

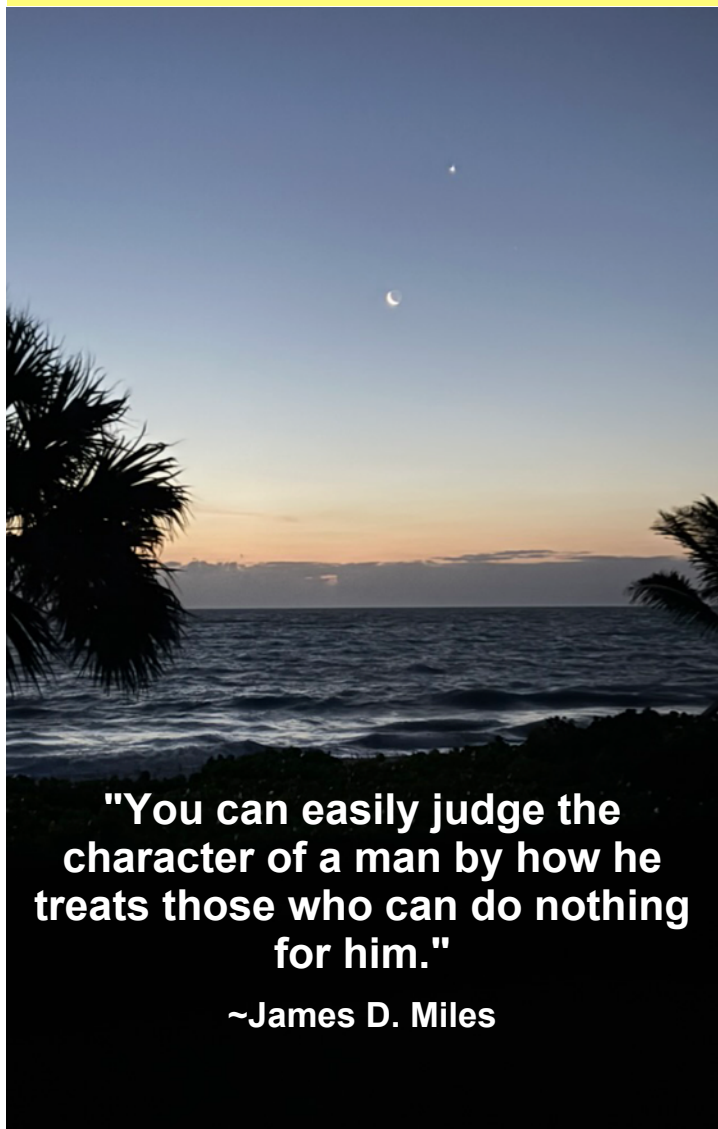


July 27, 2025 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 [www.gracechurchmiddletown.org](http://www.gracechurchmiddletown.org)

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## *Seventh Sunday After Pentecost July 27th (Rite I)*

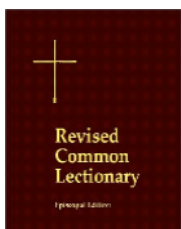
**This Epistle is a three week edition. The next Epistle will be for Sunday August 17th.**



**"You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him."**

**~James D. Miles**

Subdeacon/Chalice	Allison McLean
MC/2nd Chalice	Rick Scott
Thurifer	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Janet Cusack
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Mark Strunsky
NT Lector	Connie Herm
Intercessor	Carla Boyer
Ushers	Mark Strunsky Sue Scott Volunteers
Use our audio mixer to listen to the 9:30 Sunday Mass live. <a href="#">Click Here</a>	
To watch Sunday Mass on Facebook live. <a href="#">Click Here</a>	
For the Sunday prayer bulletin. <a href="#">Click Here</a>	



### **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>

*Eighth Sunday After  
Pentecost August 3rd (Rite II)*

Subdeacon/Chalice	Claire Newquist
MC/2nd Chalice	Torry Guardino
Thurifer	
Crucifer	Savannah Spisso
Acolyte	Lucas Spisso
Acolyte	Phyllis Guardino
OT Lector	Bill Gunn
NT Lector	Joe Gayton
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	Mark Strunsky Sue Scott Volunteers
The prayer bulletin can be found on the Grace website	

*Ninth Sunday After  
Pentecost August 10th (Rite I)*

Subdeacon/Chalice	David Brokaw
MC/2nd Chalice	Carla Boyer
Thurifer	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Marlene Presley
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Allison McLean
NT Lector	Janet Cusack
Intercessor	Joseph Barrett
Ushers	Mark Strunsky Eileen Barrett Joseph Barrett
The prayer bulletin can be found on the Grace website	

## Upcoming Events

Sunday July 27th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Wednesday July 30th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday August 3rd	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)
	Baptism of Lucas Spisso Jr.
Wednesday August 6th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday August 10th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Wednesday August 13th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday August 17th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)
	11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting

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 new Forward Day by Day booklets are in Church. You can find them on the usher's table by the North Street doors. There are pocket and large print booklets available.

## The Photography Corner



Janet Cusack sent us this photograph from Colonial Williamsburg. Thank you Janet!

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

## Upcoming Summer Events

Hard as it may be to believe, our summer months are almost half over! Although, given the recent spate of heat and humidity, I suspect some of us may already be longing for the warm (not hot and steamy) days and cooler nights of fall! Before those days arrive, we do have a few more summer events to enjoy.

On Saturday, August 16th, Middletown will be celebrating the 19th annual Run for Downtown race. Entrants will be walking or running around the city and then returning to the block of North Street right outside our front door for food and festivities. We would once again like to open our beautiful church for visitors during this time (from 9:30-1)?? Let Father Victor or Claire Newquist know if you would like to help with this.

On Sunday, August 24th, the Vestry will be hosting a parish cookout in the churchyard after our 9:30 service. In order to plan for this event, we need to know how many people will be attending. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board outside Carolanne's office beginning on August 3rd. We are asking that you let us know how many people (adults and children) will be attending and if you would like to bring something to share. The Vestry will supply the basics—hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments, and some side dishes.

In addition to being a time of fun and fellowship, this event will give us the opportunity to thank Phyllis Guardino for her 20 years of service to the Church and the Guild of St Margaret. ~Claire



## Mystic Poets Society

This week's poem was 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.

So many green plants growing	in this year's garden,
that I cannot name:	but I watch it climb the fence,
the nameless old backyard tree,	poking green fingers through chain link.
the unexpected wildflowers	I am surprised by the sturdy brown stalks,
blooming such bright orange	the unnamed tall one, almost ready to
from seeds I dropped	flower,
in last year's growing season,	keeping watch near the caged tomato
an unbroken promise	plants
that takes its own time.	as I watch for the fruit of this season,
I do not know the purple flowering vine	the named and expected,
that creeps and spreads to embrace	and the nameless surprises.
the chosen and named and planted	~Eileen



Dear Grace Church members,

Most of you already know I came out at church as transgendered the last Sunday of June, not coincidentally during Pride Weekend. I was overwhelmed by the acceptance and love I felt from everyone and I thank you all. You make me proud to be an Episcopalian and a member of Grace Church.

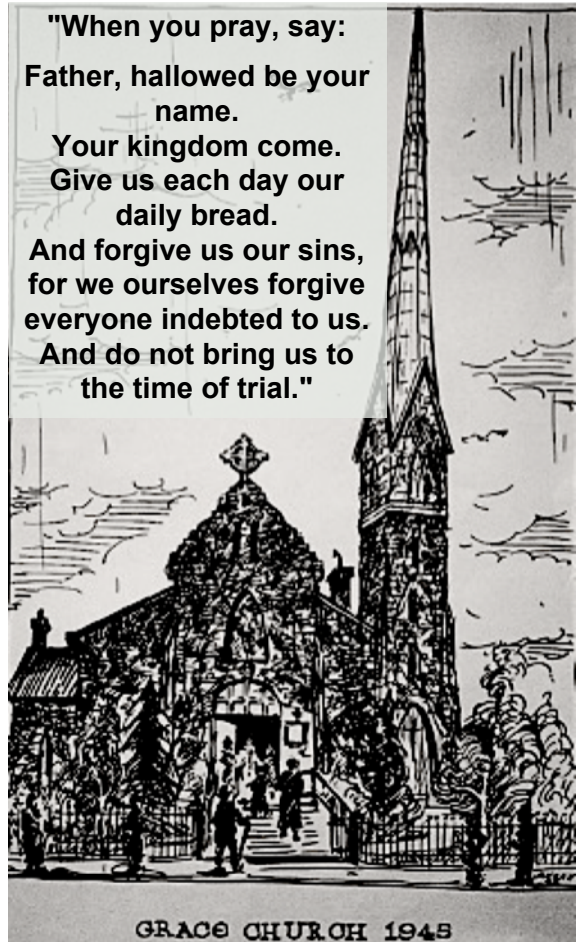
So how does this affect our relationship? First and foremost, I am the same person you've known for years, you just know me better now. It seems the most confusing thing for people is how to address a trans person. The guideline I've learned is to address a trans person by the way they are presenting. I'm not overly sensitive on that point (but I know other trans folk who are), but the pronouns she and her are appropriate when I'm in drag (a stage direction for dress as girl). My chosen female name is Deandra, or Dee for short. When in drab (dress as boy), the usual he or him works, and I've become accustomed to David as my masculine name, so that works best. However, I'm not offended as a rule if my gender gets confused. I'm confused too.

Going forward, you will see me in church as either David or Deandra. I am comfortable in both personae, but I need to be sensitive to the environment and people I'll be around. As such, my decision will be affected by what we are doing after church more than anything.

I hope this answers a few questions, but I am happy to answer others you may have.

Peace and love,

David/Deandra Brokaw (he/she, him/her)



"When you pray, say:  
 Father, hallowed be your  
 name.  
 Your kingdom come.  
 Give us each day our  
 daily bread.  
 And forgive us our sins,  
 for we ourselves forgive  
 everyone indebted to us.  
 And do not bring us to  
 the time of trial."

### **Vestry News**

The next Vestry meeting will be held in the  
 boardroom on Sunday August 17th starting  
 at 11:15 AM.

All are invited to attend!

[Click here to read the minutes of the  
 April 27, 2025 Vestry meeting.](#)

[Click here to read the minutes of the  
 May 18, 2025 Vestry meeting.](#)

### **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

Analise Reed

Joseph Barrett

Mark Strunsky

Eileen Bloomer

Torry Guardino

David White (Student member of Vestry)