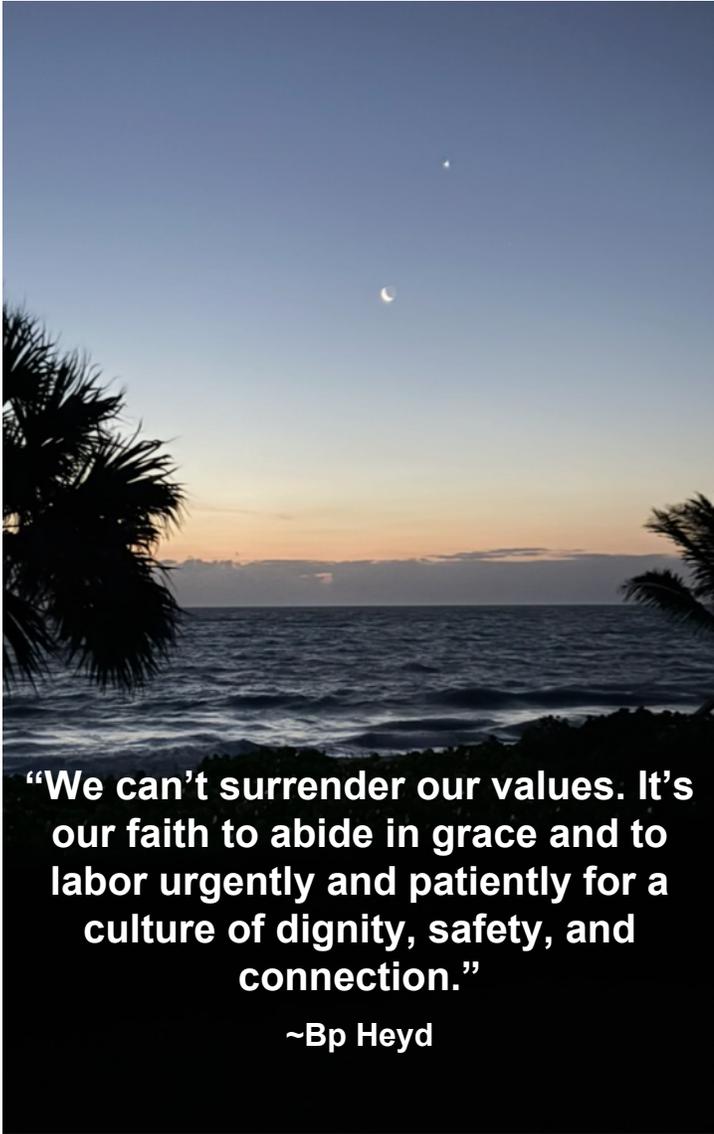


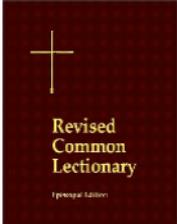
March 8, 2026 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org
 email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

Third Sunday in Lent March 8th (Rite I)



“We can’t surrender our values. It’s our faith to abide in grace and to labor urgently and patiently for a culture of dignity, safety, and connection.”
 ~Bp Heyd

Subdeacon/Chalice	Janet Cusack
MC/2nd Chalice	David Brokaw
Thurifer	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Carla Boyer
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Bill Gunn
NT Lector	Joe Gayton
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	Eileen Barrett Joseph Barrett Mark Strunsky 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/Calendar2026.html>

Upcoming Events

Friday March 6th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 8th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Wednesday March 11th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Friday March 13th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 15th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)
Wednesday March 18th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Friday March 20th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Sunday March 22nd	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)
Wednesday March 25th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Friday March 27th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

The Photography Corner



I took this photograph of Lake Wolfgang from the shore in St. Gilgen, Austria.

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

Mystic Poets Society

The inspiration for me to try my hand at poetry was a windy day during February's cold snap.

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

The wind blows
strongly
from the north.
Amplifying the already
bitterly
cold February temperature.
Like an unseen
burglar
circling, seeking entry.
Forcing cold into
home's
cracks and openings.
Stealing our warmth,
freezing
water in pipes.
Roaring through the
backyard,
disturbing our slumber.

Building snow piles,
impassable
hills of white.
Dancing treetops bending
violently,
back and forth.
As daylight brightens
night
its ferocity revealed.
Broken branches scattered
atop
the white blanket.
A landscape altered
by
the breath of giants.
Revealed in dawn's
light
for all to see.
~Joe

2026 Lenten Worship Services

Friday March 6th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Friday March 13th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Friday March 20th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Friday March 27th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
HOLY WEEK:	
Sunday March 29th	9:30 AM Palm Sunday Eucharist Rite II
Thursday April 2nd	7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Mass followed by the vigil at the Altar of Repose
Friday April 3rd	7:00 PM Good Friday Mass
Saturday April 4th	8:00 PM Great Vigil of Easter Rite II
Sunday April 5th	10:00 AM Easter Sunday Eucharist Rite I

Easter Flowers



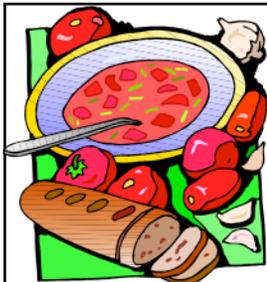
Each Easter the flowers on the altar and around the church are donated in memory of family and friends who are no longer with us. If you would like to have someone remembered in the Easter Flower Bulletin, please complete one of the Flower envelopes that are in the pews and in other locations around the church. You should include your name, the name(s) of those 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, March 30th. If you have any questions, please call Claire Newquist at 845-344-7885 or the Parish Office at 845-343-6101.



Sunday, March 8th, is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Please remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday!



On Sunday, February 22nd, at a festive coffee hour, we celebrated January and February birthdays. From left to right: Bob and Carol Warner; Charlotte Durma; Juliana, Lucas Jr and Lucas Spisso. Happy Birthday everybody!



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 2026

Some of you may have noticed the Fundraising Committee members huddled in the former Secretary's Office after church on several recent Sundays. Would you believe that we have already begun to plan for this year's Tricky Tray? Of course you would; you know us too well!

This year's Tricky Tray, the first of our two major annual fundraisers, will be held on Saturday, April 18th. The doors will open at 1 pm, with calling at 3 pm.

As you may remember, we offer a large number prizes (last year we had over 140!) for our guests to "bid" on. Many of the prizes are baskets which we put together, but prizes may also include gift cards, household items, small appliances, workshop items, etc. We hope that a number of you will want to put together a basket, or several baskets, for this event. If you would like to make a basket, the theme ideas are limitless! A list of possible theme ideas will be available at church beginning on March 8th. If you do not come into church, we would be happy to email the list to you. The value of the basket is up to you, but should not exceed \$40.

Another way that you can help is to ask for donations of gift cards from local businesses for us to use as prizes. We will also have copies of our donation letter and donation form available at church on March 8th. If you are uncomfortable asking for a donation, you may want to purchase a gift card.

Finally, we are always in need of cash donations, in any amount, to offset the cost of special prizes, basket items or the other supplies needed for the event. If you wish to give a donation, please see a member of the committee.

Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising efforts: Mark Strunsky, Anne Caldwell, David White, Barbara Chumard, Charlotte Durma, Sue Scott and Claire Newquist

KEYS

Are you like me with miscellaneous keys on your key ring, or in your purse (or pocket), or on your dresser or in that key basket near the back door? Do you know what they open? If you do have one or a bunch of mysterious keys that might open (or once have opened) a door at church, you might be able to help us.

We are trying to create a record of what keys open what locks around the church and parish house. We'd also like to have a record of who has the keys to these locks, and whether or not they still need them. In order to help with this project, we are asking you to bring in keys—the ones that you can't identify—in an envelope with your name on it. We'll then take a look, test them, and let you know if they are for any of our locks.

If you have church keys, and you know what they open, just give us a list of the locks that you have keys too, with your name and whether they are keys that you still need.

This should give us a good start in developing a master list of keys holders.

Thank you for your help with this project. If you have any questions, please speak to Father Victor, John Cusack, Claire Newquist or Joe Barrett.

From the Rector's Desk

Hello Grace Church,

The Rev. Amber Carswell, Rector of Christ Episcopal in Warwick has extended the Invitation for Episcopalians in our region to attend a quiet day being hosted at her parish.

Description:



"As the world around us gets darker and more violent, we Christians often find ourselves torn between fearful outrage and impotent powerlessness. It can be difficult to know how to respond in ways that are faithful and grounded in love...

... Over the course of this Lenten Quiet Day, we will practice Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina, contemplative practices that have fed the saints for thousands of years. We will explore how these ancient disciplines can shield us from the anxiety of our time so that we can, through prayerful discernment, respond with joy and love to a hurting world. We will learn together how to become prophetic citizens and beacons of hope in the darkness that surrounds us."

We'll balance our day with two breakout sessions where participants may opt for silent prayer, moderated discussion, meditative walking, vision boarding, art/journaling/poetry, or reading.

Your folks are warmly invited; please find the schedule and registration [here](#). We'll take a free-will offering to help cover the cost of lunch, but registration is required in order to make sure we have enough. Registration closes 3/11.

TLDR:

Lenten Quiet Day at Christ Church (50 South Street, Warwick, NY)

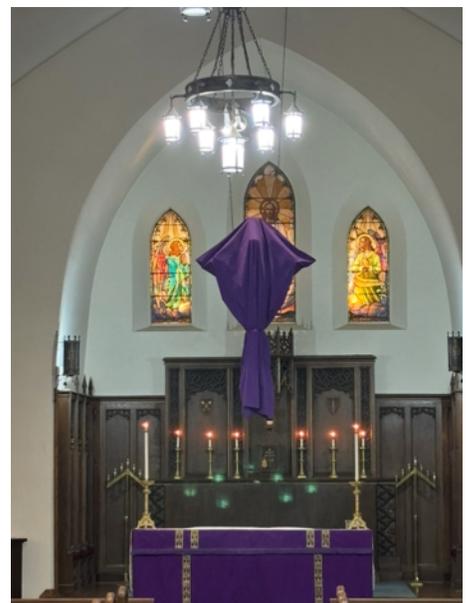
Saturday, March 14, 2026

10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Free-will offering, registration required.

Peace

Fr. Vic





Grace Calendar

Vestry News

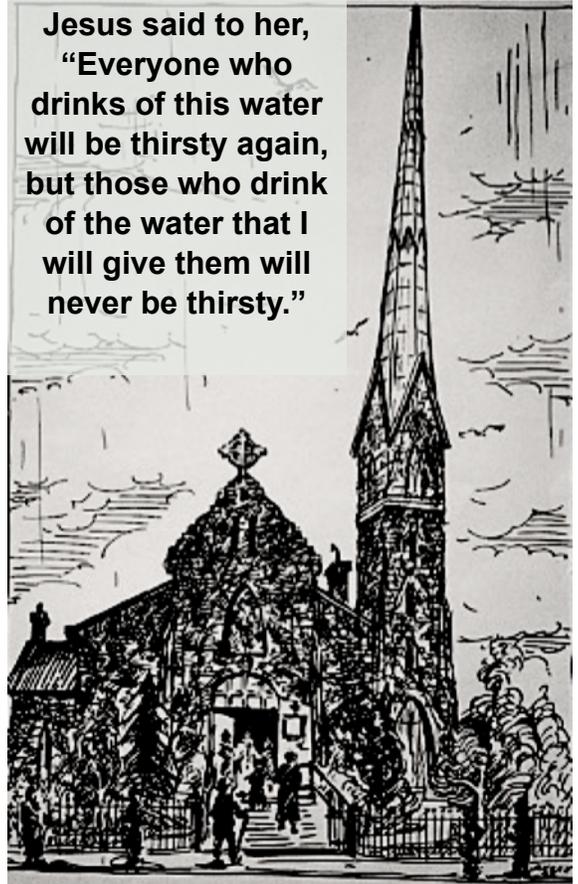
The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday March 15th starting at 11:15 AM.

All are invited to attend!

[Click here to read the minutes of the December 21, 2025 Vestry meeting.](#)

[Click here to read the minutes of the January 25, 2026 Vestry meeting.](#)

Jesus said to her,
“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.”



GRACE CHURCH 1945

Your Grace Church Vestry.

Wardens:

John Cusack

Claire Newquist

Clerk of the Vestry:

Treasurer:

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)