

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

The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist and Choir Director
Debbie Forrest, Office Manager

Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org

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Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9 am
Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30 am

PACE OF GRACE





MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Lent 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Morning Prayer	2 6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH	3 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 8:30 am Employment Group - MMR 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR	4 5:30 pm Property Committee Mtg - Office 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L 6:00 pm NC Regional Leadership Mtg - MMR 7:30 RHI Subcommittee - NA CT - PH	5 9:30 am Tai Chi - PH 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L	6	7
8 2 nd Lent 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Morning Prayer	9 12 pm Hi-Noon 6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH	10 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 8:30 am Employment Group - MMR 6:00 pm Vestry Mtg - MMR 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR	11 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	12 9:30 am Tai Chi - PH 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L	13	14 2:00 pm Book Club Meeting - Library
15 3 rd Lent 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	16 6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH	17 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 8:30 am Employment Group MMR 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR 	18 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	19 9:30 am Tai Chi - PH 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L	20	21 9:30 am Diocesan ECW Mtg - PH or MMR
22 4 th Lent 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	23 6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH	24 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 8:30 am Employment Group MMR 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR	25 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	26 9:30 am Tai Chi - PH 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm AI Anon - PH, MR, L	27	28 Snow date for Diocesan ECW mtg
29 5 th Lent 8:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 11:00 am Vestry Retreat	30 6:30 pm Cub Scouts - PH	31 8:30 am Morning Prayer - C 8:30 am Employment Group MMR 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH, MR				

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



Pace of Grace

March 2020

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



Dear Parishioners of Grace Church,

A few weeks ago you received a copy of the resignation letter from Pastor Trish that she had sent to the Vestry. The resignation was not a total surprise. She had discussed with the Vestry her concerns about the time commitment here at Grace. In order to have medical benefits she needed a full time position. While her additional new full time position of working as a psychotherapist in a group home for adolescent boys with mental illness provided needed benefits, it must be a very challenging and demanding job.

Not having a priest, even a quarter time missional priest, is not an ideal situation. However, as they say we've "BEEN THERE DONE THAT." Your Wardens, Vestry and all others involved in the smooth running of Grace Church are prepared to carry on.

We were scheduled to lose Deacon CJ. Generally the Diocese reassigns a Deacon about six months after a new priest is assigned. For years CJ has been a stable force here at Grace and we thank her for her past service and look forward to her exceptional support and assistance into the future.

As soon as the resignation letter was received the immediate concern was priest coverage for Easter season. Usually supply clergy are contracted weeks or months in advance. We were fortunate to have Father Jim Speer with us the last Sunday in February and Pastor Valerie Miller for the evening Ash Wednesday service. Priests have been contacted for other services. Until we have a rotation of supply priests as we had in the past, we will be having the Morning Prayer Service some Sundays.

Unfortunately, Grace is not hosting a Lenten program this year. If you are interested in one, please see information in this Pace regarding a Lenten Bible study program at Our Savior's which begins on March 4.

Mark your calendars for March 22. We will have a Parish Discernment meeting within our Eucharistic Service. Where we go from here, with the information we have from this meeting, will be the main topic at the Vestry Retreat on March 29.

The Wardens, Vestry and all The Grace Church family thank the Creative Energy Team for their successful Chocolate Festival. It was a win – win – win situation bringing new faces to our Church, providing opportunity for the fellowship of working together and the added bonus of raising money for the operating fund.

During this period of transition the Vestry and Wardens continue to manage the activities of Grace with your help and prayers.

Faithfully,

JoAnn Cromwell, Senior Warden

and

Walt Parker, Junior Warden





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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
First Sunday in Lent March 1, 2020	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Second Sunday in Lent March 8, 2020	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
Third Sunday in Lent March 15, 2020	Exodus 17:17	95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
St. Joseph	2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16	89:1-29 or 89:1-4, 26-29	Romans 4:13-18	Luke 2:41-52
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 22, 2020	1 Samuel 16:1-13	23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
The Annunciation March 25, 2020	Isaiah 7:10-14	45 or Canticle 3 or 15	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 29, 2020	Ezekiel 37:1-14	130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45



03/09 Melissa Haseley
03/10 Benjamin Page
03/23 Jane Stewart



03/06 Brandon and Kathy Johnson



Save the Date

March 4 Property Committee Meeting
March 9 Hi Noon
March 10 Vestry Meeting
March 14 Book Club Meeting
March 21 Diocesan ECW Meeting
March 29 Vestry Retreat



SENIORS ON THE GO

Hi-Noon – All parishioners and their friends are invited to attend the monthly meetings of Hi-Noon. The group's activities vary and are a combination of informative, cultural, social and entertaining events.

March 9 - SECOND Monday – Annual restaurant adventure will be at the Vietnamese Restaurant (Four stars on Yelp) in Elmwood. Meet at Church at noon to car pool. This continues our annual international epicurean journey – past years included Polish, Greek and Portuguese restaurant.

April & May – As the weather warms an on the road adventure will be planned. Do you have a suggestion for a place of interest to visit?

June – Annual Picnic – Parish Hall & Patio



BAKE A CAKE – Every month Birthdays and Anniversaries are celebrated the **FIRST** Sunday of the month with a cake served at Fellowship Time after the service. Please consider baking or buying a cake to be served. Notify Debbie in the Church Office by email or phone the month you will bring a cake: office@gracechurchnew.org / 860-666-3331. A cake baked in a standard 9 X 13 pan using one cake mix package or homemade ingredients is a good size.



Weather Closing

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



Food Collection

Newington Food Bank: We continue to support the food bank with minced onion, canned crabmeat, 100% fruit juice and beef stew. Thank you to those who contributed reusable shopping bags. I now bring contributed food items to the Newington Food Bank in these bags. They are so appreciated and will then be passed on to their clients. Any contributions of reusable bags can be left in the basket in the Narthex. They will be redistributed to a needy neighbor. Thank you!

JoAnn Cromwell



8th Annual Spring Training & Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 18th, 9 am to 4 pm. Where: Berlin High School, 139 Patterson Way, Berlin, CT.

Join other Episcopalians from across CT for a day of fellowship, learning, prayer and fun.

For a complete list and description of workshops and registration links:

<https://www.episcopalct.org/> Questions? Contact Debbie Kenney at dkenney@episcopalct.org



The next gathering of the Grace Church Book Club is Saturday, March 14 at 2 pm in the church library. The book selection is *The Giver of Stars* by JoJo Moyes. We usually meet the second

Saturday of the month and that will continue to be the case. By determining our next few reads, it is hoped that one or more of the titles will peak someone's interest and that they will join us that month for the discussion. The books we have selected thus far are:

March 14th – *The Giver of Stars* by JoJo Moyes
April (date TBD) – *Educated* by Tara Westover

Even if you don't join us for book club, if you like to read, the above titles are an excellent selection of best seller, recently published books. The book club meets monthly except December, July and August. We also select one or two books to read over the summer to discuss at our September meeting.

We are an informal, fun-loving group that enjoys reading. Most of our discussion are not only about the book, but also usually touch on a variety of related topics as well. Please join us! Happy Reading!

Melissa Haseley



Our Savior's Lutheran Church Lenten Program

Our Savior's will have Wednesday soup suppers and worship

using Holden Evening Prayer as in years past, beginning on March 4. Soup supper will begin at 6:15, worship at 7:00. Pastor Jonathan will be having communion within worship, and will focus on biblical storytelling, using some of the main stories often used at an Easter service, such as creation, the flood, Jonah, etc.



If you are in need of a new nametag, or you don't have one, please leave a note in the office and Debbie will make one up for you. Thank you!



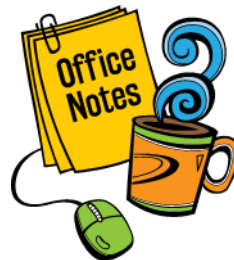
Morning Prayer

Please join us for a peaceful, centering time of prayer and worship. Early week Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at 8:30 AM in the Chapel. All are welcome. Beverley Manning and JoAnn Cromwell rotate leading the service. If school is cancelled or delayed, Morning Prayer will be cancelled.



QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: JANUARY 31, 2020

	<u>END JANUARY OPERATIONS</u>	<u>END JAN. BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2020 BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 6,188	\$ 7,930	\$ 79,304
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 6,582	\$ 10,640	\$ 118,534
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 14,824)	(\$ 15,190)	(\$ 140,342)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	(\$ 8,242)	(\$ 4,551)	(\$ 21,808)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 14,214	<i>January Checkbook:</i>	\$ 22,206



The deadline for the April Pace of Grace is Thursday, March 19. 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.

Office Hours: Monday 11-4; Tuesday 1-5: and Thursday 11-5.

Debbie Forrest



Creative Energy Team March 2020

Did you see the great article the Hartford Courant had about our Chocolate Festival? It was in on Thursday, February 20! Look for it on the bulletin board.

Chocolate Festival 2020 was a huge success.

We had a great time getting ready for the Chocolate Festival.

Many people participated with making chocolates, baking and making crafts. There was quite a team present to wrap many of the chocolates. On the day before we wrapped raffle baskets, decorated and set our tables and priced everything. We sure did have lots of conversation, giggles and laughs through all of it. We had a great team for our set up and clean up too. They were awesome and really quick. Besides all of the above, we also made a great profit!! Thank you to all who made this a spectacular first time event. We do plan on doing this again next year.

Looking forward to March and beyond....

Paint Afternoon Fellowship Event

On Sunday March 29, 2020 we will have another Sunday Paint Afternoon event after Church. It will start at 11 am in the Parish Hall. Amanda Rago will be our instructor again. Family and friends of Grace Church are welcome to participate. The cost is \$20.00. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex starting the first Sunday in March. Signup and payment is due to Valerie Dumont by Tuesday evening March 24, 2020. Payment is cash or check to Valerie Dumont or pay by cash after Tuesday March 24th.

Class Maximum size is 30 people.

Easter Flowers

We do plan on selling Easter flowers this year. A flyer will be up by mid to end of March.

Tag Sale and Clothing Drive

Our annual Tag Sale and Clothing Drive will be on Saturday April 25, 2020 from 8:30 am – 2 pm. The rain date is Saturday, May 2. We will have rental space available in the parking lot or on the grass for \$15 per space. The fee of \$15 is the same for church members and guests. Go through your stuff and see what you have to donate. You can start placing items in the Nursery on the first floor.

Volunteering - We will be working the few weeks before to sort and price items. Any and all help a few weeks before, the day before setting up or day of to set up during the day or clean up would be greatly appreciated. For the church tables this year we will have a smaller section. Church members may also have their own tables.

Location - Our tables for Grace Church will be on the front driveway near the main entrance of church. Renters can have spots going around the curve along hedges or in the parking area, or they can choose a spot on the grass in the front grassy area.

Food - food & drinks will be located on the front patio entrance. We will be cooking on the CET small grill. We will be selling hotdogs, chips & small Gatorades. Coffee & water will be free. Donations are always accepted for any food items or bags of ice. Please let us know ahead if you plan to donate for the food or ice.

Donations for the Tag Sale - Can be made to the church starting now. All items can be placed in the nursery. After Sunday services on April 19th you may place your donations in the back of the Sanctuary.

ECW Luncheon

The annual ECW luncheon is on Thursday, May 7th. Your Creative Energy Team will be selling their Prayer beads, religious jewelry and other assorted religious items. Any help setting up or cleaning up would be greatly appreciated. See Beverly Manning for details about the luncheon.

Puerto Vallarta

We are planning another afternoon and evening at Puerto Vallarta in June of 2020. The date will be in the April Pace of Grace. Remember, we get 20% of the afternoon and evening's total sales. Donation time for late lunch and dinner is 3 pm until close. This is a very generous amount! Please come. It is a very happy restaurant that serves Mexican food, but there are also many dishes for people who don't venture too far out of their food territory.

We are collecting for future events

We are collecting...

Empty wine bottles of all sizes

Frames of all sizes

Mason jars of assorted sizes

Any Valentines items for crafting or to use for food items

Any heart or Love items we can use - glasses, jars, mugs, craft items, raffle items

Any items for the Chocolate Festival event -

Clear food bags,

Pink, red or white ribbon of different widths

Lunch bags in red, white or pink,

Clear cellophane on a roll

Large raffle basket bags

Big wicker baskets or assorted containers for raffling a basket

Any items to make a raffle basket. If you see something at a fabulous price, think ahead for the raffle. Let us know. If you want to plan and put together a specific basket we would love the help. Please let us know.

That's a lot of Spring Happenings for now. We look forward to seeing everyone for any or all of the events. If you have any questions please ask one of us. We are always looking for people to join our team. We do have a lot of fun. Your Creative Energy Team is Lynn Page, Lorraine Belyea, Jane Stewart, Melissa Haseley and Valerie Dumont.

Valerie Dumont

Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Supply Clergy	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer			Rev. Erin Flinn
Deacon/LWL	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz	CJ Puskarz
LECTOR	Shirley Adams	Paul Crosswaith	Walt Parker	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert
MINISTER OF COMMUNION			Lynn Page	Karen Halpert	Paul Crosswaith
CRUCIFER	Karen Halpert	Jane Stewart	Elizabeth Welk	Karen Halpert	Jane Stewart
PRAYERS	Paul Crosswaith	Marie Ritchie	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Mabel Maynard
USHERS	Bob MacCalmont	Brandon & Kathy Johnson	Mark & Kathy Shoemaker	Nancy DiPrato Lorraine Belyea	Jane Stewart Paul Crosswaith
FELLOWSHIP	Cake - Mabel				
NRRRC-10:30am	Beverley Manning		JoAnn Cromwell		Beverley Manning
HTFD REGIONAL CTR - 12n			JoAnn Cromwell Elizabeth Welk JoAnn Cromwell		
Lay Eucharist Visitor					
ALTAR GUILD	Elissa Schumann	Elissa Schumann	Kathy Shoemaker	Kathy Shoemaker	Jane Stewart
	Candy Casciano	Candy Casciano	Pat Rogorzenski	Pat Rogorzenski	Elizabeth Welk
	Barbara Johnson	Barbara Johnson	Nancy DiPrato	Nancy DiPrato	Barbara Johnson
COUNTERS	Melissa Haseley	Walt Parker	Beverley Manning	JoAnn Cromwell	Melissa Haseley
	Paul Crosswaith		Nancy DiPrato	Lorraine Belyea	Lorraine Belyea

PAINTING ON CANVAS AT GRACE

“A SERENE SCENE”

SHARE SOME FELLOWSHIP TIME

INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS



THIS PAINTING CAN BE CUSTOMIZED TO WHAT YOU LIKE. YOU CAN CHANGE THE BACKGROUND COLORS TO AN ORANGE - YELLOW BLENDED BACKGROUND. YOU CAN ADD THE WORDS SUGGESTED OR YOUR OWN WORD/S OR SAYING. OR CHOOSE TO ADD NO WORDS AT ALL. IT'S ALL IN YOUR ARTIST INTERPRETATION.

Our instructor is Amanda Rago who was raised in Newington. She is an Art Teacher who has taught at both of our middle and high school. Amanda lives in Portland with her husband, 2 children and a new puppy.

SUNDAY MARCH 29TH ~ 11 AM

**COST IS \$20.00 PER PERSON CLASS SIZE IS 30 PEOPLE
TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT PRE- REGISTER BY SIGNING UP
& PRE- PAY BY CASH OR CHECK TO VALERIE DUMONT.
GIVE YOUR PAYMENT TO VALERIE DUMONT OR LYNN PAGE
OR LEAVE IN THE CET MAILBOX IN OFFICE.
LAST DAY TO SIGN UP IS TUESDAY MARCH 24TH AT 6 PM
AFTER 3/24 PAYMENT IS BY CASH ONLY.**