

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 – 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays at  
9 am

Morning Prayer – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9 am

Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30 am

# *PACE OF GRACE*



# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	3	4 4:00 pm Lenten Book Study via Zoom	5	6
7 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Holy Eucharist via Zoom	8	9 6:00 pm Vestry by Zoom 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	10	11 4:00 pm Lenten Book Study via Zoom	12	13 
14 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom	15	16 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	17 	18 4:00 pm Lenten Book Study via Zoom	19	20 
21 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom	22	23 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	24	25 4:00 pm Lenten Book Study via Zoom	26	27
28 Palm Sunday w/Bishop Laura Ahrens 9:00 am Holy Eucharist and Baptism – outdoor service	29	30 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	31			

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



# *Pace of Grace*

## *March 2021*

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

Dear Grace Church Community,

This is the time of Lent, this is a time of reflection of ourselves, our relationship with God. As a community of faith we have had changes and losses that have taken place. Many of you have been made aware of our recent loss of our sister in Christ Jesus, Elissa Schumann. We continue to hold Elissa and her family in our prayers in the days and weeks ahead.

The losses of our sisters and brothers in Christ are never easy. We get to know a sister or brother in Christ like Elissa over many years. Conversations during coffee hours then turn into friendships...or the bible studies, other community celebrations that call forth a connection that runs deep within our spirits.

We started Lent with our Ash Wednesday distribution of ashes, having ashes to go in our cars at the church. We tried on a new way of having our ancient tradition still be made known to us. As we start Lent, can we reflect upon our relationships and connection to God. We can start considering the gifts that our family, parish family and friends are to us. Christ is a friend to us by the wonderful example he set for all of us of faith—compassion toward others, prayerful intercession for others who we know or don't know. God calls us to be vessels of love for each other, our families, and our community.

Lent helps us as a time of drawing closer to God, to the journey of Jesus ministry and his journey to the cross at Calvary. As we then await the hope of the resurrection, our hearts grow within faith. The resurrection gives us hope, not fear in living our lives. We consider our sins in the time of Lent that draw us away from God. Sin-being separated from God due to our thoughts, words and deeds. God is never far away from us, still loving us in spite of shortcomings in our humanness.

Do we need to live in a state of analyzing our every action; equating it to sin during this time of Lent? No, simply to become aware of the things that God longs for us to change within our own beings. Maybe we have been speaking to our love ones in a cranky tone when it is never needed? Do we hold on to old wounds that we have needed to let go of years ago? Can we be kinder to our own hearts? Saying less critical things about ourselves, owning up to the things we need to be responsible for and trying to make small changes to new places of healing within our souls?

I invite us as a community of faith, to prayerfully spend time within ourselves and praying on behalf of others seeking God's wisdom. It is also a continued time of connecting with each other by keeping connected to our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

Know that you are loved, known by God.

“Render your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your, God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. “Joel 2:13”, BCP page 76

Jesus is love,

Peace & Joy,

Rev. Val



*Reminder: Turn your clocks ahead before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13th.*

*Don't miss church this week!*



## Bible Readings *for the Month*

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

	<b>First reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Third Sunday in Lent March 7, 2021	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 14, 2021	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
St. Joseph March 19, 2021	2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16	89:1-29 or 89:1-4, 26-29	Romans 4:13-18	Luke 2:41-52
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 21, 2021	Exodus 17:17	95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
The Annunciation March 25, 2021	Isaiah 7:10-14	45 or Canticle 3 or 15	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Palm Sunday March 28, 2021	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11
Monday of Holy Week	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Tuesday of Holy Week	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wednesday of Holy Week	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32





Good Morning Grace Newington! I hope everyone is staying safe, warm, and stress-free! (2 out of 3 for me) I have been trying to set up an appointment for the Covid 19 vaccine which is being quite an adventure for me (and I don't mean the fun kind - thrill of a lifetime one, lol). Perseverance is my word for the day. Does anyone else have a word for your day? I am always willing to share if you are.

What is your motivation for today? I am writing this on Shrove Tuesday so mine is what toppings am I going to put on my pancakes tonight? I have many choices in my house because I have lots of time to figure out what I want to order for sweet stuff to have on hand just in case I get motivated to bake something. I made banana bread last week as my bananas were getting too ripe. I found some almost expired chocolate chips to throw in the mix as well. It is pretty amazing what we can find in our cupboards or on our counters if we go searching.

I hope that everyone has figured out what to do this Lent to get a little closer to God. It doesn't have to be something big - just something meaningful to you. I am trying to do more reading. I am interested in how others are moving on their spiritual journeys. I always thought that I wanted to get more involved in Spiritual Direction but that has not happened - yet!

I also hope that you are going to participate in the Lenten Outreach Project for CCC. You can bring your items to put in the box outside of the church that says prayer books and hymnals on it. Someone will be checking it to bring the items into the church. You can call Melissa or myself if you need someone to go shopping for you or to pick up the items at your house.

I want to mention something about Racial Reconciliation, White Privilege, and Anti-black bias, We are a nation with many different people based upon many colors of skin, gender, religion, origin and age. According to our faith in Jesus, everyone is our neighbor. We must show love, concern, and willingness to help in whatever way possible. BUT we need to understand what white privilege means as it does not mean that we all live in fancy big houses with fancy big cars (there is nothing wrong with either of those, however the bible says to those who have more - more is expected from them although something is expected from everyone) I have been reading and going on-line to various talks about how we who are white have certain advantages in just ordinary things we take for granted that others don't have. Most of us have been brought up in loving and caring families with thoughts about having the American Dream life. This dream has not materialized for all because of anti-black bias as well as gender, religious, origin and age issues. We must continue to broaden our education and understanding so that we can make a difference in the present and future to come. This can happen even with just prayerful consideration and conversation with others. Please make use of this time that we have not been able to be out and about to explore our history to see what reconciliations and changes need to happen. Take the time to also learn what wonderful things your neighbors have done.

News Flash: National Pancake Day was cancelled because of the pandemic (and I thought we were in enough of a situation)!

Stay safe-stay well-stay connected and zoom in with us on Sunday mornings for our service at 9:00am  
cj

Ps strange and useless stuff---life forms were discovered 3000 feet below an Antarctic ice shelf - who says you can't live in the cold!

My Shrove Tuesday Supper

One on left has caramel sauce, marshmallows and stars

One on the right has syrup, butter and whipped cream



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



# March BIRTHDAYS

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



The Grace Church Book Club is meeting via zoom using the church zoom link. It seems to be working out quite nicely. We had our second book club gathering on February 10. Our discussion centered around [A Tree Grows in Brooklyn](#) by Betty Smith.



# March ANNIVERSARIES

03/06 Brandon and Kathy Johnson

Most of us had read it in middle or high school as it was a beloved classic about a young girl's coming of age story. Several didn't re-read it but those that did were glad to have read it as it focuses on an impoverished but aspirational adolescent girl and her family. And there are a lot of life lessons and symbolism in the book starting with the title. It's a book about social change and striving. The book's central metaphor is the tree outside of the tenement where they live that has a strong will to survive no matter where it's planted. It's a classic immigrant story about life in America at the turn of the century.

The group has decided to skip a March gathering as there is a Lenten Study with a book to read. And several felt it would be too much to focus on two books. Our next book club is Wednesday, April 21 at 2 pm via zoom. Kathy Shoemaker will again send out the invitation link the day before or the morning of the book club. The book club selection is [Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk](#) by Kathleen Rooney.

Our book club is open to all. If you are interested in participating please send an email to either Debbie in the office or to me by April 15. Thank you and Happy Reading.

*Melissa Haseley*



The deadline for the April issue is Thursday, March 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.



March 7	Holy Eucharist
March 14	Morning Prayer
March 21	Morning Prayer
March 28	Holy Eucharist & Baptism

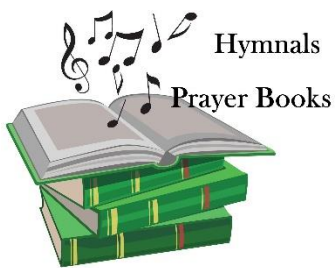


## 2021 LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECT

We are going to participate in a project with our Cathedral and other parishes in the North Central Region. Did you realize that 48% of students from Community Colleges suffer food insecurities which include personal care and hygiene products? We are going to collect personal care and hygiene products. We will collect something different each of the weeks in Lent. Since we will not be gathering at church, you can leave them off at church in the Narthex when Debbie is working. I will leave bags for you to put things in them. If you don't feel safe coming to church, please call me at 860-833-0750 as I will be happy to come pick up the items at your house. You can leave them outside and I will get them. We are looking for full size products for all genders. The first week will be shampoo and conditioner. The second week will be razors, shaving cream, and deodorant. The third week lotions, body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes. The fourth week feminine hygiene products, tampons, pads. The fifth week will be for large size Poise and Depends products. If you think of anything else, please feel free to include it. I will bring everything to the Cathedral right after Easter. The items are going to go to Capital Community College for their students and families of the students. There will be more information coming out later. I thank you in advance for any contributions that you can make. If you can't do shopping yourself, I will be happy to see that it gets done. I do pick-up at Stop and Shop as well as curbside pick-up at Target.

I will be hoping that starting Sunday February 21st through Palm Sunday, March 28th, we will all try to donate items that will go to CCC in Hartford.

*Peace & Joy  
Deacon CJ*



If you need a Prayer Book and/or Hymnal for home use, please contact the office. You can make arrangements to pick them up or arrangements can be made to deliver to your

home. There is also a bin outside the church if you would like to stop by and pick them up outside of office hours.

**DID YOU KNOW**

41% of undergraduates and 48% of community college students suffer from food insecurity. Many of the students are beneficiaries of SNAP Vouchers (formerly called Food Stamps), which does not allow for the purchase of personal hygiene products.

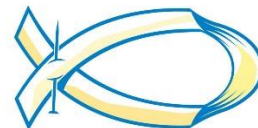
**YOU CAN HELP**

Christ Church Cathedral invites the Parishes in the North Central Region and it's members to collect weekly one personal care hygiene product for each week of Lent (February 17th to April 4th) to benefit Capital Community College (CCC) Food Pantry. Please share with your family, friends, and communities. The Director of the CCC Food Pantry has identified the most needed hygiene products:

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Conditioner
- Men's and Women's Razors
- Feminine hygiene products
- Large size Poise and Depends products

Drop off for all collected items will be at our Cathedral from Wednesday, April 7th to Friday, April 9th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Sunday April 11th 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
For more information contact Cathedral Deacon Bonnie Matthews at [bmatthews228@comcast.net](mailto:bmatthews228@comcast.net)

## GRACE FUND

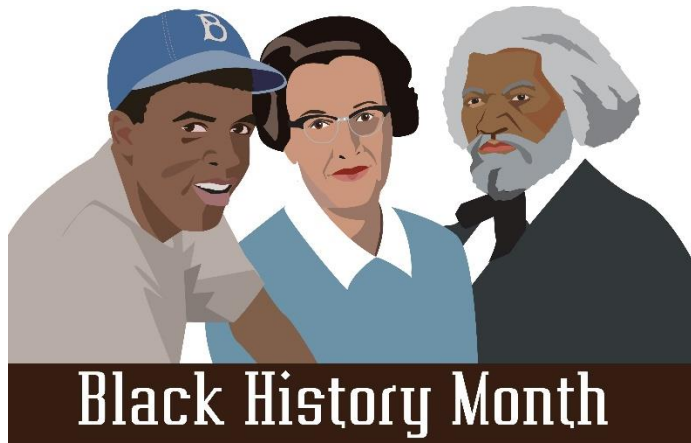


The "Grace Fund" is a collection started in 2014 as an in-house "outreach" program available to Parishioners with a temporary emergency need to help make ends meet. It was originally intended to be self-supporting by either special donations, or to perhaps be paid back when the emergency had passed. Given the current unusual times of pandemic and unusual needs, the Grace Fund does have a limited balance that can be available. If anyone in the parish finds it impossible to pay an important bill, please contact either of your Wardens and perhaps Grace church can provide some limited assistance. Sincerely, Mark Shoemaker, Treasurer



**QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: JANUARY 31, 2021**

	<b><u>JANUARY OPERATIONS</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date OPERATIONS</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL 2021 BUDGET</u></b>
Pledge Income	\$ 4,950	\$ 4,950	\$ 7,227	\$ 72,272
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>	<b>\$ 6,070</b>	<b>\$ 6,070</b>	<b>\$ 9,731</b>	<b>\$ 105,062</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>	<b>(\$ 11,482)</b>	<b>(\$ 11,482)</b>	<b>(\$ 14,049)</b>	<b>(\$ 130,272)</b>
<b><u>NET CHANGE:</u></b>	<b>(\$ 5,413)</b>	<b>(\$ 5,413)</b>	<b>(\$ 4,318)</b>	<b>(\$ 25,210)</b>
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 37,828		<i>End 2020 Checkbook:</i>	\$ 39,100



In honor of Black History month, during 2021 and perhaps beyond, we will be highlighting the contributions of some lesser known individuals who made significant contributions to our country. Black History Month started out as a way to teach students and young people about the contributions and sacrifices of Black and African Americans as they had, and still are, left out of the narrative that is the history and growth of our country. Our first spotlight will focus on Raye Montague, a brilliant African American woman and an American naval engineer.

Raye Montague is another forgotten hidden figure. She was a Black Woman who grew up in Little Rock Arkansas in the Jim Crow era. She had an aptitude for math and science but was barred from attending the University of Arkansas's engineering school because of her race and gender. Despite the odds she did become an engineer and the highest ranking civilian in the United States Navy as the first female program manager of ships in the Navy.

Pearl Harbor became a pivotal moment in her dreams for the future as it incited a desire to explore the world outside of her Little Rock neighborhood. Her grandfather took her to see a travelling exhibit of a captured German submarine during WWII and she was fascinated by how it worked and with all the knobs and dials. She was 7 years old at the time! After she graduated from high school, since she couldn't study engineering she got a business degree instead and moved to Washington DC and became a typist for the Navy. She continued to pursue her dream of becoming an engineer by taking night classes in computer programming and engineering.

One day when all the male engineers were out sick she proved she could operate the computer. Before this she wasn't allowed to touch it because of her color and the fact she was from Arkansas. From her vantage point in the typing pool she had a perfect view of the computer and would watch the engineers use it; she proved to her boss she could run it by herself. She eventually got a promotion to computer systems analyst and continued to excel.

She was asked to design a naval ship using the computer. What her boss failed to tell her was that the department had been trying to do this for years – unsuccessfully. She figured out how to create computer-generated ship designs. She was asked to create a rough draft of an actual ship, a process that normally takes 2 years. She completed the task in 18 hours 56 minutes and was awarded the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

She continued to climb the Navy's civilian ladder. At the height of her career she was briefing the Joints Chiefs of Staff and was an instructor at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. She was best known for her work during the time of the Vietnam War when then President Richard Nixon gave the Navy two months to come up with a ship design. Many of her designs are still used today. After she retired her work was largely forgotten until 2017 when the Navy honored her as their own "hidden figure". She was inducted into the Arkansas Woman's Hall of Fame in early 2018.

Throughout her life she was passionate about highlighting the value of education and encouraging girls to get involved in STEM education. Over the years, she received many awards and commendations for volunteering with youth. She died in October, 2018.

Lay Ministry Schedule  
9:00 AM

	<b>March 7</b>	<b>March 14</b>	<b>March 21</b>	<b>March 28</b>
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lent	4 <sup>th</sup> Lent	5 <sup>th</sup> Lent	Palm Sunday
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist and Baptism
<b>Priest-in-Charge</b>	Rev. Valerie Miller			Rev. Valerie Miller
<b>Guest Clergy</b>				Bishop Laura J. Ahrens
<b>Deacon/LWL</b>	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
			Richard Buika	
<b>LECTOR/RESPONDER</b>	Mabel Maynard	Marie Ritchie	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell
<b>PRAYERS</b>	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Mabel Maynard	Walt Parker
<b>USHERS</b>	Mark & Kathy	Nancy DiPrato	Jane Stewart	Brandon & Kathy
	Shoemaker	Lorraine Belyea		Johnson
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Marie Ritchie	Nancy DiPrato	Nancy DiPrato	Kathy Shoemaker
	Jane Stewart			Jane Stewart
				Candy Casciano