

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
Debbie Forrest, Office Manager
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Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer
Sunday at 9 am

PACE OF GRACE




OCTOBER 2021

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 19 th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Holy Eucharist	4 12 pm Hi-Noon - PH	5 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	6 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	7 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	8	9
10 20 th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Morning Prayer	11	12 6:00 pm Vestry - Zoom 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH	13 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	14 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	15	16
17 21 st Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Holy Eucharist	18	19 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	20 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	21 1:30 pm Book Club Meeting 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	22	23 12:30-3:30 Hold for possible hall rental
24 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Morning Prayer	25	26 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	27 9:30 am Newington Singing Seniors – PH 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	28 2:30 pm Piano Lessons – S 4:00 pm Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 pm Al-Anon – PH	29	30
31 23 rd Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Holy Eucharist 						

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



Pace of Grace

October 2021

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

Dear Grace Community,

Good morning. I hope this letter finds everyone well. The fall season is upon us. The fall season always brings up images of carving pumpkins, making pies, and sitting on a chair facing a window while reading your favorite book, with a cat in your lap on a lazy day. This season reminds us of family, parish festivities, and new changes.

I realized going through some prayers today that I missed celebrating Grandparent's Day with all of you. Grandparent's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in September. It's never too late to celebrate grandparents. If we are not grandparent, like myself, we can remember with fondness a grandparent or maybe a senior neighbor who had significant meaning in our lives. I can recall my neighbor Sibel. Sibel was a woman with tons of spunk! She could knit a blanket, in what felt like a single visit with her. She was a strong-hearted Episcopalian. Her brother had been involved in the church, I believe clergy. It was before I went to seminary that Sibel gave to me a copy of her 1929 Book of Common Prayer that I still have today!

I discovered a Grandparent's Prayer in the book, [Graces: Prayers & Poems for Everyday Meals and Special Occasions](#) by June Cotner. Grand Parent's Day by Margaret Ann Huffman,

Grandparent's Day

They've added a new holiday, Lord, a day to honor the grandparents who tended to us so well. Pause with us as we play again in the dusty lanes of childhood at Grandma and Grandpa's house; as we realize again that we are so special that you gave us these bigger-than-life companions to help bridge home and away, childhood and maturity. In their footsteps, we made the journey. Thank you for such a heritage.

As this month of October is upon us, what can we do to take care of ourselves? We should relax into the beauty of God's seasons of changes this fall.

Who has recognized the beauty of God within you recently?

Peace, Joy, Love,

Rev. Val



Bible Readings for the Month

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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
19 th Pentecost October 3	Job 1:1; 2:1-10	Psalm 26	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
20 th Pentecost October 10	Job 23:1-9, 16-17	Psalm 22:1-15	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
21 st Pentecost October 17	Job 38:1-7, [34-41]	Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37b	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
St. Luke October 18	Ecclesiasticus 38:1- 4, 6-10, 12-14	Psalm 147	2 Timothy 4:5-13	Luke 4:14-21
St. James of Jerusalem October 23	Acts 15:12-22a	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Matthew 13:54-58
22 nd Pentecost October 24	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	Psalm 34:1-8, [19-22]	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52
Sts. Simon and Jude October 28	Deuteronomy 32:1-4	Psalm 119:89-96	Ephesians 2:13-22	John 15:17-27
23 rd Pentecost October 31	Ruth 1:1-18	Psalm 146	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34





Greetings!

I am writing this article on the first official day of fall in the Northern Hemisphere. However, if we were living in the Southern Hemisphere it would be spring. Time to think of changing leaves (raking leaves), pumpkin goodies (although Dunkin has been all with that for quite some time), and apple picking with yummy recipes for pies and fritters. They say that the leaves should be very colorful this year. Hopefully we will get a chance for a drive to some of the more scenic places. I must admit that the colors of my drive-through places are getting a little dull for me. Although, my daughter and I have been trying to do more cooking at home. Perhaps we, meaning Grace, could put together a Covid 19 cookbook with the recipes we tried while in quarantine. I bet some of you either created or found some very good recipes that you cooked (food for thought).

Of course this is the month of All Hallows Eve or, as we now call it, Halloween. I never realized how many varieties of candy, gum, and sweet treats there are until it gets close to Halloween. I am not a person that enjoys scary movies, events, books or things to eat. I do enjoy passing out candy to the little ones that go trick or treating. When I was young we also used to collect pennies for UNICEF in special small boxes. People could even pass out homemade treats which is not something that can be done now unless it is from your favorite grandmother/grandfather or aunt/uncle.

Things have changed from days past and the pandemic. Some for the better - some not. But one thing that has not changed is Jesus as Hebrews states "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Thank you Jesus for always being there through "these times that are a changing" and the ones that are the same.

How is everyone doing? I hope that this month of October will offer a time for some renewal, refreshment and revival of faith. We need to continue to be able to support ourselves, family, friends, and those in need as we go forth "to love and serve the Lord." I am reminding you again that the North Central Region is having a Zoom meeting on October 3rd from 3 pm - 6 pm concerning how we are doing spiritually. There was an email sent out with all the information and a place to register to attend. There is no charge. We can share what we have done or listen to what others have done.

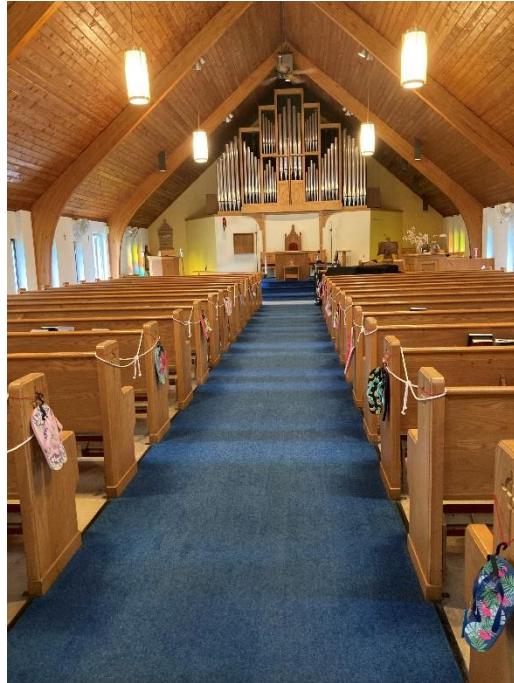
Thanks to the Creative Energy Team, clothes are again being collected to go to Savers, which raises money for our church. Fall is a good time to go through your closets again to remove what you probably don't need (which is most of my closet).

This is also the month of our Annual Convention which will be held via Zoom. I hope everyone had a chance to participate in the Bishop's Transition Committee listening sessions. In the one I attended, they asked for responses to five questions concerning what is good, not so good in ECCT and what traits are we looking for in our next bishop. It will be very interesting to see what direction God has in mind for us.

I am including some pictures that I took from our parish including flip flops, school supplies, and our fall bulletin board (thank you Val Dumont and crew--Marty, Lynn, Jane and Lorraine). I did have a sign outside of our church but that has been stolen. Melissa Haseley is getting us a new one (thank you). This is the second sign that has been stolen from our church property. Maybe I should put out prayer sheets or bibles to see if they are taken?

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

P.S. some random national days in October: Oct 1st is national homemade cookies day and International coffee day; Oct 4th is national taco day; Oct 5th is national do something nice day; Oct 8th is national fluffernutter day; Oct 10th is national clergy appreciation day; Oct 13th is national train your brain day (I wonder what we are training it to do?); Oct 29th is national cat day; plus so many other national days that I can't mention them all.





10/9	Rev. Val
10/24	Mark Shoemaker
10/29	Susan Raimondo
10/29	Marie Ritchie



10/03	Gary and Elizabeth St. Amand
10/22	Paul and Norine Barr
10/29	Mitch and Lynn Page



SENIORS ON THE GO

Hi-Noon

The first Monday of October, 10/4, at noon, the Hi-Noon group will hold its first meeting in months to 'catch-up' with friends in the Parish Hall. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea provided. Plans for future meetings will be discussed. One suggestion to be considered is a return to Gouveia Vineyards in rural Wallingford later in October. A Magnificent foliage season is predicted for Connecticut and a mid-October visit to the winery would include spectacular views of the surrounding hillsides.

Grace Church parishioners and their friends are invited to attend the meetings of the Hi-Noon Group. PLEASE, pass the word that the group is once again meeting. RSVPs are not necessary, just show up!



On September 23, the Grace Church Book Club met to discuss the two books read over the summer months, *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah and *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. Thank you to

Laura for keeping us on track with our discussion. Several in the group either hadn't finished or hadn't read the Wingate book. The discussion wasn't as robust as it usually is but it did manage to encompass several of the characters and their development by the author. It seemed as though several had trouble getting into the book but once they did seemed to enjoy it immensely.

The Four Winds was enjoyed by everyone. With the Dust Bowl of the Great Plains after the Depression and the subsequent move of migrant workers to California it becomes a sweeping backdrop for a family's struggle to survive and remain hopeful against seemingly unsurmountable odds including death, destruction and prejudice. Elsa Wolcott is a strong, brave, woman, and along with her daughter, Loreda, are the book's two primary protagonists and become the heart of the story. It's a wonderful book of historical fiction about a time in our history that we probably don't know a lot about.

We also determined the next book club date and book selection. The next book club gathering is Thursday, October 21 at 1:30. The book selection is *The Yellow Wife* by Sadeqa Johnson.

Our December gathering will include a luncheon. The date for that is December 1. The book selection is *Eternal* by Lisa Scottoline.

All are welcome, please join us.
Happy Reading!

Melissa Haseley

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

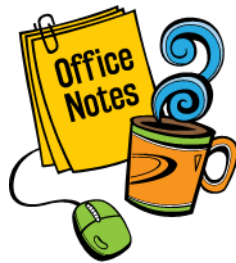
October 3	Holy Eucharist
October 10	Morning Prayer
October 17	Holy Eucharist
October 23	Morning Prayer
October 30	Holy Eucharist

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.

The deadline for the November Pace of Grace is Thursday, October 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.



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.



Blessing of the Animals: Please join us on October 3rd at 11:30 am for our Blessing of the Animals to celebrate the ministry of St.

Francis of Assisi. Any animal is welcome, humans please wear a mask. There is also a zoom link, look for it in your email.



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.

- Thursday evening, October 7, 2021, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday evening, October 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday afternoon, October 17, 2021, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Monday evening, October 25, 2021, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday morning, October 30, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Saturday morning, October 30, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- 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.





QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: August 31, 2021

	<u>AUGUST</u> <u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2021</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 8,710	\$ 46,770	\$ 45,531	\$ 72,272
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 9,334	\$ 66,682	\$ 66,913	\$ 105,062
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 9,167)	(\$ 81,719)	(\$ 89,345)	(\$ 130,272)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	(\$ 167)	(\$ 15,037)	(\$ 22,432)	(\$ 25,210)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 28,450		<i>End 2020 Checkbook:</i> \$ 39,100	





Creative Energy Team October 2021

The Creative Energy Team has talked and discussed many ideas since COVID-19 started. Many dates and ideas have been cancelled for the same reason...COVID-19. We are now taking it month-by-month, week-by-week or even day-by-day. The ideas are on paper and we will work from there.

We are planning another Clothing Drive for this fall.

All of your clothing items can be placed in plastic bags in the nursery.

We are accepting all clothing items, shoes, sandals, boots, pocketbooks/handbags, wallets, hats, jackets and coats, scarves, gloves, mittens, all bed and bath linens, towels, curtains and any other soft items. We will not accept any books or hard items.

We started advertising to the public at the end of September and will be making use of the bins outside our front doors. If you happen to be at Church and there are bags of clothes outside by the bin...please bring them into the Narthex. We can take them back to the Nursery from there.

The Clothing Drive will end on Sunday, November 7, 2021. This will give us time to check, organize & count the bags.

Our drop-off date will be Tuesday, November 16, 2021. This is the day we will be loading the truck... from 1:30pm - 2:30pm.

Please consider coming to help us load up the truck!

Many hands make light work.

Please reach out to either Lynn Page or myself if you have any questions.

*Thank you,
Val Dumont*





A riot is the language of the unheard. - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“George Floyd’s murder is not only our outrage. It is the latest manifestation of a system that callously devalues the lives of Black people. Our struggle is and always has been about justice – not just justice on paper, but real justice in the real lives of real people.” – Senator Bernie Sanders

It is no coincidence that the conviction of Derek Chauvin for the murder and manslaughter of George Floyd came on the heels of global wide protests among people of all colors and stripes. George Floyd’s death has become a symbol of the intolerance and injustice black people face every day.

But can there be real racial justice when the system is stacked against them? There has been and is still today a disturbing racial disparity in the composition of the justice system that includes police, prosecutors, judges and juries. There is a structural bias in the system that has consistently favored certain groups over others.

As an example, looking at the court system, 58% of state court judges are white men according to the American Constitution Society. Yet they represent less than one third of the population. Of the 1352 active and semi-retired federal judges, 60% are white men, 11% are Black and 7% are Latino.

On the Supreme Court there have been only two Black justices. Thurgood Marshall was the first and he was appointed by LBJ in 1967. Clarence Thomas was nominated by President George H.W. Bush to succeed Marshall and has served since 1991.

The criminal justice system has been used as a form of racial control, especially during the years following the Civil War and in the southern states. Many states had discriminatory “Black Codes”, including vagrancy laws and convict leasing. As a result, many Black men, women and even children were imprisoned for minor offenses and had no freedoms. The prisons were slavery-like with their conditions with both forced labor and convict leasing systems that lasted well into the 20th century.

Today in most southern states there are still what are called “Jim Crow Juries.” These juries are comprised of mostly white people even though the jurisdiction they are in has a significant non-white population. Basically they allow criminal defendants on non-capital cases to be convicted by a split jury decision. In Louisiana alone there are over 1500 inmates convicted by split juries, more than 80% of them are Black and serving life sentences with no possibility of parole.

In general Black men are six times more likely to go to prison than white men. They are more often wrongly accused, more likely to have evidence ignored, more likely to be presumed guilty no matter what the crime and more likely not to be able to afford quality legal representation. These inequities will continue until there is broad-based diversity and representation at all levels of the justice system.

As we have learned from several of our other *Focus* articles, for most of our history a large majority of the Black population was prohibited from learning how to read or write let alone pursue a higher education. And it wasn't until the 1830's that a college graduated its first Black student. Historically there have been relatively few number of Black law schools. And all but one have been established in the last 70 or so years. Howard University is the oldest and most famous one and was established in 1869 and accredited as a law school in 1931.

Increasing the diversity in the legal field has always been a persistent battle. In 2020, 5.1% of all legal associates in the United States were Black and only 1.2% of law firm partners were Black. These numbers have been constant for the last decade or so. The Black population is about 13.4% of the total population. In 2019 the number of Black students in law schools was 7.91%. Despite the lack of numbers, there have been a few individuals who made significant firsts in the profession.

Macon Bolling Allen is believed to be the first African American to become a lawyer and argue a case before a jury. He passed the Massachusetts bar exam in 1844 and also was a Justice of the Peace and actually made a better living in the beginning doing that rather than being an attorney as people were reluctant to hire him because of his race.

Charlotte Ray was the first Black female lawyer and graduated in 1872 from Howard University. She also was a teacher. She opened a law practice in 1872 and specialized in commercial law.

In 1939 Jane Bolin became the first female judge in the US. She was the first African American woman to graduate from Yale Law School and was the first Black woman to join the New York Bar Association. She was the first to work in the city's legal department.

William Henry Hastie, Jr. was appointed by FDR in 1937 as a Federal District Court judge. He was also the first Black governor of the Virgin Islands. He resigned to become the Dean of Howard Law School. One of his students was Thurgood Marshall who led the Legal Defense Fund for the NAACP before he was appointed to the Supreme Court.

Despite the strides, the criminal justice system is under fire for its lack of diversity and underrepresentation of different groups and backgrounds. When a litigant walks into a courtroom they want to be assured they are being fairly represented and that's not always possible if no one looks like them. Diversity adds immense value to our judiciary just as it does to our culture and society. The importance of having diverse perspectives and life experiences on the bench cannot be underestimated. Only then will there be true racial equity and justice and people will feel as though they are being heard.



Lay Ministry Schedule
October 2021

	October 3	October 10	October 17	October 24	October 31
	19th Pentecost	20th Pentecost	21st Pentecost	22nd Pentecost	23rd Pentecost
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist
Clergy	Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller		Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller		Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller
Deacon	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
Lay Worship Leader				Richard Buika	
LECTOR/ RESPONDER	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Mabel Maynard
PRAYERS	Marie Ritchie	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker	Mabel Maynard	Marie Ritchie
ALTAR GUILD	Kathy Shoemaker	Pat Rogorzenski	Pat Rogorzenski	Elizabeth Welk	Elizabeth Welk
	Nancy DiPrato	Candy Casciano	Candy Casciano	Nancy DiPrato	Nancy DiPrato
COUNTERS			JoAnn Cromwell		Melissa Haseley
			Walt Parker		Nancy DiPrato