

## Warrant Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst, Massachusetts will take place on Sunday, February 2, 2025 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 two Youth members 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 2024 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 2, 2025 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 7th day of January 2025.

By order of the Wardens and Vestry.  
Alice Goodwin-Brown, 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](mailto:slillydahl@library.umass.edu) for additional information.

## Epiphany Art Meditations: Contemporary and 20th Century Artists Imagining the Divine

Our Monday Zoom meditations continue at their usual time of 12:15 p.m. Our Epiphany series is focused on 20th and 21st century artists' various ways of imagining and depicting God, the divine, or sacredness/holiness. The link to the Zoom will be sent out weekly on Monday mornings. Please contact Megan ([mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org](mailto:mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org)) with any questions or if you'd like to receive recordings of the meditations.

## A Week at Grace

<b>Sunday</b>	
<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
9:00 am	Coffee Hour
9:15 am	Sunday School
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
11:30 am	Coffee Hour
7:30 pm	AA
<b>Monday</b>	
10:00 am	Staff Meeting
7:00 pm	AA
<b>Tuesday</b>	
8:30 am	Prayer Group
5:15 pm	AA
7:00 pm	Al-Anon
<b>Wednesday</b>	
<b>12:10 pm</b>	<b>Rite I Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	
7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday</b>	
7:00 am	Men's Group
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	
10:00 am	Bible Study
5:00 pm	AA
8:00 pm	AA

# Grace Notes "Notes"

## 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

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](mailto:judith.wobst@gmail.com)

Our next meeting is February 20, 2025 at 2:30pm. All are welcome!

## Outreach!

Our January's Outreach Offering brought in \$1249.00, which was collected for The Center for New Americans .

Generosity changes everything, starting with us.

Thank you for your generosity!

## 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](mailto:lcd@polysci.umass.edu)

## Clothing Drive

Ascentria Refugee Services for New Americans has asked Grace Church to help with a clothing drive. They are looking for warm winter clothes for people of all ages! This drive hopes to gather new or lightly-used coats, blankets, scarves, hats, and gloves for refugees moving into Western Massachusetts. All supplies will be directly distributed to families who can't afford clothes for the coming winter. A shopping cart will be placed in the back of the church for those who can donate. You can bring items with you to church on Sunday or drop them off during the week during regular business hours.

Ascentria Refugee Services For New Americans provides legal, housing, and language support to new Americans across New England. Thank you for your generosity, and if there are items you wish to donate other than what is listed or would like to become more involved, please reach out to [rporter@ascentria.org](mailto:rporter@ascentria.org). If you wish to learn more about Ascentria and the work they do, please check their website at <https://www.ascentria.org/service/services-for-new-americans/>.



# Grace Notes "Notes"

## 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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Australia*

## Climate Action @ Grace

Climate Action at Grace (CAAG) will meet February 9 (second Sunday, as usual) at 12:15 in the Parker Room. We will continue building our momentum. This will include updates about the legislature, if there are any, and updates about various groups we assigned ourselves to research. We are reminded to consider watching the documentary Planet of the Humans. Please consider joining us! We would love to welcome you.

submitted by Edith Allison



## Bell Ringing for Climate Action

**Tuesday, February 11th**

Calling all ages to be part of the 11th Hour Bell Ringing for Climate Change Tuesday, February 11 at 10:45. Join friends and neighbors for prayer and meditation before the 11th hour ringing begins. Our church bell will be rung for 11 minutes on the 11th day of each month at 11 AM. After the bells ring, everyone will have a chance to make a joyful noise of resolve. Bring your cow bells, dinner bells, kazoos, and gongs, drums, cymbals, and noise makers of any kind. Signs and banners are encouraged.

## Garden Ministry

Grace Garden Ministry will have its next meeting on Friday, February 28th at 9:00 in the Connector. We would love to have new members!

## 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](mailto:ggnatek@gmail.com).

# Grace Notes "Notes"

## Children's & Youth Ministry

### **No Sunday School on Feb. 2nd**

Because of Annual Meeting, Grace will be having only one service on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Accordingly, there will be no Sunday School this Sunday. We hope you can join us for worship & then for brunch and Annual Meeting following!

### **Nursery updates**

Going into this new semester, Grace will be looking to hire 1-2 more nursery staff workers to round out our team and provide childcare more consistently. Please be in touch if you know anyone who might be a fit for this kind of position! If you use the nursery or might in the future, please contact me at [mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org](mailto:mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org) to make sure you are on my weekly children's/youth email list. This is where I provide updates in the case nursery care will ever not be available on a particular Sunday.

### **Sunday School update**

In conversation with volunteers, we have updated our plans for the next few months of Sunday School. On Sundays from 9:15-10:15 a.m., I will be leading a lesson either on a Scripture passage assigned for that day in church or another biblical story relevant to the liturgical season. Using a curriculum from Illustrated Ministry, we will engage the Bible through reflective and imaginative questions, creative activities, and lots of coloring and art-making! We will be meeting in the upstairs classroom of the Parke House.

Instead of having Jr. Choir rehearsal every week or Jr. Choir as our primary focus, music will be incorporated into our overall Sunday School program, often towards the end of our hour together, with the help of volunteers Maki and Mary El. Particularly, we will soon begin working on a possible piece to perform at the 10:30 a.m. Easter service on April 20th; this musical piece will become a greater focus during the season of Lent.

Sunday School remains open to a multi-age group of children and youth. If you have questions about whether Sunday School might be right for your child, please be in touch!

### **Upcoming youth group gatherings**

After-church youth group gatherings for those in grades 6-12 are tentatively scheduled for **Sundays Feb. 9th and Feb. 23rd**, pending chaperone schedules. These will meet following the 10:30 service. One will be a lunch where we'll continue discussing this year's theme of what it means to "live your best life," while another will either be an outing to do something fun locally or a pizza and games afternoon here at church (feel free to let me know your or your child's preference)! Stay tuned for more details.

On Monday Mar. 17th, we are scheduled to join youth from the Episcopal church in Greenfield to assist at Second Helpings, a free dinner served at their church. More details to come!

Please be in touch with questions about any of these events. Newcomers and friends always welcome!



# Grace Notes "Notes"

## Campus and Young Adult Ministry

### Campus ministry:

Welcome back, students! I'd love to hear how your break was and how you're feeling going into the semester ahead. Please email me at [mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org](mailto:mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org) if you'd like to set up time for a coffee/tea – the church's treat!

Also, please mark your calendars for the first meeting of GEMS: Grace Episcopal Ministry for Students this semester – Saturday Feb. 8th from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Coronation Café! Beverages & treats provided by Grace Church. Bring whatever is on your heart and mind to discuss! This is a casual environment (you can drop in for as much or little of the hour and a half as you'd like) for open-ended discussion on life, faith, spirituality, theology, the Bible, the Episcopal Church, or even something as simple as recent TV or movies you've been enjoying!

### Young adult ministry:

The Western Mass. Young Adult Ministry Network (YAMN) is in the process of planning our next board game meetup AND a Lent retreat day. YAMN events are open to a wide range of young adults – ages 18-40 – from across the diocese. If you aren't already receiving emails from me about these events, please email me at [mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org](mailto:mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org) to make sure you get all the details about these events ASAP.

--Rev. Megan

## 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.

# Haiti Ministry

## Thank You Grace Church and Friends!

Once again, despite cold and ice: a wonderfully successful end of January SOUP SALE to support our partner, St. Matthew's School in Bayonnais Haïti and warm the hearts (and bellies) of Amherst and environs!

You cooked, baked, packed, delivered and most important of all BOUGHT 200 quarts of soup, together with breads and cookies-- all made by members of the parish and by our generous area restaurants and delis. A final count will be in the church bulletin next week; but approximately \$4000 dollars was raised for L'École St. Matthieu. This will pay salaries, allow repairs, buy books and supplies—all the things that keep a school of now @ 200 students learning and teaching in very difficult circumstances.

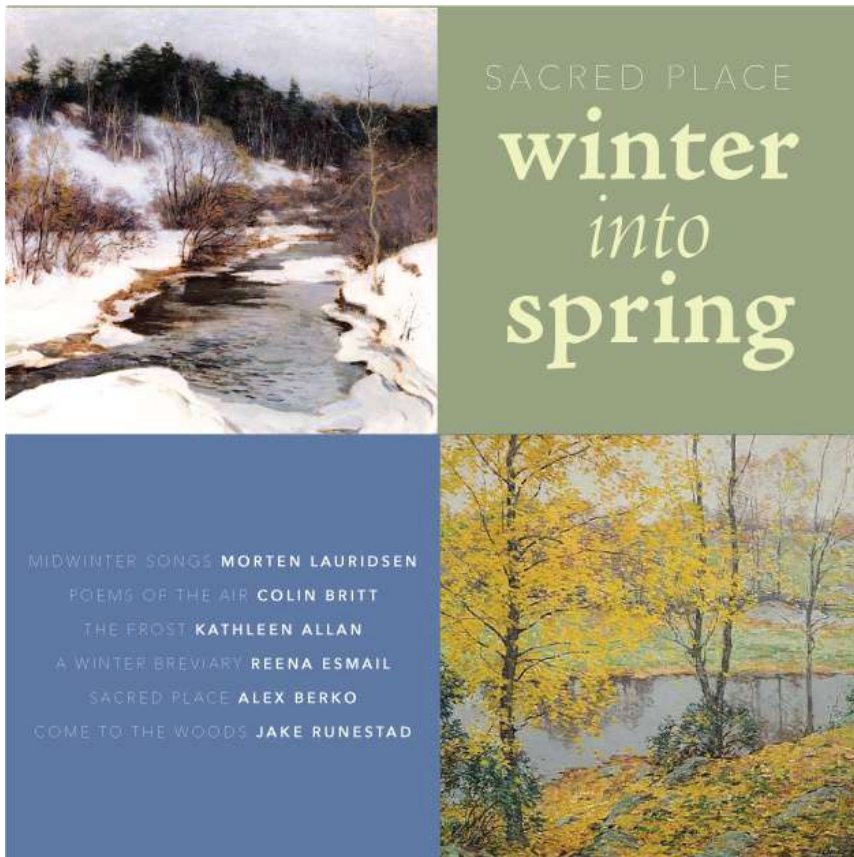
And we all had fun!! This is an amazing community.

Thank you all! and a special shout-out:  
----to Sarah Chadwick, Gail Gnatek, and Sandy Musprat who organized and digitized,  
----to all the soup-cooks, bakers, order-packers, drivers,

---and to our contributing neighboring food emporia  
(please thank them when you visit):  
THE BLACK SHEEP DELI, 30 BOLTWOOD,  
DIEMAND FARM, ESSELON CAFÉ,  
SMITHSONIAN CAFÉ and CHOWDER HOUSE !



# Grace Notes "Notes"



## **Illumine Vocal Arts Ensemble**

**February 16, 2025, 4:00 PM**

at

**Grace Church**

**14 Boltwood Ave**

**Amherst**

Midwinter Songs, Morten Lauridsen  
selection from Poems of the Air, Colin Britt

The Frost, Kathleen Allan

A Winter Breviary, Reena Esmail

Sacred Place, Alex Berko

Come to the Woods, Jake Runestad

## **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



# February

# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Office Closed			1
9:30 am Holy Eucharist 11:00 am Annual Meeting 7:30 pm AA	10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Epiphany Meditations 7:00 pm AA	5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm EFM	12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer	7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	5:30 pm Evensong	10:00 am Bible Study on Zoom 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Iconography 12:15 pm Climate Action@Grace 7:30 pm AA	10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Epiphany Meditations 7:00 pm Joy of Living 7:00 pm AA	9:30 am Raising the Questions 11:00 am Bell Ringing for Climate Action 5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm EFM	12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer	7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00 am Men's Group 5:30 pm Evensong	10:00 am Bible Study on Zoom 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	Office Closed 17	18	19	20	21	22
8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Iconography 4:00 pm Illumine Vocal Arts Ensemble Concert 7:30 pm AA	7:00 pm AA	5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm EFM	12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer	2:30 pm Tea & Titles 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	5:30 pm Evensong	Memorial Service - Beaty Blain 5:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	
8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Iconography 7:30 pm AA	10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Epiphany Meditations 7:00 pm Joy of Living 7:00 pm AA	5:15 pm AA 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm EFM	12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer	7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00 am Men's Group 9:00 am Garden Ministry Meeting 5:30 pm Evensong	

Coffee hour follows Sunday morning services and provides an opportunity for parish fellowship and for welcoming and becoming acquainted with newcomers.

# Grace Notes

February 2025

## 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](mailto:grace@gracechurchamherst.org) • [www.gracechurchamherst.org](http://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](http://www.gracechurchamherst.org) for updates