

November 2025



### From the Transition Committee: Meet and Greets and Collecting Questions for the Candidates

The Transition Committee has planned three "Meet and Greets" at the beginning of November to allow delegates to the convention (to be held November 14-15) and other interested members of the Diocese to meet and hear from the three individuals presented as candidates for Bishop of Western Massachusetts.

During the Meet and Greets, a variety of questions will be asked of the nominees so that attendees may get to know them. **We are currently soliciting questions to be used at these events.** Questions may be submitted via the link on the Bishop Search and Transition page on the Diocesan website, found at <a href="https://www.diocesewma.org/bishop-search-and-transition">https://www.diocesewma.org/bishop-search-and-transition</a>

Meet and Greets are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, November 4

All Saints Episcopal Church, 10 Irving St., Worcester, 6:00pm

Wednesday, November 5

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 67 East St, Pittsfield, 6:00pm

Thursday, November 6

Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut Street, Springfield, 6:00pm

A casual reception at 5:30pm will give lay delegates to the convention an opportunity to meet the candidates. The formal program will begin at 6pm. Clergy will soon receive an invitation to a separate opportunity to meet the candidates in an informal setting.

All venues are handicapped accessible and have ample parking.

A video recording of the question and answer portion of the November 4 Worcester event (with closed captioning in English and Spanish) will be available on the Search and Transition webpage shortly after the Meet and Greets.

A livestream of the November 5, Pittsfield event will be available through the diocesan website.

ASL and Spanish simultaneous interpretation will be available at the November 6 Springfield event. For more information see our Frequently Asked Questions page.

All are welcome!

The Rev. Samuel J. Smith

Rector, All Saints' Church, Worcester

Rector, St. Stephen's

Church, Westborough

Chair, Transition Committee

Chair, Meet and Greets

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#### Sunday, November 2, 2025



#### **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 <a href="mailto:slillydahl@library.umass.edu">slillydahl@library.umass.edu</a> for additional information.

#### **Raising the Questions**

Raising the Questions meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 9:30, in the Connector. We discuss liturgy and theology, faith and spirituality. We talk about books we have been reading and pass around articles, prayers, and bulletins from other churches we have visited. The meetings are always open, so come join us!

#### **Tea and Titles**

#### A Week at Grace

Sunday
8:00 am
9:00 am
Coffee Hour
Youth Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am Holy Eucharist
11:30 am Coffee Hour

7:30 pm AA

Monday

10:00 am Staff Meeting

7:00 pm AA

**Tuesday** 

5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Al-Anon

Wednesday

12:10 pm Rite I Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer

**Thursday** 

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday

7:00 am Men's Group (alternate weeks)

5:30 pm Evensong

Saturday

10:00 am Bible Study

5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA

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 <a href="mailto:judith.wobst@gmail.com">judith.wobst@gmail.com</a>

Our next meeting is November 13, 2025 at 2:30pm. All are welcome!

#### 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

#### **Pastoral Call for Volunteers**

Do you like to cook or 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.

#### **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 10am. Email Tom at <a href="mailto:tsynan@gracechurchamherst.org">tsynan@gracechurchamherst.org</a> to receive the connection.

#### **Vestry Meeting Minutes**

Click <u>here</u> to read the minutes of the most recent Vestry meeting. If you wish to see past meeting minutes, please go to our website at <a href="https://www.gracechurchamherst.org/our-church/parish-staff/">https://www.gracechurchamherst.org/our-church/parish-staff/</a>

#### 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).

#### **Grace Church**

**Thanksgiving Service** 

10:00 am Thursday, November 27, 2024

### Thanksgiving Collection for the Amherst Survival Center

### Help "Stuff" the Church with Bread Stuffing

For Thanksgiving, the Amherst Survival Center has asked us to collect 500 boxes of bread stuffing, which the Survival Center will distribute throughout November. They would like as many boxes as possible by November 23rd. If everyone brought 2 boxes of stuffing to church for the next 2 Sundays, we can achieve this goal. Thank you for your help.

### Advent Lessons & Carols Save the Date!

#### Sunday, December 14th at 4:00 pm.

The pews are often filled for this service, so plan to come a bit early to find a seat.



Grace Church Youth Choir Arianne Abela, conductor

The Youth Choir was commissioned on October 5th.



#### 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.

#### **Outreach!**

Our October Outreach Offering brought in \$1,410, which has been sent to Episcopal Church in Navajoland.

Generosity changes everything, starting with us.

Thank you for your generosity!



#### **Palestinian Olive Oil**

Grace Church has been supporting the education of a Palestinian student at the ETVTC (Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center) in Ramallah, on the West Bank for about 14 years. We raise much of the funds through the sale of Equal Exchange Palestinian olive oil, which is bought directly from Palestinian farmers.

Palestine has a well-educated population without enough jobs to go around. The ETVTC provides training for students in the last two years of high school in two subjects where jobs exist: Hospitality/Culinary Arts or Information Technology (IT). Most students find jobs upon graduation. Some use that job to train for something they are more interested in.

Our recent student, who graduated this spring, was Joice Harish. She was both an amazing student and a very kind person. She was the valedictorian of her class, averaging 99.1% on her public exams. She is now studying computer engineering at a university in the West Bank. She was our first female student to study IT.

We now have a new student, Subhi Tannous. He is Christian and in the 11th grade, also studying IT. He comes from a very poor family. His father is ill and has special needs. His mother is a house cleaner. Subhi, himself, is very hard working and polite.

We hope members of our congregation will enjoy this high-quality olive oil and appreciate that in doing so, they are also helping a Palestinian student and his family.

#### **Outreach Commission**

Every fourth Sunday, Grace Church members' offerings are donated to worthy organizations. Ever wonder how those recipients are chosen? Have other recipients you'd like to recommend?



Then why not consider joining the Outreach Commission! We meet once a month via Zoom to discuss Grace's various missions, decide on the fourth Sunday recipient, and otherwise further Grace's outreach to the world. It's a fun, easy, and educational way of serving your church. Please contact Chris Hoffmann (<a href="mailto:chris.hoffmann@umass.edu">chris.hoffmann@umass.edu</a>) for more information.

#### **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.





#### Climate Change Prayer

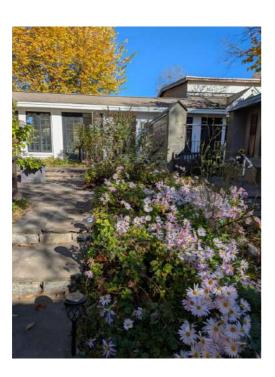
Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you: have mercy on us as climate change confronts us.

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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#### **Bell Ringing in honor of Veterans**

#### Monday, November 11th at 11:00am

### **Bell Ringing for Climate Change** cancelled

Grace Church will honor Veterans with a solemn tolling of the bell eleven times following the moment of silence to be held in front of the Amherst Town Hall. Bell ringing for Climate Action will resume in December.



### Climate Action@Grace

Climate Action at Grace celebrates the special efforts taken during Creation Season. Thank you for these! We look forward to the children's leaves and special tree. For those thinking of gifts and shopping for the holidays, consider joining our facilitated discussion on Sunday, November 16. 12:15-1:15 in the Parish Hall. We will share what we know about simpler holiday choices, and hear new ideas. We hope you didn't miss our new series about the natural world in the October Grace Notes about truth and soothing. Stay tuned for more. Our November meeting will be the second Sunday of the month, November 9, 12:15-1:00, in the Parker Room. Please join us for camaderie and bring your own interests and ideas and snacks from coffee hour.

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#### The St. Nicholas Bazaar is Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 to 2!

**Get involved!** Here are the ways you can help with this very important fundraising event:



- \* Bring in your donations: We especially need Antiques and Fine jewelry, Toys and games, and Sports equipment. Other items\* that are clean and in good condition are welcome. All donations must be received by November 16. Bring donations to the undercroft, marked for the bazaar. (\*Please hold books and puzzles for next year's bazaar.)
- \* Donate your **artwork** or **baked goods**: Your handiworks are needed! Show off your artistic side with a donation to the Gifts from Grace table (drop off in undercroft, marked as Gifts from Grace). A list of goodies needed for the Divine Delights table will be in the bulletin closer to the bazaar. We will need lots and lots of cookies!
- \* **Sign up** to help: Sign-up sheets will be available after both services starting in early-mid November. Help is needed for set up, selling, and clean up. Any assistance you can give will be appreciated!

Questions? Contact Joan: <u>jobrien82@gmail.com</u> Thank you, and see you at the Bazaar!

#### Flower Guild

The Flower Guild at Grace is inviting new members. If you enjoy seeing flowers on the chancel, perhaps you would like to join our team.

We need you and you might like it! You can try it out by partnering with someone on the guild.

#### EMAIL US:

Maria Dye <u>dyemaria70@gmail.com</u>
Lou Currin louandcecil@currin.org



#### 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 <a href="https://www.gracechurchamherst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Request-for-Event-Publicity-Form-2023.pdf">https://www.gracechurchamherst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Request-for-Event-Publicity-Form-2023.pdf</a>. The Communications Committee asks forms be submitted six to eight weeks prior to an event to ensure adequate time for publicity.

### Grace Church Harvest Concert

### Saturday, November 8, 2025 4:00 pm

### Performers include:

Mark Fraser, cello
Dick Damon, organ
Estela Olevsky, piano
Hanif Lawrence, tenor soloist

Silverwood Quartet

Cantabile Vocal Ensemble

Grace Church Choir Hanif Lawrence, choir director

Suggested donation: \$25 at the door Proceeds benefit the Grace Church Organ Fund

#### **Blessing of the Gardens**

During the 10:30 service on October 5th, the Garden Ministry was commissioned; after that service, Tom led parishoners in a blessing of the garden areas around Grace Chruch. This culminates the work the Garden Mnistry has completed in the Garth Hillside Garden and the Garth Shady Garden.

We also spent time this summer maintaining the other gardens. We had a wonderful and productive year.

Our next big project will be the semi-annual Garden Sale to take place on May 9th. This is our only fundraisier and source of most of our funds. I will be letting everyone know when we will start collecting garden items for 2026.

Many thanks to all who have helped us . Sara Liberty-Laylin Grace Garden Ministry Chair







Fall news from the Haiti Ministry

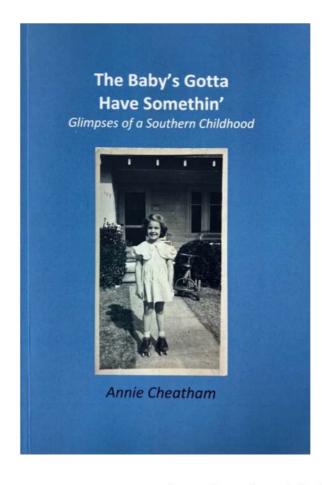
In Bayonnais, the new school year started in October with a brand new classroom for the 9th grade. The construction was completed on time and on budget! Last year's ninth graders all passed the national exam, marking the successful completion of the entire elementary curriculum – a remarkable achievement that can make us all proud of the quality of education we are supporting at St Matthieu.

In Amherst, on November 8th and 9th, the Grace Church Haiti Ministry will be welcoming members of our partners from St James Episcopal Church in Indian Head, MD. Please be sure to introduce yourself to them and thank them for being such generous and consistent partners in this ministry.



www.gracechurchamherst.org

### Pioneer Valley Readings with Annie Cheatham



These eight nonfiction memoir
pieces and one
fictional short story
describe places,
conditions and
relationships which
taught me
resilience and
courage.

--- Annie Cheatham

Please join
Annie for one
or more
readings:

Sun. October 26, 3PM

First Congregational Church, 429 Main Street, Ashfield MA

Fri. November 14, 7PM

LAVA Center, 324 Main St., Greenfield MA

Wed. November 19, 2PM

Grace Episcopal Church, 14 Boltwood Ave., Amherst MA

### November 2025 Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, Nov. 2		Daylight Savings Time - Turn clocks back!	
Monday, Nov. 3	11:00 AM	Memorial Service - Arline Wright	Church
Monday, Nov. 3	7:00 PM	All Souls Day Service	Church
Thursday, Nov. 6	9:30 AM	Life Story Writing	Parker Room
Saturday, Nov. 8	4:00 PM	Harvest Celebration Concert	Church
Sunday, Nov. 9	12:15 PM	Climate Action@Grace Meeting	Parker Room
Tuesday, Nov. 11	9:30 AM	Raising the Questions	Connector
Thursday, Nov. 13	2:30 PM	Tea & Titles	Connector
Thursday, Nov. 13	5:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting	Zoom
Sunday, Nov. 16	12:15 PM	Climate Action Talk: Simpler Living	Parish Hall
Tuesday, Nov. 18	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting	Zoom
Wednesday, Nov. 19	2:00 PM	Pioneer Valley Readings with Annie Cheatham	Connector
Thursday, Nov. 20	9:30 AM	Life Story Writing	Connector
Sunday, Nov. 23	12:15 PM	Feast of Grace	Parish Hall
Thursday, Nov. 27	10:00 AM	Thanksgiving Service	Church

See the weekly schedule of services and standard events on page 2.

#### 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



#### **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

