

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
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Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer
Sunday at 9 am





PACE OF GRACE



November 2021



NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH  ELECTION DAY	3	4 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	5	6  Fall Back
7 24 th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Holy Eucharist	8	9 6:00 pm Vestry - Zoom 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	10 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	11 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH  VETERANS DAY	12	13 12-5 pm Newington Children's Theater - PH
14 25 th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Morning Prayer	15	16 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH	17 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	18 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	19	20
21 Last ^t Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Holy Eucharist	22	23 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	24 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	25 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH  THANKSGIVING Day	26	27
28 1 st Sunday of Advent 9 am Morning Prayer	29	30 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH			29	30

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



Pace of Grace

November 2021

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

Dear Grace Community,

Good afternoon everyone! We had an amazing Saturday at the ECCT Annual Convention with delegates from our faith community and many from around our diocese. We looked at and prayed over the various resolutions set before us. We also voted for both lay and ordained people of God for various roles within our diocese. We welcomed Seabury in Bloomfield and The Chapel of All Saints in Cromwell to become newly stated faith communities within our Diocese!

Bishop Ian Douglas and Bishop Laura Ahrens led us in both Holy Scripture and deep reflection as to the future that awaits us as a Diocese. Have the numbers of members throughout our Episcopal Diocese and other denominations gone down? Yes. Yet this is not something that we need to be in dread of, biting our nails with anxiety. We are not alone in this aspect of change within our churches. We are instead living out a way of falling into faith. Worshiping communities are not frozen only in the walls of a church; worship, like water, flows beyond four walls. The new community in Cromwell, The Chapel of All Saints, has been sharing a worshiping space with Lutherans and Congregationalists.

How is God moving through our lives and our communities of faith to help us expand our ways of being community?

Peace, Joy, Love,

Rev. Val



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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
All Saints Day November 1, 2021	Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 24	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
All Soul's Day (All Faithful Departed) November 2, 2021	Wisdom 3:1-10 or 116:10-17	Psalm 130	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 or Isaiah 25:6-9	John 5:24-27 or 1 Corinthians 15:50- 58
24 th Pentecost November 7, 2021	Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17	Psalm 127	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
25 th Pentecost November 14, 2021	1 Samuel 1:4-20	Canticle: The Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1- 10)	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-8
Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King November 21, 2021	2 Samuel 23:1-7	Psalm 132:1-19	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37
Thanksgiving Day November 25, 2021	Joel 2:21-27	Psalm 126	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Matthew 6:25-33
First Sunday of Advent November 28, 2021	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-9	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
St. Andrew November 30, 2021	Deuteronomy 30:11- 14	Psalm 19 or 19:1-6	Romans 10:8b-18	Matthew 4:18-22





Greetings!

It is one month away from Christmas. I have read that online shopping must be done as soon as possible due to supplies and shipping. I am saying this as I just bought candy for Halloween (I am writing this before 10/31/21). I noticed that the stores had all their Christmas candy out! Yes I was actually in a store. What a difference a year makes. I still do the grocery pick up option; I order online and then go pick it up. I have only eaten inside two restaurants so grab and go is my main way. However, I hope to try to go inside to eat in more restaurants but, as I said last month, my daughter has been cooking some great dishes at home. You can't beat the ambience of 4 cats and 1 dog staring at you when eating dinner!

Speaking of good food, this is the month we give thanks for the bounty that we do have. We focus more on family, friends, and the community in making sure we share what we have with others. Hopefully this Thanksgiving we will be spending time in person with those we could not be with last year. We will sit around the table to enjoy the food and the stories of what we could or could not do during Covid 19. We will also remember that we still must be careful so that we and others are safe. Covid 19 is not going away quickly from what I have read.

We can still donate food each week for the Newington Food Bank. There are around 428,800 people in CT with food insecurity. 1 in 7 children face hunger. We can say thanks be to God when we donate food or money from the plenty we have to help those in need. We can also say thank you Jesus for our many gifts and talents in giving money to our parish. This helps keep our building and programs going for us and groups that use our facilities. Prayers are also a great way to help others (and ourselves).

I want to give a shout-out to all our veterans of the past and present as well as their families. This country has more opportunities due to the sacrifices that have been and will continue to be made for our freedom. Thank you for your service.

Please take this month to focus on all that we have to be thankful for in our lives. Perhaps not all has been great in our lives, but we still need to acknowledge the bad, the mundane and the good to our Lord and Savior so that He can help where it hurts. He can help in our celebrations as well. We hopefully have family, friends and community to be with us. We certainly have Grace Church to be with us as the Holy Spirit shines throughout us as we continue our ministries showing the love of Jesus Christ for all people equally in this world. We still have a long road to travel in the way of reconciliations. Please read the resolutions that get passed at our convention to see what ECCT continues to ask of us. As the late great Winston Churchill said during WWII "never before have so many depended upon so few to do so much." Mercy and justice for all our neighbors as we pray for the few who do to become the many who can lift up all those in need.

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

P.S. Thanksgiving in the Bible means to respond to God's goodness and grace with gratitude



11/03 JoAnn Cromwell
 11/13 Jessica Flynn
 11/14 Lorraine Belyea
 11/16 Mabel Maynard
 11/24 Marisa Casciano



On Thursday, October 21 the Grace Book Club gathered to discuss *The Yellow Wife* by Sadeqa Johnson. It is the true story of Pheby Delores Brown and her life as a slave in Virginia during the 1850s and the 1860s.

There were several important discussion questions raised by the story: Can you really love someone enslaved to you? What possesses some people to do such evil? Nature vs nurture? And most importantly, what is our responsibility today? Were there slaves in Newington? What role, if any, did Grace Church play in their lives?

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 1. We are reading *Eternal* by Lisa Scottoline. We will meet at 12:30 for lunch and discussion. We are planning on ordering from the Italian Gourmet. All are welcome, please feel free to join us.

We have several books in our pipeline: for January we will read *The Forest of Vanishing Stars* by Kristin Harmel. For future reads we are also considering *The Lost Vintage* by Ann Mah and *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. We are always open to suggestions. If you have recently read a great book, let us know and we will put it on our list.

Happy Reading!

Melissa Haseley



SENIORS ON THE GO **Hi-Noon** – All parishioners and their friends are invited to attend the meetings of Hi-Noon. The group’s activities vary and are a combination of informative, cultural, social and entertaining events.

We had a fun visit to *Gouveia Vineyard* in Wallingford in October. While the leaves were not at their peak, the conversation was spirited as we shared lunch, munchies and of course wine.

Schedule of events through February 2022.

December 6, Monday – Annual Holiday Party
 A pasta Lunch and Holiday Sing-a-long will highlight this party in the Parish Hall. If able please bring a salad or dessert to share. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be served. Thank you Nancy for again providing the homemade pasta main dish.

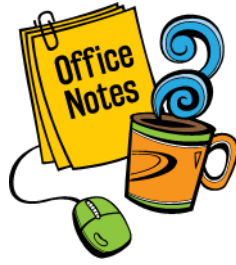
2022
January 3, Monday – Fun and Games in Parish Hall

February 7, Monday – Movie Matinee in Parish Hall.
 Bring a bag lunch (coffee, tea, juice provided) and movie treats to share. Movie to be announced.



November 7	Holy Eucharist
November 12	Food Ingathering for Holiday Baskets
November 14	Morning Prayer
November 21	Holy Eucharist
November 28	Morning Prayer
December 10	Ingathering for Human Services Gift Cards
December 19	Lessons & Carols
December 24	Christmas Eve Service at 4:30 pm

The deadline for the December Pace of Grace is Tuesday, November 23. 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.



Currently, Melissa Haseley serves on the board on behalf of Grace Church. As a sponsoring congregation, GEC has a responsibility to support SCC in its mission to provide affordable childcare and early childhood education.

Like so many other early childhood education centers, SCC is experiencing a staffing crisis. Due to some staff medical and other circumstances, SCC finds itself severely short-handed. State requirements, as well as best practices require a certain ratio of number of staff to number of children be maintained per classroom/age group. In addition, COVID social distancing protocols do not allow for combining classrooms. Although the current staff shortage is anticipated to be relatively short term, the impact will be immediate. If staff numbers cannot be increased, the Director will have to decide to close actual programs and classrooms. While distressing to SCC, this would most definitely be devastating to the lives of the effected children and their families as childcare is abruptly ended, parents' work schedules are impacted and children's education is interrupted.



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.

Do you have a few hours a week to give your time to assist SCC – the staff, the children and their families through this difficult time? You could assist the extraordinary but very busy staff as they work in the classroom. You could fill in so that a teacher can have a lunch break. You could be that extra set of eyes, ears and hands that continue to make SCC a happy, healthy and safe place for children.

Southfield Children's Center Needs Your Help!

Do you enjoy spending time with children? Southfield Children's Center has infants, waddlers, toddlers, preschool and kindergartners who would love to spend time with you!

The Southfield Children's Center is a highly rated daycare and preschool/kindergarten education center that services 70 children when it operates at full capacity. SCC and its staff are consistently named as a top facility by the State of Connecticut and received excellent ratings during its most recent NAEC accreditation process. The non-profit center's mission and purpose is to provide high quality, affordable daycare and preschool/kindergarten educational services. Daycare/tuition rates are determined on a sliding scale based on family income levels. SCC participates in State of Connecticut grant programs for funding in addition to tuition and fundraising efforts. Grace Episcopal Church is one of the local sponsor congregations of the Southfield Children's Center as well as the Newington Interfaith Housing Corp. Grace is responsible for appointing two liaisons from our church to serve on the Board of Directors.

There are some basic requirements that anyone working with children need to comply with, including proof of COVID vaccination, background checks, a 5 hour on-line health and safety course for Care4Kids (it really takes maybe 3 hours or so) and a simple physical with proof of a negative TB test. If **you are interested in providing assistance at SCC, please contact Melissa Haseley at 860-977-4181.**

Thank you for your consideration. It really does take a village sometimes!

Melissa

PS....In addition, there is a Butter Braid Pastry & Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls fundraiser going on until November 5. Please see the flyer at the end of the Pace and notify Melissa if you would like to place an order.

Safe Church Training: All ECCT Safe Church Training (SCT) includes an online course followed by a 3-hour live session on Zoom. New online courses are designed to reflect whether you have previously participated in SCT, whether you currently have oversight responsibilities for events, programs or others engaged in ministry, and ministerial roles. 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.

There is no fee to attend. Registration for SCT is through Eventbrite. To register, click on one of the dates below for a live follow-up Zoom session. These sessions are limited to 20 participants and registration closes one week before the Zoom session or when capacity is reached, whichever comes first. Additional training sessions will be added as needed.

After registration you will receive two separate emails:

1. Immediately upon registration you will receive a confirmation email that includes the link to ECCT's Safe Church Training Resource Manual, also available here. You are encouraged to download and print the Resource Manual to use as reference during your online course and live follow-up Zoom session.
2. Within a week of registering you will receive an email with instructions on how to access the online course.

Online courses must be completed 2 days before the live follow-up Zoom session. At that time, you will receive an email that includes the link to the Zoom session. Follow-up live sessions on Zoom build on learnings from the online course and provide opportunity to put that learning into practice. Don't worry, if something happens and you are unable to complete the online course at least 2 days before a Zoom session, you may register for another Zoom session.

The running time for online courses range from 1.25 hours to 3.5 hours. The online materials do not have to be completed all at once; you can take breaks in between modules. The online course includes narration. You will need speakers. Schedules through November are listed.

- Tuesday evening, November 2, 2021, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday morning, November 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Monday evening, November 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday morning, November 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Sunday afternoon, November 14, 2021, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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 included Scrapbooking Events, a dance studio, Vacation Bible School of Greater Hartford Church of Christ, and the Newington Children's Theater.

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 UPDATE: September 30, 2021

	<u>SEPTEMBER OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2021 BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 4,227	\$ 50,997	\$ 50,950	\$ 72,272
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 12,639	\$ 79,332	\$ 74,796	\$ 105,062
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 9,101)	(\$ 90,820)	(\$ 99,617)	(\$ 130,272)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	(\$ 3,538)	(\$ 11,498)	(\$ 24,821)	(\$ 25,210)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 32,139		<i>End 2020 Checkbook:</i> \$ 39,100	





Creative Energy Team
November 2021

Our clothing drive finishes on Sunday, November 7th.

One more week to go!!

If you have any clothes to donate...we would love to add to our pile!!

Please put all donations in the Nursery before November 7th.

We will be bringing all the bags to the Narthex on Monday, November 8th. We will then be loading the truck on Wednesday, November 10th. The times are to be determined.

If you wish to help - reach out via text or call to Lynn Page 860-251-2539 or myself at 860-690-0727 for the meeting times.

We will also make an announcement about the times by November 7th.

Thank you for your donations!!

*Thank you,
Valerie Dumont*





The military history of African Americans spans from the arrival of the first enslaved Africans during the colonial period to the present day. There is a proud history and tradition of their service in their communities, although it always hasn't been returned in kind. Despite segregation, unfair compensation, racial discrimination and even legal barriers on military service, blacks have served in every conflict in United States history! More than 5,000, both free and enslaved, fought for the independence of America against the British even though their freedom was a long time coming.

What better time than Veterans Day to acknowledge their service and to learn some important milestones in their military service? This annual observance gives us an opportunity to respect and celebrate all of the people who have served and put in the time in defense of our country and the freedoms we hold dear. The military was not legally desegregated until 1948. President Harry Truman signed a bill ordering the military to comply. Until then the USO always served the home away from home needs of African American military service members, including in the Jim Crow south, and provided a safe haven for service members to relax and socialize and to escape the less than perfect conditions some endured on base.

We've all heard of the Tuskegee Airmen. But do we really know their inspiring story and the long-standing barriers they broke through? Blacks were able to serve in all branches of the Army except for aviation. It wasn't until WWII that Blacks were allowed to become military pilots; in the process they helped to advance the civil rights movement at home. The squadron was comprised of 355 black pilots and they flew over 1000 successful missions during the war. Ninety-five of the Tuskegee Airmen received the Distinguished Flying Cross. Many of them went on to become successful and honored members of their community as part of the greatest generation.

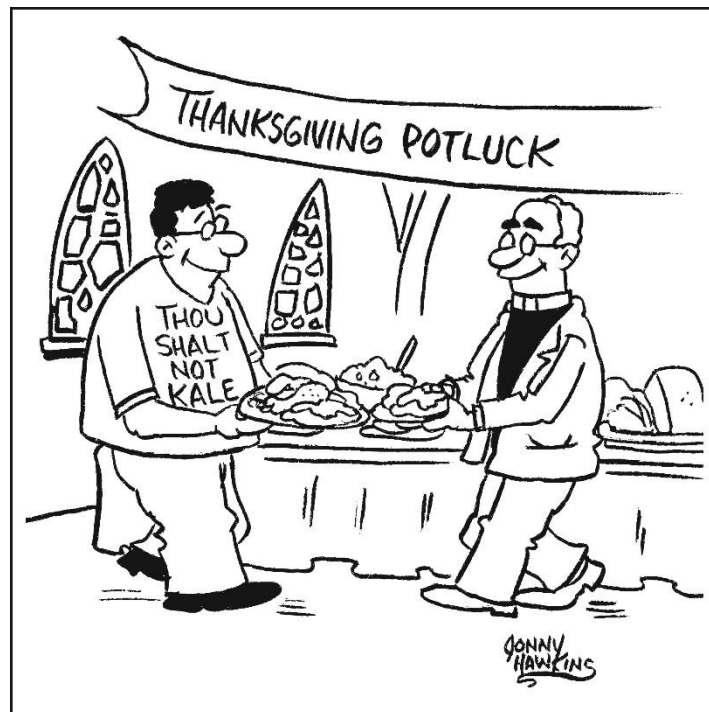
There were many before WWII who broke significant barriers, endured hardships and made small steps to expand the presence of blacks in the military. Meet Henry Ossian Flipper. In 1877, Flipper, as he was called, was the first African American to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was a 2nd lieutenant with the 10th cavalry. He was born into slavery in Tennessee. The wife of the slave owner permitted the children of slaves to be educated and Flipper was determined to take advantage of it and to do as much as he could to change the circumstances of his parents and his siblings. After his parents became free the family moved to Atlanta where Flipper attended Atlanta University and was appointed to West Point while there.

During his military career he would become the highest ranking Buffalo Soldier in the 10th Cavalry Regiment and the first black to command a regiment in the battlefield. He was stationed in Fort Sill, Indian Territory otherwise known as Oklahoma. He was also a skilled engineer and designed a drainage system at the base that solved the malaria problem caused by standing water. It is named Flipper's Ditch and is a National Monument at Fort Sill. He went through some difficulties and troubles and was a casualty of racism in the military when he went through his court martial trial for embezzlement; he was found not guilty but was dishonorably discharged. He was posthumously granted an honorable discharge by President Jimmy Carter and a full pardon by President Bill Clinton in 1999.

Other notable firsts include Sgt. William Carry who in 1863 was the first Black Medal of Honor recipient. In 1940 Benjamin O. Davis Sr. was the first Black general officer in the regular Army and the US Armed Forces. In 1942 Major Della H. Raney was the first Black female chief nurse commissioned in the Army Nurse Corp. In 1961 Specialist Fred Moore was the First Black Tomb Sentinel. In 1977 Clifford Alexander Jr. became the first Black Secretary of the Army. In 1982 General Roscoe Robison Jr. became the first Black four star general. Major General Fred A. Gordon became the first Black commander of Cadets at the US Military Academy. And in 1989 General Colin Powell became the first Black Joint Chiefs of Staff and he was also a Secretary of State and a national security advisor. And finally this year, General Lloyd J. Austin III became the first Black Secretary of Defense.

While these commissions and awards are impressive, there are some who consider it not enough as 43% of the 1.3 million enlisted men and women in the military are people of color. The Army is the largest of the armed services and has made very little progress in promoting officers of color, particularly blacks, to top commands. Only 2 of the 41 four star generals are black and as late as 2014 the Army had no black colonels leading any of its divisions.

The profile of the US military is changing to reflect the changing demographics of the country itself. And as we have seen in our focus articles, diversity makes more representative of the rich tapestry of who we are. It also can make us smarter, more creative, more resilient and more sensitive to people in general. The leadership needs to continue to reflect this changing profile to inspire real, structural and enduring change in our society.



Lay Ministry Schedule
November 2021

	November 7	November 14	November 21	November 28
	24th Pentecost/All Saints Day	25th Pentecost	Last Pentecost	First Advent
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Clergy	Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller		Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller	
Deacon	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
Lay Worship Leader				JoAnn Cromwell
LECTOR/ RESPONDER	Beverley Manning	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	Walt Parker
PRAYERS	Karen Halpert	Marie Ritchie	JoAnn Cromwell	Mabel Maynard
ALTAR GUILD	Jane Stewart	Jane Stewart	Elizabeth Welk	Elizabeth Welk
	Kathy Shoemaker	Kathy Shoemaker	Marie Ritchie	Marie Ritchie
COUNTERS		Walt Parker		Melissa Haseley
		Lorraine Belyea		JoAnn Cromwell

OPERATION SWEATERS FOR VETERANS

On November 11, 2021, Americans commemorate Veterans Day, a day set aside to thank the nation's veterans for service given and sacrifices made to protect the freedoms of this great land. We have teamed up again this year with the Newington VA Medical Center for "Sweaters for Vets."

This year, for everyone's safety, we are accepting only gifts of NEW outerwear, sweaters and gloves, with the tags still on, which will be donated to veterans throughout Connecticut. We will be collecting these new items from Monday, October 25th through Veterans Day, November 11, 2021, at both of our funeral home locations.

We hope this small gesture will help everyone remember the sacrifices our veterans have made so we may sleep peacefully. Please give, and know that you will be directly helping our men and women veterans.



SWEATER DROP-OFF AND COLLECTION

Monday, October 25, 2021 through
Veterans Day, November 11, 2021

NEWINGTON MEMORIAL

20 Bonair Avenue
Newington
860-666-0600

BURRITT HILL FUNERAL HOME

132 Burritt Street
New Britain
860-229-9021

Sweaters can be dropped off Monday-Friday
from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Through Friday, November 11, Duksa funeral homes (Newington memorial, Burritt Hill and Fisette-Batzner) will be collecting NEW outerwear, sweaters and gloves (with the tags still attached) to donate to veterans in VA hospitals and homes in Connecticut. Donations can be dropped off in the narthex or in the blue bins outside the front doors.



Please contact Melissa if you would like to support the Southfield Children's Center by placing an order. Orders are due no later than November 5. Thank you.