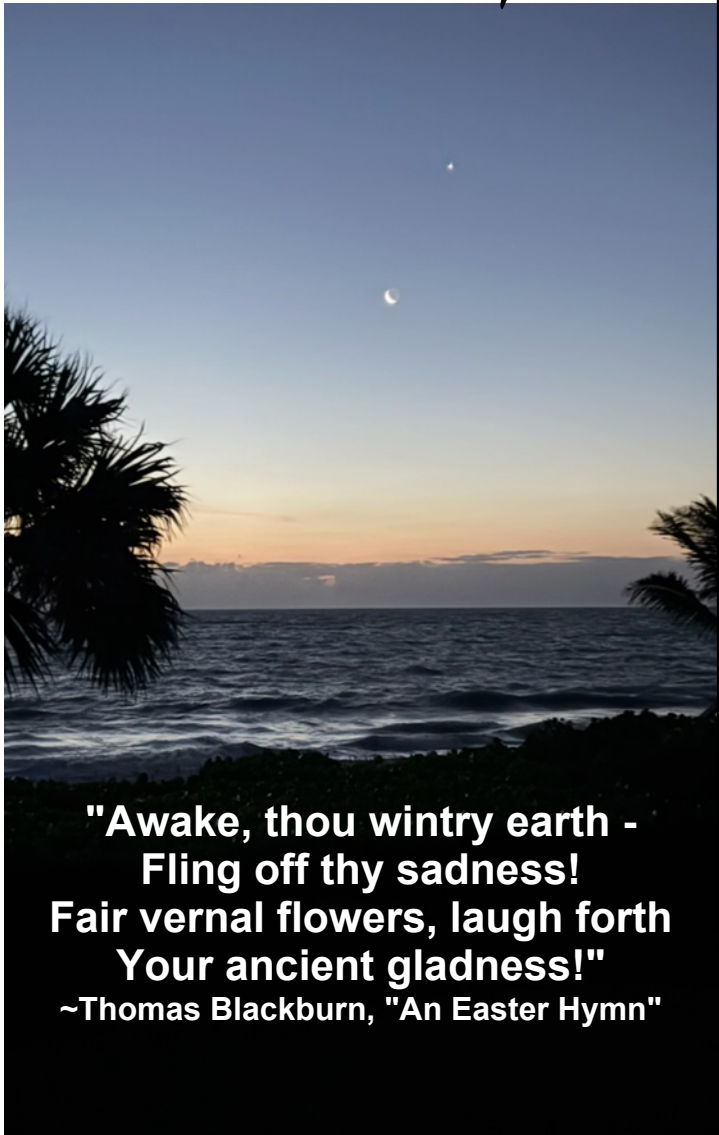


April 12, 2026 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org

email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

Second Sunday of Easter April 12th (Rite II)



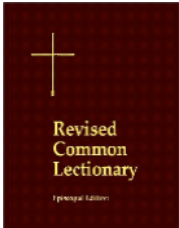
**"Awake, thou wintry earth -
Fling off thy sadness!
Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth
Your ancient gladness!"**
~Thomas Blackburn, "An Easter Hymn"

Subdeacon/Chalice	Rick Scott
MC/2nd Chalice	Torry Guardino
Thurifer	Claire Newquist
Crucifer	David Brokaw
Acolyte	Phyllis Guardino
Acolyte	Marlene Presley
OT Lector	Joe Gayton
NT Lector	Bill Gunn
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	Mark Strunsky 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

Sunday April 12th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)
Wednesday April 15th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Saturday April 18th	1:00 PM to 4:00 PM The Grace Church Tricky Tray
Sunday April 19th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I) 11:15 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting
Wednesday April 22nd	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday April 26th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)
Wednesday April 29th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday May 3rd	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)

The Photography Corner



This week's photograph was sent to us by Claire Newquist. She took this photo of Michelangelo's Pietà in St Peter's Cathedral at the Vatican on a recent trip to Rome. 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



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

As hard as it is to believe, Lent and Holy Week have passed. We celebrated a wonderful Easter Vigil and a joyous Easter Sunday this past weekend. While many of us were working to get ready for Holy Week and Easter, some of us have also been working hard to make our upcoming Tricky Tray a success.

Our thanks go out for all the help we have received to date:

To those of you who have brought in items for baskets or have contributed money for us to purchase items for baskets.

To those of you who have put together your own baskets, or are planning to before the event.

To those of you who are soliciting gift cards or other donations from local businesses or are planning to donate gift cards.

To those of you who have donated Lotto Tickets for our special prize or have given us money to buy them.

To those of you who have been spreading the word about the event.

To those of you who have posted road signs around the community.

To those of you who have signed up to help.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to do one or more of the above, please consider doing so. It is particularly important that we advertise this event as widely as possible. You can pick up flyers in the church for posting around town or where you work or shop. Please check to see if any road signs are still available. Advertising will help us achieve our goal of a big turnout of enthusiastic Tricky-Trayers!!

There is still time to make a basket or to sponsor one or to donate a gift card or ask for a donation from a local vendor. We will need to have all items for the Tricky Tray brought to church by Monday, April 13th, so that we can put things together. If this is not possible, please speak to either Sue or Claire. There is also still time to sign up to help with the event.

REMEMBER THE TRICKY TRAY IS SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH, WITH DOORS OPENING AT 1 PM AND CALLING AT 3 PM!

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support.

The Fundraising Committee: Mark Strunsky, Anne Caldwell, David White, Barbara Chumard, Malinda and Jim Niper, Charlotte Durma, Sue Scott and Claire Newquist

Joe Gayton and Anna Kelly were our birthday honorees for the month of March. Happy Birthday!



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 birds are speaking,	where we go from here,
singing conversations this morning,	but I listen for birds and silence
the third day. I cannot understand.	in all the empty, hard places
I recall the wild geese years ago	with ears given to hear everything,
when I stepped outside my door,	I listen. I come and see
surprised by their urgent voices	the sealed stone of my heart
hurrying through the sky above me,	now broken open in time
singing resurrection in unexpected places,	for all time. So be it.
a new song. These days I don't know	~Eileen

A Message From Our Wardens

Dear Grace Church member:

The attached survey (see below) is being administered as a follow-up to the Café Conversations event that was held at the end of March of last year. The purpose of this survey is for the Vestry to gather some additional information and feedback based on what was learned at the Café Conversations. The information gathered at the Café Conversations, along with the survey responses received, will be reviewed by the Vestry (or perhaps a subcommittee of the Vestry) and used to determine/identify changes that could be made to our practices and processes, or what should remain the same to improve Grace Church. This survey should be considered an element of a larger assessment effort to make Grace Church stronger and better.

Below you will find a series of questions pertinent to different areas of the church (for those of you that attended, you will notice these areas are the same as the topics of the tables at the Café Conversations). We would very much appreciate you taking the time to answer each of the questions posed. It is vital for the Vestry to have the opinions of its members known as it decides how to operate going forward to satisfy and meet the needs of its members and hopefully grow.

<https://forms.gle/avCPhNdMdH17qpWJ8>

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey and share your thoughts and opinions. Your feedback is invaluable.

Claire Newquist

John Cusack

Some photographs taken during Holy Week, starting with Maundy Thursday.



Photos left are from the Easter Vigil.



And, in these two photos we see the flowering of the cross on Easter morning.





Grace Calendar

Vestry News

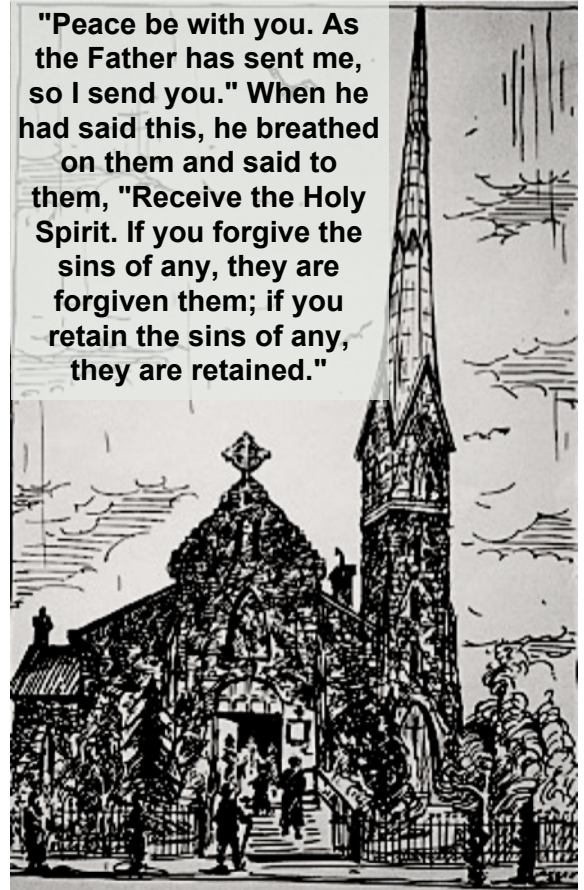
The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday April 19th starting at 11:15 AM.

All are invited to attend!

[Click here to read the minutes of the February 15, 2026 Vestry meeting.](#)

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

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."



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)