

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

The Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller, Rector
The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist and Choir Director
Debbie Forrest, Office Manager
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Holy Eucharist – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays at
9 am

Morning Prayer – 2nd & 4th Sundays at 9 am
Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30 am

PACE OF



GRACE



J U N E

2021

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30 am Morning Prayer – C 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	2	3 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	4	5 
6 2 nd Pentecost 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	7	8 8:30 am Morning Prayer – C 6:00 pm Vestry by Zoom 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	9 4:00-8:30 pm Dance Studio – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	10 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	11	12
13 3 rd Pentecost 9:00 am Morning Prayer	14	15 8:30 am Morning Prayer – C 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	16 4:00-8:30 pm Dance Studio – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	17 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	18	19
20 4 th Pentecost 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 	21 4:00-8:00 pm Dance Studio – PH	22 8:30 am Morning Prayer – C 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	23 4:00-8:30 pm Dance Studio – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	24 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	25	26
27 5 th Pentecost: 9:00 am Morning Prayer 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm VBS Setup – back patio & lawn	28 8 am-1 pm – VBS back patio & lawn 4:00-8:00 pm Dance Studio – PH	29 8 am-1 pm – VBS back patio & lawn 8:30 am Morning Prayer – C 7 pm Narc Anon - PH	30 8 am-1 pm – VBS back patio & lawn 4:00-8:30 pm Dance Studio – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L			

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



Pace of Grace

June 2021

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

Dear Grace Church Community,

We have had many changes that have been positive. Our nation is slowly coming back to a new normal. Yet, what is the new normal that we are entering? We have started to have in-person worship, wafers for Holy Communion and still having Zoom as an opportunity for worship. We had the honoring of the life of Elissa Schumann this past Saturday, May 22nd, and we celebrated the festival day of Pentecost on Sunday, May 23rd. We have so much that will await us in the future with God at our side as a community of faith.

As Christians we are still being called to keep everyone who has been impacted by Covid-19, their families and friends in our prayers. We are still called to seek out means of justice against the evils of racism within our nation. This can feel overwhelming to many of us and that is a normal feeling to have. The Episcopal Church has not left us empty-handed; there are resources that have already been in place for years working for the social justice of people of color, immigrants, our children, those who are living in poverty, and those whose daily needs are not being met. Here are some resources that are available from the National Church and The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, ECCT: <https://www.episcopalct.org/Find-Resources/ministry-networks/racialhealingjusticereconciliation/> (Racial and Healing Network, ECCT) and The National Church resources, <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/responding-to-racist-violence/>. These are only a few things that the Episcopal Church, our diocese, The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, is working on to try to address all that we see happening in our streets, cities, towns, and nation.

The church has always been moving in radical ways to address the injustices in our world and nation. We don't need to think we are not able to do anything. We are instead able to act with our faith, church, and communities to see that the love of Jesus is made known by our compassion-filled actions.

Blessing of Peace,

Rev. Val



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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
2 nd Sunday after Pentecost June 6	1 Samuel 8:4-11, [12-15], 16-20, [11:14-15]	Psalm 138	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
St. Barnabas June 11	Isaiah 42:5-12	Psalm 112	Acts 11:19-30, 13:1-3	Matthew 10:7-16
3 rd Sunday after Pentecost June 13	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13	Psalm 20	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Mark 4:26-34
4 th Sunday after Pentecost June 20	1 Samuel 17:[1a, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49	Psalm 9:9-20	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
Nativity of St. John the Baptist June 24	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85	Acts 13:14b-26	Luke 1:57-80
5 th Sunday after Pentecost June 27	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27	Psalm 130	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43
Sts. Peter and Paul June 29	Ezekiel 34:11-16	Psalm 87	2 Timothy 4:1-8	John 21:15-19



Greetings!

I need to include a little about May in this article. I think that I was having pandemic fog when I wrote my article last month. Although when I was writing the article it was snowing outside which could have also distracted me because I know April showers bring May flowers, but it doesn't say anything about April snow showers bringing anything!

I send many thanks to all our mothers and those who took on motherly responsibilities. I also want to say thank you to all who have served and are serving in our military. I hope that we all take a moment over this Memorial Day to remember all those who made it possible for us to live in this country of choices. I also hope that more families can safely get together to enjoy the sharing of food and festivities.

Now onto the month of June, which signals the start of summer, the ending of school, and lazy hazy crazy days of doing hopefully more fun-filled activities. This could include traveling. Is anyone going anywhere this summer? I hope to maybe get some beach time.

It has been a year since the death of George Floyd. His death has brought a more in-depth exposure to racial injustice and certain policies that exist. There have been some changes happening that are beneficial BUT we also need to stop all the violence that continues.

Does anyone know what the Tulsa Race Massacre was? May 31-June 1 1921 in Tulsa, Oklahoma...it has been called "the single worst incident of racial violence in American History." 35 square blocks of what was a very wealthy black community was destroyed. It changed the lives of many people. This event was not included in history for almost 75 years. It did not become a part of the Oklahoma school lessons until 2020. There have been many events that history in our country does not talk about when open discussion is needed. We cannot change nor learn from what we do not know.

Juneteenth day - 6/19/21 celebrates Emancipation Day when Gordon Granger of the Union Army on June 19, 1865 proclaimed the final freedom from slavery in Texas as stated originally in President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation on 09/22/1862. It took a while for most states to get on board with this Proclamation. We are still getting on board with equal justice for all. There have been too many situations where Afro-Americans have been denied their freedoms. There are too many cases of other groups being denied their rights and freedoms.

We just celebrated Pentecost when all could understand the words being spoken. There was no difference in the crowd as to who would or would not be accepted. (This was brought to my attention by a sermon I heard preached.) It was stated that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" from the prophet Joel as Peter shared with the crowd. We are still asked to help one another as best we can. Perhaps we ourselves might need some help. We are part of a community that includes all people. We must let the Holy Spirit guide us to share with one another in the way that Jesus asks of us.

I would like to close with a thank you to all our fathers and those who took on the fatherly role. I hope that families have a chance to safely gather on June 20th to celebrate Father's Day.

I also hope that those who are able come join us on Sunday morning either in either person or on zoom. Newington is out of the red zone!!! I have included a picture of how nice our back area does look. If you attend other churches while on vacation this summer, please bring back the bulletin to share with us how the service was done. I like to see how other churches worship our Lord. Please try to do a deliberate act of kindness to someone this month. I see the signs around Newington again about kindness. Let others know we are Christians by our faith and our acts.

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

Ps. perhaps an interesting fact for 2021 - the largest iceberg of 1600 square miles broke off an Antarctic ice shelf and is now floating around the Weddell Sea (anyone need any ice for their drinks?)





06/09 Kathy Shoemaker
 06/10 Michelle Dumont
 06/10 Christopher Page
 06/14 Charlotte Buckingham
 06/20 Karen Halpert
 06/21 Barbara Block
 06/24 Marianne Doolittle



06/06 Martin & Valerie Dumont
 06/13 Paul & Jeanne Bailey
 06/29 Walt & Jeanne Parker



The deadline for the July/August is Tuesday, June 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.



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



The Grace Church Book Club selected *Children of the Stars* by Mario Escobar for the June discussion. We will meet on Friday, June 18 at 1:30 (please note date and time change). This will be in-person at the church.



Safe Church Training Spring 2021 All ECCT Safe Church Training (SCT) includes an online course followed by a 3-hour live session on Zoom. This training is grounded in our call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and respect the dignity of every human being. It offers an opportunity to increase and enhance our ability to live out our Baptismal Covenant within our communities of faith and in the world beyond.

Register for one of these live Zoom sessions by clicking on the listing (May and June sessions TBA):

- [Please fill out this Safe Church Training evaluation form after your training](#)
- [Monday evening, June 7, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 pm](#)
- [Saturday morning, June 12, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon](#)



Be devoted to one another in love.

Romans 12:10, NIV

Have you noticed the front gardens and the Memorial Garden recently? They are all spruced up and looking pretty spiffy. The winter debris has been cleaned up, the weeds pulled, additional weed repellent applied, the shrubs trimmed, the edges edged and the mulch spread. It's the perpetual maintenance of the

grounds that we should do every year and hopefully we can continue to do it on an ongoing basis. The edging and the mulch should last a couple of years before it needs to be freshened up!

Now all we need is to pretty it up a bit with some colorful, non-stop blooming annual flowers! And this is where we are asking for your help. We were able to do the maintenance from the line item in the budget from your donations over the years and we thank you for your generosity. But we have almost depleted that account. With the price of flowers higher than they have been in a long time, we are asking that the blue envelopes for the next month or two to be used to donate money for garden flowers and to replenish the account a bit. All you have to do just mark the envelope for garden flowers so it gets applied to the right account.

If you want to buy some flowers yourself, we are looking for petunias, impatiens, alyssum, zinnias, cosmos, geraniums, a spike or two, as in accent plant, vinca vines, verbena, coleus etc., Any type of colorful, annual, container plant. We are also looking for a nice hanging basket for the shepherd's hook in the front garden.

Should you have any questions please contact Melissa. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Last month Bishop Ian Douglas announced plans to retire in the fall of 2022 and called for the election of the 16th bishop diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. The Standing Committee of the diocese gave its consent to both announcements.

Since then a Bishop Transition Committee, made up of clergy and laity from across the diocese, has been formed to oversee the transition process, including identifying nominees for the bishop diocesan position. These are the people who make up the transition team: Joy Anderson, Suzy Burke, Harlon Dalton, Luk De Volder, Bob Giolitto, Edrick Hall, Zachary Kohl, Bonnie Matthews, Harry Schmitz, Linda Spiers, Kate Wesch, Sarah Woodford, Marsha McCurdy Adell, Joseph Carroll, Scott Colvin, Laura Daly, Kevin Fenner, Jack Gilpin, Jack Hale, Rebekah Bokros Hatch, Karen Hatcher-Sneed, Kim Litsey, Helena Martin and Marissa Stuart Rohrbac



In case you haven't heard, services are being still being broadcast via Zoom at 9 am. Please contact the church if you are missing it and would like to be added to the list.

Church Rental Opportunities

Rental of Church facilities provides a needed source of income. Along with the rental of the Rectory, these rentals provide approximately 20% of our annual income. The Parish Hall, classrooms and patio/lawn area are available. Rentals have/will include a Scrap Booking Event (held pre-Covid and scheduled again for May), a dance studio, Vacation Bible School of Greater Hartford Church of Christ (pre-Covid and again this summer).

The Vestry has established policies related to rentals. If you are aware of an individual or organization needing a one day or ongoing space, please contact the Church Office at 860-666-3331. Questions about rentals should be directed to Melissa Haseley - Call or text 860-977-4181.



QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: April 30, 2021

	<u>APRIL</u> <u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2021</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 4,697	\$ 21,199	\$ 26,018	\$ 72,272
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 5,324	\$ 35,689	\$ 37,052	\$ 105,062
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 8,786)	(\$ 39,854)	(\$ 43,832)	(\$ 130,272)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	(\$ 3,462)	(\$ 4,165)	(\$ 6,780)	(\$ 25,210)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 39,375		<i>End 2020 Checkbook:</i>	\$ 39,100



Creative Energy Team June 2021

Our tag sale is fast approaching!! We have items from the last two years. There will be plenty to sell. Here are the details.

**TAG SALE - Saturday, June 5, 2021. It is from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. Set up starts at 7 am.
The Rain Date is Saturday, June 12, 2021, at the same times.**

We will be renting spaces on the front lawn and parts of the parking lot. A space rents for \$15. Payment is made the day of the Tag Sale.

We have started sorting, pricing and throwing away the items that will not sell. If you are available to help sort through boxes or price items, let us know. We can let you know the day and time for the next time we meet. We meet approximately once a week until the week before the Tag Sale, then we meet daily the week before the Tag Sale.

We will need help from our parishioners in the following areas...

- sorting and pricing items
- setting up on Friday, June 4th during the day
- assisting customers on the day of the Tag Sale
- taking down on the day of the Tag Sale

If you wish to donate, help or have questions, please contact Lynn Page at 860-841-2539 or Valerie Dumont 860-690-0727.

After the tag sale we will be packing up items into garbage bags. On Monday, June 7, 2021, the Vietnam Vets of America will be picking up 25 bags for us at our front door. All other items will be brought to Savers or to another appropriate place to donate. If you are available to drive any leftover items to a place to donate, please let Lynn or I know.

If you plan on donating anything, please put items in the Nursery only. If you are donating large items, please reach out to us to see where you can put them.

We look forward to seeing everyone for our Tag Sale.

Faithfully, Valerie Dumont



Dr. William Key probably became the most recognized African American of his era. He was seen by more white audiences, estimated at more than ten million, and written about in every major newspaper of the time. If you are like many others, you probably never heard of him. He was the top draw, i.e. moneymaker at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. He and his sidekick, Beautiful Jim Key.

Beautiful Jim Key was a horse, not just any horse but the smartest, most astonishing, most educated horse that has ever lived. He learned to read, to spell, to do math, to tell time, to sort the mail, to use the telephone and to cite Bible passages (that's what is said from multiple sources). Now I am a sucker for a good animal story and this one sure fit the bill. And in the process I learned about Dr. William Key, the real focus of the June installment of "Focus on Black History".

In addition to being the most recognized African American of his era, Dr. William Key was a pretty remarkable man himself. He was born a slave to Captain John Key in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. When he was five, the Captain died and he was willed to his cousin, John W. Key of Shelbyville Tennessee, where he became known as a gentle, caring soul with a way with both people and animals. The family noticed that the elderly father was calmer when "Bill" was around and that he had a remarkable talent working with horses and mules. With his sensitivity and unique way with horses especially, he was sent to the pastures to train and work with the horses. Mr. John W. Key soon elevated the young horse whisperer to horse leader of his plantation as well as of the area. He learned to read, no common occurrence at the time, and was also taught writing, math and science; he learned to read veterinary texts and experimented with animal remedies. He soon became known as Dr. Key and practiced healing arts for the slaves and equine dentistry for the area.

His knowledge of math and counting helped him become a great gambler and he learned to play cards, and in the army, poker, and accumulated a great sum of money he kept in the soles of his shoes. Legend has it that he won his release from Union soldiers gambling when he purchased his release in exchange for forgiving their gambling debts. He was arrested because he tried to smuggle another Black man across Union lines – he was a Union sympathizer during the war. His hanging was postponed when it was learned he was a good poker player as well as a good cook!

Ever since his childhood, Dr. Key would treat all animals with kindness and compassion. He emphasized patience and kindness when training a horse and never used a whip, or any kind of abuse which was the standard practice of the day – beatings and intimidation. As a result he developed an intimate bond with all animals. He was a self-taught veterinarian and horse trainer. When he opened a horse hospital in town as a free man after the Civil War, he was considered a veterinarian by the townspeople even though he had no formal training. He was very much an entrepreneur and also opened a racetrack, a hotel and a restaurant and a successful pharmaceutical business.

During the time before the war he was raised like a son and he also becomes friends with his master's

sons and the three of them become like brothers. He followed them to the Civil War and saved their lives, along with others in their regiment, and became a Civil War hero – remember he was also a Union sympathizer. After the war and he became a free man, the Key family lost everything and it was the prosperous Dr. Key who paid off the mortgage on his master's house because he always treated him with kindness and was a nice man. He also finished paying for the Harvard education of his “brothers.” He attributed his success to the early relationship that was forged with the family that grew stronger over time.

It was the horse hospital that gave him the means and the knowledge to think about getting into the sport of kings – horse racing. It was his failed attempt to breed a thoroughbred that Beautiful Jim Key came into the picture. Rather than destroying the sickly horse, Dr. Key worked with him and found he was very gifted and smart, more so than any of the other horses he had ever worked with. He continued to train and develop new techniques to teach Beautiful Jim Key and while he was clearly a gifted horse, the opportunities were limited because of Dr. Key's race. The harsh reality was that he was a Black man in the 1800s and was only allowed to participate in certain venues and competitions. They became a household name because of the aggressive promotion of A.R. Rogers.

Around this same time, Dr. Key was asked to serve on the “Negro Committee” at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition. And they made their “stage debut” in front of President William McKinley, who was impressed with both the man and his training methods and the horse. At this time there was also another animal that was added to the entourage: a former stray dog named Monk, who served as a companion and bodyguard for Beautiful Jim Key. There are pictures of Monk riding around on the horse's back.

As things happen, a partnership was made with the American Humane Society. Over two million children joined the Jim Key Band of Mercy and signed the pledge “I promise always to be kind to animals.” This partnership became the forerunner to any animal kindness campaigns and programs and the cornerstone to present day animal rights and anti-cruelty groups. There are several books that have been written about Beautiful Jim Key over the years. There is also a documentary in the works to preserve this almost lost story forever.

Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM

	June 6	June 13	June 20	June 27
	2 nd Pentecost	3 rd Pentecost	4 th Pentecost	5 th Pentecost
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Clergy	Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller	
Deacon/LWL	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
				JoAnn Cromwell
LECTOR/ RESPONDER	Walt Parker	Marie Ritchie	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert
PRAYERS	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker
ALTAR GUILD	Candy Casciano	Kathy Shoemaker	Kathy Shoemaker	Pat Rogorzenski
	Jane Stewart	Marie Ritchie	Marie Ritchie	Nancy DiPrato
COUNTERS			Walt Parker	
			Lorraine Belyea	

COMMUNITY TAG SALE

**** COME SELL ~ COME SHOP ****

**** DONATIONS ACCEPTED ****

Saturday, June 5, 2021

8:30am ~ 1:30pm

Grace Episcopal Church

124 Maple Hill Ave, Newington, CT

Rent a space for \$15.00 Bring your own Table

Set up at 7am

Rain Date is June 19, 2021

Contact Lynn Page for info 860-841-2539

COME SELL

COME SHOP

DONATIONS
ACCEPTED



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COME SHOP

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