Dear Grace Church Friends and Family,

There have been several developments in the last few days regarding houses of worship in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in this time of COVID-19.

- Monday, May 18th Governor Baker released Reopening Massachusetts, his administration’s advisory report, detailing a four-phased strategy to reopen responsibly businesses and other activities while continuing to fight COVID-19.

- Later that day, the Diocese of Western Massachusetts in conjunction with the Diocese of Massachusetts issued a joint statement for all Episcopal parishes in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Guidelines for Resuming In-Person Worship: A Journey By Stages.

- And last evening, Tuesday, May 19th, I met with the Vestry of the parish to discuss the decisions facing Grace Episcopal Church, at this moment in the Coronavirus pandemic.

In light of all of the above, I will share with you the decisions of the Vestry as well as share with you some of my own personal thoughts and reflections.

A Quick Summary

While Governor Baker’s report is allowing houses of worship to hold services immediately, our bishops have decided that no parish may return to in-person worship before July 1st.

What does this mean for Grace Church?

Our current status remains as it is until AT LEAST July. There will be no services or in-person meetings at Grace until July, at the earliest. The parish office remains closed. As we live into the next few weeks, if it is determined that Grace Church ought to extend this moratorium, we will and we will keep you apprised of what will and will not be happening at the church.

My Thoughts and Reflections

1. The Governor’s Report

I was surprised on Monday when I first learned that houses of worship were included in Phase One of the four-phase approach to reopening Massachusetts. When I read the report, I was shocked. Starting May 18th, manufacturing, construction, and houses of worship were given permission to commence their operations, while cinemas, theaters, museums, and other venues where people congregate in ways similar to a house of worship are placed in Phase 3. Families, friends, and next-of-kin are still not allowed to visit loved ones in hospitals, nursing homes, and other institutions. According to what I have read, even the Red Sox are not allowed to play baseball outside.
If the current conditions are such that it is not safe for the Red Sox to play baseball in a large stadium, how is it safe for Grace Church to gather indoors, in a single room, and be together for over an hour at a time, while an unchecked virus permeates our society, eagerly seeking new people to infect? I asked myself with utmost sincerity: *Is Governor Baker trying to kill MY congregation?* That question may sound dramatic and perhaps absurd, but it begs to be asked. If so many components of our society are not currently considered safe, why are we so graciously being offered to go first? I do not believe it is Governor Baker’s intent to harm us.

*Are houses of worship in Phase One because the Governor would like all of us to pray for God to lift the Coronavirus pandemic from the Commonwealth?* Again, you may think this question is silly, but requests like that have been made before on houses of worship by governments. Nothing in the report, however, indicates that prayerful intercession is the basis of this decision. I do not know why Governor Baker put houses of worship on the frontlines of fighting COVID-19. Honestly, I feel for the man. I can only imagine the amount of pressure he is under from so many directions, so I keep him in my prayers. Given all that is expected of him, Governor Baker has my sympathy, if not my condolences.

2. **The Issues Facing Grace Church**

Just because Governor Baker says we can open, does not mean we should. There is more for us to consider.

   a. **The Practical Issues**

Reopening in the current situation comes with numerous State-mandated restrictions and safety requirements. *“Places of worship shall be cleaned and disinfected between each service, including disinfection of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g. doorknobs, bathroom, microphones, shared instruments)”*. (MA Safety Standards for Houses of Worship). One may ask, “Who will do all this intensive cleaning?” But the real and more immediate question is: “Who will do all this cleaning WITH WHAT?” Cleaning products are still missing in the stores. I have not seen Lysol or any disinfectant wipes on a store shelf since February. Cleaning and disinfecting to the Commonwealth’s standards may be unachievable for the near future.

The Governor’s report also requires that *“if a place of worship learns that an individual with COVID-19 attended a service or otherwise entered the place of worship, it shall conduct a deep cleaning and disinfecting consistent with the Centers for Disease Control guidance”*. (MA Safety Standards for Houses of Worship). At this time, it is unknown what is involved in having a “Deep Clean” and how much that might cost. Financially, it may be prohibitive to reopen too quickly, but we will investigate these important issues.
b. The Moral Imperative and Grace Church
Grace Church has a moral duty and obligation to everyone connected to the parish. The health and safety of everyone who comes to our campus is paramount, whether it is a parishioner attending a service, a staff member reporting to work, a stranger seeking a support group, or a postal worker delivering the mail. In good times and bad, it is unconscionable for this parish to be dismissive of the well-being of anyone who interacts with it.

But there is more.

Grace Church also has a moral duty and obligation to the greater society of Amherst, the Pioneer Valley, western Massachusetts, and beyond for the Common Good of all people. Whenever we decide to reopen, the decision rests with the Vestry and me, working, of course, in consultation with Bishop Doug. It would be so much easier for me, if Governor Baker had placed houses of worship in Phase 3 or 4, but it is not meet and right to expect and want the Governor to make on my behalf the tough decisions that need to be made for Grace Church.

Reopening, whatever that means and whenever it will be, is a complex and complicated matter. Grace Church is not merely a corporation or a franchise or a partnership. We are a church that believes we are called to mediate and bear witness to God’s will, and we are also called to be accountable to God, to one another, and to all of God’s creation. Given the current conditions of our world today, in which the pandemic is not over, testing is insufficient, there is no vaccine, people are still getting sick, hospitals are closed to all visitors, and it is deemed not safe enough for the Red Sox to play baseball outside, reopening Grace Church simply because we can and we want to would be a moral failing for us as a church.

How Do I Feel About All This?
How honest would you like me to be? I am miserable and terribly sad that these are the circumstances we are in, and if God gave me the ability to get us out of this, I would do it in a New York minute. I miss everything about our worship life. I miss Holy Communion. I miss the Altar Guild, Acolytes, Lectors, Ushers, the Choir, Dick Damon playing the organ, singing hymns, Sunday School, our children and youth, students from the colleges and University, Coffee hour. In plain English, I miss YOU! Yes, YOU!

Does live-streaming services sufficiently nourish my soul? No. It tethers me to what does feed my soul, but ultimately I long for the worship we have here at Grace. Is Zoom sufficient for contact with the congregation? No, but it will have to do under the current circumstances.
The Vestry’s Decision

Upon careful consideration of all the issues facing Grace Church (scientific, legal, practical, and moral), the Vestry immediately decided to put together a committee to explore and examine the logistics of eventually reopening Grace Church. This committee will work with the mandates of the State and the guidelines from the Diocese to determine what is the best approach and what is truly doable for Grace Church for our eventual reopening. We will reopen someday. The committee is being formed. We will share with you who is on this committee as soon as it is finalized. The goal is for the committee to have a report in time for the Vestry’s next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16th. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, the Wardens, or anyone on the Vestry.

In Conclusion

It is very tempting to take Governor Baker up on his offer to reopen, but on many levels it is not the right thing for us to do now. Christianity, like all the major religions and faiths, transcends the human experience. Our tradition provides the disciplines of fasting and self-denial, and that is where we are today. We are observing a fast and we are willing to sacrifice today much that sustains and feeds us in order for there to be a better tomorrow for all. Refraining from having in-person services, albeit temporarily for now, is an act of love – love for God, love for one another and love for our neighbors.

It may even help get the Red Sox out on the field sooner than later.

Are you with us?

I hope you are.

[Signature]

Photos by Doug Moore
May 2020

www.gracechurchamherst.org
Gardens of Grace

Photos by Nancy Lowry
**Bible Study**

Join the Rector and others to study, and react to, the Gospel and Old Testament lesson for the following Sunday. We meet via Zoom Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. Email Tom at tsvnan@gracechurchamherst.org to receive the connection.

**Adult Christian Education**

Adult Ed is on hiatus. We had planned programs on Armenia and Byzantium which I hope will eventually happen, with the tentative title "Looking East".
- Eve Webster

**Children’s & Youth Ministry:**

Though we may not able to be together in-person right now, Grace is still doing a variety of things to help our children & youth stay connected with each other, with our community, and with God! If your family has not already gotten involved, we hope you’ll find something engaging in the programs below.

**Parish Pen Pals – for K-12th grade**

As a way of maintaining intergenerational relationships during this time apart, and as a way of encouraging one another, we’ve begun matching children and youth with pen pals in the parish for an exchange of physical letters, drawings, etc. If your child or teenager would like to be matched with a pen pal, please email Megan at mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org, and she will work on finding a match in the parish.

**Video Series for Children – Art & Symbolism around the Church**

Megan has started a series of short videos about art and symbolism around Grace and the things those images can teach us about God. Each video includes a reflection and a prayer. If you haven’t already checked out the first video, please do so here: https://youtu.be/yxibmaNVyfM. In future videos, Megan hopes to incorporate artwork and voiceovers from children in the parish! Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved.

**Virtual Youth Group – for 6th – 12th grades**

Every other Thursday at 4 p.m., Megan is holding youth group video calls for our students. Virtual youth group involves checking in with each other about how we’re experiencing this strange and stressful time, playing games, and praying together. Upcoming dates for virtual youth group will be May 21st and June 4th. Please email Megan if you’re interested and not already receiving links for these meetings!

In addition to these programs, Megan is also regularly sending helpful resources by email for engaging with the Bible, faith, and prayer at home. Also, all children and youth in the parish should be receiving a personal letter from Megan soon with a tiny gift from the church, so check your mailboxes for that! We would also be glad to receive more feedback from parents and youth about what other support and resources would be helpful during this time.

If you are not receiving emails about any of these programs, please contact Megan at mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org so she can be sure you’re on the parent email list. If your child would like to get emails directly as well, they can also be added to the list!

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Campus Ministry/20s & 30s Ministry:

College students and young adults are invited to join a virtual “Theology on Tap” gathering every other Thursday at 7 p.m.

Theology on Tap was started this year as a monthly event and has been sponsored by UMass’s United Christian Fellowship, a collaborative ecumenical ministry supported by a variety of local ministers, including Rev. Megan McDermott. Theology on Tap met at local bars and restaurants and allowed people (not just UMass students!) to come together in a casual environment to discuss faith and theology. Since social distancing has started, we’ve moved our gatherings online, in hopes of creating a similar environment for connection and casual discussion.

Even if you’ve never been to Theology on Tap before in-person, we’d love to have you as part of this community now. While we don’t have anything “on tap,” you’re invited to bring along a beverage of your choice to enjoy while we chat!

Upcoming dates for online Theology on Tap will be May 28th and June 11th, both at 7 p.m. Email Megan for the link or more information.

Beyond these video calls, Megan is also available for one-on-one discussion by phone, Skype, etc. Please email Megan at mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org to set something up; she’d love to hear how you’ve been doing and if you have any other ideas for how we might stay connected and explore faith together in this time (Bible study, book club, etc.).

Megan has also been happy to continue supporting remote ministries of our local colleges. She has regularly attended Amherst College Dinner Church over Zoom, led by Protestant Chaplain Rev. Anna Woofenden, and recently offered a blessing for graduating Hampshire students as part of an online event from their Spiritual Life office called “Blessings on the Journey.” Whatever school might look like come Fall, we are eager to continue being there for our students however possible!

Virtual Prayer Group:

Megan is leading a weekly prayer group on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. over video call. Each week, we will have a discussion related to prayer and prayer practices and then will follow it up by praying together as a group. All are welcome. Please email Megan at mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org to be added to the group’s email list and begin receiving the link for the call.

Over 60s has continued to meet every Saturday at 3 p.m. via Zoom, for lively and supportive conversation about what’s going on in our lives. If you’d like to join us, get in touch with Adrian at revadrian@comcast.net, and we’ll send you an invitation.
Newcomers Committee

In November of 2019, the Newcomers Committee had their annual Brunch for Newcomers in the Parker Room after the 10:30 service. This event always draws several people who have been coming to Grace for the previous six to nine months and who have become recognizable to our clergy. (January and February are always low visitor months)

Those present this year included a few NEW choir members, Helen Drake, Randall Bausor, Sally Malsch and Marsha Hertel. Parishioners who were unable to attend the last brunch receive a second invitation. Hence, some overlap from 2018. Hopefully, you have noticed their addition to our choir.

Sarah and Peter Laylin have also joined Grace, moving here from Pennsylvania to be near grandchildren, like many of us. They are “snow birds” who leave for Arizona for several months. Colleen and Lloyd Harris from Belchertown also attend the 10:30 service. Donna Thompson, originally from Connecticut is a resident at The Arbors along with several of our parishioners, moving here to be near her children.

Kim Wissemann has moved back to the area and has been attending the “Raising The Questions” group. Leif and Sarah Riddington from Sunderland and Will Harron and Lindsey Comeau from Leverett also have become welcome additions to our church community.

Attending also were Lucien Perrault and Caitlin Lambert from Amherst College.

These brunches are always a lot of fun and give newcomers a chance to meet other people like themselves searching for a spiritual home. It is our job to let them see the Christ in us, so please search them out wherever your paths meet. Karen DeSantis, Chair

St. Nicholas Bazaar

I know some of you have been cleaning closets, attics and basements - which is great!

We would appreciate it if everyone could keep their gathered treasures for the bazaar until after June 18 (my last day of virtual school), so the undercroft doesn't get overloaded before we can start doing some sorting. At that time, if you have a large number of boxes, etc., please contact me before bringing them in. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. Thank you! Joan (jobrien82@gmail.com)

Tea and Titles is an informal reading group that meets every 3 weeks or so at the church. Unlike other reading groups that center on a common book, our cheerful collection of readers gather to share thoughts on books we have recently read. Sometimes themes evolve, or books are read by several, but there are no requirements. Since the restrictions due to the virus have kept us apart, the group has gone online. I have been collecting reports and sending them out to the group once a month. If you are interested in seeing a report or in sending in your own contribution, please contact me: judith.wobst@gmail.com
The Outreach Commission

Our Outreach Commission has managed several Zoom meetings during this time of staying at home. In April we were pleased to accept the Rector's challenge to ask the congregation to attempt to match his contribution of $5,000, from the Discretionary Fund, for the COVID-19 Response Fund set up by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. This Fund was designated to receive the Easter Outreach Offering. The response from our congregation exceeded all expectations and was incredibly generous! A check was sent to the COVID-19 Response Fund in the amount of $18,760 ($5,000 from the Rector's Discretionary Fund and $13,760 from contributions of parishioners). Amazing!

The COVID-19 Response Fund was created by the Community Foundation to provide immediate support to those most vulnerable to the economic and health related issues caused by the coronavirus pandemic. As of May 8, 2020, the Community Foundation had made six distributions from the COVID-19 Response Fund to local nonprofit organizations throughout the Pioneer Valley. These organizations have included food pantries, community health centers, agencies serving vulnerable older people, those providing shelter for people without homes, those supporting youth and families, mental health services and food justice. A number of the organizations which Grace Church regularly supports through our 4th Sunday Offerings have been recipients of grants from the Fund. A complete list of the agencies receiving grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund is available on the website of the Community Foundation at communityfoundation.org.

Our Good Friday offering has traditionally gone to support the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. (AFEDJ). This year, a contribution of $2,450 was sent to AFEDJ from the Rector's Discretionary Fund for The Episcopal Technological & Vocational Training Center in Ramallah where we support a scholarship student.

At the May meeting (via Zoom) of the Outreach Commission, we decided not to designate a recipient of a 4th Sunday Offering in May following the amazing Easter offerings. Outreach will meet again in June to think about what comes next.

Many thanks and blessings for this generous parish! Marion Rosenau

Garden Ministry

Members of the Garden Ministry will be caring for the gardens of Grace Church again this year. There will be colorful plants in the big planters outside the Connector door and annuals under the Parish Hall window as well as roses and other perennials on the Garth Embankment. Although the Parish Hall is closed, we will maintain the walkway garden as well as the Columbarium gardens. The Goodwin Garden will continue to brighten the lives of passersby.

There will be a workday in June to spread compost that feeds the plants and keeps weeds under control. At all times we gardeners will wear masks and practice social distancing. God’s creation needs the help of humans to thrive so Grace Church gardeners will continue their special ministry during the days of pandemic.

Anyone wishing to join the Garden Ministry in this uplifting work should contact Sherry Wilson, 256-6955 (sherrywilson136@comcast.net).
Covid-19 has reached Haiti. So far, recorded numbers of cases are small (58 confirmed cases and 4 deaths as of April 20), though testing is scant. The government closed all schools, including St. Matthieu, in mid-March. Fortunately, our students had already taken their third set of quarterly exams before the closure. Many schools in Haiti were shuttered for months in the fall because of civic unrest, but St. Matthieu remained open throughout most of that period.

Thanks to its dedicated teachers and committed parents, St. Matthieu’s pupils have covered most of this year’s curriculum. We have promised to keep paying the teachers during the Covid-19 shut-down. Future plans for reopening Haiti’s schools remain undetermined.

Our Haiti Ministry has been saddened to learn that the superb priest in charge of the school since August 2015, Père Joseph Tancrel Diegue, has announced his decision to retire by the end of 2020. We will miss his enlightened leadership, which, with Grace’s financial help, has markedly improved the school’s professionalism as well as its physical plant. We wish him well in a richly-deserved retirement.

Given the impending change in priests and the challenges in carrying out construction safely during the coronavirus emergency, we have decided not to proceed with the next building project at this juncture. The plan had been to add a second story to the four-classroom building of 2016, which would have provided space for a school library, a lunchroom, and a vocational training room. In addition, we had hoped to build a proper kitchen with propane stove, in a separate small outbuilding. These plans may be revived when the situation settles down, or they may be modified to align with the next priest’s vision for the school.

At this point the Haiti Ministry is planning to conduct a campaign this summer to outfit our pupils for the upcoming year—with school uniforms, textbooks, and school supplies—as we have done for the past several summers. The drive will probably be conducted by mail, if we are not yet gathering in person at Grace on Sundays. We hope you will respond with your customary generosity. The needs in Bayonnais are greater than ever.

Meanwhile, if sheltering in place has you cleaning your closets or sorting through boxes in the attic, please think of Haiti if you come upon Duplo (the large Legos), Magna-tiles, or Brio trains that your kids or grandkids have outgrown. The pre-K and kindergarten classrooms at St. Matthieu have almost no educational toys. We’d like to outfit them with these proven classics. Phone Suzannah Fabing at 413-256-6812 or email suzannah.fabing@gmail.com to arrange for pickup.
Outreach!

Our Easter Outreach Offerings brought in $18,760.00 which was collected for the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts for the COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley.

Generosity changes everything, starting with us.

Thank you for your generosity!

John Lent, Director of the AFEDJ (American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem) visited Grace Church on Sunday, March 8.

He gave a moving and informative talk and showed slides of their work in the Holy Land. The AFEDJ is the parent organization of our Ramallah mission, the ETVTC (Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center), whose director is Giovanni Anbar. The AFEDJ also supports the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, St. Luke’s Hospital in Nablus in the West Bank, and schools for the blind and for the deaf in the region.

Both John Lent and Giovanni Anbar have been in touch recently. John reports that as of April Gaza and to a lesser extent the West Bank were relatively unscathed by the coronavirus as both are somewhat isolated, but the director of the World Health Organization’s office in Palestine says they have been spared so far because of their isolation, and “it’s just a matter of time” until the virus jumps the border.

The AFEDJ has been helping Palestinians prepare in several ways:

First, they have been providing PPE (Personal protective equipment) in order to be ready when the virus does enter. Gaza is especially vulnerable, because it is so crowded. Isolating people will be next to impossible.

Second, the Archbishop of Jerusalem has established a fund to help vulnerable families. Palestine has no social safety net for unemployment, food or rent relief. Unemployment has always been high and now it is much worse. The Archbishop’s fund is critical for Palestinian families who have lost jobs.

Giovanni, director of our Ramallah mission, reported that the ETVTC was still operating in March and April, with remote learning, though this doesn’t help the students in the hospitality stream very much, who need to be learning to cook and serve in hotels and restaurants. Giovanni says financially they are sound right now, but much of the revenue for their programs comes from serving tourists in their Guesthouse in the summer and from Conference Center attendees. With the prospect of no tourists this summer, he is worried about the fall.

Grace Church supports a scholarship for a student at the ETVTC through the sale of Palestinian olive oil after services on the first Sunday of each month. With no services this is no longer happening. Fortunately, the scholarship for this year is fully paid. We hope to find a way to continue this support in the fall.

DeAnne Riddle

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Food Basket

The food basket liturgy is an eagerly awaited part of our 10:30 Sunday Eucharist. This is when small, middle-sized, and larger youngsters lug the week’s offering of food to the altar during the Offertory.

The basket was made – literally from scratch – by Annie Cheatham. She cut the saplings, trimmed them, and wove the basket when she was in West Virginia in 1994. Over the years, it lost a handle and the bottom became dangerously weakened due to heavy use.

One day in March, during Lent, shortly after the church closed for services, I retrieved the food basket during the church open hour, left it on my front porch, and Annie picked it up. She took it home, repaired it, and, one day in April, during Easter, she left the basket once again on my front porch. I returned it to the church, primed with several cans of soup.

The food basket with its eight handles, along with the little wooden cross that Janet Moore made, are both ready and waiting for the church to reopen, perhaps during Pentecost, and for the children, who, once again, will proudly process the food offering to the altar.

- Nancy Lowry
Supporting First Congregational Church, as they provide sanctuary for Lucio Perez

Dear friends of sanctuary and Lucio and his family,

We hope that you are staying safe and well in these very unsettling times. You are each so special to Lucio, to us, to this world--we all miss seeing you and each other!

The coronavirus pandemic and the resulting safety measures have changed and/or disrupted almost every aspect of our lives. And of course, our support of sanctuary for Lucio is not immune to these disruptions and restrictions either, as neither Lucio nor his family nor you are immune to Covid-19.

Lucio and his family continue to feel deep gratitude for you and everyone who has sanctuary in different ways, with accompaniment, rides, food, visits, and Spanish classes. You have, and continue to be, so vital to his physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial well-being.

With the church building shut down and most all of us told to stay home to protect one another and stop the spread of the virus, Lucio has asked us to extend the suspension of all forms of sanctuary support. He asked us to continue to hold off on all visits, food deliveries, accompaniment, rides, and Spanish classes.

Lucio asked us to convey his deepest prayers for all of you, that you be safe and well. For his own safety and the welfare of his family, he said he will limit his social contact to his immediate family. He is happy to receive the occasional text or call, though!

We wish we could tell you when this will end and normal sanctuary supports can resume, but of course none of us knows when the social distancing requirements will end.

Thank you so much for everything you have done, and all that you will resume doing when we can, to keep Lucio safe and his family intact. We will get through this, together. Just like school, worship, and many of our jobs, sanctuary is not ENDING--our work of daily accompaniment is just on a pause.

We’ll be in touch when we are able to resume normal sanctuary operations.

With love and hope,

Vicki, Margaret, Lucio, and the Sanctuary Team

Photos by Doug Moore

May 2020
“At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.”
-Mother Teresa

The Pastoral Care Commission

seeks to further the healing ministry of Jesus Christ in our parish family by offering prayer and support to members of Grace Church who are sick, injured, disabled, aged, and those who find themselves in crisis or in challenging transitions. For more information or to request assistance, please contact the church office.

Mutual Care Ministry

We coordinate parishioners eager to help Grace Church members or their families during an illness or family crisis. Short-term help includes offering rides to church or to medical appointments, bringing meals to the door, shopping for groceries, picking up prescriptions, and visiting. Quarterly facilitators accept referrals from clergy, family or friends. Please contact the church office for more information.

Prayer Circle

is 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)

"I strongly suspect that if we saw all the difference even the tiniest of our prayers make, and all the people those little prayers were destined to affect, and all the consequences of those prayers down through the centuries, we would be so paralyzed with awe at the power of prayer that we would be unable to get up off our knees for the rest of our lives."
-Peter Kreeft, Professor of Philosophy, Boston College

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<td>10 am Zoom Bible Study</td>
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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.

All Worship Services And Parish Meetings SUSPENDED Until at least July 1, 2020

See our website, www.gracechurchamherst.org for updates