

Grace Notes

April 2024

Holy Week and Easter 2024

Photos by Lucy Bergin, Sarah Chadwick, Patrick Kelly, Nancy Lowry, and Doug Moore



Grace Notes "Notes"



Grace Notes "Notes"

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 for additional information.

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.

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

Our next meeting is April 11, 2024 at 2:30pm. All are welcome!



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
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Thursday

7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
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Friday

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

Saturday

5:00 pm	AA
8:00 pm	AA

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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

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.



Outreach!

Our Easter Outreach Offering brought in \$5878, which will be divided between the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ).

Generosity changes everything, starting with us.

Thank you for your generosity!

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).

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.

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.

Grace Notes "Notes"

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

“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) and/or Suzannah Muspratt (suzannah.fabing@gmail.com) with either or both. Thanks!

Grace Notes "Notes"

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

Garden Ministry

The Grace Garden Ministry has been working with Tom Dougherty and Town Hall; and also with Alan Snow, the Amherst Tree Warden. Sadly, the 7 Norway Maples in the Garth area are all diseased and dying. They are leaning heavily over the parking lot for town hall. After many meetings, it has been decided that the trees will come down on April 15th- Patriots Day- a holiday. The parking area will be cordoned off.



The Garden Ministry is actively seeking in-kind donations from local nurseries as well as parishioners for our garden sale on May 11th. We need plants as well as other garden decorations or tools. Proceeds from this sale will go toward replanting the Garth area in the fall. We are considering evergreen trees as well as local shrubs and plan to have the first phase of the project completed by November. The following spring (2025) we can plant bulbs and flowers.

We understand that the view from the connector will radically change. But we hope you will be pleased with evergreen trees and shrubs and then flowers next year.

Thanks to everyone that has been helping with Grace Gardens this year.

Sara Liberty-Laylin

Chair

p.laylin@comcast.net



Grace Notes "Notes"

Creative formation:

Our Monday Zoom meditations will go on pause while I, Megan, am away on sabbatical! However, I hope all who have been part of these programs will continue to engage in their meaningful and spiritual connections with the arts & literature and plan on joining me again in July for a delayed start to our Summer Poetry & Prayer series.

We've now accumulated quite a backlog of poetry & visual art meditation recordings. **If you are interested in receiving links to past series, whether to view for the first time or to revisit a program you attended, please let me know before April 8th!** Some series were organized around themes related to liturgical season, e.g. poems for the season of Epiphany, Lenten art of the cross or Jesus' temptation in the desert, etc., while others had broader themes relevant to any point in the liturgical year. I would be happy to share links with you.

I'll also offer a few recommendations if you'd like support in exploring more dimensions of art & spirituality while I'm away:

*Poetry Unbound – onbeing.org/series/poetry-unbound

This podcast, which explores one poem an episode, helped inspire the format of our Zoom poetry meditations.

*Art and Theology – artandtheology.org

This blog is updated regularly with visual art, music, poetry, & more that "can enable us to see God in new and different ways."

*Visual Commentary on Scripture – thevcs.org

This website, connected to King's College London, explores the Bible through artwork from various eras and scholarship in theology, art history, and biblical studies.

*Sarah Arthur's books [Between Midnight and Dawn: A Literary Guide to Prayer for Lent, Holy Week, and Eastertide](#) & [At the Still Point: A Literary Guide to Prayer in Ordinary Time](#)

These devotionals, organized by liturgical season, provide several literary readings each week, as well as an opening prayer and recommended Scriptures.

-Rev. Megan

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.

Grace Notes "Notes"

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

Thursday, April 11th

Calling all ages to be part of the 11th Hour Bell Ringing for Climate Change Thursday, April 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"

AN EPISCOPAL PATH TO CREATION JUSTICE PRESENTS



Keynote Speakers

Robin Wall Kimmerer*

Mary Evelyn Tucker &

Bill McKibben*

Celebratory Eucharist
with

Bishop Carol Gallagher

Suggested Donation
\$20/person

*virtual presentations

EARTH DAY 2024



**SATURDAY
APRIL 20
9 - 3**

ST MARK'S CHURCH

27 Main St
Southborough MA

**Attendance limited to 150. RSVP in advance.
Livestream will also be available.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
[DIOMASS.ORG/EVENT/EARTH-DAY-2024](https://diomass.org/event/earth-day-2024)

Grace Notes "Notes"

Campus and Young Adult Ministries

GEMS: Grace Episcopal Ministry for Students, which gathers monthly at Coronation Café, will go on hiatus the rest of the semester while I, Megan, am away on sabbatical. I will miss this time together, but please know that you don't need me to meet & you have every blessing + encouragement to find times to connect with one another throughout these coming months! If you have an idea for gathering that you need some support setting up before I leave, please be in touch prior to April 8th.

Thankfully, events of the Western Mass. Young Adult Ministry Network (YAMN), which brings together young adults from across the region, will still be happening while I'm gone. These events are open to young adults up to age 40. Please send me an email at mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org if I have permission to share your contact info with organizers from the YAMN team.

I have also been helping lead a Bible study on-campus at UMass, organized by the ecumenical mainline Protestant ministry United Christian Foundation. If you'd be interested in similar events happening at UMass, again please shoot me an email at mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org letting me know if I have permission to share your contact info with United Christian Foundation.

I look forward to seeing you when I return this summer or at the start of the next school year!

-Rev. Megan



CANTABILE VOCAL ENSEMBLE

The Prince of Love & Death
The music of Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa

Saturday, April 27 2024, 4:00 PM
Grace Episcopal Church 14 Boltwood Ave, Amherst MA
Free Admission

Grace Notes "Notes"

Children's & Youth Ministry

As many of you know, I, Megan, will be away for sabbatical starting Monday, April 8th and returning July 8th. I am so appreciative of this time, but will especially miss connecting with our awesome Grace children + youth!

We are scaling back some of our children + youth activities while I'm away, but thanks to awesome volunteer support, there will still be plenty of opportunities to come together!

During my time away, announcements about children's + youth events can be found in the Grace bulletin + Friday email announcement. There will NOT be a weekly email from me with reminders. ***If you'd like to get reminders about any of these children's + youth events from Lucy Bergin, who has been volunteering with Sunday School and youth group and will be organizing some of the events below, please email me at mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org with permission to share your contact info.***

If you have questions about these programs after I've left for sabbatical, please contact Lucy directly at lucy.bergin@gmail.com.

Regular K-5th grade Sunday School on pause; Liturgy in the Chapel still on for April & May! Sundays April 14th & May 5th

Our usual Sunday School class which has been meeting 9:15-10:15 a.m. each week will take a pause for the rest of the school year due to my sabbatical.

However, Liturgy in the Chapel, our monthly worship gathering for children & their families, will continue! Liturgy in the Chapel is scheduled for April 14th and May 5th. **Please note that these are not on the third Sunday of the month, the typical Sunday for L.I.C., due to volunteer schedules. We still hope you can join us!**

Feel free to show up anytime starting at 9:15 for opportunities to draw or sing prior to worship. Worship itself will begin at 9:35 a.m.

Lucy, who's been leading music, will continue leading musically over these months, and Rev. Tom will officiate Communion!

Children + Family Popsicle Picnic in the Garth after Church on June 2nd – One Service at 9:30 a.m.

To celebrate the end of the program year, Lucy invites you to a time of popsicles + games after church on June 2nd. We will have moved to our summer schedule of having one service at 9:30 a.m., so if you can't make it to the service and can only make the popsicle picnic, feel free to join around 10:30 a.m.!

Children up through 5th grade and their families are invited. Weather cooperating, the gathering will be in the Garth, which is the church courtyard. Rain location will be in the upstairs Sunday School rooms in the Parke House.

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Youth Group (Grades 6-12) Gatherings after Church On April 28th & May 19th

While I'm away, our youth group volunteer Lucy, along with some additional volunteers, will still hold monthly gatherings after church. These are scheduled for Sunday April 28th and Sunday May 19th.

Sunday April 28th, meet in the Connector around noon! Lucy and another volunteer will take youth to buy lunch and then return to the church for games.

Sunday May 19th, youth will gather following the Pentecost picnic! Please take the chance to eat with the whole church community; the fun of the afternoon will continue with a youth group games gathering afterwards in the Fireplace Room.

Be in touch with Lucy with any questions.

Nursery

Our nursery will continue to be open throughout the school year AND over the summer when we switch to one service at 9:30! While I'm away, if there are any Sundays where childcare is not available, you will be notified by an announcement in the Friday Grace Church email or in the bulletin the Sunday before.

-Rev. Megan

A Gospel Concert to benefit the Amherst A Better Chance program will be held in the church on Tuesday, April 23 at 7:30 pm.

Amherst ABC is a residential program where talented and motivated students from poor communities attend Amherst High School to improve their preparation for college and future leadership roles. Four choirs will sing: the Amherst Area Gospel Choir, the ARHS Hurricane Singers, the Hampshire Young People's Chorus and the UMass Gospel Choir. A \$20 donation (or more) from each concert-goer is suggested, but all who wish to celebrate the ABC Program through gospel music are most welcome!



Grace Notes "Notes"



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!

Sign-up sheets for contributing auction items and for helping to run the auction are in the Connector. You can also contribute an item by completing the online submission form found at the link:

<https://forms.gle/7s5xGiU6DR8snKfBA>

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.**

A Series on Death and Dying - Spring 2024

The Pastoral Care Committee has been hosting a series of talks, workshops, and discussions on the topics of death and dying as considered through a variety of lenses: spiritual and theological; artistic and literary; medical, scientific, and legal; as well as perspectives from non-Christian cultures and religions. It is our hope that by exploring death and dying as part of our spiritual path, we can become more at peace with death—our own and that of others—and also live more fully to the end.

On April 14th, Kent Faerber and Doug Adler will lead a discussion on wills and estate planning to be held **after the 10:30 service in the Parish Hall.**

A final program in this year-long series will be held later this spring on funeral planning to be led by Rev. Tom Synan.

The Pastoral Care Committee –

Rev. Tom Synan, Rev. Megan McDermott, Gail Gnatek, Karen DeSantis, Maria Dye, Ruthie Ireland, Anna Smith, Diana Spurgin.

Haiti Ministry

A Lenten pledge from the Church of Ss James and Andrew

On Sunday, February 25, a small contingent from the Haiti Ministry at Grace Church traveled up to Greenfield to attend the 10am service at the Church of Ss James and Andrew and to talk about our mission in Haiti with parishioners there. Last year, SS James and Andrew made a Lenten pledge to support St Matthieu school and they have decided to renew and increase that pledge this year. To give interested church members an update on the school, Sandy Muspratt gave a presentation with slides after the service and answered questions about the school. We have just received the news that Ss James and Andrew have reached their Lenten pledge goal - and exceeded it, raising \$3,000 for the school.

We are especially grateful for their joining Grace Church at this very difficult time for Haiti. We have had news from the school principal that, in spite of what is happening in the cities, the students at St Matthieu are safe and classes are being held.

The Haiti Ministry has recently received a grant from the “Miles of Pennies” program of the Church Periodical Club. We were awarded the maximum possible sum: \$844.80 (the amount representing a mile-long row of pennies). Grants under this program of the Episcopal Church are for buying books for children in need, anywhere in the world. Our grant will go to buying textbooks for the newly added seventh and eighth grades at St. Matthieu. Principal Clibert Massillon put together a list of his top priorities for books, together with the prices being charged by vendors in the central market in Gonaives. Although prices are in flux as the exchange rate shifts, he expects to be able to buy a dozen copies of the books for French, English, Spanish, and Haitian kreyol language study in Grade 8, and for 8th-grade math, physical sciences, biology, geography, and world history. There is a new textbook for seventh-grade English, so he hopes to buy 16 copies of that. If there is money left, he’ll use it for additional copies of the current seventh-grade French grammar book.



Recent photos of the children of St Matthieu's school, upper grades in tan uniforms, lower grades in blue.

<div> <div>April</div> <div>2024</div> </div>					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Office Closed 7:00 pm AA	5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Alanon	12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer	7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	11:30 am Internment – Carolyn Samonds 5:30 pm Evensong
6					1:00 pm Memorial Service – Tony Morse 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA
7	8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Iconography 7:30 pm AA	8 10:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Joy of Living 7:00 pm AA	9 9:30 am Raising the Questions 5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Alanon	10 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer	11 11:00 am Bell Ringing for Climate Change 2:30 pm Tea & Tiles 5:00 pm Haiti Ministry 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
13					12 7:00 am Men's Group 5:30 pm Evensong
14	8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Climate Action@Grace 9:35 am Liturgy in the Chapel 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Death & Dying Series 12:00 pm Iconography 3:00 pm Stephen Porter Concert 7:30 pm AA	15 Office Closed – Patriots' Day 7:00 pm AA	16 5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Alanon	17 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer	18 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
20					19 9:00 am Garden Ministry 5:30 pm Evensong
21	8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Iconography 5:00 pm Executive Cmte. 7:30 pm AA	22 10:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Joy of Living 7:00 pm AA	23 5:15 pm AA 7:00 Concert to benefit ABC 7:00 pm Alanon	24 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer 7:00 pm Vestry	25 2:30 pm Tea & Tiles 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
27					26 7:00 am Men's Group 5:30 pm Evensong
28	8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Iconography 7:30 pm AA	29 10:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm AA	30 5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Alanon		27 4:00 pm Cantabile Vocal Ensemble Concert 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA

Coffee hour follow Sunday morning services and provide an opportunity for parish fellowship and for welcoming and becoming acquainted with newcomers.

Grace Notes

April 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 • 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 for updates

