

Warrant Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst, Massachusetts will take place on Sunday, February 1, 2026 for the following purposes:

1. To elect a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Clerk and a Treasurer for terms of one year each;
2. To elect three members to the Vestry for terms of three years each;
3. To elect one member to the Vestry for the term of two years;
4. To elect one Youth member to the Vestry for the term of one year;
5. To elect one delegate and one alternate to the Diocesan Convention;
6. To receive the 2025 annual reports of Grace Church;
7. To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.

The meeting will take place the morning of Sunday, February 1, 2026 immediately following the 9:30 AM service. The meeting will be held in person in the Parish Hall. More information will follow.

Stated at Amherst, Massachusetts this 8th day of January 2026.

By order of the Wardens and Vestry.

Elizabeth Maxey, Clerk

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Grace Notes "Notes"

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.

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 focusses on theology and liturgy. We meet monthly in the Connector on the second Tuesday at 9:30 am. Got questions? Come join us.

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 February 2026 meetings will be on February 19th 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
7:00 pm AA

Tuesday

8:30 am Prayer Group
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
5:30 pm Evensong

Saturday

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

Grace Notes "Notes"

Pastoral Call for Volunteers

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

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.

Prayer Circle is still here!

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.

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).

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.

Grace Notes "Notes"

Icon Exhibit Grace Episcopal Church

***14 Boltwood Avenue, Amherst
[413] 256-6754, www.gracechurchamherst.org***



Hesychia (Blessed Silence)

An exhibit of icons created in St. Luke's Workshop at Grace Church

***Saturday, January 31 and Sunday, February 1, 12 noon to 5 pm
In the Chapel, with an entrance on Spring Street
All are welcome!***



Grace Church has supported a ministry of creating Byzantine style icons since 2002. Icons are a form of devotional art and are considered to provide a window into spiritual realms both through meditating upon them and creating them. Natural egg tempera paint, gold leaf, and brushes are used to gild and paint traditional images on a wooden panel. Rich in symbolism, icons are theology in color. If you are drawn to this, come see, come learn more, come enjoy these works of color and contemplation.

***"For the invisible things of God since the creation of the world
are made visible through images."***

John of Damascus "On Holy Images", ca 730 CE

Grace Notes "Notes"

Garden Ministry

The Garden Ministry has begun the new year by setting priorities for the months ahead. Due to all the cleaning and planting we did last year in the Garth gardens, there is a very large pile of debris. In March we will have several work parties to remove all of this; we have made plans to take care of plant debris in the future. In April we will begin soliciting items for the May 9th Garden Sale. We will have garden decor as well as plants for sale. This is our only fundraiser, and we will advertise it. After the sale, we will begin our spring planting in 2 different areas: the narrow strip next to the church offices and some small plants in the area in front of the church. We will also maintain all the garden areas. We are planning 2 large work parties in the summer and will continue with Friday morning volunteer work time from 7:30 AM to around 9AM.

Please consider donating some yard decor in late March!

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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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.

Ash Wednesday Services

Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

February 18, 2026

8:00am, 12:10pm, 5:00pm (Chapel Taize
service),
& 7:00pm

Grace Notes "Notes"

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 (chris.hoffmann@umass.edu) for more information.

Outreach!

Our January Outreach Offering brought in \$584.00, which was collected for Craig's Doors.

Generosity changes everything, starting with us.
Thank you for your generosity!

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 unending 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

Haiti Ministry

Steaming Soups, Chilis, and Chowders to Combat Winter!



Annual Soup Extravaganza
in Support of St. Matthews School in Haiti
Saturday, February 7

You order the soup, pick it up or we deliver.

Choose from an amazing array of delicious soups, chilis, and chowders donated by our local partners and parishioners. Order a quart of deliciousness which is enough for two, homemade bread, and fresh baked cookies for only \$22.

Click [here](#) to order by Wednesday, February 4*.

Haiti Ministry members will also be available at the Annual Meeting to take orders.
But don't delay! We sell out fast!

* <https://shorturl.at/96Ndc>

February 2026 Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, Feb. 1	11:00 AM	Annual Meeting	Parish Hall
Sunday, Feb. 1	12:00 PM	Icon Exhibit	Chapel
Friday, Feb. 6	9:00 AM	Garden Ministry Meeting	Connector
Saturday, Feb. 7	all afternoon	Haiti Ministry Soup Fest	Parish Hall
Tuesday, Feb. 10	9:30 AM	Raising the Questions	Connector
Monday, Feb. 16		Office Closed	
Wednesday, Feb. 18	8:00 AM	Ash Wednesday Service with distribution of ashes	Church
Wednesday, Feb. 18	12:10 PM	Ash Wednesday Healing Service with distribution of ashes	Church
Wednesday, Feb. 18	5:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service with distribution of ashes	Church
Wednesday, Feb. 18	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service with distribution of ashes	Church
Thursday, Feb. 19	2:30 PM	Tea & Titles	Connector
Friday, Feb. 20	9:00 AM	Garden Ministry Meeting	Connector

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

Grace Notes

February 2026

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