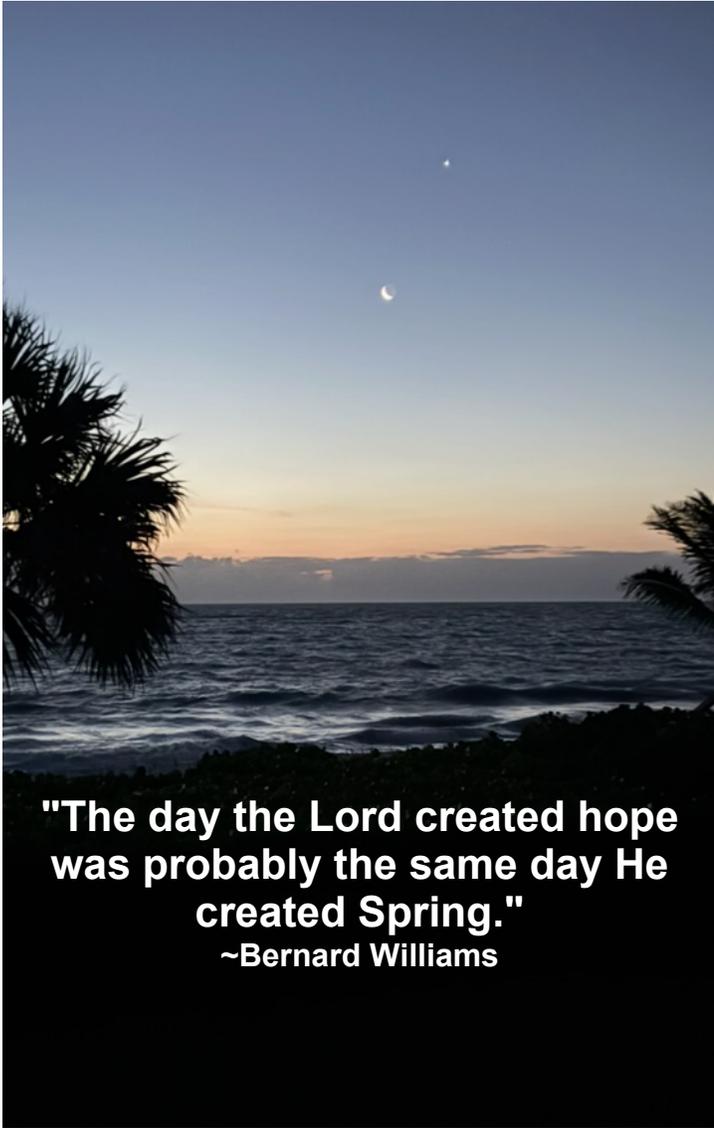


March 29, 2026 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org

email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

Sixth Sunday in Lent March 29th (Rite II)
Palm Sunday



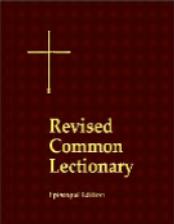
**"The day the Lord created hope
 was probably the same day He
 created Spring."
 ~Bernard Williams**

Subdeacon/Chalice	Torry Guardino
MC/2nd Chalice	Phyllis Guardino
Thurifer	David Brokaw
Crucifer	Rick Scott
Acolyte	Marlene Presley
Acolyte	Eileen Barrett
OT Lector	Lordes Cruz
NT Lector	Lorraine Witkowski
Intercessor	Joseph Barrett
Ushers	Joseph Barrett John Cusack Volunteers

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 27th	6:30 PM Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Sunday March 29th	Palm Sunday 9:30 AM Eucharist (Rite II)
Wednesday April 1st	No Healing Mass
Thursday April 2nd	7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Mass followed by the vigil at the Altar of Repose
Friday April 3rd	Noon to 3:00 PM GMIC Good Friday Service, St. Paul's United Methodist Church 58 West Main Street 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 II
Monday April 6th	Office Closed

The Photography Corner



This week's photograph was sent to us by Claire Newquist. She took this photo of a metal mastodon at the Ice Age Fossils State Park outside of Las Vegas, NV. Thank you Claire!

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

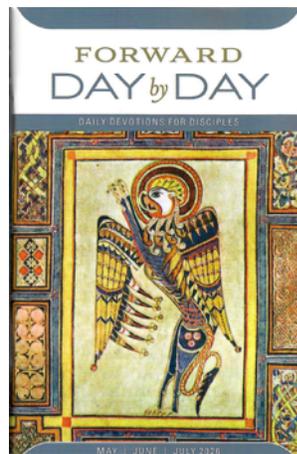
Mystic Poets Society

This week's submission 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.

The dawn sky glows and fades.
Rain today, they say, and we listen.
Sometimes we forget to remember
 tiny purple crocuses-
 perhaps not as many this year-
yet, they welcome rain and any weather,
 roots seeking the living water
and blooms opening to the light
 when the time is right.
We are thirsty now in our time
 when flowers still bloom
 and we hurry by
and we say where are we going
and we say we are hungry and thirsty

and we say it may snow
on the last day of winter
 in the longer light
here at the edge of spring
beginning again and again.

~Eileen



The new Forward Day by Day booklets have arrived. We have regular, large print and Spanish booklets. Please see me at Church Sunday if you'd like 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.

2026 Lenten Worship Services

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 II

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday (or Holy Thursday) is a very important day on the church calendar. In fact, it is probably my favorite liturgy for its powerful symbolism. On Maundy Thursday, we remember the last night of Jesus' life—the foot washing, the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper and his commandment to his disciples to “love one another.” After the mass, we follow Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane as we process the Sacrament to the Altar of Repose. There we each have the opportunity to sit with Jesus as he awaits the fate that he knows is coming. If you are interested in sitting with Jesus and watching with him for one hour, please sign up on the sheet outside of Carolanne's office. The church will be open overnight, until 8 am, for you to come and pray at the Altar.

After the procession of the sacrament to the Altar of Repose, the altar party returns to the sanctuary where the altar and sanctuary are stripped and prepared for our Good Friday service, commemorating Jesus' death on the cross. During the service we hear the Passion Gospel according to John and we venerate the Cross. No Eucharist is celebrated on Good Friday since we are observing Jesus' death on the cross; the (reserved) Sacrament from the Altar of Repose is distributed.

**Please join us for our services on Maundy Thursday at 7 pm and on Good Friday at 7 pm.
~Claire**

TRICKY TRAY 2026

We're starting the count down. There are only 3, yes THREE, weeks until the 2026 Tricky Tray fundraiser, and there is still a lot to do. First and foremost, we need to get the word out about the event. Many of you have already taken fliers to post around town, shared or “liked” the event on your Facebook pages, or told your family and friends. Our banners will be going up soon, and it's time to put our road signs out. If you know a place to put a road sign, please see Anne Caldwell or John Cusack this Sunday and get a sign. All we ask is that you place the sign in a prominent, high trafficked location and return the sign after the Tricky Tray.

Now that we've taken care of advertising, what else can you do? There is still time to make a basket, or make a donation towards a basket that Sue and Claire will make for you, get or donate a gift card from a local vendor, or donate a household item or other treasure that can be used in lieu of a basket. If you haven't already donated a \$5.00 Lotto ticket to be used for one of our “special prizes”, there is still time. Now is also the time to sign up to help with the event—setting up, working during the Tricky Tray or helping to clean up. Many hands make light work, and we have a lot of fun working together.

Last, but definitely not least, come and be a part of the event, bring your friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. Remember, all of us working together will make this event a success. See you all on SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH AT 1 pm. Calling will begin at 3 pm.

The Fundraising Committee: Mark, Anne, David, Barbara, Charlotte, Malinda, Jim, Sue & Claire



GOOD
FRIDAY
SERVICE

*"The Seven Last
Words of Christ"*

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
12 NOON UNTIL 3 PM

SAINT PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
58 WEST MAIN ST.
MIDDLETOWN, NY

ALL ARE
WELCOME!

*Spend an hour with us, or all 3.
Hear scripture, meditations,
sermons and music. Pray with us
as we share in His Crucifixion.*



Middletown Thrall Library invites you to...

Drop in Crafts

Are you currently working on **crochet** or **knitting** project, spinning yarn on a drop spindle, or doing *crafting of any sorts*?

Don't have a current project on the hook or needle? *No worries!* You can join us! This is an opportunity to *chat as we craft!*

Craft instruction will *not* be offered as part of the event; however, if you need help with your project, you can make an appointment to come in for assistance!

2026 Drop in dates...

Tuesday, February 24, 12:30pm - 2:30 pm

Tuesday, March 24, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

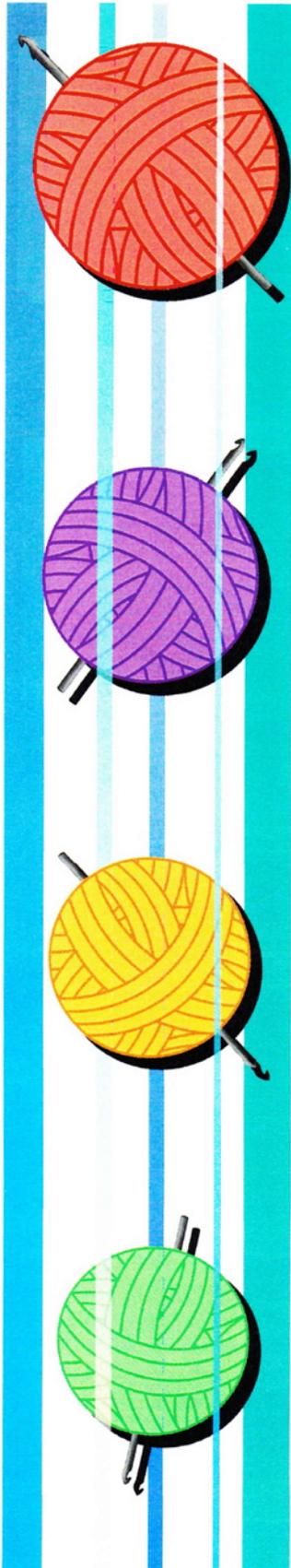
Tuesday, April 21, 12:00 pm - 2:00pm

Tuesday, May 19, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

This is open to Adults
(18+ years old) only

Questions?

Please call 1-845-341-5454, ext. 114.





Grace Calendar

Vestry News

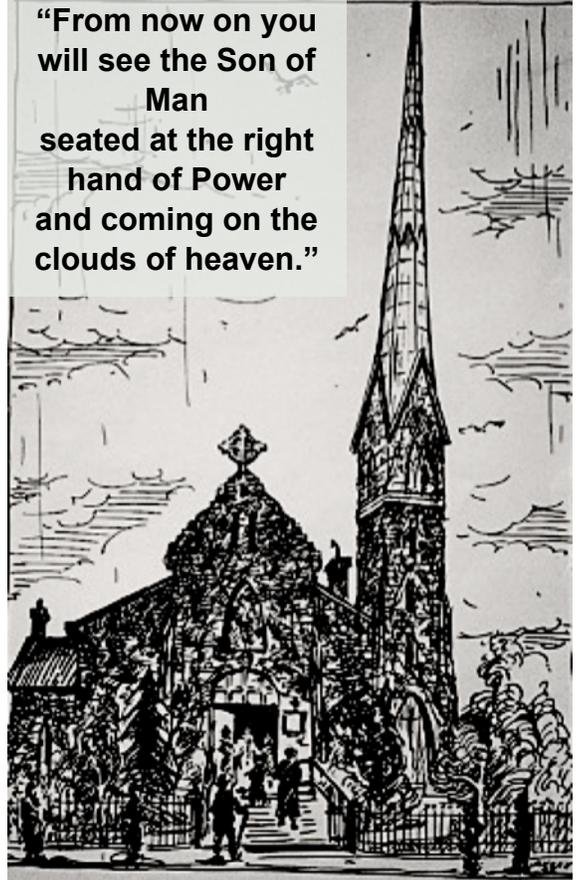
The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday April 19th starting at 11:15 AM.

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.](#)

“From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”



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)