



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS "CELEBRATING GOD'S ABUNDANCE"

### Announcement from the Rt. Reverend Douglas J. Fisher



#### To All the Faithful of Our Diocese

September 27, 2024

To the faithful in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts,

I am abundantly blessed to be your bishop. For twelve years now, we have collaborated on Jesus' mission of mercy, compassion and hope. It is in service to that mission that I am announcing plans for my retirement and calling for the election of the tenth bishop.

Following this announcement our Standing Committee will be in contact with the Office of Pastoral Development. Bishop Todd Ousley will provide a consultant to guide you in holy discernment. The election of the next bishop will take place at our annual Diocesan Convention in November 2025. I anticipate "handing over the crozier" in March 2026.

Betsy and I are so very grateful for these years with you and for the time that remains of our mutual ministry. You have inspired us with your prayers, your pastoral care for one another, and your commitment

#### to serving those in need. Your next bishop will be joining you in a In This Issue holy place where the way of love guides relationships and shapes mission. Ongoing events & meetings ......2 One of my favorite prayers is a Preface for Eucharist on All Saints Upcoming Events ......4 Day: "For in the multitude of your saints you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, that we might rejoice in their Garden Ministry .....5 fellowship, and run with endurance the race that is set before us; and Climate Action ......6 together with them, receive the crown of glory that never fades away." Children & Youth Ministry ......7 I'm forever grateful for the saints that have gone before us in this Campus & Young Adult Ministry .....9 diocese and for you, the saints of this time. We still have a lot of race Calendar of Events ......13

to run together. The months ahead will be marked with deep prayer, joyful celebrations of God's love, care for one another and for all God's creation. We will tell people about Jesus, engage in prophetic witness for social justice, and "defend those who have no helper" — a vow I made before you in my consecration as your ninth bishop. We will keep trying new things for the sake of the Gospel and I will keep saying, "Go for it."

The Jesus Movement rolls on in Western Massachusetts. To God be the glory.

In Christ.

The Rt. Reverend Douglas J. Fisher IX Bishop of Western Massachusetts

+ Douglas Fish

## **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.

#### **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 October 3, 2024 at 2:30pm. All are welcome!

### **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.

## 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



Sunday, October 6th at 4:00pm on the front lawn of the Church.

#### **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.

#### The St. Nicholas Bazaar is Dec. 7!

Donations welcome! Donations are needed for all areas of the bazaar, especially <u>antiques and fine jewelry</u>. Please remember that items should be in **good working condition and clean**. We accept many kinds of items, but please <u>NO</u> textbooks, binders, VCR tapes, cassettes, classical records, clothing, or mildewed items. Donations may be dropped off in the undercroft after the Sunday service, or during office hours (M-F, 9-4). Please put them on the table inside the door from the walkway.

The bazaar is fast approaching - now is a good time to think about how you can contribute to its success during set-up and the day of the bazaar. Volunteer sign-ups will appear in early to mid-November. Any questions, contact Joan (jobrien82@gmail.com). Thank you!



#### A Week at Grace

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						
Tilday						
7:00 am	Men's Group					
•	Men's Group  Evensong					
7:00 am	_					
7:00 am <b>5:30 pm Saturday</b> 10:00 am	_					
7:00 am <b>5:30 pm Saturday</b>	Evensong					
7:00 am <b>5:30 pm Saturday</b> 10:00 am	Evensong  Bible Study					

#### **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 <a href="mailto:ggnatek@gmail.com">ggnatek@gmail.com</a>.

#### Coming in November – Philadelphia Eleven book group

On Wednesdays Nov. 6th, 13th, and 20th at 6:30 p.m., join us for a 3-session book discussion on Zoom exploring The Story of the Philadelphia Eleven: Revised and Expanded 50th Anniversary Edition by Darlene O'Dell. This book discussion is a part of our continued commemoration as a parish of the 50th anniversary of women's ordination to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. We hope this space will give us a chance to dive more deeply into the details and history of the Philadelphia Eleven while also allowing us to share connections between this history and our own experiences and faith. Zoom links will be sent out from the Grace Church email. Please be in touch with Megan at mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org with any questions.

### Seeking Self and Spirit through Self-Portraits: A Zoom Art Meditation Series

Many important spiritual and theological questions relate to the relationship we have with ourselves. How do we view ourselves in light of being made in God's image; in light of the human capacity for sin; in light of the vast and mysterious creation of which we're one, small part; or in light of God's abiding love?

Over time, many artists have tackled the subject of the self through self-portraiture. Rather than merely capturing their physical likeness, artists often also convey something deeper about how they see themselves.

Throughout the rest of Ordinary Time, our Monday art meditation series will reflect on different examples of self-portraiture each week, from diverse artists across different centuries and styles, as a way of exploring our own relationships to the self and God's Spirit. **This series began Monday, September 9th and will continue through November 25th, meeting on Zoom at 12:15 p.m.** There will be no meditation meeting on October 14th. Grace Church will send out the link by email early Monday mornings.



## **Solemn Evensong for the Feast of the Holy Cross**

Saturday September 14th



Our festal Evensong commemorated both the Feast of the Holy Cross and the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's stigmatization.

The Rev. Rachel Field was guest preacher at the service.



### Grace Gardens clean up and planting October 14th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Everyone is welcome. We will have all the necessary tools; we just need the enthusiasm. Refreshments will be served at the end of the event. If you have questions, please email Sara Liberty Laylin at: p.laylin@comcast.net.





### The Grace Pollinator Garden has been planted in honor of Creation Season!

Genesis 1, chapter 9: Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind..."

Ecclesiastes 3: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what has been planted..."

Within a few minutes of finishing the planting of 14 pollinator plants, there were bees buzzing about. And the garden is sure to be beautiful in the spring and summer months. Special thanks to our hard-working gardeners and an anonymous Grace Church member that donated the funds.

Enjoy everyone! Sara Liberty-Laylin Garden Ministry Chair







#### 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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#### **Outreach!**

Our September Outreach Offering brought in \$952.00, which has been sent to the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, earmarked for the Al-Ahli Arab Anglican Hospital.

Generosity changes everything, starting with us.

Thank you for your generosity!

#### **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.

## 11th Hour Bell Ringing for Climate Change

Friday, October 11th

On Friday, October 11, at 11 a.m. we will toll the bell at Grace Church for 11 minutes to express our alarm at the climate

emergency that we face, and to convey this concern to all within the sound of the bell. All are welcome to join. We encourage you to come and to bring your own bells or other noise-making devices to make the message as lively and inclusive as possible.

### Children's & Youth Ministry



September marked a joyful beginning to our children's and youth ministry programs for the 24-25 school year! Join us in our joy and community building this month. Friends and newcomers are always welcome! Please be in touch with me, Megan, with any questions, for more information, or to fill out a registration form for children's/youth programs —

mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org.

#### Sunday School/Jr. Choir Schedule

This year, our Sunday School is focusing on using music as a way of learning our faith and participating in the joy and togetherness at the heart of church music. Children and youth from elementary through high school are invited to come together in this musical collaboration! *We meet Sundays upstairs in the Parke House 9:15-10:15 a.m.* 

In October, Jr. Choir will meet on Sundays October 13th, 20th, and 27th. October 6th will be Liturgy in the Chapel. See announcement below!

#### Liturgy in the Chapel – October 6th, 9:35-10:15 a.m.

Our shorter, child-centered Communion service, open to children and their families, is taking place every other month this year. Our first worship service of the year will be Sunday October 6th. Join us in the chapel downstairs (along the walkway to the Parish Hall) from 9:35-10:15 a.m.!

You are still welcome to show up at the regular Sunday School time of 9:15 a.m. if helpful. Children can either help set up for Communion or spend some time drawing/being creative until the service begins.

#### Youth Group Lunch Discussion – October 6th, noon, meet in Connector

Our youth ministry is for any youth in grades 6-12. Every year, we hold events that build community through engaging in fun activities locally and events that allow us to explore, in conversation, how faith might relate to our day-to-day lives.

On Sunday October 6th after the 10:30 a.m. service, we'll have our first youth group lunch of the year, which will introduce our theme: *Living Your Best Life? Thinking About Meaning & Joy in Middle + High School.* 

There are a lot of different ideas about what living your preteen/teen years to the fullest might look like and also a lot of obstacles to experiencing this time as meaningful or joyful. Throughout our discussions, we'll explore what people are told makes a good middle or high school experience (through teachers, friends, pop culture, social

media, etc.), what participants actually value most about this time, and how faith, Scripture, and spirituality might expand our perspectives.

We will grab lunch somewhere within walking distance of Grace; Grace covers all costs! Depending on timing of lunch, we will try to also fit in time for a board game when we return to church.

Pick up is by 1:30 p.m. back at Grace, but if you need to be picked up earlier, that is welcome. Please RSVP to me (<a href="mailto:mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org">mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org</a>) if possible.

We also hope to have at least one more October event! To get youth group info as soon as it's decided, please make sure you're on the parent/guardian email list, if you aren't already, by emailing me at



mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org. Youth with their own email addresses are welcome to be on the email list as well if helpful!

# <u>Save the Date – Nov. 10th, Jr. Choir performing at the 10:30 a.m. service</u>

Even if you don't have children singing, we hope as many people as possible will be in worship to support the first Jr. Choir performance coming up in November! If your child hasn't started attending Jr. Choir but you're interested in them performing, we encourage attendance starting this month as we ramp up our preparations. Please be in touch with any questions.

#### Childcare available in Nursery on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:15 a.m.

We are happy to be offering childcare through both Sunday School and the 10:30 a.m. service for those who would like to use it. Children are always welcome to be in church with you, but if this option is helpful, we hope you will use it.

The nursery can be found in the Parker Room, which is in the parish office past the kitchen. Please be in touch with me (<a href="mailto:mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org">mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org</a>) if you have any questions. When using the nursery, please sign in and leave contact information with the nursery staff in case of emergency.

-Rev. Megan

### **Grace Church Facebook Page**

Be sure to like us at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071025877972">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071025877972</a> 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.

### **Campus and Young Adult Ministry**

We have lots of great events either for students and young adults in the months ahead! Please be in touch with me, Megan, for information on any of the events below. I also am available to get together one-on-one to chat about life, faith, theology, or anything that might be helpful/fun! Reach out to me at <a href="mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org">mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org</a> to set up a time to chat.

# GEMS: Grace Episcopal Ministry for Students dinner & Bible Study 101/Refresher – Saturday October 26th, 5 p.m.

Our campus ministry's monthly gathering will be 5 p.m. at the church on Saturday October 26th, in the Connector (the area used for coffee hour on Sundays, where you first come in from Boltwood Avenue). Stop by for take-out dinner and a conversation on ways to approach reading the Bible! For newcomers to Scripture, we'll offer some guidance on getting started, while for those more familiar, we'll hopefully offer some new considerations + perspectives that you can bring to your reading! Please RSVP at <a href="mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org"><u>mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org</u></a>.

# Diocesan Young Adult Retreat at Barbara Harris Camp in New Hampshire, Nov. 15-17 – Register by October 7th!

The Western Mass. Young Adult Ministry Network (YAMN), a group that hosts events for young adults ages 18-40, is holding its annual retreat this year from Friday Nov. 15th-Sunday Nov. 17th.

In the serene environment at Barbara Harris, there will be time to relax, enjoy nature, make art/write/read, sit around campfires, pray and participate in Communion with other young adults, and make new friends. We will arrange carpooling options to and from the retreat, which is about an hour and a half away. *Register by Monday October 7th at tinyurl.com/yamn-retreat*.

This year, the network is asking participants to make a financial contribution to the retreat on a sliding scale (meaning those who are able are asked to pay the full cost, while others pay what feels reasonable for their own financial situations). If you can't make a financial contribution, Grace is also able to offer scholarships to cover your costs. We do not want finances to stand in the way of anyone participating.

Please contact me with any questions at <u>mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org</u>.

-Rev. Megan

#### Stay tuned – Young Adult Ministry Network (YAMN) board game gathering!

Typically on a monthly basis, YAMN gets Western Mass. young adults together for board games at Tree House Brewing in Deerfield on a Saturday from 2-6 p.m. At the time of writing, the October date had not been set yet, but if you want to be on the email list to receive info about this and other young adult events, please check in with me at <a href="mailto:mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org">mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org</a>. If I'm available, I usually have a few spaces in my car for anyone who might need a ride there and back.

www.gracechurchamherst.org



St. Michael's Picnic September 29, 2024















# 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

#### **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.

## 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.



## **SAT OCT 26TH 2024**

11:00AM - 2:00PM

### FROM 11:00AM - 12:00PM

- MOSQUE TOUR
- VARIOUS BOOTHS
- QURAN RECITATION
- HIJAB TRY-ONS

### FROM 12:00PM - 2:00PM

- GUEST SPEAKER DR. SABEEL AHMED
- OUESTIONS & ANSWERS
- LIVE CALL TO PRAYER 'ADHAN'
- LIVE ISLAMIC PRAYERS
- FOOD & REFRESHMENTS



### PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS ARE WELCOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT http://hampshiremosque.org/ hampshiremosquedawah@gmail.com Hampshire Mosque, PO Box 3344 Amherst, MA 01004







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2024	Saturday	5 5:oo pm AA 8:oo pm AA	12 10:00 am Bible Study on Zoom 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	19 10:00 am Bible Study on Zoom 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	26 10:00 am Bible Study on Zoom 5:00 pm GEMS 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	
		4 10:00 am Bible 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	#	18 10:00 am Bible 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	10:00 am Bible 5:00 pm GEMS 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	
	Friday	5:30 pm Evensong	7:00 am Merí's Group 11:00 am Bell Ringing for Climate Change 5:30 pm Evensong	5:30 pm Evensong	7:30 pm Evensong 5:30 pm Evensong	
	Thursday	3 2:30 pm Tea & Titles 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 4:00 pm Haiti Ministry 5:00 pm Executive Cmte. 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	2.30 pm Tea & Titles 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	31 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
	Wednesday	2 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer 6:30 pm Adult Confirmation Class	9 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer 6:30 pm Adult Confirmation Class	16 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer 6:30 pm Adult Confirmation Class	23 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer 6:30 pm Adult Confirmation Class	30 12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Hosling Denor
	Tuesday	1 5:00 pm Liturgical Comm. 5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Al-Anon	9:30 am Raising the Questions 5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Al-Anon	9:30 am Life Story Writing 5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Vestry 7:00 pm Al-Anon	5:35 pm AA 7:00 pm Al-Anon	29 5:15 pm AA
	Monday		10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Seeking Self and Spirit through Self-Portraits 7:00 pm AA	Office Closed 14 9:00 am Garden Clean-up 7:00 pm Joy of Living 7:00 pm AA	10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Seeking Self and Spirit through Self-Portraits 7:00 pm AA	10:00 am Staff Meeting
October	Sunday		8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:35 am Liturgy in the Chapel 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Youth Group lunch 12:00 pm Ilconography 4:00 pm Blessing of the Animals 7:30 pm AA	8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Book Series 9:15 am Climate Action@Grace 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Iconography 7:30 pm AA	8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Book Series 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Iconography 7:00 pm Nightingale Vocal Ensemble Concert	8:00 am Holy Eucharist



#### **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

