

## Seasons to Experiment and Engage the Heart: Lent & My Upcoming Sabbatical -from Rev. Megan, Priest Associate and Director of Creative Formation

We may be at the very beginning of March, but we are already in the thick of Lent! Ash Wednesday and the Great Litany behind us, we've begun the Lenten journey of walking towards the Cross. Still ahead are many cherished traditions that will help us journey to Calvary, then onto the empty tomb and the presence of the resurrected Christ! Later this month, we will also look forward to welcoming back Tom, our Rector, who is currently still recovering from a knee replacement surgery on Ash Wednesday.

Something I love about the seasonal nature of the church year is that it allows for experimentation. Committing to something for a lifetime, or an indefinite period, can be overwhelming. In contrast, Lent gives us the opportunity to say: *What if, for 40-ish days, I try this thing (this spiritual practice, this intention, this fast, this act of letting go, etc.)? What if, for 40-ish days, I dwell with or examine this or that idea of God? This or that aspect of myself?* Lent give us chances to try something new, outside of our usual rhythms, in hopes that we get a fresh glimpse of God in the process. Grace Church provides a lot of ways to try something new during Lent, but we can also experiment as individuals too. For example, in recent years I've used Lent to experiment with the ways I relate to technology in order to better understand the motives behind my use of social media and how the internet impacts my spirit.

Just as our liturgical year relies on seasons, there are also seasons in the life of a clergyperson. In the Episcopal Church and many denominations, clergy are encouraged to take intentional times of sabbatical and renewal. In this diocese, clergy can take three months of renewal leave after five years of serving a community. It may be a little hard to believe considering what a whirlwind these past few years have been, but I have now been working with and among you at Grace for over 5 and a half years! **Therefore, after consultation with Tom and the vestry, I feel deeply privileged to take a sabbatical beginning April 8th. My last Sunday before sabbatical will be the Sunday after Easter, April 7th. I will return in the beginning of July.**

While there's much richness I'll miss in the coming months (I'll especially miss Grace's wonderful & lively celebration of Pentecost!), I look forward to the experimental nature of a sabbatical season. Like Lent can, a sabbatical will disrupt my usual rhythms and give me an opportunity to engage my heart and connect with God in new ways.

There's a lot for me to reflect on during this season of sabbatical! I joined you all at Grace in July 2018, twenty-five years old and fresh out of seminary. A month later, I made a quick trip to Selinsgrove, PA to be ordained a deacon. The following February, our own Bishop Doug ordained me a priest with so many of you present and participating. In those initial years, I experienced many ministry firsts, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, youth Confirmation classes, and even supervising teenagers on a trip to Nashville, Tennessee, all while getting to know this wonderful parish.

# *Grace Notes "Notes"*

Priesthood as I was beginning to know it suddenly shifted in March 2020 with the arrival of Covid-19 and our pivot away from in-person gathering. Since then, we have been on quite a journey together, which has included discerning how to keep being a community of faith and hope in the midst of profound challenges. This pandemic journey included joyous reunions as we came back together again in-person and continued grappling with the ongoing changes that Covid-19 brought to our lives. In the midst of these years, I have also been settling personally into life in the Pioneer Valley: making new friends, accomplishing new things as a poet, taking on hobbies, and as of last year, making a new home in Pelham. I am looking forward to reflecting on these first 5 years of priestly ministry in all their fullness.

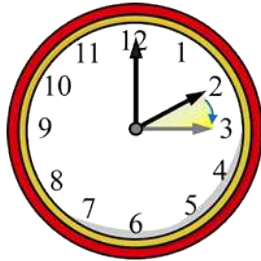
Of course, sabbatical isn't only about the past. It's also about being nurtured for the present and future. I am very excited to go to Calvin University's Festival for Faith & Writing in April. I consider being a poet and a priest dual and overlapping vocations (I am so lucky to be in a congregation where I'm supported in exploring what their overlapping nature can offer the church!), so I'm thrilled by the chance to learn from so many writers who share the belief that literature and spirituality are intertwined. Later in April, I'll go to Pennsylvania and spend quality time with my parents in my childhood home outside of Harrisburg. I hope to attend at least one other conference that would inspire me for ministry or spend time at a favorite retreat location, such as Holy Cross Monastery in New York or the Mercy Center in Connecticut. Some of you have already heard me buzzing with excitement about plans for late June: exploring Ireland with my older brother, partially inspired by his recent research into our family history. These extra visits with family are something I will tremendously cherish. Overall, I hope to prioritize restorative time with loved ones; spiritual reflection and renewal; and sustained attention to personal creative work that is sometimes difficult to squeeze into my typical schedule.

In terms of practical matters, in the coming weeks I will collaborate with our wonderful volunteers to figure out what Sunday School and youth group look like while I'm away. Some of my campus ministry work will likely take a pause, but I hope to direct our young adults to the Western Mass. Young Adult Ministry Network (YAMN), a diocesan collaborative which has been holding many great events for college students and young adults in their 20s and 30s. Of course, Tom and I will also be working together to figure out arrangements for other aspects of parish life impacted by my temporary absence.

I am so grateful for this upcoming sabbatical season and hope to engage it with a full heart so I might return more capable of supporting each of you in connecting with your own heart and the heart of our glorious, creative, loving, healing, Triune God. In the meantime, let's continue embracing the season we're currently in – Lent! Even if you feel like Lent has passed you by or you are “behind” on a Lenten discipline or practice, it's not too late to say, What if? and let your heart lead you into a fruitful experiment.

Blessings + love,  
Rev. Megan

# Grace Notes "Notes"



**Daylight Savings  
Time Begins**

**March 10, 2023**

Set your clocks **ahead one hour!**

## **Covenant and the Promises of God: A Lenten Reflection**

During Lent this year in church we will hear many of the covenants and promises God has made. What did they mean to the people who first heard them? How do they connect with our lives today? John Horn, a retired Episcopal priest, will lead four sessions of reflections on covenant in the Sunday readings. The series began on Sunday, February 25, and will continue through March 17th, from 9:15-10:15 in the Fireplace Room. All are welcome to attend.

## **Iconography Workshop**

An ongoing iconography workshop meets every Sunday afternoon, from noon to four in the Parish Hall. Previous artistic experience is not necessary, since icon writing is as much a contemplative process of an inner spiritual journey as it is an artistic discipline. Please contact Sandy Lillydahl at [slillydahl@library.umass.edu](mailto:slillydahl@library.umass.edu) for additional information.

## **A Week at Grace**

### **Sunday**

**8:00 am** Holy Eucharist  
9:00 am Coffee Hour  
9:15 am Sunday School  
**10:30 am** Holy Eucharist  
11:30 am Coffee Hour  
7:30 pm AA

### **Monday**

10:00 am Staff Meeting  
12:15 pm Meditation  
7:00 pm AA

### **Tuesday**

5:15 pm AA  
7:00 pm Alanon

### **Wednesday**

**12:10 pm** Rite I Holy Eucharist  
and Healing Prayer

### **Thursday**

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

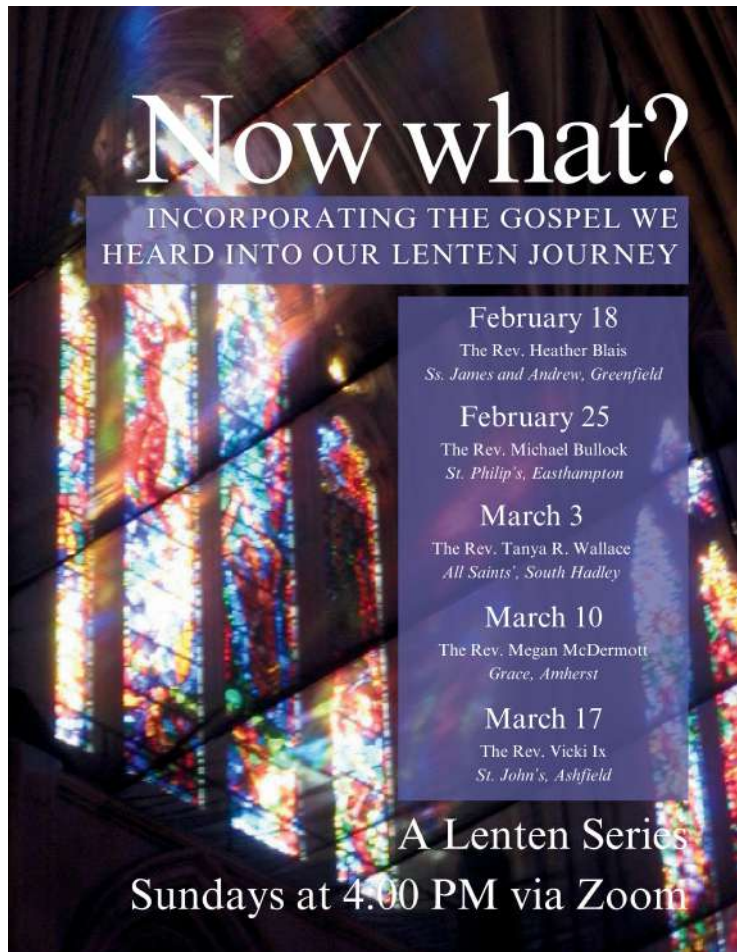
### **Friday**

7:00 am Men's Group  
**5:30 pm** Evensong

### **Saturday**

10:00 am Bible Study  
5:00 pm AA  
8:00 pm AA

# Grace Notes "Notes"



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83589948859?pwd=SW5Mb1dZbmFBcW9Wem9kbk5HSWN2dz09>

Meeting ID: 835 8994 8859

Passcode: lent24

## Tea and Titles

Tea & Titles meets once or twice a month at 2:30 pm in the Connector to share and discuss books recently read. For more information, please contact Jude Wobst at [judith.wobst@gmail.com](mailto:judith.wobst@gmail.com)

Our next meeting is March 21, 2024 at 2:30pm. All are welcome!

## Palestinian Oil

Palestinian olive oil will be available for sale by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship in the Connector on the first Sunday of each month. It is first cold press organic and fair trade olive oil. The proceeds from the sale enable Grace to provide a scholarship for a student at the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center in Ramallah.



## Raising the Questions

Raising the Questions is a Grace Church reading and discussion group that started in the fall of 2017, continued sporadically on Zoom during COVID, and is once again meeting in person. The group formed because of questions we were asking ourselves and of others; we discuss a variety of topics that center on theology, images of God, liturgical language, and alternative forms of worship. We compiled the booklet of alternative prayers that was available in the back of the church during Lent (2022), and was the source for the discussion group on language and liturgy that same Lent. We welcome everyone and the questions and ideas they bring.

Raising the Questions now meets at 9:30 am the second Tuesday of the month.





# *Grace Notes "Notes"*

## **2023 Holy Week**

### **March 24--Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist (begin at the Parish Hall and process to the Church)

### **March 25--Monday**

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist

### **March 26--Tuesday**

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist

### **March 27--Wednesday**

12:10 pm Holy Eucharist (Rite I) with Healing;  
7:00 pm Tenebrae with special music provided by a select chamber choir drawn from the area's finest vocal ensembles

### **The Paschal Triduum (the Sacred Three Days)**

#### **March 28--Maundy Thursday**

7:00 pm Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist of the Last Supper; Stripping of the Altar; All-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)

#### **March 29--Good Friday**

4:00 pm Children's Stations of the Cross (Church and Town Common)  
7:00 pm Liturgy of the Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ

#### **March 30--Holy Saturday/The Great Vigil of Easter**

9:00 am Liturgy of Holy Saturday  
8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter, Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and The Feast of the Resurrection (begins outside, in the Columbarium. All are welcome to bring bells to ring at the Gloria)

#### **March 31--Easter Sunday**

8:00 am & 10:30 am The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
Easter egg hunt for children following both services

# Grace Notes "Notes"

## Men's Group

The Men's Group is always looking for new members for general discussions and personal exchange. We meet on Friday mornings 7-8:30. We meet in person every other Friday of each month. (On the other Fridays we will be zooming to accommodate members who live away or are unable to attend for other reasons.) For further information contact Charlie Dickinson: [lcd@polysci.umass.edu](mailto:lcd@polysci.umass.edu)

## Outreach!

Our February Outreach Offering brought in \$973.00, which was collected for The Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center in Ramallah, Palestine.

Generosity changes everything, starting with us.

Thank you for your generosity!

## "Mind the Gap" returns!

In 2023, the "Mind the Gap" campaign brought in \$19,647, thanks to all of you who participated in five events between June and October: a garden tour, art auction, week in a Cape Cod house, mushroom-foraging expedition, and weekend-long Harvest Festival. We are grateful to the volunteers who came up with superb ideas and organized these events, and to everyone who took part. The funds raised were an important factor in Grace's ending the fiscal year almost in the black (the church's overall deficit for the year was just \$250!).

The 2024 budget that was presented at the Annual Meeting on Feb. 4 shows a goal of \$12,000 for "minding the gap" this year. Whatever comes in above that number will help offset unanticipated shortfalls in other areas of the budget. Our twin goals remain to increase income, of course, and also to keep the "fun" in fundraising.

We need your good ideas for 2024 and also your offers of help in bringing those ideas to fruition. Please contact Donna Devine ([donnadebs1921@gmail.com](mailto:donnadebs1921@gmail.com)) and/or Suzannah Muspratt ([suzannah.fabing@gmail.com](mailto:suzannah.fabing@gmail.com)) with either or both. Thanks!

## Garden Ministry

The Grace Church Garden Ministry needs donations of pots and garden decorations for our annual plant sale. We will set aside an area in the Undercroft for these items.

This is our only fundraiser! So as spring approaches and we root around in the garage or shed, please give unwanted items to us. We will paint and clean up all donations.

Blessings

Sara Liberty-Laylin : Chair

[p.laylin@comcast.net](mailto:p.laylin@comcast.net)

# Grace Notes "Notes"

## Community Conversation Board

***Our community conversation board has turned to a Lenten theme: Reconciliation & Restoration.*** In the invitation to a holy Lent found in the prayer book, Lent is described as a time when those “who...had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church.” You are invited to think about how the concepts of reconciliation & restoration are present in your own life and relationships!

What is challenging about, or stands in the way of, reconciliation and restoration? When have you experienced either in powerful or life-giving ways? Please stop by the bulletin board in the Connector to share your thoughts with the congregation or to appreciate the thoughts of fellow parishioners!

## Grace Church Facebook Page

Be sure to like us at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071025877972> and check back frequently for updates, events, and announcements. There are so many wonderful things happening at Grace - please help spread the word and share our Facebook postings with friends.

## A Litany for the Restoration of Peace in The Holy Land

God of peace, we pray for the people of Palestine and Israel in these perilous and dangerous times.

For all who are fearful for the safety of their loved ones and themselves, we pray that the assurance of unfailing love, even in the midst of danger, settles upon them. Shelter them from despair and protect them from harm.

For all who are wounded, we pray they find healing.

For all who have died, we pray they find rest.

For all who grieve, we pray they find comfort.

For leaders on all sides, we pray for a renewed will to lay down arms, for the strength to put the grievances and wrongs suffered by their people to rest, and for the conviction to embrace a path of reconciliation and peace that preserves the rights and dignity of all of your children.

God of mercy, help us to remember there is no border that can separate us from your great love and protection, no stone that can sound the well of your deep mercy.

God of justice, we pray with hopeful hearts that your beloved children of the Holy Land will be spared a future of sustained violence and unrest and that a recognition of the humanity of all people will prevail.

We ask all this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

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## *Climate Change Prayer*

Holy God,  
earth and air and water are your creation,  
and every living thing belongs to you:  
have mercy on us  
as climate change confronts us.

Give us the will and the courage  
to simplify the way we live,  
to reduce the energy we use,  
to share the resources you provide,  
and to bear the cost of change.

Forgive our past mistakes  
and send us your Spirit,  
with wisdom in present controversies  
and vision for the future to which you call us  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Australia*

## **11th Hour Bell Ringing for Climate Change**

Monday, March 11th

Calling all ages to be part of the 11th Hour Bell Ringing for Climate Change Monday, March 11 at 10:45. Join friends and neighbors for prayer and meditation before the 11th hour ringing begins. No one is too young; no one is too old. Our church bell will be rung for 11 minutes on the 11th day of each month at 11 AM. After the bells ring, everyone will have a chance to make a joyful noise of resolve. Bring your cow bells, dinner bells, kazoos, and gongs, drums, cymbals, and noise makers of any kind. Signs and banners are encouraged. Who knows, maybe some folks passing by will stop and join in or at least catch the spirit of what committed people can do when joined together in faith.





# Grace Notes "Notes"

## Campus and Young Adult Ministries

Info below is on a few events for students and young adults coming up. Please be in touch for more info on any of these, and also know that I'm available to meet up for coffee, tea, bubble tea, etc. if you'd prefer chatting one-on-one!

### **GEMS (Grace Episcopal Ministry for Students) Mar. 16th, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Our once-a-month gathering for college students at Coronation Café meets the third Saturday of every month, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Drop in for a few minutes, or stay for a longer discussion. The church will treat to beverages and/or snacks!

### **Young Adult Lent Retreat Morning at St. John's Athol, Sat. Mar 23rd**

The Western Mass. Young Adult Ministry Network (YAMN), our diocesan collaborative group for young adult events, is coming together for a Lenten retreat morning of quiet, creativity, and togetherness. More details soon to come, but please get the date on your calendar! This is open to young adults ages 18-40 from across the diocese. If you'd need a ride to the retreat, please let me know at [mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org](mailto:mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org).

Also stay tuned for more info on when the next YAMN board game & pizza meet-up at Tree House Brewery will be! We had a great turn-out for the February gathering.

### **Events on-campus at Hampshire & UMass**

One of the discussions I was scheduled to facilitate at Hampshire's Spiritual Life Center, on Prayer & Imagination, had to be postponed due to illness. I hope to have this event rescheduled soon. If you're not already on my email list about times I'm on-campus at Hampshire and would like to be, please let me know.

I've also been collaborating with the United Christian Foundation, an ecumenical campus ministry serving UMass, on figuring out an offering we can do on-campus over at UMass. We have been experimenting with Wednesday evenings as a potential time slot. If you'd be interested in participating in some sort of Bible Study or discussion group on-campus at UMass, please reach out!

### ***Prayer Circle* is still here!**

We are ready to pray for the needs of those in crisis who want a degree of anonymity. Names will be held in confidence by members of the Circle and will not be published outside Circle members. Names will remain on the list for a month, unless otherwise requested. If you would like to be prayed for in this way, or would like to make a request for a loved one, please contact MJ Fowler ([mjfowler3@comcast.net](mailto:mjfowler3@comcast.net)).



# Grace Notes "Notes"

## Children's & Youth Ministry

As we move towards Easter, there is a lot going on here at Grace Church for people of various ages to meaningfully engage with these core stories of our faith! Please take a look at the announcements below and see if there's a way you might join us this Lenten season and/or Holy Week or Easter. If you have any questions, please be in touch with me at [mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org](mailto:mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org).

**Lent Art & Music – Still time to join us for Jr. Choir rehearsals + Stations of the Cross art!**

## A CREATIVE LENT CHILDREN & YOUTH ART & MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE CHURCH AMHERST

AS WE APPROACH EASTER, CHILDREN & YOUTH ARE INVITED TO JOIN US TO:

1) REHEARSE FOR A JR. CHOIR PERFORMANCE WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE EASTER SUNDAY MORNING, MAR. 31ST AT OUR 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

2) CREATE STATIONS OF THE CROSS ARTWORK TO BE USED FOR OUR OUTDOOR GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S SERVICE

COME TO SING, TO DRAW/PAINT/DESIGN, OR DO BOTH!

SUNDAYS FEB. 18TH, MAR. 3RD, MAR. 10TH, & MAR. 24TH

9:15-10:15 A.M.

14 BOLTWOOD AVE., AMHERST, MA

CONTACT REV. MEGAN  
AT [MMCDERMOTT@  
GRACECHURCHAMHERST.ORG](mailto:mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org)  
FOR MORE INFO

upstairs in the Parke House from 9:15-10:15 a.m. throughout the Sundays of Lent to get plugged into one or both of these creative activities. Sunday, Mar. 17th will **NOT** be a Lent Art & Music gathering due to Liturgy in the Chapel. See the announcement below for more.

**Liturgy in the Chapel, Sunday Mar. 17th – Worship begins at 9:35 a.m.**

Once a month, children and youth of any age and their families are invited to join together for worship in the Chapel. This short service includes the celebration of Communion, one reading of Scripture, and an interactive

This Lent, we will be coming together with two goals:

- 1) Preparing for a Jr. Choir performance at the 10:30 a.m. Easter morning service – Parishioner, youth group volunteer, & Sunday School leader Lucy Bergin will guide interested children and youth in learning music for this occasion!
- 2) Creating new artwork for our Children's Stations of the Cross service – On Good Friday at 4 p.m., Grace hosts a children's Stations of the Cross service featuring artwork of the day's events. Our current artwork is now several decades old! We are inviting the current generation of Grace children & youth to use their creativity to tell this important story of our faith through art. Parishioner Nancy Lowry will be guiding us through this process.

Interested elementary, middle, and high schoolers are all invited to join us

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children's-centered sermon. It is a great way to begin getting used to the rhythms and meaning of Episcopal worship as a family in a child-focused setting.

You are welcome to arrive early if you'd like. The chapel space will be open from 9:15 a.m. We'll have some activity + coloring sheets available, and there's also the option of helping set up for worship!

Please note worship begins at 9:35 a.m. rather than our old time of 9:45, so the service feels less rushed. This is a new change, and we welcome your feedback on it!

## **Youth Group (Grades 6-12) – Join us for board games & pizza on Mar. 24th, after church!**

We'll be having an afternoon of board games & pizza following the 10:30 a.m. service on Palm Sunday service on Mar. 24th, lasting until 2 p.m. and meeting in the Fireplace Room in the Parke House. We'll have plenty of games to choose from, but feel free to bring in favorite games of your own – and a friend or two! Pizza and snacks provided.

## **Holy Week – Save the Dates – Good Friday Service, Easter Egg Hunts, & Acolyting**

On **Friday Mar. 29th at 4 p.m.**, we have our outdoors (weather permitting; the sanctuary is our alternate location) children's Way of the Cross service. Going around the Town Common, the outside of the church, and ending up in our Columbarium garden, we explore various moments leading up to Jesus' death and remember how Jesus is with us in our own difficult times. This year, we hope to be debuting some new artwork made by Grace children + youth during Lent!

On Easter morning, **Sunday Mar. 31st**, there will be egg hunts **after both the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services**, in the Garth/church courtyard (weather permitting). Please plan on joining us! Older youth are invited to help hide eggs and can also help fill eggs leading up to Easter if interested. Contact me for more info. We also accept donations of eggs to use for the Easter egg hunts!

We will also be looking for acolytes for the various Holy Week services, especially Palm Sunday (Mar. 24th) at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services; Mandy Thursday (Mar. 28th) at 7 p.m.; Good Friday (Mar. 29th) at 7 p.m.; Easter Vigil (Mar. 30th) at 8 p.m.; and Easter Morning (Mar. 31st) at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Acolyting newcomers welcome! Please reach out for more info.

## **Nursery Open During Sunday School & 10:30 Service**

A reminder – after being closed much of the pandemic, our nursery is now open once more, with childcare staff. It is located in the Parker Room, which is the parlor/sitting room in the parish office. If you need directions to the nursery or more info, please contact me, Megan. Open for ages 3 months + up. Please share this info with anyone you think might be interested in a worship experience with a provided childcare option.

-- Rev. Megan

# Grace Notes "Notes"

## Grace Episcopal Church Services Auction

*A celebration of our time and talents in service to our friends and to our church.*

**Saturday  
May 04, 2024  
6:00 - 8:30 PM**

After a ten-year hiatus, the Grace Church Services Auction is returning this Spring! This is a wonderful evening event at which members of the Grace Church community bid on services offered by other parishioners. The event will include live and silent auctions, and will also feature elegant hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Items contributed for past auctions have included chores such as yard work and babysitting; prepared dinner and dessert items; feasts hosted at parishioner homes; excursions to museums and concerts; professional services such as computer support and tutoring; transportation to Bradley Airport; stays in vacation homes; and many others. The proceeds from the auction will go to the Mind the Gap campaign to help balance the Church budget. Most importantly, the auction is a great opportunity for members of Grace Church to give and receive helpful, useful, and fun services, while also getting to know each other a little better!

Please contact Kitty ([kitty@kdougherty.net](mailto:kitty@kdougherty.net)) or Tom ([thomasdougherty56@gmail.com](mailto:thomasdougherty56@gmail.com)) Dougherty if you have questions or would like to help with the event. Sign-up sheets for contributing auction items will appear soon in the Connector. Please consider a service that you would like to offer, and plan to attend the auction in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, May 4, 6:00 - 8:30 PM.**

## Lent Visual Art Meditation

Through the Mondays in Lent, at 12:15 p.m., we are hosting the series Take Up Your Cross: A Visual Lenten Meditation. In one of our Lenten lectionary texts, Jesus will say, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34 NRSV). We will contemplate this difficult instruction and what it stirs up in us through different artworks that highlight a relationship between the Cross and people other than Jesus alone. Zoom links will be sent out by Grace church email on Monday mornings. If you are not able to attend either the Lent meditations live, a recorded version of each week's meditation is available. Please email Megan at [mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org](mailto:mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org) to be sent the recording.





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## **Planned Giving – Your Will, Trust and Other Options for Beneficiary Designations**

There are many ways through your estate plans to provide future support for your loved ones and for organizations important to you, such as Grace Church. A periodic review is wise to take into consideration changing circumstances. Updating designations in your will or trust are common and warrant review with your lawyer, but minor updates for individual or institutional beneficiaries may also be achieved through:

1. a simple codicil to your will (with modest legal fees)
2. designating portions of a life insurance policy
3. designating portions of a retirement plan (most 401(k), 403(b), and IRAs) keeping in mind the designations already made in your will or trust

You are welcome to contact Planned Giving Committee members Doug Adler and Kent Faerber.

## **Pastoral Call for Volunteers**

Do you like to cook? Do you like to drive? Would you like to help fellow parishioners? Pastoral Care is looking to develop a list of volunteers to be contacted as needed. Most likely a request for food or a ride would occur every other month or so. And being on the volunteer list does not obligate your assistance every time a request is made. If you are interested in this ministry, please see the sign up sheets at coffee hour, or email Gail Gnatek at [ggnatek@gmail.com](mailto:ggnatek@gmail.com).

## **Request publicity for your event!**

To make Grace Church events as successful as possible, the Communications Committee developed an online form to request event publicity. The form, which includes instructions for completing and submitting the request, is found on the Grace website under the Outreach Commission or <https://www.gracechurchamherst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Request-for-Event-Publicity-Form-2023.pdf>. The Communications Committee asks forms be submitted six to eight weeks prior to an event to ensure adequate time for publicity.

**Save the Date**  
**Sunday, April 14 at 3:00**  
**Grace Church, Amherst**  
**Concert featuring**  
**Stephen Porter, Internationally**  
**recognized pianist**  
**Krista River, Grammy Award winning**  
**Mezzo-soprano**

Mr. Porter performs internationally; is artist resident of the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, and is Research Artist at Texas A&M University. Ms. River is a winner of the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, and received a Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording.

The program will include works by Handel, Grieg, Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn and Benjamin Britten.

Free-will donation: \$20 per person suggested to support The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts



# Haiti Ministry

## THANK YOU GRACE CHURCH and friends!

The 2024 Annual Winter soupfest, **Dine in, Help Out Haiti**, was a splendid success with over 200 quarts of soup sold and more than \$4,000 raised to support St. Matthew's School in Bayonnais, Haiti!

This was a wonderfully collective, community undertaking—and great fun!! It is impossible to name everyone who contributed-- cooking, packing, delivering, and above all, **purchasing and sharing**--all these delicious soups, breads, and gorgeous cookies.



But a special “shout out” to:

*The amazing organizers:* Sarah Chadwick, Gail Gnatek, Sandy Musprat, Laura Klock, Bonnie Vigeland.

*The soup and chili cooks:* Patty Applebaum, Allison Ash, Tom Baker, Suzannah Fabing, Mary Hocken, Gail Gnatek, Walter Huston, Brown Kennedy, Laura Klock, Harold Norris, Diana Spurgin.

*The bread and cookie bakers:* Hannah Abbott, Alison Ash, Betty Brown, Alice Goodwin-Brown, Sarah Chadwick, Marie Coughlin, Lou Currin, Karen DeSantis, Kitty Dougherty, Gail Gnatek, Walter Huston, Ruthie Ireland, Miriam Jenkins,

Joan O'Brien, Lucy Robinson, Nina Scott, John Stifler, Bonnie Vigeland,

*The drivers and deliverers:* Lynn Klock, Martin Wobst --and many others!

**And a very particular thanks to these local restaurants/caterers for their generous contributions of their specialty soups. Please Thank them when you visit.**

**Diemand Farms  
Esselon Café  
Johnny's Tavern  
The Black Sheep  
The Stables Restaurant  
30Boltwood.**

March 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 am Men's Group 5:30 pm Evensong	2 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA
3 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Lenten Reflection 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Iconography 4:00 pm Clericus Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	4 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Lent Meditation 7:00 pm AA	5 5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Alanon	6 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer	7 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 5:30 pm Evensong	9 9:00 am Garden Ministry 11:00 am Memorial Service – Gary Niswonger 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA
10 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Lenten Reflection 9:15 am Climate Action@Grace 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Iconography 4:00 pm Clericus Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	11 10:00 am Staff Meeting 11:00 am Bell Ringing for Climate Change 12:15 pm Lent Meditation 7:00 pm Joy of Living 7:00 pm AA	12 9:30 am Raising the Questions 5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Alanon	13 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer	14 5:00 pm Executive Committee 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00 am Men's Group 5:30 pm Evensong	16 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA
17 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Lenten Reflection 9:35 am Liturgy in the Chapel 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Death & Dying Series 12:00 pm Iconography 4:00 pm Clericus Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	18 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Lent Meditation 7:00 pm AA	19 5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Alanon	20 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer	21 2:30 pm Tea & Tiles 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	22 5:30 pm Evensong	23 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA
Palm Sunday 24 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Iconography 7:30 pm AA	25 10:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist	26 5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist	27 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service	28 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist All Night Vigil	29 7:00 am Men's Group 4:00 pm Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm Liturgy of the Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ	30 10:00 am Liturgy of Holy Saturday 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA 8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter
Easter Sunday 31 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Egg Hunt 10:30 am Holy Eucharis Egg Hunt 12:00 pm Iconography 7:30 pm AA						

# Grace Notes

March 2024

## Return Service Requested

*"Grace is nothing else  
but a certain  
Beginning of  
glory in us."  
--Thomas Aquinas*

Grace Episcopal Church • On the Common • 14 Boltwood Avenue, Amherst, MA 01002-2301  
Phone: (413) 256-6754 • Fax: (413) 256-3518 • [grace@gracechurchamherst.org](mailto:grace@gracechurchamherst.org) • [www.gracechurchamherst.org](http://www.gracechurchamherst.org)

Grace Episcopal Church, located on the Town Common of Amherst, is a community of prayer and action. If you want to connect with God or if you are seeking a deeper knowledge of God, and you would like to do this with a community that cares for you and honors you, then Grace Church is the place for you. Our doors are open to one and all, regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey.

*We love because God first loved us.* 1 John 4:19

Discover true life and true love at Grace Church.

## Service Schedule

Sunday 8:00 am and 10:30 am Holy Eucharist  
Wednesday 12:10 pm Rite I Holy Eucharist and Healing  
Prayer  
Friday 5:30 pm Evensong

See our website, [www.gracechurchamherst.org](http://www.gracechurchamherst.org) for updates

