



June 2023

## Service Times

Holy Eucharist, Rite II on  
Sunday at 11:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I on  
Wednesday at 7:30 am

## THE MISSION OF GRACE CHURCH

*Gather in Christ,  
grow in faith,  
and love our neighbors*

## THE VISION OF GRACE CHURCH

*Be a home where people can  
connect with their faith,  
to be in harmony with self,  
others and God.*

# The Way

Dear Friends,

Greetings in Our Lord! As of writing we are on the cusp of the celebration of one of the Church's most ancient feasts and one of my personal favorites on the kalendar. I am speaking of course of the Feast of Pentecost when, nine days after Jesus's Ascension, God sent the Holy Spirit to dwell with the fledgling Church in the Upper Room. The disciples, who found themselves there in a place of acute anxiety about their mission, were suddenly in-spired. Filled with the power of the Spirit, appearing like tongues of fire, they preached to the congregated myriads of races and peoples of Jerusalem the good news of Jesus Christ. They told people how God had raised Him from the dead and that now through faith they too could enjoy His new, risen life even while they awaited His final return in glory.

Upon reflection, this profound memory of the nascent Church, really the Church in utero, is a dollhouse miniature of her life *in toto*. Pentecost begins in silence, the silent encounter with God in prayer by the working of the Holy Spirit, it culminates in the fellowship shared among the disciples rejoicing at God's presence in their midst, and it concludes with the same natural conclusion: reaching out, reaching out to all of God's children with the embrace of His grace.

Our lives in Christ begin with our own encounter with God in the Spirit, it is fed in our fellowship with one another in the life of the Church: her worship and her sacraments, and it expands when we reach out to all who we meet with Christ's Gospel in proclamation, through our words, and by the works of love He inspires.

The Church lives into its mission best when that encounter in prayer is at its heart. The gifting of the Holy Spirit to her assures us that Jesus's promise to be with us always is very true, and when the fullness of the life Christ envisions for us is present in our churches then the consequent work of fulfilling our call to be the people the world encounters Christ by is possible. Encounter, fellowship, and proclamation are all the interwoven parts of the Church's life begun at Pentecost.

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## Contact Us

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Articles for the July 2023 edition of *The Way* are due to the church office by Monday, June 26, 2023.

All articles should be emailed to the Parish Administrator at [gracechurchsec@verizon.net](mailto:gracechurchsec@verizon.net).

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They cannot be separated from each other. Every day is an opportunity to participate in our life with God, and whether you prefer the quiet life of prayer, the hustle and bustle of committees and potlucks and planning, or you've been called to spread abroad the love of Jesus, each vocation contributes to Christ's vision for His Church's life to be His representative to the world.

Perhaps it's this teaching that makes the reality of the failures of the Church, and especially her leaders, all the more painful. Is Christ's Body a fortress for the faithful seeking to escape a wicked world and who, by God's grace, find themselves capable to endure and grasp after holiness? Or is it, to use a favorite image of the Holy Father, a hospital for sinners? A place where the Holy Spirit builds us up and works *through* our weaknesses and even risks scandal? While not excusing the betrayed trust of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have done wrong, can we afford to tell them that they cannot be redeemed?

Speaking as one sinner to another, my conviction is that the Church's choice to be on the side of those needing to be forgiven, those who need a daily, perhaps hourly, or even constant encounter with God's merciful grace, is a sign that the Spirit is truly with us. When we become assured of our own righteousness and unwilling to let the Spirit enliven us, we have betrayed the great gift of God's self entrusted to us at this great feast. Pentecost is an invitation for us to say "Let thy will be done Lord, and not my own" to step back and to be inspired. I ask that you pray especially in this coming month for us all to be filled with this same Spirit. I remain,

Your Friend and Pastor,

The Rev'd John M.W. Conner

## June 2023 Calendar

### June 4

Trinity Sunday  
11:00 am Worship

### June 7

7:30 am Worship

### June 11

Pentecost 2  
11:00 am Worship  
ECW Meeting

### June 13

7:00 pm Property Mtg.

### June 14

7:30 am Worship

### June 18

Pentecost 3  
11:00 am Worship  
Father's Day

### June 21

7:30 am Worship  
7:00 pm Vestry Mtg

### June 25

Pentecost 4  
11:00 am Worship

### June 28

7:30 am Worship

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The ECW will be hosting an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 11 during Coffee Hour. Please join us for ice cream.

## FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

The funeral for Marlee Norton will be on Saturday, June 10, at 10:00 am at St. James the Greater Episcopal Church, located at 225 Walnut Street, Bristol, PA. The burial of ashes will be immediately following the service in the graveyard at St. James, followed by a luncheon in the parish hall.

St. James is having the luncheon catered but would like to have homemade desserts. If you would like to make a dessert for the funeral luncheon they can be dropped off on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:30 pm to the Parish Hall (located at the corner of Walnut & Woods St.) or Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> anytime after 8:00 am.

St. James will also be accepting donations to pay for grave markers for Marlee and her brother Clark. If you would like to make a donation toward the cost of the grave markers' checks should be made out to St. James the Greater Episcopal Church and mailed to 225 Walnut Street, Bristol, PA 19007.

## SYMPATHY CARDS

If you won't be able to attend the funeral service for Marlee but would like to send a card, feel free to mail or drop them off at Grace. Please clearly mark them to the attention of Marlee Norton's family. We will take any cards that we receive to the service and give them to her family.

## COUNTRY BUFFET

Thank you to all the men and women who spent endless hours Thursday-Saturday working to make our country Buffet dinner such a success. Also, to all those that donated food to cut the cost of our expenses, to prepare the dinners, to Sheron who helps me to prepare the paperwork to advertise the dinners, and to all the people that came to the dinner and supported us that made it the success it was. We had 105 people come to the dinner. Thank you – *Sue Horger*

## July 2023 Calendar

### July 2

Pentecost 5  
11:00 am Worship

### July 5

7:30 am Worship

### July 9

Pentecost 6  
11:00 am Worship

### July 12

7:30 am Worship

### July 16

Pentecost 7  
11:00 am Worship

### July 19

7:30 am Worship

### July 23

Pentecost 8  
11:00 am Worship

### July 26

7:30 am Worship

### July 30

Pentecost 9  
11:00 am Worship

### July 31

2:00 to 7:00 pm, Red  
Cross Blood Drive

## BLOOD DRIVE, JULY 31

Grace will host a second blood drive in 2023 on Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 to 7:00 pm. More information will be available in June. *Diane McKairnes*

## MARY'S CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generous support of Mary's Cupboard food pantry.

Below is a list of items that are currently needed.

**Toothpaste**

**Corn**

**Shampoo**

**Green Beans**

**Peas**

We have a LARGE quantity of peanut butter so we will not be in need of any. Thank you.

Any questions contact *Sonja Norton* 215-946-7559.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 4 – Trinity Sunday

June 6-13 – Fr. John's vacation

June 18 – Father's Day

July 4 – Independence Day – Office Closed

July 10-14 – Parish Administrator's vacation

July 31- Red Cross Blood Drive

## Vestry Leadership

Senior Warden:

Bob Miller (215) 788-2972

Junior Warden:

Leon Horger  
(215) 788-0720

Treasurer:

Langhorne Tax &  
Bookkeeping

Building Treasurer:

Al Van Dine  
(215) 943-1572

Clerk of the Vestry:

Cathie Miller  
(215) 788-2972

Vestry Members:

Bob Grow,  
Dennis Hickey,  
Leon Horger,  
David Jackson,  
Bob Miller,  
Edgar Seely,  
Al Van Dine.

## Ministry Teams

Communication:

Sheron Drennen

Pastoral Care:

Doris Laino

Property:

Bob Miller

## PRAYER LIST

Just a reminder that the Prayer List in the Sunday bulletin is for those who have an immediate, short-term need. These names will be listed in the bulletin for four weeks.

The Prayer List in the newsletter and Noon Prayer bulletin will contain the names of those who have a long-term illness. The names on these two lists will be removed after two months if no new information is provided (in writing). All prayer requests must be in writing and must be submitted by Tuesday morning to be included in the Sunday bulletin.

*Sheron Drennen*

## PRAYER LIST FOR JUNE

Albert	Jordan S
Alicia D	Kathi
Brian M	Kathy K
Caleb D	Mark B
Cindy D	Mike K
Didonato family	Nadine O
Dominick D	Norma Jean J
Donna R	Patrick D
Jim M	Shane
Joe D	Shirley H
Joe K	Steve W

## BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

1 – Fr. Dick Ditterline	12 – Christine McGonigal
2 – Addison McDonald	13 – Leon Masih-Das
4 – Mandy Fusco	15 – Sue Horger
4 – Javene “Bean” Bealer	20 - John Tranotti
8 - Jen Epstein	21 – Kim Kull

## ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE

19 – Fr. Dick & Sue Ditterline  
24 – Alan & Edee Jackson

