

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
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Holy Eucharist – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays at
9 am
Morning Prayer – 2nd & 4th Sundays at 9 am

PACE OF GRACE



June

2022

JUNE 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L	2 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	3 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S	4
5 The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday 9 am – Holy Eucharist	6 Noon – Hi Noon Annual Picnic - PH	7 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	8 6:00 pm Drop the Rock – L	9 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	10 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S	11
12 1 st Pentecost/Trinity Sunday 9 am – Morning Prayer	13	14 6:00 pm Vestry Mtg 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH 	15 12:00 Book Club - L 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	16 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	17 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S	18
19 2 nd Pentecost 9 am – Morning Prayer 	20	21 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	22 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	23 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	24 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S	25
26 3 rd Pentecost 9 am – Holy Eucharist 150th Anniversary Celebration 4 pm – Deacon Vow Renewal - MG	27	28 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	29 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	30		

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



Pace of Grace

June 2022

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

The church hive



Bees live in a cooperative way described as "eusociality," or good relations. Each bee contributes a specific skill to the colony, synchronizing its efforts for the benefit of all. Likewise, a church's health depends on all members fulfilling their responsibility to the organism as a whole. Descriptions of hive life mirror Paul's words about the body of Christ, with members having different gifts "but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4).

According to R.S. Beal Jr., who was both a pastor and a zoology professor, a beehive is the perfect "living illustration of how to walk in unity." He wrote, "Those of us who have believed in Jesus belong to one another just as much as we belong to Christ. We cannot live independently of one another anymore than we can live independently of Christ. Like the bees, we must learn to practice the sacrifice, labor, sharing, and submission of love that together we 'may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ'" (Ephesians 4:15, KJV). How are you using your own spiritual gifts to build up your church "hive"?



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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday June 5	Acts 2:1-21 Or Genesis 11:1-9	104:25-35, 37	Romans 8:14-17 Or Acts 2:1-21	John 14:8-27
St. Barnabas June 11	Isaiah 42:5-12	Psalm 112	Acts 11:19-30, 13:1-3	Matthew 10:7-16
Trinity Sunday June 12	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
2nd Sunday after Pentecost June 19	1 Kings 19:1-15a	Psalm 42 or Psalm 43	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:25-39
Nativity of St. John the Baptist June 24	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85	Acts 13:14b-26	Luke 1:57-80
3rd Sunday after Pentecost June 26	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62
Sts. Peter and Paul June 29	Ezekiel 34:11-16	Psalm 87	2 Timothy 4:1-8	John 21:15-19



You are invited to the 150th anniversary celebration of worshipping at Grace. The celebration is at 9 am on Sunday, June 26. We are pleased to announce that Bishop Laura Ahrens will be joining us to honor this joyous milestone. Please join us for this special service with fellowship and brunch immediately following in the Parish Hall. Please RSVP via email at gracechurchnew.org or by calling the office at 860-666-3331.



Warm Greetings filled with hope to you!

I hope that you have all had a chance to read about the Rev. Jeffrey Mello, our new Bishop-elect. He will officially be installed on October 15, 2022. It will be interesting to see what pathways God will be directing our Church under our new Bishop Diocesan. Bishop Laura Ahrens will still be our Bishop Suffragan.

Since I am in a hoping mode, I hope that you all received your letter to attend our 150th Anniversary Service on June 26, 2022. This could be a time of gathering with friends who have not been able to be at Grace recently. Bishop Suffragan Laura Ahrens will be with us. We can break bread together in our service. We can then have conversation and brunch, including cake, after the service. Hopefully a fun time for all.

We are going to celebrate Juneteenth this month on June 19th. Hopefully you remember that this is the day of freedom of enslaved people in the United States at the end of the Civil War. We still have a lot of work to do concerning the dismantling of white privilege, racial reconciliation, and anti-black bias. We must come up with ways to do more of this in our parish. Prayer is always a good place to start. Conversation can help as well. We need to figure out ways to make even a small positive difference in this area. I am always willing to listen to suggestions.

We are also celebrating Pride Month for the LGBTQ+ communities to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. We have been trying to obtain "equal justice and opportunity for LGBTQ Americans." We celebrate LGBT History Month in October which "highlights exemplary role models from the LGBT community."

I also hope that everyone will have a wonderful summer. This is my favorite season of the year. I like warm weather, sunshine, and the beach. The smell of the ocean as I sit on the beach watching the water makes me enjoy what God has created even more. I am not always excited about the seagulls swooping overhead making lots of noise, but that is part of the atmosphere of being outside at the beach. I also enjoy boating and fishing. I still remember sitting on the bow of my family's boat feeling the wind as we traveled from one port to another. There was one time when we were fishing about 50 miles off of Montauk NY where the only thing I could see was water as we were too far away from land. One mistake with navigation and the next stop would have been Spain! It made me feel so insignificant but yet still loved by God. I had to totally rely upon God for my sense of where I was going as there was no GPS or Waze at that time. What summer memories do you have to share?

Hope for a future with no Covid is something I wish for at this time. I would at least like to see it become something like the flu where you might get sick but be able to take a pill to get better quickly. I also hope for all medical issues to have cures, especially the ones like cancer, heart problems, ALS, MS stroke, dementia, and many others. We are a world of educated people that can hopefully discover needed cures. I can dream can't I? Let us lift up all people to get the education needed to pursue the pathway that their God-given talents and gifts can be used to help others in need.

I hope that you spend your summer trying to spend more time with God through church or that special place you like to go. Lent is not the only time to deepen our relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Perhaps a different pathway will be revealed to you during your summer adventures. If not on the high seas maybe the high mountains or lowlands of your garden. Let God be with you more each day this summer. I hope that if any outreach ideas come to you that you will share them with me and others.

Happy Father's Day to all fathers and to those who are fathers in whatever capacity needed.

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

PS: you might not want to go to Padre Island in TX as I read a story about creepy dolls washing up on the beaches there

PPS: Our church is also hosting a renewal of deacon vows at 4 pm on June 26th. Retired Bishop Suffragan Jim Curry will be giving a demonstration of how weapons are turned into garden tools. He is bringing his forge with him to do this. We are all bringing our own food to eat. Anyone is welcome to come to this event.





- 06/06 Angela Hale
- 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



Hi-Noon Annual Picnic

Monday, June 6 at 12:00 The Hi-Noon Group will hold its Annual Picnic in the Parish Hall and Patio. All parishioners and their friends are invited. Those attending are asked to bring a salad, picnic style main dish or dessert to share. Hamburgers, hot dogs and a selection of hot and cold drinks will be served. Please notify Nancy DiPrato at 860-665-7747 if you plan to come.



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



- June 5 Holy Eucharist
- June 12 Morning Prayer
- June 19 Morning Prayer
- June 26 Holy Eucharist
150th Anniversary Celebration

Newington Food Bank: We continue to support the food bank by donating minced onion, 100% fruit juice, beef stew, canola oil, and snack-size raisins. You are truly the hands of Jesus serving the poor. Bless you all and thank you for your ongoing generosity.

JoAnn Cromwell



The deadline for the July/August issue is Tuesday, June 21. 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.



On May 18, Laura, Liz, Jane and Melissa met to discuss *Apples Never Fall* by Laine Moriarty. The book received mixed reviews from the group for the most part. Some thought it was tedious and the back and forth between different years was confusing. It was a good study of a dysfunctional family that could have benefitted from more communication between them. Overall we had an interesting discussion based on questions Laura found on the internet.

We also decided on a second book for September to read over the summer since we do not meet in July and August. We also selected the books for October and November. The remaining book club schedule is as follows:

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|--------------|--|
| June 15 | <i>The Carnegie's Maid</i>
by Marie Benedict |
| September 21 | <i>The Lincoln Highway</i>
by Amor Towles

<i>The Hotel Nantucket</i> by
Elin Hilderbrand (our beach
read! It is summer after all!) |
| October 19 | <i>Lilac Girls</i> by Martha Hall Kelly |
| November 16 | <i>The Sun Does Shine</i> by
Anthony Ray Hinson |

Traditionally we do not meet in December for a book club discussion and we are going to do that this year as well. Last year we gathered for a holiday lunch for food and fellowship and it was agreed it was a nice way to ease into the holiday season. This December we will do that again and enjoy a catered lunch from the Italian Gourmet on December 7 at 12:00pm.

All are welcome to participate in our book club. You can come for all of the discussions or you can come for just one. We are always looking for book titles that others have enjoyed. If you have a book you'd like to recommend please leave a message with the office. We are compiling a list of suggested book titles for our future reads. Please join us on June 15.

Happy Reading!
Melissa Haseley

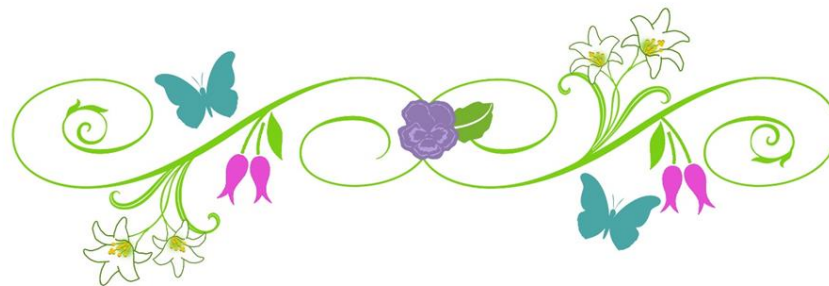


QUICK UPDATE: April 31, 2022

	<u>APRIL</u> <u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2022</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 6,271	\$ 20,886	\$ 20,944	\$ 63,468
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 9,363	\$ 34,178	\$ 34,400	\$ 101,028
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 9,389)	(\$ 43,148)	(\$ 42,947)	(\$ 130,248)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	(\$ 26)	(\$ 8,970)	(\$ 8,547)	(\$ 29,220)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 23,827		<i>End 2021 Checkbook:</i>	\$ 32,797

Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM

	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
	3 rd Easter	4 th Easter	5 th Easter	6 th Easter
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Clergy	Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller	
Deacon/LWL	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz Beverley Manning	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
LECTOR	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker
PRAYERS	Marie Ritchie	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Beverley Manning
ALTAR GUILD	Kathy Shoemaker Jane Stewart	Kathy Shoemaker Jane Stewart	Elizabeth Welk Pat Rogorzenski	Elizabeth Welk Pat Rogorzenski
COUNTERS		Melissa Haseley Nancy DiPrato		JoAnn Cromwell Walt Parker



BRIEF HISTORY OF GRACE CHURCH, NEWINGTON CT

1871-2022

In 1870/1872 the residents of Newington were focused on the fight for Newington, CT, which was created by the Legislature in 1871. A small group of Episcopalians who had been meeting near the Railroad Station decided that they wanted their own Parish--no more traveling to Wethersfield. Jared Starr, one of the leaders of the Parish, led the appeal to The Diocese of Connecticut and in June 1871, the new parish was created. There was no church building. Mr. Starr led the fundraising, and in 1874 the church was built. The church began steady parish life with a series of visiting clergy. Mr. Starr became a Deacon and led a group of 26 families, as the parish celebrated their 25th anniversary.

The 20th century was going to be a century of challenge and change. The World War I was the first struggle for the church to survive. There weren't enough clergy, and Deacon Starr had retired. One couple, the Hirths, who had been married in 1908, were still members in the 1980s. Grace Church was placed under the authority of the new Christ Church Cathedral in 1919. For 29 years, clergy was provided to the Grace Church; clergy, the staff of the cathedral, and the Bishop visited frequently. There were more challenges coming – the Depression and the World War II. The parish was active even in the Depression. On one Sunday there were three services including Confirmation and YPF afterwards, as they worked together for the parish. The post-war years were about to bring more challenges.

At the end of the war, several churches were still under the authority of the Cathedral. The Bishops decided to place Grace Church under authority of the priest at St. Mark's in New Britain. Something even bigger was happening in Newington--a population jump from approximately 700 residents in 1940 to nearly 30,000 in 1970. All churches either grew in membership or were created. In 1952, Grace Parish received the first full time rector, Father Griswold, and there were 125 parishioners and 45 children. In all the years since 1871, Rev. Griswold was the first full time priest the parish could afford. By 1954, membership was up to 215 adults and 112 children. The Church School had to be taught in one of the public schools on the weekends. The Parish realized they needed a bigger church building and in 1956 a church committee met with Bishop Gray and made an agreement that if the Diocese were to purchase the land at the current location, the parish would build the building. The Church was completed in the fall of 1957, and the loan was paid off in 1980.

From 1957 to 2002 the parish thrived with a large membership and church school, a new rectory, and a church tower. With our fine rectors, the Rev. Richardson Libbey, (1971-1987), the Rev. Martha Hedgpeth (1989-1995), our first woman priest, and the Rev. George Choyce (1996-2002), we still had 200-300 members and an active church school, and several valuable assistants. The Rev. Martha Klein-Larsen was our interim rector from 2002-2004. She was the first Lutheran to serve an Episcopal Parish in Connecticut. She later became an Episcopal priest, a first for the entire church.

In 2004 we called Jane White-Hassler who remained until her retirement in 2012. Rev. David Parachini served as interim from 2013-2015, and then as our Missional Priest from 2016-2018. This was a period of stress and conflict in the whole church, but the church did not close as was typical of many denominations.

The ultimate stress was created by the Covid Virus. The Church was closed at times, and many members were, and still are, reluctant to attend. We used Zoom, met outside, but kept the rules of the Bishops with Lay-led Morning Prayer and occasional supply. After over a year as our primary Supply Priest, The Rev. Valerie Miller became our part-time Priest-in-Charge in January 2021. Our staff includes The Rev. CJ Puskarz, our Deacon; Mei Tsen Chen, our Organist and Choir Director; and Debbie Forrest, our Office manager.

Beverley Manning