

March 9, 2025 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org
 email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

Sunday March 9th

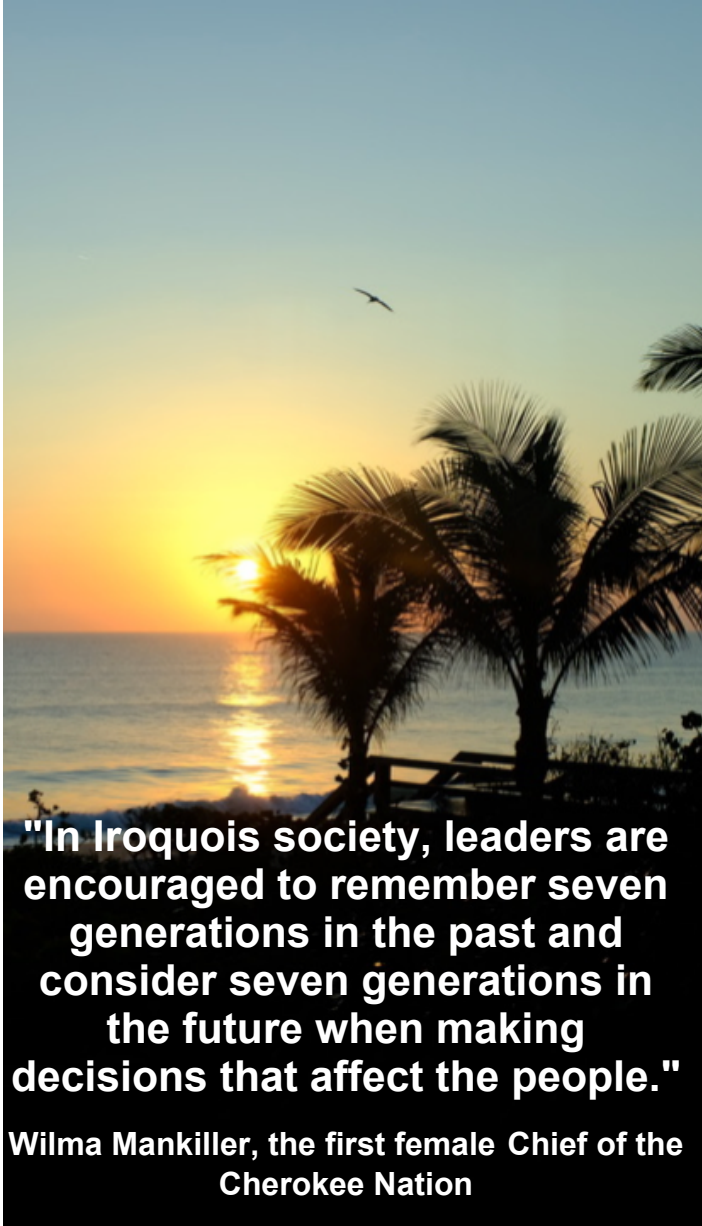
First Sunday in Lent (Rite II)

Subdeacon/Chalice	Rick Scott
MC/2nd Chalice	Torry Guardino
Thurifer	David White
Crucifer	Savannah Spisso
Acolyte	Phyllis Guardino
Acolyte	Lucas Spisso
OT Lector	Phyllis Guardino
NT Lector	Eileen Barrett
Intercessor	Joseph Barrett
Ushers	Joseph Barrett Eileen Barrett Sue Scott

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

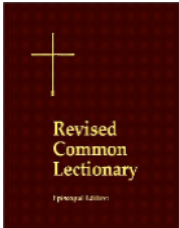
To watch Sunday Mass on Facebook live. [Click Here](#)

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



"In Iroquois society, leaders are encouraged to remember seven generations in the past and consider seven generations in the future when making decisions that affect the people."

Wilma Mankiller, the first female Chief of the Cherokee Nation



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/Calendar2025.html>

Upcoming Events

Friday March 7th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 9th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II) Daylight Savings Time Begins
Wednesday March 12th	No Healing Mass while Fr. Victor heals!
Friday March 14th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 16th	9:30 AM Sunday Morning Prayer (Rite I) 11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting
Monday March 17th	St. Patrick's Day
Wednesday March 19th	No Healing Mass while Fr. Victor heals!
Friday March 21st	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 23rd	9:30 AM Sunday Morning Prayer (Rite II)

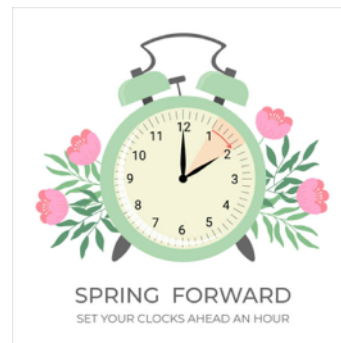


The Photography Corner



This week's photograph is a view of Longwood Mountain, Colorado from this past December. It was taken by Claire Newquist. Thank you Claire!

I would like to thank all who have shared photographs with us. ~Joe



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday morning.
Remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour
Saturday evening.



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.

Mystic Poets Society

This week's poem was written and 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.

Weeks and time passing.	as I try to stand steady in a shifting world
I gather sunrise memories	that offers quick answers today:
as the days grow longer,	black or white,
as the light returns,	us or them,
and the brighter sky is streaked	right or wrong,
for a moment now:	good or evil...
blue,	And a line is drawn in my own heart
purple,	where I am standing, balancing at the
pink,	edge,
gold.	where I am greeted at the well
Now, I watch all my questions fall	by the One who says I am thirsty.
into a bottomless well of uncertainty,	~Eileen
trusting that I may live the answers	
someday	

Stations of the Cross

Grace Church has had a long tradition of praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent. A group of us gather together at 6:30 pm each Friday during Lent to follow the path that Jesus walked from his Condemnation by Pontus Pilate to the cross on Calvary to the Tomb. It is a simple service of prayers, readings and music which allows us to walk with Jesus during his final hours. The leader and torches move around the church stopping at each of the reliefs which hang on the walls of the nave. These depict the 14 "stations" or stops on Jesus' journey.

Please consider joining us at 6:30 pm for this very simple but moving service on one or more of the Fridays during Lent: 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4 and 4/11. If you have any questions, speak to Father Victor or Claire Newquist. ~Claire



Shrove Tuesday
was a special time of fellowship as we enter into this year's
Season of Lent. The pot luck dinner was delicious and
nobody left hungry, filling in any empty stomach space with
sweet and delectable desserts.



**After dinner, palm was
burnt to use for the next
day's Ash Wednesday
Eucharistic services.
Then Grace was prepared
for Lent.
~Joe**



TRICKY TRAY 2025:

Now that we have you all thinking about baskets you can make or gift cards you can solicit or other items that you might want to contribute as “prizes” for our Tricky Tray, its time to remind you of other ways that you can help with this important event.

First and perhaps most important, we need you to help us advertise the Tricky Tray. Just to remind you, it will take place on Saturday, April 26th. Our doors will open at 1:00 pm with calling beginning at 3 pm. Admission will be \$10, with children under 12 free. Each admission comes with one ticket sheet which includes a door prize ticket. Additional ticket sheets will be available at \$5/sheet or 5 for \$20. There will be separate tickets for our special prizes (\$5/ticket) and tickets for a 50/50 drawing (\$2/ticket and 6 for \$10) available for purchase.

In a few weeks, we will have road signs for you to take and put up in high traffic locations. In the meantime, there are fliers available for you to take and post around town or give to your friends and family. We also encourage you to talk to people about the Tricky Tray and let them know what a fun event it is.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions, need fliers or want to give us some suggestions, please see a member of the Fundraising Committee: Mark Strunsky, Anne Caldwell, Barbara Chumard, David White, Sue Scott and Claire Newquist.

Cafe Meeting

On March 30th after Mass, a cafe meeting will take place at Grace Church. Here participants will rotate through topic tables for brief and focused discussions on various aspects of the life of the church. Please join us for this very important opportunity to both learn and give feedback on the future of Grace Church. For more details, please feel free to contact me.
~John Cusack

Repair Cafe

On Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 10 to 1, the Friends of the Middletown Thrall Library will hold their next Repair Cafe in the Library Community Room.

Repair Cafes are meeting places where neighbors, aka “Repair Coaches”, help neighbors fix lamps and small appliances, mend clothing, sharpen knives and scissors, etc.

If you have any questions call
Ed & Monica Irlbacher at 845.343.6839



From the Rector's Desk

Back in June of 2024 I began using a cane on a regular basis. Although this has worked out well, even for the tour Rhonda and I took of central Europe that summer, it has also limited my ability to do many things which I love doing. I have made the decision to have knee replacement surgery done and my doctor is available for that on March 10, and one pretty much has to take what one can get.

Although I feel awkward about missing a couple of Sundays during Lent (March 16 and 23) I have every reason to believe that I will be in good shape before Easter.

Please keep me and my recovery in your prayers. I look forward to returning with refreshed mobility. ~Fr Vic



Grace Calendar

Vestry News

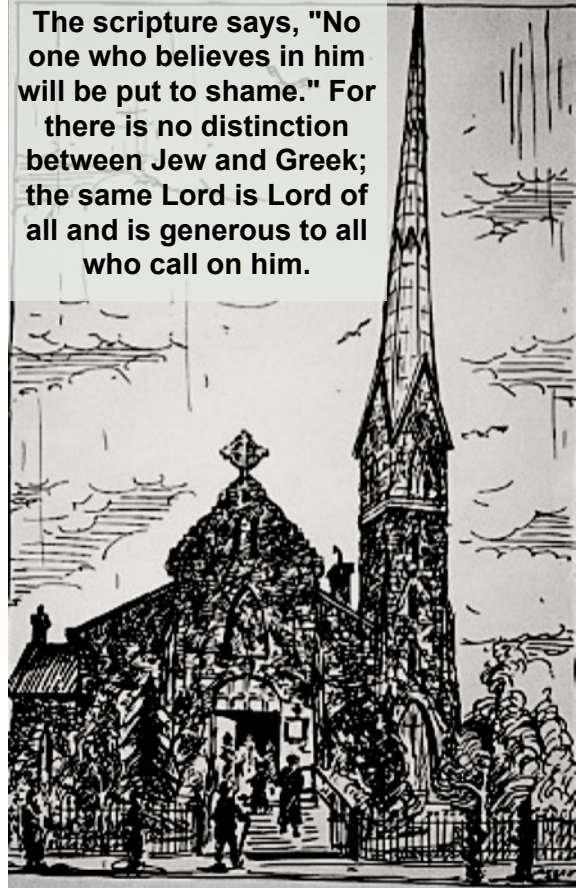
The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday March 16th starting at 11:15 AM.

All are invited to attend!

[Click here to read the minutes of the December 15, 2024 Vestry meeting.](#)

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

The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.



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