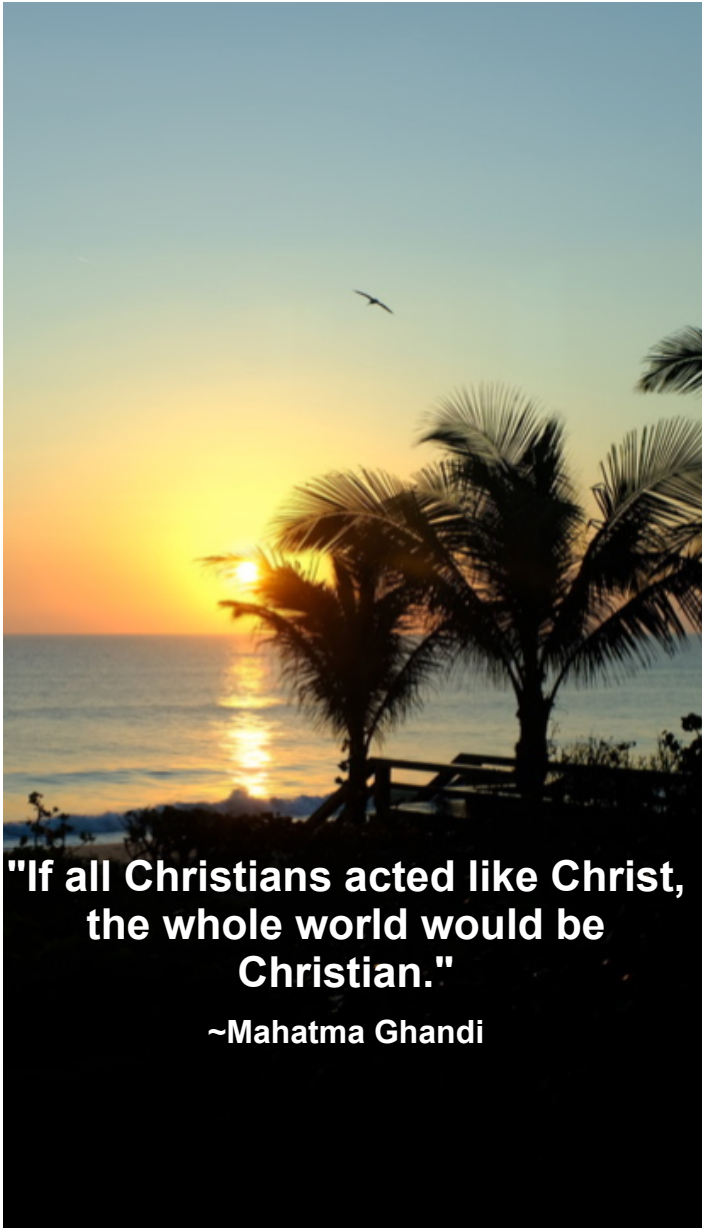


April 6, 2025 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org
 email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com



**"If all Christians acted like Christ,
 the whole world would be
 Christian."
 ~Mahatma Ghandi**

Sunday April 6th

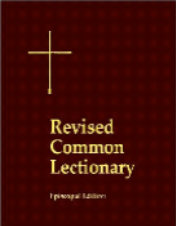
Fifth Sunday in Lent (Rite II)

Subdeacon/Chalice	David Brokaw
MC/2nd Chalice	Rick Scott
Thurifer	Claire Newquist
Crucifer	Savannah Spisso
Acolyte	Lucas Spisso
Acolyte	Marlene Presley
OT Lector	Phyllis Guardino
NT Lector	Torry Guardino
Intercessor	Joseph Barrett
Ushers	Joseph Barrett Eileen Barrett Sue Scott Volunteer

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/Calendar2025.html>

Upcoming Events

Friday April 4th

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Sunday April 6th

9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line. (Rite II)

Wednesday April 9th

10:00 AM Healing Mass

Friday April 11th

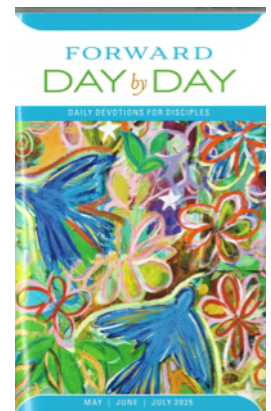
6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Sunday April 13th

Palm Sunday

9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)

The Photography Corner



I took this photograph at this year's Goshen St. Patrick's Day Parade. The antique car broke down on the parade route and these good samaritans jumped in to help!

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

The new quarter Forward Day by Day booklets have arrived. They can be found at the usher's table by the North St. doors. You can also email me for a copy. ~Joe



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.

TRICKY TRAY 2025:

I'm sure by now many of you are tired of hearing from us about the Tricky Tray. You've heard it all before. You know about baskets and gift cards and door prizes and road signs and fliers and sign up sheets, etc., etc. That may be the case, but we still need your help and this is one of the ways to remind you of that.

Just to put this in perspective, the Tricky Tray is one of two major fundraisers that Grace Church holds each year; the other is our November Holiday Fair. Fundraising also benefits from money earned from the sale of Shop-rite Gift cards. Over the past several years, the Tricky Tray has raised more money for our budget than the Fair. These monies, along with our pledge and plate income and our Endowment income, help us to pay our bills. Some of you learned at our recent Cafe Meeting, that the majority of our expenses are mandatory, not discretionary. So please remember that the emphasis we place on Fundraising is one of the ways we keep our doors open and bills paid.

So, there is still time for you to help. Please consider making a basket(s), donating a gift card(s), or making a donation to our expenses. You can also take a road sign to put in a prominent location or pick up a flier or two to post. There are sign up sheets posted outside Phyllis' office for help setting up, working the Tricky Tray or cleaning up after. Finally, and perhaps most important, please plan to come and bring your friends. It is truly the more the merrier.

Thank you for your support: Mark, Anne, David, Barbara, Sue and Claire

Easter Flowers

Each Easter the flowers on the altar and around the church are donated in memory of family and friends who are no longer with us. If you would like to have someone remembered in the Easter Flower Bulletin, please complete one of the Flower envelopes that are in the pews and in other locations around the church. You should include your name, the name(s) of who you are remembering, and your donation for the flowers. If you are not in church to complete a Flower envelope, please send your information via email to secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com or call the church office, 845-343-6101, and leave a message. In order to complete the Bulletin, we need your information by Monday, April 14. If you have any questions, please call Claire Newquist at 845-344-7885 or the Parish Office at 845-343-6101.



The funeral for Canon John Osgood, who was the 18th Rector of Grace Church before serving as canon to the ordinary with Bishop Richard Grein, Bishop Mark Sisk, & Bishop Andrew Dietsche, will take place Wednesday April 9th at 5:00 PM at the Cathedral. ~Joe

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday:	Sunday, April 13 at 9:30 AM
Maundy Thursday:	Thursday, April 17 at 7 PM followed by the Vigil at the Altar of Repose
Good Friday:	Friday, April 18 at 7 PM Noon to 3:00 PM GMIC Good Friday Service @ St Paul's Methodist Church
Great Vigil of Easter:	Saturday, April 19 at 7 PM
Easter Day:	Sunday, April 20 at 9:30 AM

Café Conversations Follow Up

First, thank you to all those who participated in our Café Conversations after morning prayer and coffee hour this past Sunday. The feedback provided by the groups during their visits to the different tables will be extremely helpful to the Grace Church Vestry.

If you attended the Café Conversations and have continued to think about some of the things discussed at the tables and you have any additional thoughts or feedback to share, please send that feedback to one of our wardens, either Claire Newquist at cnewquist@frontiernet.net or John Cusack at j.cusack82@gmail.com. Additionally, if you were not able to attend our Café Conversations this past Sunday and have some thoughts or feedback regarding any of the areas listed below, please also email that feedback to one of wardens at the previous mentioned email addresses.

Feedback sought at the Café Conversations on the following areas:

- Congregational Development
- Church Finances
- Church Music
- Liturgy
- Buildings & Grounds
- Guild of St. Margaret Soup Kitchen

The feedback received during the Café Conversations and in the coming weeks will help the Grace Church Vestry make some decisions and figure out how to proceed with some different things. This is your opportunity to have a voice and be heard! ~Michelle



March Birthdays

Last Sunday we celebrated the birthdays of Eileen Bloomer and Anna Kelly.
Happy Birthday!

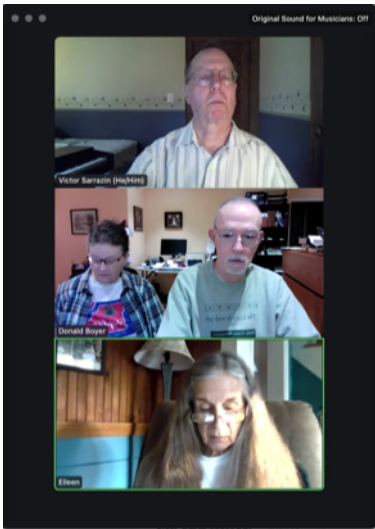
Mystic Poets Society

This week's poem is sent to us by Eileen Bloomer. Thank you 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.

I lose my place
in the middle of a prayer
in the coming light of a new day.
I feel my heart beating
in my open hands;
I reach for light, reach for words
to remember what I am saying,
why I am here, now,
flesh and blood, breath and bone,
sometimes lost in the weary wilderness
of thinking, the clouds of mind
with all the regrets
and doubts

and expectations,
the questions I hold tightly
in closed, cold hands.
But then I recall, I see with open eyes
the image of greening grass
filled with tiny purple crocuses,
a field of color-full stars
opening their faces and bodies
to the warmer sun, and I wonder
about my beating heart,
about my open hands, about living
each small moment now.

~Eileen



Now that our weeks of Sunday Morning Prayer have ended, I am cordially inviting (daring) you to join our Friday morning Prayer Group on Zoom. It's really not scary or boring. We've been doing it every two weeks since the Autumn of 2022! Actually, the five of us (Mark, Eileen B., Analise, Carla, Don) find it a really great way to start the day. We always feel good after our 40 minute sessions. It's not entirely prayer. We chat and joke a bit. All you need is to have the Zoom app, (which is free) on your computer and to bring up the website www.missionstclare.com at the same time. That's where our "script" is. If you join us, we won't make you read aloud unless you want to. You can just listen and watch, like you're watching a great Netflix show. Who will dare join us? I TRIPLE-Dog dare you!! Email me and we'll make sure you receive the link to join the Zoom session:

cdboyer@optonline.net. Our next session will be on Friday, April 11 at 7:00 a.m..

Thanks!
Don Boyer



Grace Calendar

Vestry News

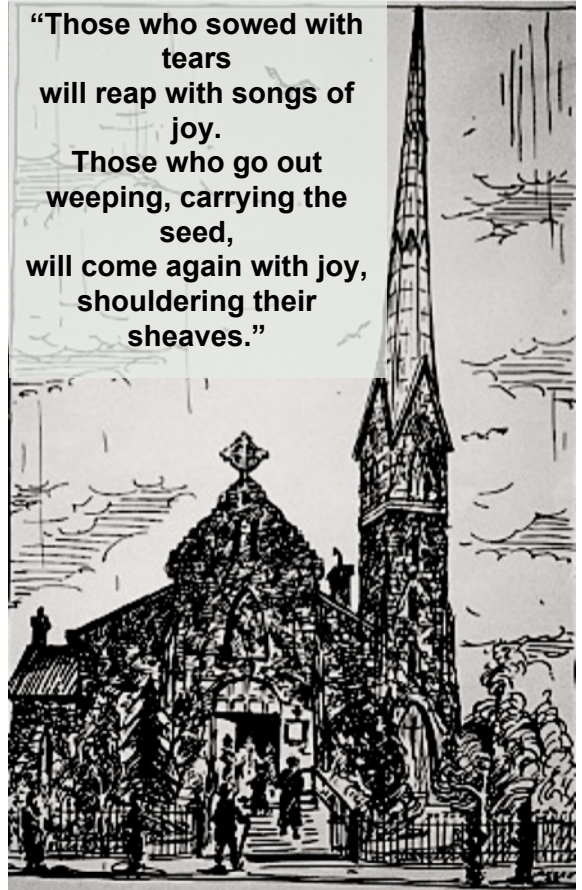
The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday April 27th starting at 11:00 AM.

All are invited to attend!

[Click here to read the minutes of the February 16, 2025 Vestry meeting.](#)

[Click here to read the minutes of the January 19, 2025 Vestry meeting.](#)

“Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy,
shouldering their sheaves.”



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