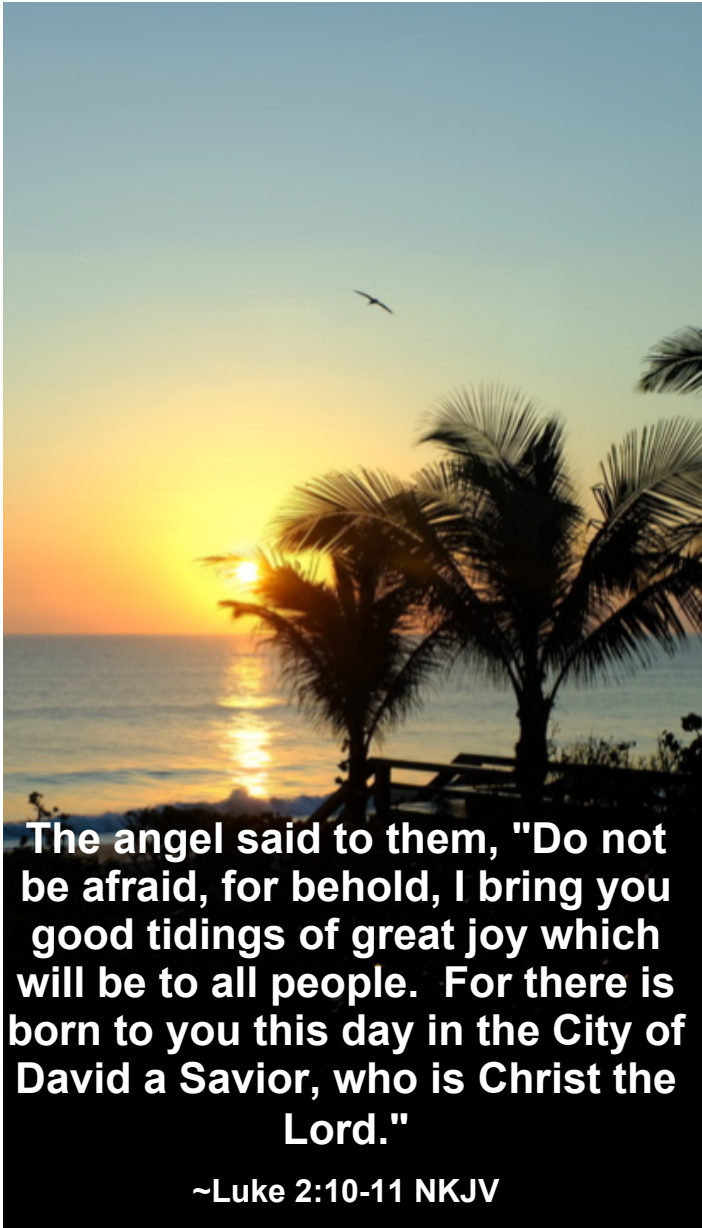


December 22, 2024 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 [www.gracechurchmiddletown.org](http://www.gracechurchmiddletown.org)  
 email [secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com)



The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

~Luke 2:10-11 NKJV

## Sunday December 22nd

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Rite I)

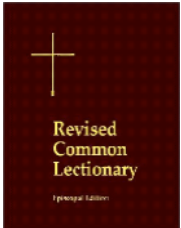
This is a two-week edition of the Epistle. The next Epistle will be for January 5th 2025.

Subdeacon/Chalice	Allison McLean
MC/2nd Chalice	Claire Newquist
Acolyte	Carla Boyer
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Bill Gunn
NT Lector	Joe Gayton
Intercessor	Patty Seekamp
Ushers	Mark Strunsky Sue Scott Volunteers

Use our audio mixer to listen to the 9:30 Sunday Mass live. [Click Here](#)

To watch Sunday Mass on Facebook live. [Click Here](#)

For the Sunday prayer bulletin. [Click Here](#)



### Website for Lectionary Readings

The webpage is in calendar form - just click on the date and you will see the readings for that day.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/Calendar2024.html>

*Tuesday December 24th*  
Christmas Eve (Rite II)

Subdeacon/Chalice	Rick Scott
MC/2nd Chalice	Claire Newquist
Thurifer	David Brokaw
Crucifer	Lucas Spisso
Acolyte	Marlene Presley
Acolyte	David White
OT Lector	Rick Scott
NT Lector	Claire Newquist
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	Sue Scott Volunteers

*Wednesday December 25th*  
Christmas Day (Rite I)

Subdeacon/Chalice	Janet Cusack
MC/2nd Chalice	
Thurifer	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Allison McLean
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Mark Strunsky
NT Lector	Connie Herm
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	Mark Strunsky Volunteers

*Sunday December 29th*  
First Sunday After Christmas (Rite II)

<b>Morning Prayer Rite II</b>	
Morning Prayer Leaders	Carla Boyer Rick Scott
OT Lector	Mark Strunsky
NT Lector	Connie Herm
Ushers	Mark Strunsky Sue Scott



## Upcoming Events

Saturday December 21st	3:00 PM Celebration of Life for Margarita Ostergaard
Sunday December 22nd	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Tuesday December 24th	Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Holy Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)
Wednesday December 25th	Christmas Day 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Sunday December 29th	9:30 AM Morning Prayer (Rite II) as Fr. Vic and Rhonda will be out of town.
Wednesday January 1st	Happy New Year! Office closed for the holiday.
Sunday January 5th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)

## The Photography Corner



This photograph, which she calls "Spooky Night," was sent to us by Lorraine Witkowski. She took this photograph from the side porch of her house. Thank you Lorraine!

I would like to thank everybody who have shared photographs with us. I could always use a few more if you'd like to send some. ~Joe

## Thank-you From The Fundraising Committee!

As the Holidays and the end of 2024 approach, we want to thank each and every one of you for your support during the year. We held two major fundraisers during 2024, the Tricky Tray and the Holiday Fair. Each of these events brought in significant profits (over \$5000 each) which have gone to helping reduce the budget deficit projected at the beginning of the year. We could not have done as well, or had as much fun, if it weren't for your help. Thank you all, and don't forget we'll be doing it all again in 2025!! Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

~Mark, Anne, David, Barbara, Sue and Claire

## Mystic Poets Society

This week's poem is sent to us by Eileen Bloomer. Thanks Eileen!

If you have a poem or reflection that you would consider sharing with your fellow parishioners, please send it to me. Thank you, Joe.

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.

-Mark 4:35-36

In the evening,  
(and on this morning), he says,  
"Let us go across to the other side."

I stand on an unsure shore  
holding hands with fear,  
a cold hand in my cold hand.

Cold feet wait for direction:

Here I am- I am here!

The prayer of one tear  
finds a path down my cheek  
to the very edge of my flesh and bone.

I take off my shoes;  
I put my cold feet in the river  
and look to the other side,  
a foggy horizon of Love  
that waits and welcomes all  
who journey to the other side.

~Eileen



ShopRite Grocery Gift Cards are available for sale EVERY Sunday after each service. Grace Church receives 5% on the sale of the cards from ShopRite, while you purchase the cards at face value! ShopRite gift cards can make shopping for the family easy. Our ongoing fundraiser of ShopRite gift cards helps you prepare your holiday meals while helping Grace Church. Please keep us in mind when preparing your shopping lists!

We are happy and pleased to announce that we can accept credit card purchases for the ShopRite gift cards. So, if you use a rewards credit card you can now accumulate points while supporting Grace Church! To purchase gift cards, please see either Eileen or Claire.



The Warwick Valley Chorale visited Grace this past Friday.



[Grace Calendar](#)

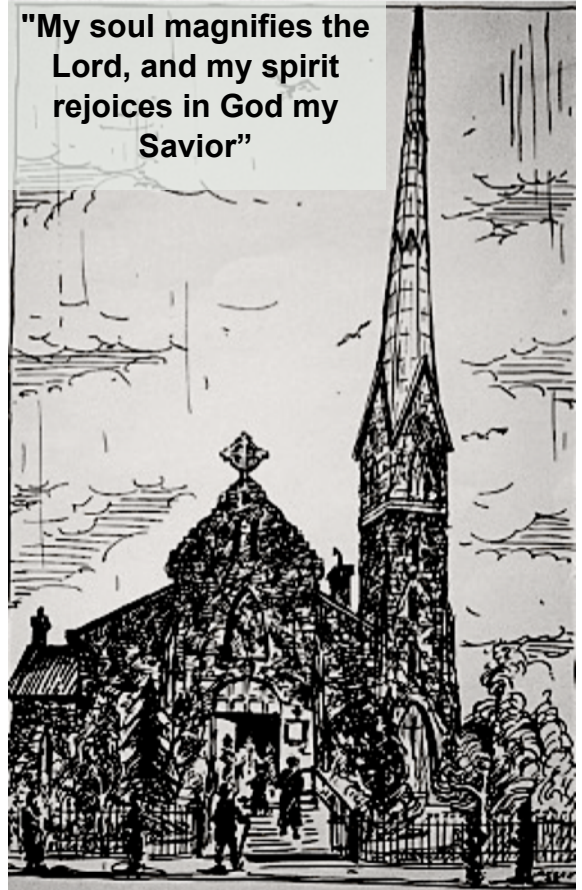
### Vestry News

The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday January 19th starting at 11:15 AM.  
All are invited to attend!

[Click here to read the minutes of the October 20, 2024 Vestry meeting.](#)

[Click here to read the minutes of the November 17, 2024 Vestry meeting.](#)

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"



GRACE CHURCH 1948

### Your Grace Church Vestry.

#### Wardens:

John Cusack

Claire Newquist

#### *Clerk of the Vestry:*

#### *Treasurer:*

Kathleen Hamilton

Allison McLean

#### Vestry:

Lorraine Witkowski

Anne Caldwell

Barbara Chumard

Michelle Tubbs

William Gunn

Lenora Vaughan

Mark Strunsky

Eileen Bloomer

Torry Guardino