

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

The Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist and Choir Director
Debbie Forrest, Office Manager
Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org
Email: office@gracechurchnew.org

Holy Eucharist – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays at
9 am

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

PACE OF GRACE



Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111

january

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ 9 am – Morning Prayer	2 6:00 pm Scouts-PH	3 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH,MR	4 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L 6:30 pm Men’s Group - PH	5 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	6	7
8 1 st Epiphany 9 am – Holy Eucharist	9 12:00 pm Hi-Noon 6:00 pm Scouts-PH	10 6:00 pm Vestry 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH,MR	11 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L 6:30 pm Men’s Group - PH	12 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	13	14 9:00 am ECW diocesan board meeting,
15 2 nd Epiphany 9 am – Holy Eucharist	16 6:00 pm Scouts-PH	17 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH,MR	18 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L 6:30 pm Men’s Group - PH	19 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	20	21 9:00 am snow date for ECW diocesan board meeting
22 3 rd Epiphany 9 am – Morning Prayer	23 6:00 pm Scouts-PH	24 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH,MR	25 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L 6:30 pm Men’s Group - PH	26 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	27	28 All Day – hold for Richard Buika for MKP event
29 4 th Epiphany 9 am – Holy Eucharist Annual Meeting	30 6:00 pm Scouts-PH	31 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH,MR	28 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L 6:30 pm Men’s Group - PH	29 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	30	31

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



Pace of Grace

January 2023

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

Dear Grace Community of Faith,

We are at a new year yet again. A new year that will bring changes that will hopefully be ones of special spiritual growth. The change in a way that brings joys.

We continue as a community to explore new ways to be community. Families evolve in connection with each other. Jesus calls us to be with each other in places of love and compassion in life.

Where do you think the Lord is calling you to go, or be, in this new year ahead of us?

Peace and Joy,

Rev. Val





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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
The Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ January 1, 2023	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Galatians 4:4-7 Or Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 2:15-21
The Epiphany January 6, 2023	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:107, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
1 st Sunday after Epiphany January 8, 2023	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
2 nd Sunday after Epiphany January 15, 2023	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-12	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Confession of St. Peter January 18, 2023	Acts 4:8-13	Psalm 23	1 Peter 5:1-4	Matthew 16:13-19
3 rd Sunday after Epiphany January 22, 2023	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 5-13	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
Conversion of St. Paul January 25, 2023	Acts 26:9-21	Psalm 67	Galatians 1:11-24	Matthew 10:16-22
4 th Sunday after Epiphany January 29, 2023	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12



Greetings,

Happy New Year again! (church was first - the world second). I pray that everyone had or is having a safe celebration for the beginning of 2023. Have you made lists for this year as to what you might do or not do? My oldest daughter has her list of 23 things for this year. Examples- 23 new restaurants to try- 23 new recipes to try- 23 times to make sure certain chores are done around the house and so on. I would add 23 books to read or make sure I follow up on at least 23 calls or visits to friends. What might your lists include? 23 projects that we can do around the church or for those in need-perhaps? Please let me know if you have any lists of things to "try on" or just continue to do.

I hope that everyone had a great Christmas. My ideas of greatness have changed as I get older. I enjoy togetherness and peace more, although I love to see the smiles on the faces of children as they open their presents. I like to go to church to hear the hymns and listen to the stories of old. I am so thankful that Jesus came to be with us so that we could "know" the light that overcomes the darkness. He shows us the way to live the Christian life filled with hope, love, and charity to one another.

We have the season of Epiphany starting January 6th this year. It is known in some cultures as Three Kings Day. It is the day that Christians celebrate the revelation of Jesus to the world. We consider it as the end of the Christmas season. (I wonder who had an epiphany about that?) Perhaps we could use this season to go on some adventures that could open our minds to new ways both in and out of church?

January 16, 2023 is Martin Luther King Jr. day. Many of us were around in the 1960's when the civil rights movement was trying to promote equality and justice for the blacks. I was more involved in the Vietnam War issues at that time. I offer my apologies to those who I ignored in their fight which should have also been my fight for civil liberties. I read articles and watched TV but did nothing else as I was in college and concerned more with the war. As I have grown older I have learned that indifference is wrong. I need to continue the cause for civil rights by being active in whatever way I can. Our ECCT continues to ask us to acknowledge and reconcile this part of our past as we try to offer the way of Jesus in all that we do to all who we meet. We complete forms every year to show what we are doing in this endeavor. Please continue to pray- read- talk - share - live into - apologize- to show that there must be equality and justice for all.

Try to stay warm this month. The prices of oil, gas, and electricity are way too high. Let us help each other or ask for help if we need it. God uses us as angels in many different ways. We must continue to reveal to the world the love that Jesus has for all when He came into this world as God incarnate.

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

cj

PS...France, Italy, and Spain have special pastries they bake for Epiphany - are there others as well?



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

In October the group had its annual visit to Gouveia Vineyards, Wallingford. The November activity was a tour of Middlewoods of Newington: Independent and Assisted Living Community. With fourteen attending the December Holiday Party, the conversation was lively and Christmas Sing-a-long spirited. Thank you Nancy for preparing the delicious homemade pasta main dish.

Future events:

Monday, January 9 – Fun and Games in Parish Hall (or maybe one of the easier to heat classrooms), Bring a bag lunch (coffee, tea, juice provided).

February 6, Monday – Movie Matinee in Parish Hall, Bring a bag lunch (coffee, tea, juice provided) and movie treats to share. Movie to be announced.

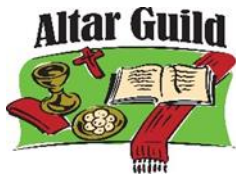
March (Date to be determined) - Epicurean Adventure – In past years we visited Portuguese, Polish and Greek restaurants during our March epicurean adventure. This year’s selection will be discussed at the January and February meetings.



January 1	Morning Prayer
January 8	Holy Eucharist
January 9	Hi Noon
January 10	Vestry
January 15	Holy Eucharist
January 22	Morning Prayer
January 25	Book Club
January 29	Holy Eucharist Annual Meeting



The deadline for the February issue is Tuesday, January 24, 2023. 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.



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will be taking down Christmas decorations after the service on January 8.
 Liz Welk



Food Collection

Newington Food Bank: We continue to support the food bank by donating chicken, baked beans, cinnamon, oatmeal and microwave popcorn. You are truly the hands of Jesus serving the poor. Bless you all and thank you for your ongoing generosity.

JoAnn Cromwell



Below is list of book club dates and titles for the first quarter of 2023.

January 25 – Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

February 15 – Take My Hand by Dolan Perkins-Valdez (a Black History month read)

March 15 – Feared by Lisa Scottoline

The book club meets at 12 pm in the church library. We each bring our own lunch and the discussion generally ends between 1:30/2:00.

We have decided to plan our meetings on a quarterly basis. Keep in mind we do not meet in July or August and our December meeting is a holiday luncheon with no book discussion.

If you have any question or suggestions, please let me know. All are welcome to join us.

Happy Reading!
Melissa Haseley



Our Annual Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, February 1 from 1-6 pm. We will need two volunteers for registration starting at 12:30, along with two volunteers for the refreshment table.

Appointments are available to schedule now. Contact JoAnn Cromwell to choose the time that best suits your schedule to donate blood.

Thank you everyone for the time you give to this ministry.

JoAnn Cromwell



The Grace Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29 immediately following the service. All parishioners are welcome to attend. At this meeting new Vestry members will be elected. While current members of the Vestry have indicated they will continue to serve, additional members are always welcome. Any active parishioner desiring to be part of this group that governs that management of Grace Church may nominate themselves. Please notify the Church office (860-666-3331) if you plan to nominate yourself.

The Vestry meets on the second Tuesday of the month (usually not in July or August). For the past two years the meetings have been held on Zoom and this manner will likely continue. While Zoom attendance requires access to a computer or smart phone, the meetings can be attended by ordinary landline phone.

Also at the annual meeting, parishioners will have the opportunity to make comments and question Reverend Val, the Wardens (JoAnn Cromwell and Walt Parker), Treasurer Mark Shoemaker and Deacon CJ concerning matters related to Grace.

Light refreshments will be served.



We will continue to decorate the Angel Tree with warm outerwear (gloves, scarves, hats) until January 8, when they will be brought to the Friendship Center.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Angel Tree all of these years.

Beverley Manning



QUICK UPDATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2022

	<u>NOVEMBER OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2022 BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 6,055	\$ 57,994	\$ 56,487	\$ 63,468
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 12,907	\$ 92,226	\$ 90,351	\$ 101,028
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 8,845)	(\$ 111,178)	(\$ 118,917)	(\$ 130,248)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	\$ 4,061	(\$ 18,952)	(\$ 28,566)	(\$ 28,566)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 13,097		<i>End 2021 Checkbook:</i> \$ 32,797	



We are still collecting ink and toner cartridges.
Please drop off in the box on the shelf in the narthex

Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist
Clergy		Rev. Valerie Miller	Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller
Deacon/LWL	Rev. CJ Puskarz Elizabeth Welk	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
LECTOR	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Marie Ritchie	Beverley Manning
PRAYERS	Beverley Manning	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker
ALTAR GUILD	Elizabeth Welk Barbara Johnson	Jane Stewart Kathy Shoemaker	Jane Stewart Kathy Shoemaker	Elizabeth Welk Candy Casciano	Elizabeth Welk Candy Casciano
COUNTERS			JoAnn Cromwell Lorraine Belyea		Walt Parker Nancy DiPrato