

January 25, 2026 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)

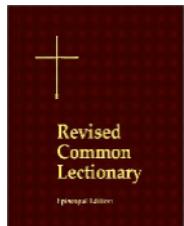
## Third Sunday After The Epiphany January 25th (Rite I)



**"We may have all come on  
different ships, but we're in the  
same boat now."**

~Martin Luther King Jr.

Subdeacon/Chalice	Allison McLean
MC/2nd Chalice	Rick Scott
Thurifer	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Carla Boyer
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Charlotte Durma
NT Lector	Carla Boyer
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	Joseph Barrett Eileen Barrett Mark Strunsky
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/Calendar2026.html>

## Upcoming Events

Sunday January 25th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Wednesday January 28th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday February 1st	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)
Wednesday February 4th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday February 8th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Wednesday February 11th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday February 15th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II) 11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting

## The Photography Corner



As we shelter indoors from the snow and sub freezing temperatures, I thought I'd take us to a warmer place. This photograph of a Hibiscus flower was taken several winters ago in Florida.

I would like to thank all who have shared photographs with us. I do need some more photographs if you could send a few. ~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.

## 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.

Snow falls on this black and white morning,      There, I'm looking for sharp edges and old  
angry words,  
not a breath of wind in the gray sky,      but here morning has broken, gently muted,  
a still life until black birds fly      and soft snow whispers in the day,  
through this cold sketch of the world.      and my heart is broken open.  
I watch lives living in a winter season.      I turn left, find my words in my left hand  
I remember colors of autumn,      slowly, carefully writing a new story.  
stories of the past as a black bird calls-      What will be born in me today?  
a sharp voice through the empty gray sky:  
Here.      ~Eileen

## SHROVE TUESDAY POTLUCK DINNER AND BURNING OF THE PALMS:

Traditionally, Grace Church has held a Shrove Tuesday dinner for our parish, followed by the burning of palms, which are used on Ash Wednesday. While this began as a pancake supper, over the past number of years, it evolved into a potluck dinner.

The dinner will be held on Shrove Tuesday, February 17th at 5:30 pm in the parish hall and is being chaired by Joe Barrett. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside of the GSM Director's office. If you would like to come and bring something to share, but will not be in church to sign up before the dinner, please call or email the church office and leave a message. Also, if you would like to come, but need a ride, please call or email the church office and someone will get back to you to try and arrange transportation.

This is wonderful time to come together, share a meal and prepare for the beginning of Lent. If you have any questions, please speak to Joe Barrett, Father Victor or Claire Newquist.

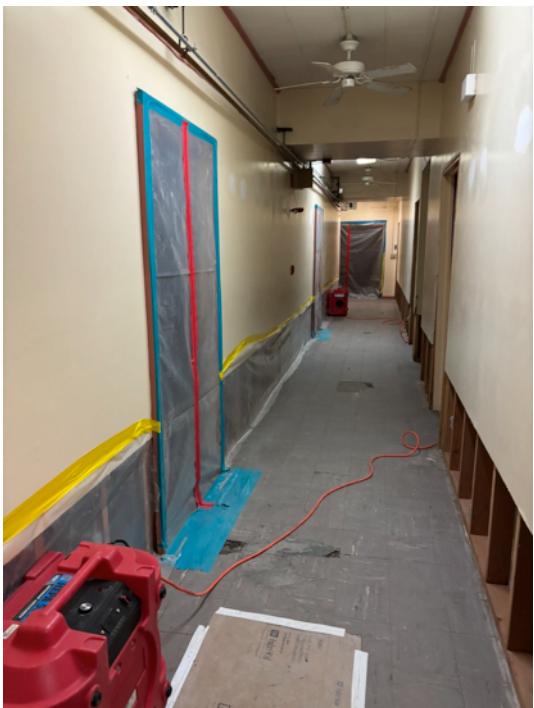
## The Sanctuary Candle

Many of you have most likely noticed the line at the end of the weekly service bulletin that usually reads: "The sanctuary candle burns in honor of Christ's presence in the Holy Eucharist." It reads this way because no one has purchased the candle be lit in honor or memory of someone.

As we begin the new year, we want to remind you that this option is available to everyone. The price of a candle is \$10.00 which helps defray the Church's cost to purchase them. You can sign up to purchase a candle in the black notebook which hangs on the bulletin board in the vesting area. The sign-up sheets have been updated for 2026. Please note that candles are significantly less expensive than the purchase of altar flowers and may be purchased for any Sunday during the year. There are certain seasons, Lent and Advent, when we do not have flowers on the altar. Also, during the beginning of the Christmas and Easter seasons we have the special seasonal flowers.

In closing, please consider the option of honoring a loved one with a sanctuary candle. If you have any questions about this, please speak to Father Victor or Claire Newquist.

## Mold Remediation Update



This week, we received the results of the final mold test following the remediation clean-up by Paul Davis Restoration. The mold remediation project is completed as the final mold test from the basement passed. Fortunately, there was no additional damage discovered during the remediation project so there were no hidden or additional costs. ~Joe

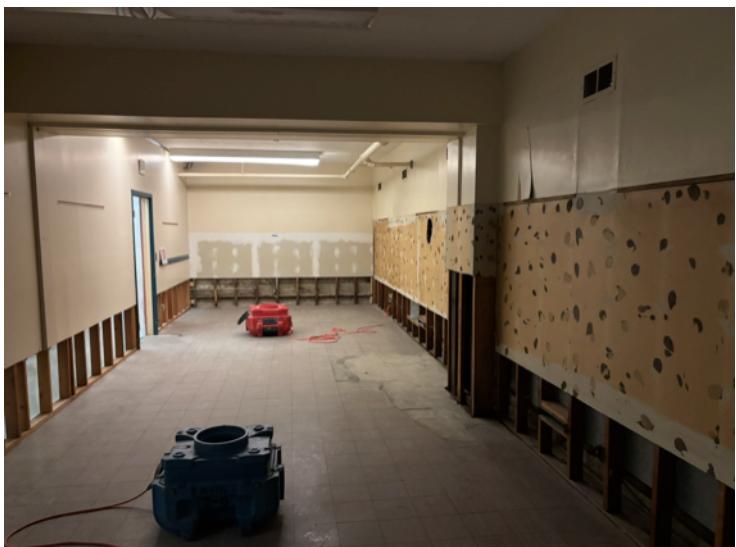


Photo above left: basement hallway from the bottom of the boardroom stairs. Photo above: the room to the left behind the sealed off door which was used to make baskets and store items for fundraising events. Photo left: to complete the project, items were moved into the Choir vesting room to allow for remediation.



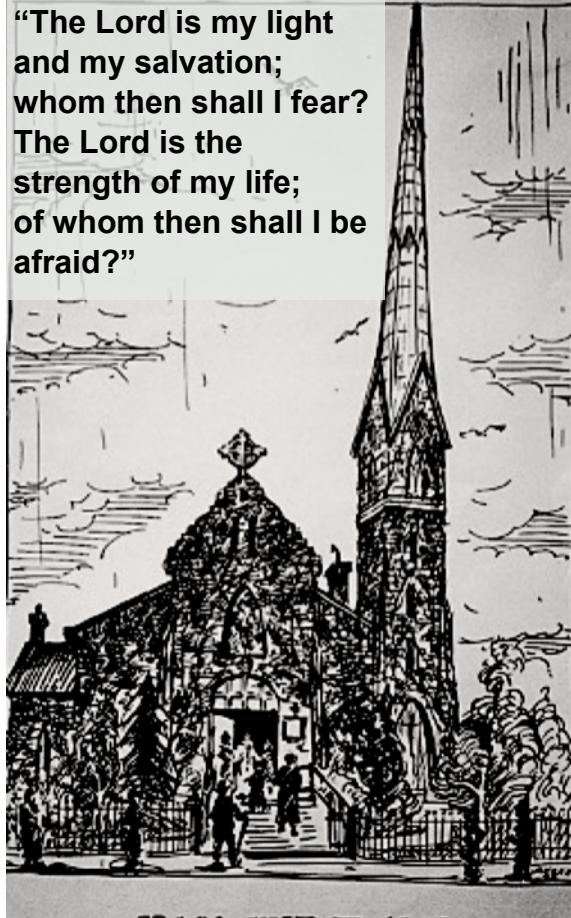
## Vestry News

**The next Vestry meeting will be held in the  
boardroom on Sunday January 25th  
starting at 11:15 AM.  
All are invited to attend!**

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

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

**“The Lord is my light  
and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?  
The Lord is the  
strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be  
afraid?”**



GRACE CHURCH 1949

## Your Grace Church Vestry

## Wardens:

**John Cusack**

## Claire Newquist

### ***Clerk of the Vestry:***

### **Treasurer:**

## Kathleen Hamilton

## Phyllis Guardino

## 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)**