

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111
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Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org

Email: office@gracechurchnew.org

Father David: eakp@aol.com

Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9am

Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30am

The Rev. David C. Parachini, Interim Rector

The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon

Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist/Choir Director

Art Riihimaki, Office Manager

PACE OF GRACE



NOVEMBER 2015

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



2015 Room Key: PH=Parish Hall; L=Library; S=Sanctuary; PO=Pastor's Office; MR=Meeting Room; K=Kitchen; C=Chapel

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints' Day 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 9:00 AM Church School	2 12 N Hi-Noon Group - PH 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	3 Election Day 8:30 AM Employment Group - L 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	4 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	5 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM Al Anon PH L & MR 7:00 PM Bell Rehearsal	6	7
8 24 Pentecost 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM HE with Music - S	9 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	10 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group - L 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	11 Veterans' Day 8:30 AM Chili Prep K 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	12 8:30 AM Chili Prep K 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM Al Anon PH L & MR 7:00 PM Bell Rehearsal	13	14 9:30 AM Boy Scout Pancake Supper
15 25 Pentecost 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 9:00 AM Church School	16 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	17 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group - L 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	18 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	19 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM Al Anon PH L & MR 7:00 PM Bell Rehearsal	20	21
22 Last Pentecost 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 9:00 AM Church School 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Service	23 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	24 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group - L 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	25 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	26 Thanksgiving 7:00 PM Al Anon PH L & MR	27	28
29 1 Advent 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM HE with Music - S	30 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	1 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group - L 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	2 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	3 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM Al Anon PH L & MR	4	5



Pace of Grace

November, 2015

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

Thanks Saints!

Dear Grace Church Family,

Late this summer I happened to be in the Hallmark store near where we live and my eyes were drawn to a sign proclaiming that November is "the Season of Thanks". I did a little snooping and discovered that this appellation was awarded by the greeting card industry because of the fact that in November there are two major "thanks focused" events. The first falls on November 11 known as Veterans Day. This is a day set aside for us as a nation both individually and collectively to express our thanks to the men and women who have served in the armed forces of our country. This focus begs the question of whether or not a singular moment of thanks is sufficient given the realities faced by so many, past and present, in wearing this nation's uniform. The second event is, of course, the observance of our national Thanksgiving Day which falls this year on November 26. The reality is that this day has in many ways become more of a celebration of sport (football) and excess (think about the food we consume on this day) with precious little time being spent in the giving of thanks. Each year it seems that fewer and fewer faith communities have thanksgiving services on the day itself, more and more stores are open on this day and even saying grace has fallen by the wayside in many families. I'm not sure that our behavior as a society suggests that we are focused at all on what it really means to give thanks.

In my frustration about the secularization of the concept of the "Season of Thanks", I began to wonder where else I might look to find the spirit of the giving of thanks. As I was mucking out stalls in the barn, a meditative and centering activity that I highly recommend, I realized that part of the answer to my questioning was standing in front of me. It was in the persona of one of our Standardbreds (Prince to be specific) who always seems to be expressing his thanks whether it is for being fed, having his stall cleaned, getting his apples and carrots at night or being turned out into the pasture. Prince almost always stops to nuzzle and put his head on an offered shoulder. My animal behaviorist colleagues will insist that this is simply learned behavior and I suspect that they are correct but I enjoy thinking that for Prince there is more to it than this and that he is genuinely thankful in his own equine way for being rescued from the Alpo factory.

In any case, all of this gives me hope that we can and will find a way for the offering of thanks to God for the gifts of love and grace so freely showered upon us to be a part of our daily spiritual journey not just occasionally but always, everywhere and for everything. If we can do this we can truly transform the "Season of Thanks" from a commercial observance to a continuing and year round observance and celebration of our relationship with the loving Father who sent the Son to redeem us and the Holy Spirit to gift us that we might be participants in God's mission of reconciling love.

Faithfully,
David+



- 11/03 JoAnn Cromwell
- 11/04 James Siviski
- 11/08 William McCusker
- 11/10 Shirley Adams
- 11/13 Jessica Flynn
- 11/14 Lorraine Belyea
- 11/14 Susan Holland
- 11/16 Mabel Maynard
- 11/18 Belinda Walwyn
- 11/19 Samuel Kowalchik
- 11/24 Marisa Casciano



- 11/15 James and Jane Siviski



Thanksgiving is just around the corner. It is a time to be thankful for what we have and time to help those less fortunate. It is time for our annual In Food Gathering. Social Services is requesting that we have the food at the Food Bank by November 9. Here are some suggestions: pumpkin pie filling, pie crust, canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, stuffing, green beans, mushroom soup, French fired onions, sweet corn, pickles, beets, olives, bread mixes, corn bread mix, boxed potatoes, gravy, cake mix, brownie mix, or whatever your favorite side dish or desert. Gift cards are also appreciated. We will also be happy to shop for you if you would like.

We will have some reminder shopping lists in the Narthex.

Thank you in advance for your support.
Shirley Adams and Barbara Johnson, Co-Chairs of the Outreach committee



Don't forget to turn your clocks back this weekend. You are entitled to an extra hour of sleep on Sunday, so you'll be in church really refreshed.



Hi-Noon Group

October - The Annual visit to Gouveia Vineyards in Wallingford is always one of the most popular Hi-Noon events. This year being a warm sunny day we sat at tables outside enjoying the scenery of vineyards and fall colors of the surrounding hills while tasting the local wines. Same time next year, October 2016.

November 2, Monday – 12:00 – Tour of THE COMMONS – Episcopal Church of Connecticut Diocese Headquarters located in Meriden. Meet at the Church at noon - bring a lunch (coffee, tea provided). Following lunch the group will car pool to the Diocese Headquarters.

December, January & February events will be the in Parish Hall. Traveling adventures will continue in the spring.

December 7, Monday – 12:00 - Annual Christmas Party. Holiday Punch, Pasta Lunch, Coffee, Tea Served, Bring cookies to share.

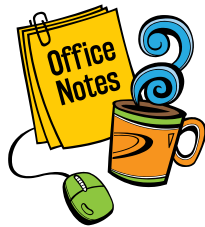
January 4, 2016, Monday – 12.00 Pot Luck Lunch & Games. Bring Soup, Salad or Main Dish to share. Dessert, Coffee, Tea and Juice provided. Games provided or bring you favorite to play.


February 8 (second Monday) – 12.00 Movie with Lunch (movie to be announced) Bring a bag lunch. Coffee, Tea, Juice provided. ALSO > Bring a Valentine Sweet and Movie Treat to share.



Thanks So Much!

- ☺ Shirley Adams for keeping us advised of ecological issues.
- ☺ Barbara Block for her faithful service as Altar Guild Directress.



 Deadline for December *Pace of Grace* – **Tuesday, November 17th**. Due to Thanksgiving, I need an early deadline. Please, meet this date to allow prompt delivery of the issue.

 The office will be open on November 23- 25 and closed on November 26 - 27 for Thanksgiving.
Art Riihimaki



The entire community is invited to celebrate the freedom and bounty of our nation at an annual Interfaith Worship Service on **Sunday, November 22nd**. This service, sponsored by the Newington Interfaith Clergy Association, will be led by various members of the Clergy Association. The Newington Interfaith Association is comprised of clergy from the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths. Please come to this special service and celebrate with your neighbors.

More information will be forthcoming.



Forward Day By Day

The November through January issue of *Forward Day by Day* is available in the narthex in both small and large print sizes. Please take a copy and use it in your daily devotions. Suggested donation is \$1 for regular size and \$1.50 for the large print.

If you would like us to mail you a copy, please contact the office at 860-666-3331 or office@gracechurchnew.org.

Hand Bell Choir: We'll ring the bells for the service on 11/22. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19 at 7 pm. Come join us.



Here are the lectionary readings for each Sunday in the month:

November 1: All Saints' Day

- Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9
- Psalm 24
- Revelation 21:1-6a
- John 11:32-44

November 8: The 24th Sunday after Pentecost

- Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
- Psalm 127
- Hebrews 9:24-28
- Mark 12:38-44

November 15: The 25th Sunday after Pentecost

- 1 Samuel 1:4-20
- 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25
- Mark 13:1-8

November 22: The Last Sunday after Pentecost

- 2 Samuel 23:1-7
- Psalm 132:1-13, (14-19)
- Revelation 1:4b-8
- John 18:33-37

November 29: The First Sunday of Advent

- Jeremiah 33:14-16
- Psalm 25:1-9
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- Luke 21:25-36



United Thank Offering

The fall ingathering and service of thanksgiving will be held on Thursday, November 5th, at Christ and Holy Trinity Church, 75 Church Lane, Westport, Connecticut. The Service of Holy Eucharist and Presentation at 11am will be followed by a luncheon and program. Contact JoAnn Cromwell for car-pooling; 860-841-6296.



Fall Festival

Creative Energy Team

Wow!!! What a busy month of October we had!!

Our Fall Festival was almost a full year of planning ahead, a lot of hard work, many long hours put in but...

Our committee did a great job making our Fall Festival a huge success!!!

The Grace Filled Creations and all items handcrafted in the Narthex were a nice compliment to the other vendors. We did very well with our own booth.

Our committee did numerous crafting dates on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. These include a lot of planning ahead too. It was and is always good to be with friends from church or to make some new ones. We had a lot of laughs and some wonderful moments to remember.

Grace's Cafe changed their menu this year and it was a nice addition. Customers really seemed to enjoy the food. Our chili was a great hit this year.

The Silent Auction went over really well. Customers seemed to respond to it better than a raffle. We had some nice final bids which made us do very well in this area.

And our Tag Sale room did well overall. We have many items left that we are going thru. We are considering a Tag sale in the spring. Look for news in the early spring of 2016.

The Bake Sale table including stuffed breads did great too. We had many people bring in their own special baked goods. All of the baked items sure looked yummy. There was very little left over to sell. What we did have left after the Fall Festival and after Sunday worship was donated to The Friendship Center.

Most of all, the Fall Festival was a huge success for 2015. We had a lot of fun, great fellowship, met many new and wonderful people in the process. There were many great vendors who want to come back next year. Our Grace's Cafe was a hit. Our revised menu seemed to go over really well. The Bake Sale was almost sold out. The Silent Auction was for high bidders only. In a preliminary review of

the Fall Festival finances, we definitely did better this year compared to other years.

We do have to make a few changes if we are to move forward and do it in future years. Something to think about for next year.

Thank you to all of you who helped make the Fall Festival a huge success. Especially to my mother Lorraine Belyea and my co-chair Lynn Page. I couldn't have done it without either one of you. Thank you to all of our husbands for supporting us in this adventure. We do appreciate it. Thank you to Mari Merwin who came to every craft date and every meeting always with a smile, infusing us with her quiet charm, humor and knowledge. Thank you to Nancy DiPrato for being Lorraine Belyea's sidekick in all crafting adventures. Whether they did crafts at home or at church. She worked tirelessly to help in many other numerous ways besides crafting. She quietly works under the radar. Thank you to Jeanne Parker for making all the sunflower bouquets. She is a gifted florist with that special touch. Thank you also for running the Bake Sale table with Barbara Johnson. Thank you to Marty Dumont for grocery shopping, lugging it all in, making the chili, and cooking the for the Fall Festival and then cleaning it all up. You did a great job. He really enjoyed working with Mari Merwin and Shirley Adams in the kitchen. Thank you to Robert Belyea for helping everyone and also for helping a lot of vendors bring in all their supplies. You were everybody's helper that day. Thank you to Mark Shoemaker, Paul Crosswaith and Melissa Haseley for making sure we were ready for the day of the Fall Festival. We couldn't have done it without any one of you. Thank you to all the ladies who came for any one of the crafting dates. Thank you also to anyone who made items at home for our own booth. We loved all the baby items this year. Of course there are special Thank you's to those of you who donated one to several items to whole baskets for the Silent Auction. All the help wrapping is greatly appreciated. And last but not least Thank you to everyone who did anything for the Fall Festival before the day and the day of and also the cleaning up afterwards. This is an important part of the Fall Festival too.

I really truly appreciate each and every one who gave some time to help make the day a huge success. There are so many big and little things done quietly to make the Fall Festival of 2015 a successful event to be proud of. Again thank you to my Creative Energy Team and all others who helped in any and all ways.

Faithfully,
Valerie Dumont
Co-Chair of Creative Energy Team