick us up to keep moving as best possible on our journey. We are blessed to share this with our family, friends, coworkers, parish and strangers. We don't always know when an angel will come into our pathway or we will be one for someone else. This is one of the great mysteries that can keep us intrigued each day. I like to try to solve mysteries. However, I think that I have watched too many British, Finnish, and Australian crime shows,

I pray that 2022 will be the year that Covid 19 is no longer one of the main topics of concern. I also hope that violence and racial injustice will have more structure in place to educate us so that this too will be on the way to being more understood about the harm which was done and how we can continue to make amends. We must also concern ourselves with the subject of mental health. We have to get the basics out in the open with pathways to help one another in all ways and times. The world must know we are Christians by our love and actions. Prayer is always a good place to start. Yes I do have some big dreams for 2022. However, I hope we all have some. I also would like to get out walking more on a practical level. What are you hoping to do next year?

Thank you to all who contributed to the outreach projects that happened at Grace in 2021. Please continue to support the ones that happen in 2022. The diaper drive is one going on (cause what baby doesn't need a one) until 01/09/22. Please share ideas you might have as to what projects and programs you would like to see and be involved with at Grace.

Please try to have a safe but fun time as you celebrate the beginning of 2022. Try to see if you can do something that might be out of your comfort zone but will help someone else. It is ok to fail when we try something new. Jesus is right by our side. Let us all see if we can share our stories with one another when we do something out of the box. (We could come up with our own \$5 box special!)

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

P.S. Did you read about Doug the ugly potato from New Zealand? 17 pounds of spud - I wonder how many fries or pounds of mashed potatoes I could make?



01/01 Liz Welk
 01/13 Debbie Forrest
 01/19 Paul Crosswaith



01/02 Robert and Lorraine Belyea



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.

HOWEVER - Due to the recent spread of Covid, the **January event is cancelled**. The following schedule of events is contingent on being able to meet with safety.

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



January 2	Holy Eucharist
January 9	Morning Prayer
January 16	Holy Eucharist
January 23	Morning Prayer
January 30	Holy Eucharist



The deadline for the February issue is Tuesday, January 18. 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.



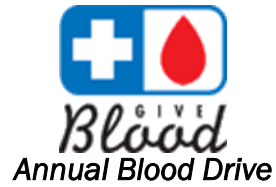
The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022.



The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Wednesday, January 19. We will be discussing *The Forest of Vanishing Stars* by Kristin Harmel.



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.



Our Annual Blood Drive will be held in the Parish Hall on Wednesday February 2, from 12 to 5 pm.

Volunteers are needed for the registration and refreshment tables. Let me know if you can help out any time between 12 and 4:30 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.



Weather Closing

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



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



We will continue to decorate the Angel Tree with warm outer wear (gloves, scarves, hats) until January 9, when they will be brought to the Friendship Center.

Diaper Drive: During Christmas we celebrate God coming to us in human form as the Babe Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes. This Christmas, in keeping our Baptismal Covenant to *care for those who are in need and respecting the dignity of all*, ECCT's deacons invite you to participate in an ECCT-wide diaper drive to benefit The Diaper Bank of Connecticut.



Did You Know?

- The Diaper Bank works to bring basic health needs, **including 75,000 diapers each week**, to low- income individuals in our state who are struggling to make ends meet.
- Most clients who frequent the diaper bank **do not have laundry facilities and laundromats do not allow the washing of cloth diapers**.
- Prior to the pandemic, **1 in 3 Connecticut families couldn't afford enough diapers** for their infants and toddlers, and the need has skyrocketed over the past year.
- Diapers can cost **up to \$100 a month** and for those who have no choice but to buy them at local convenience stores rather than big-box retailers, the cost can be even higher.
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) **weren't designed to cover the cost of diapers**.
- Without an adequate supply of clean diapers, **babies are more likely to suffer from diaper rash, urinary tract infections, and other medical problems**.

No one should have to worry about affording these basic needs.

How can you participate?

- Bring a package of diapers (sizes 3-6) to you parish's services on Christmas, Christmas 1, or Epiphany Sunday.* (no later than January 9)
- Make a financial donation to The Diaper Bank of Connecticut and note "ECCT Diaper Drive" in the "In Honor of" line.

Please drop off your donations by the Angel Tree. CJ will take care of transporting them to the drop-off location.



QUICK UPDATE: November 30, 2021

	<u>NOVEMBER OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2021 BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 4,921	\$ 61,148	\$ 64,322	\$ 72,272
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 6,327	\$ 91,175	\$ 93,937	\$ 105,062
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 8,941)	(\$ 108,466)	(\$ 119,041)	(\$ 130,272)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	(\$ 2,614)	(\$ 17,291)	(\$ 25,104)	(\$ 25,210)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 24,486		<i>End 2020 Checkbook:</i> \$ 39,100	



Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
	2 nd Christmas	1 st Epiphany	2 nd Epiphany	3 rd Epiphany	4 th Epiphany
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist
Clergy	Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller
Deacon/LWL	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
		Walt Parker		Beverley Manning	
LECTOR	JoAnn Cromwell	Marie Ritchie	Walt Parker	JoAnn Cromwell	Mabel Maynard
PRAYERS	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Marie Ritchie	Walt Parker
ALTAR GUILD	Nancy DiPrato	Nancy DiPrato	Candy Casciano	Candy Casciano	Nancy DiPrato
	Elizabeth Welk	Elizabeth Welk	Kathy Shoemaker	Kathy Shoemaker	Marie Ritchie
COUNTERS			Melissa Haseley		Walt Parker
			Lorraine Belyea		JoAnn Cromwell