

Grace Notes

June-July 2026

Fare Thee Well, Rev. Thomas N. J. Synan

Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026



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**Reception to honor Rev.
Tom Synan
May 17, 2026**



Grace Notes "Notes"

Dear Grace Church,

A lot is happening...

Our Discernment Period has started but only after we had two amazing and heartfelt parties celebrating The Reverend Tom Synan. Special thanks to Mary Hocken, Kitty Dougherty and Sheila Mammen for leading the efforts at our Saturday May 16th party; in the Kitchen, Mike Gralenski, Harold Norris, Kell Julliard, and Sarah Chadwick

At the Pentecost Picnic: We had a record crowd to send Tom off into retirement. Special thanks to BLG members, Virginia Ramos, Janet Teng, Sarah Chadwick, Diana Rogers, Katie Schendel, Kitty Dougherty, Sandy Muspratt, Jeffrey DeSantis, Archie Velazquez, Tony Jewel, Mark Leonas Doug Moore, Kell Julliard, Chris Zobel and Vestry Members Peter Sikowitz, Patrick Kelly, Charlie Tebbets and Harold Norris. Special thanks to all the parishioners who brought a picnic side to share. Thank you!

Who is going to Preach at church on Sunday?

Please know that our retired clergy at Grace Church, Heidi Franz-Dale, Raisin Horn, Susan Schafer, John Horn, James McDonald and Eliot Moss will alternate presiding on Sundays throughout the summer. Ray Webster will help where needed. The Vestry has been working on a profile for an interim Priest, more to come on that.

Our church schedule is as follows: One service on Sunday at 9:30 AM; we will resume two services 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM on Sunday September 13, 2026. The Wednesday "Healing Service" will go on hiatus through the summer, the last service being June 3, 2026. We will resume the Wednesday "Healing Service" on Wednesday, September 16, 2026. The Friday Evening Song will continue throughout the summer.

Jaana Cutson, our bookkeeper of 16 years, had her last day on May 29, 2026. We thank Jaana for her hard work with both Rob Hirschfeld and Tom Synan during her time at Grace Church. Chrissy O'Connor from Pelham, MA with 15+ years in bookkeeping and accounting, has stepped in as a consultant to get us through this transition period, All this while accounting firm LaPier, Dillon & Associates P.C. from West Springfield, MA finishes up our annual financial audit.

A search to replace our Parish Administrator, Terrie Korpita who is retiring after 9 1/2 years of service is underway. Terrie's last day is June 30, 2026.

Grace Church is now at the point with the Air Conditioning project for the church where we need to decide if we are ready and willing for the next step. The first step was hearing from the parish that AC is needed in the church, the summer months can be overbearing, discouraging parishioners and certainly weddings from happening because of the excessive heat. As the Junior Warden at the time, I asked John Robinson and Chris Freitag who both have experience in building renovations and additions to help with the AC project. We solicited bids for a feasibility study and chose Salas O'Brien as our design contractor, That cost was \$15,000 . Now we are at the point where we need to decide on our appetite for moving forward with a WUFI.

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WUFI stands for Wärme- Und Feuchtetransport Instationär—a German term that translates to "Transient Heat and Moisture Transport." It is an advanced building simulation software developed by the Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics (IBP) that models how heat and moisture move through building walls, roofs, and foundations. This is \$18,700 plus another \$13,500k to run three models.

In addition, in order to submit bids, we need a Schematic Design \$18,000 and Design Document \$22,000. To move forward, take the next step, we are looking at roughly \$70-75,000. A meeting to discuss whether or not we move forward is set for Sunday June 14, 2026 after the 9:30 AM service in the Parish Hall. I hope it's not too hot.

Tom Dougherty your Senior Warden

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 sillydahl@library.umass.edu for additional information.

A Week at Grace Summer Schedule

Sunday

9:30 am	Holy Eucharist
10:30 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

Thursday

Friday

7:00 am	Men's Group (alternate weeks)
5:30 pm	Evensong

Saturday

5:00 pm	AA
8:00 pm	AA

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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 third Tuesday at 9:30 am. Got questions? Come join us.

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

Restless in thought: Music from Restoration-era London

Friday, June 5, 7:30 pm
Grace Church, Amherst, MA
Purchase tickets at
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/instilemoderno/2175708>

London in the last decades of the 17th century: an era of cultural renaissance. After the restoration of the monarchy and the lifting of Puritan bans on theater and music, artists breathed a collective sigh of relief. Bawdy comedies and over-the-top stage spectaculars quickly came into fashion, and for the first time women were permitted to perform on stage — and to become celebrities in their own right. In our new program, we will explore the music of this fruitful era, including theatrical songs for soprano and works for violin, guitar, and archlute by Henry Purcell, John Eccles, Nicola Matteis and Thomas Mace.

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

Upcoming meetings are on June 11 and July 2 at 2:30pm. All are welcome!

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.



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Novi Cantori Spring Program

We will be presenting a set of songs about America in advance of the country's 250 year anniversary. We will examine the ideals of the country, and ways that we have strayed. Stay tuned for more details.

Sunday, June 14, 4:00 pm
Grace Church, Amherst, MA



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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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.

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**Garden Ministry
Plant and Garden Sale
May 9, 2026**



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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 April Outreach Offering brought in \$1332.00 for Amherst A Better Chance (ABC).

Our May Outreach Offering brought in \$1813.00 for Save the Children.

Generosity changes everything, starting with us.

Thank you for your generosity!

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.

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

Haiti Ministry

L'Ecole St. Matthieu keeps growing, the needs are obvious, and we continue to meet them. Watch for the Grace Church Haiti committee's next pitch – our annual fundraising appeal for new uniforms for the school children in Bayonnais. Meanwhile, three members of our committee have just returned from another excellent visit to St. James' Episcopal Church in Indian Head, Maryland, where the congregation are our partners in supporting this wonderful school that continues to grow.

The school grows. The children grow. And they outgrow their clothes.

Last year's uniforms don't fit any more. They can be handed down to younger sisters and brothers, but now their former wearers need something new, and larger. In Haiti, where official uniforms are required of all school children, donations to our annual uniform campaign are crucial. For those of us who have been able to visit Bayonnais in person, the sight of 200-plus children in their light blue shirts or blouses with vertical white stripes is really wonderful. This year's campaign starts on Memorial Day.

The uniforms are a regular annual operating cost of sustaining St. Matthew's School. Another is teachers' salaries. Paying these salaries was the first item on the agenda in 2008, when Grace Church joined other Episcopal congregations in supporting education in Haiti. Since 2016, when we established our connection with our friends in Indian Head, the Haiti committee at St. James Church has taken on the responsibility of covering those salaries.

We are thrilled by this connection, one that is strengthened by our visits to Indian Head and by visits to Amherst by members of St. James' Church. On May 15-17, Laura Klock, Brown Kennedy and Sandy Muspratt traveled to Indian Head for a warm and welcome weekend with Tom and Brenda Peterson, Adah Morgan and other members of St. James' Haiti Committee. Laura, Brown and Sandy spoke to St. James' parishioners, with great appreciation for their work and for the enduring nature of our shared commitment. As usual, the visit included ample time for entertainment, in this case including a karaoke night and an introduction to a game called Hand & Foot Canasta, which the writer of these Grace Notes understands even less well than the three Grace Church participants do.

This whole, wonderful effort brings one improvement after another in the buildings and in the lives of the entire community at l'Ecole St. Matthieu. The school has expanded to include ninth grade, a long-desired goal for Clibert Massillon, the school's excellent principal, and for the teachers. Construction continues with more space for classrooms for the three years of pre-school plus kindergarten. The installation of more solar panels has increased its generating capacity from 3.5 kilowatts to 6 kw., providing power for lighting, fans and computers in more classrooms. (Ten years ago, the school operated with an electrical supply of exactly zero.) Newly installed storage batteries mean the school can also be open in the evenings, which may mean realizing another goal, namely providing adult education classes. Seeing St. Matthew's School grow is more exciting than ever.

A footnote about the uniform campaign: Strictly speaking, when it comes to a request for money for uniforms for the children of l'Ecole St. Matthieu, "pitch" is the wrong metaphor. Baseball is a major sport in the neighboring Dominican Republic, but Haiti is all soccer, so what we're really asking for is a strong shot straight into the net. By the way, the Haitian national team is playing in this year's World Cup. You can watch them take on Scotland in Gillette Stadium on June 13. For considerably less than the price of a ticket for that match, however, you can outfit a child in Bayonnais with a beautifully cut and stitched uniform.

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June - July 2026 Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Friday, June 5	7:30 PM	Concert - In Stile Moderro	Church
Thursday, June 11	2:30 PM	Tea & Titles	Connector
Saturday, June 13	11:30 AM	Memorial - Loy Harris	Church
Sunday, June 14	11:00 AM	Information/Discussion re. Air Conditioning	Parish Hall
Sunday, June 14	12:15 PM	Climate Action@Grace	Fireplace Room
Sunday, June 14	4:00 PM	Concert - Novi Cantori	Church
Tuesday, June 16	9:30 AM	Raising the Questions	Connector
Saturday, June 27	1:00 PM	Memorial - Lynn Klock	Church
Thursday, July 2	2:30 PM	Tea & Titles	Connector
Friday, July 3	Office Closed	Independence Day	
Sunday, July 12	12:15 PM	Climate Action@Grace	Fireplace Room
Tuesday, July 21	9:30 AM	Raising the Questions	Connector
Wednesday, July 21 - Friday, July 24	8:00 AM	Iconography Workshop	Parish Hall

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

Request publicity for your event!

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).

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

June - July 2026

Return Service Requested

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

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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.

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