

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

The Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist and Choir Director
Debbie Forrest, Office Manager
Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org
Email: office@gracechurchnew.org

Holy Eucharist – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays at
9 am

Morning Prayer – 2nd & 4th Sundays at 9 am

PACE OF GRACE



Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



JULY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 4 th Pentecost 9 am – Holy Eucharist	4 	5 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	6 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	7 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	8 5:00 pm Newington Children's Theater – PH and back lawn	9
10 5 th Pentecost 9 am – Morning Prayer	11	12 7:00 pm Narc Anon – PH	13 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	14 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	15 5:00 pm Newington Children's Theater – PH and back lawn	16
17 6 th Pentecost 9 am – Holy Eucharist	18	19 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	20 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	21 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	22 5:00 pm Newington Children's Theater – PH and back lawn	23
24 7 th Pentecost 9 am – Morning Prayer	25	26 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	27 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	28	29 5:00 pm Newington Children's Theater – PH and back lawn	30
31 8 th Pentecost 9 am – Holy Eucharist						

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

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	3 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	4 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	5 5:00 pm Newington Children's Theater - PH and back lawn	6
7 9 th Pentecost 9 am - Holy Eucharist	8	9 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	10 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	11 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	12 5:00 pm Newington Children's Theater - PH and back lawn	13
14 10 th Pentecost 9 am - Morning Prayer	15	16 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	17 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	18 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	19	20
21 11 th Pentecost 9 am - Holy Eucharist	22	23 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	24 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L	25 7:00 pm Al-Anon - PH	26	27
28 12 th Pentecost 9 am - Morning Prayer	29	30 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	31 6:00 pm Drop the Rock - L			

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



Pace of Grace

Summer 2022

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

Dear Grace Community of Faith,

In these past few months that we have had within our nation, human connection can seem to be in a long ago time and place. Yet, I have always seen in our community the importance of human connection. Human connection is what makes us human. Even the lone rangers among us need connection.

In the biblical course of ancient scripture, the pages illuminate the vital importance of human connection throughout time. We can learn from ancient wisdom about the gift of connection. We think about the Exodus story of the Israelites leaving an oppressive Egypt because of the Pharos who lacked compassion for their servants over many years.

Within Jewish tradition, the story of redemptive love is shown in the story in Numbers. Miriam challenges Moses' leadership. God punishes her greatly for her voice of equality in leadership between the genders. Yet, it's the community that refuses to leave their prophet sister to suffer her illness and be an outcast. Her brother, the priest Aaron, pleads to God and Moses for Miriam's healing and liberation.

"Negative as well as positive traditions about Miriam testify to her prominence, power, and prestige in early Israel. She participates with Moses and Aaron to lead the Israelite community during the exodus and the wanderings. Her role in saving her baby brother and in celebrating the crossing of the sea highlights her concern for her people. Later they reciprocate. Despite the instructions of God and Moses, the people refuse to continue the march in the wilderness until the diseased Miriam is restored (Num 12:15). Three references to them at her death further underscore their loyalty to her."¹

What we learn from this story of Miriam, a woman leader from long ago, is that the world in its chaos, can bring things that are beyond our control. Even things that have no answers. It's human connection that goes beyond even the harshness of the world we live in every day. We need one another. Connect with someone who needs a friend; let someone be a friend to you in your time of need.

Peace and Joy,

Rev. Val

¹ Trible, Phyllis : Miriam: Bible , <https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/miriam-bible>



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

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
4 th Pentecost July 3	2 Kings 5:1-14	Psalm 30	Galatians 6:1-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
5 th Pentecost July 10	Amos 7:7-17	Psalm 82	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
6 th Pentecost July 17	Amos 8:1-12	Psalm 52	Colossians 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42
St. Mary Magdalene July 22	Judith 9:1, 11-14	Psalm 42 1-7	2 Corinthians 5:14-18	John 20:11-18
St. James the Apostle July 26	Jeremiah 45:1-5	Psalm 7:1-10	Acts 11:27-12:3	Matthew 20:20-28
8 th Pentecost July 31	Hosea 11:1-11	Psalm 107:1-9, 43	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
The Transfiguration August 6	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	2 Peter 1:13-21	Luke 9:28-36
9 th Pentecost August 7	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
10 th Pentecost August 14	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56
St. Mary the Virgin August 15	Isaiah 61:10-11	Psalm 34	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 1:46-55
11 th Pentecost August 21	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:16	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
St. Bartholomew August 24	Deuteronomy 18:15-18	Psalm 91	1 Corinthians 4:9-15	Luke 22:24-30
12 th Pentecost August 28	Jeremiah 2:4-13	Psalm 81:1, 10-16	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14



Greetings

This is my hot off the press summer edition of the Deacon's Bench - a place to sit down and share (and maybe ramble on a little bit). I hope everyone remembers to use lots of sunscreen any time you go outside this summer. Our layer of protection from above is weakening due to climate change. We have been polluting too much with all our vehicles, factories and whatever else uses too much fuel that is bad for our atmosphere. I can say that because I do drive a car that is part of the problem. However, with the price of gas that problem is going to decrease a little on my part. I think the gas pumps have a double hose: one to put the gas in my car as the other one is taking the money out of my purse. I can remember when \$5 would fill up your car plus buy a bottle of soda and a pack of cigarettes (I did not smoke so I always got the change back). I am not criticizing any group. I am just reflecting upon certain changes that have happened during my lifetime. What are some of the changes in your lifetime? We reach a certain age and life seems to be a little bit different than when we were growing up. Memories start to fill up more time in our current life experiences. We now have "the wisdom" that we thought only "old" people had. We continue with our jobs, or our retirement which still involves meaningful projects, and more discoveries to make. We have causes to support, family and friends to be with as well as our church community. But a smile can come upon us at unexpected times when someone or something reminds us of days in our past. We are part of the history in the books that are currently in our schools. But we are still making history for books yet to come. We have the wisdom of experience but the desire to keep having fun. Ok, rambling time is over until September.

Time to get the grill cleaned up or the microwave running as the celebration of our country's declaration of independence is a happening event in July. We can give thanks for the birth of our nation. We can give thanks that we can gather outside to enjoy being with family and friends. We can give thanks to Jesus that we are able to be here. Hopefully we can make more progress for all people to be independent with justice and equality for everyone. We are all part of this "melting pot" nation with the same rights and privileges as every person was created in God's image. I hope when August comes you might remember that on August 28, 1963 the late Martin Luther King Jr gave the "I have a dream" speech. This too was a very powerful declaration of equality and freedom for all black people to have as white people have. "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" was from our Declaration of Independence for all people - not just a few.

I pray that everyone will have a fun, meaningful, relaxing, and God-filled summer. I hope that when September comes we will have stories to share with one another about how we spent our summer season this year even if we just stayed home. There are many wonderful projects and events we can do and go to right in our own backyards. I am still planning to go to NJ for my granddaughter's dance competition in the last week of July. I will also appreciate any ideas you might have about outreach projects that we could do at Grace. Perhaps we can get together with another church to help out with some new programs (we need to exercise our wisdom). Of course, I would like to see everyone coming to church either in person or on zoom if you are able to do this. However you can still be with us in spirit/prayer. Remember, we can still support one another in the fun times, ok times and the times we hurt. The love of Jesus is always available 24/7 and it will not hurt our environment or climate.

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

PS...speaking of changes: Kraft mac & cheese has new name and box design
PPS...maybe we will have to plant some mustard seeds outside at church as there could be a mustard shortage coming which would upset me as I like mustard on my hotdogs



7/10 Nancy Beilman
 7/11 Nancy DiPrato
 7/18 Shirley Crosswaith
 7/24 Candace Casciano
 7/24 Gary St. Amand
 7/31 Nicholas Casciano



7/14 Laura and William Lynch



8/4 Valerie Dumont
 8/15 Norine Barr
 8/15 Elizabeth St. Amand
 8/25 Martin Dumont
 8/29 Laura Lynch



08/09 Mark and Kathy Shoemaker
 08/28 Karen and Frank Halpert



July 3 Holy Eucharist
 July 10 Morning Prayer
 July 17 Holy Eucharist
 July 24 Morning Prayer
 July 31 Holy Eucharist

August 7 Holy Eucharist
 August 14 Morning Prayer
 August 21 Holy Eucharist
 August 28 Morning Prayer



The deadline for the September issue is Tuesday, August 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.



Newington Food Bank: We continue to support the food bank by donating minced onion, 100% fruit juice, beef stew, canola oil, and snack-size raisins. You are truly the hands of Jesus serving the poor. Bless you all and thank you for your ongoing generosity.

JoAnn Cromwell



On June 15 the Grace Church Book Club met for its final meeting before the summer hiatus. The Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict was the book selection.

The book was liked by everyone even though there was some feeling that the arc of the protagonist's story, Clara Kelly was improbable given the era that was the backdrop for the storyline: the Industrial Age in America and the pervasive anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant sentiment running through society. The heart of the story is the amazing turnaround by Andrew Carnegie from steel magnate to philanthropist.

He also was an immigrant from Scotland, not Ireland, who went on to become one of the richest men in America, as well as in the world. Think of what you know about the family in general and Andrew in particular. We can thank him for the network of libraries throughout our communities and states. He felt that people should not be held back by lack of education. And if someone wanted to gain knowledge to succeed all they had to do was go to the library and check out books on the subject.

The book is well written and researched and the story and the characters do not stray far from the historical realities of the time. We will never know the real reasons Andrew transforms himself into a builder of libraries but it's fun to think that a fictional character like Clara could have played a small part in it.

As we have done in the past, the book club is taking a summer break for July and August. Our next book club meeting is Wednesday, September 28 at noon. We are reading *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles and *28 Summers* by Elin Hilderbrand.

After September the remaining book club schedule is as follows:

- October 19 The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray Hinson
- November 16 Book TBD
- December 7 Holiday Luncheon from the Italian Gourmet
No book discussion

All are welcome to participate in our book club. You can come for all of the discussions or you can come for just one. We are always looking for book titles that others have enjoyed and would recommend. If you have a title you would like to recommend, please leave a message with the office. Enjoy your summer and we will see you on September 28.

Happy Reading!
Melissa Haseley

BISHOP TRANSITION PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you and praise you for guiding the people of ECCT in the discernment of our next bishop diocesan culminating in the election of Jeffrey Mello as the XVI Bishop Diocesan. We pray for Bishop-elect Jeff and his family, as they journey in transition to Bishop-Elect Jeff's new call. We pray also for the people of St Paul's Episcopal Church in Brookline as they journey in transition, saying goodbye to Bishop-elect Jeff and as they enter their own discernment process.

We thank you for everyone who offered themselves to our discernment, especially for nominees Glenna, Kate, Tanya, and Whitney. May you continue to grace them with their gifts as they continue to follow your call.

We pray for Bishop Laura, for her continued grace and steadfastness, as she transitions to partner with Bishop-elect Jeff in leading ECCT.

We pray in gratitude for our Bishop Ian, his leadership, guidance, and service, and for his spouse Kristin, asking blessings for their next journey.

All this we pray through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever. *Amen.*

150th Anniversary of Grace Church

Warmest greetings to the past and present members of Grace Church.

For our Summer Pace of Grace, I am including a short write up that took 150 years to create. There will be more to come in our September issue.

June 26, 2022 was a most enjoyable and spirit-filled service as we celebrated 150 years of Grace. We were blessed to have Bishop Laura Ahrens be our celebrant. The service had members of the past and present attending to add to the festivities and volume of the spirit filling our church. Our faith carries on from the past to the present to the future. We used some prayers from the 1789 BCP which would have been said in 1871. God is with us! Of course, in 1871 there would not have been all women behind the altar as there was this day! Changes continue to bring the love of Jesus that we share with others.

We had a delicious brunch after the service. This allowed us time to socialize with one another. Thankfully we were able to do this. The flowers, bulletin boards, the written history, food (and of course cake), service, and people all added to the wonderful time spent together.

Thanks be to God!



Bulletin board by Val Dumont



QUICK UPDATE: May 31, 2022

	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>TOTAL 2022</u>
	<u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 5139	\$ 26,025	\$ 27,292	\$ 63,468
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 5,560	\$ 39,740	\$ 43,671	\$ 101,028
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 8,337)	(\$ 51,426)	(\$ 53,240)	(\$ 130,248)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	(\$ 2,777)	(\$ 11,686)	(\$ 9,569)	(\$ 29,220)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 20,950		<i>End 2021 Checkbook:</i> \$ 32,797	



We are still collecting ink and toner cartridges. Please drop off in the box on the shelf in the narthex.

Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
	4 th Pentecost	5 th Pentecost	6 th Pentecost	7 th Pentecost	8 th Pentecost
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist
Clergy	Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller
Deacon/LWL	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	
		Karen Halpert			
LECTOR	Marie Ritchie	Beverley Manning	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell
PRAYERS	Karen Halpert	Mabel Maynard	Marie Ritchie		Walt Parker
ALTAR GUILD	Nancy DiPrato	Nancy DiPrato	Jane Stewart	Jane Stewart	Pat Rogorzenski
	Candy Casciano	Candy Casciano	Barbara Johnson	Barbara Johnson	Elizabeth Welk
COUNTERS			Walt Parker		JoAnn Cromwell
			Lorraine Belyea		Nancy DiPrato

Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
	9 th Pentecost	10 th Pentecost	11 th Pentecost	12 th Pentecost
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Clergy	Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller	
Deacon/LWL	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
				Walt Parker
LECTOR	Walt Parker	Marie Ritchie	Beverley Manning	Mabel Maynard
PRAYERS	Beverley Manning	Mabel Maynard	Karen Halpert	Marie Ritchie
ALTAR GUILD	Pat Rogorzenski	Kathy Shoemaker	Kathy Shoemaker	Nancy DiPrato
	Elizabeth Welk	Candy Casciano	Candy Casciano	Jane Stewart
COUNTERS		Melissa Haseley		Walt Parker
		JoAnn Cromwell		Nancy DiPrato