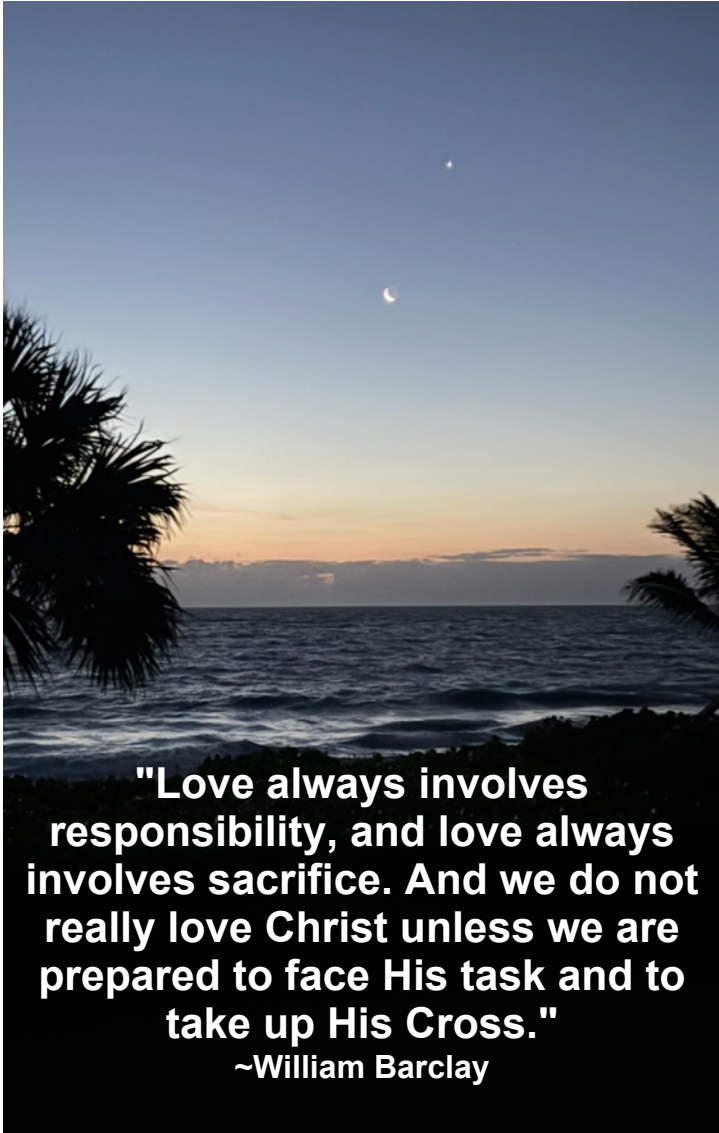


May 3, 2026 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org
 email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

This is a two-week edition of the Epistle. The next Epistle will be published for May 17th.

Fifth Sunday of Easter May 3rd (Rite I)



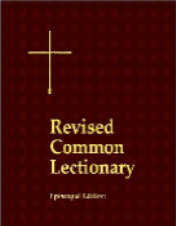
**"Love always involves responsibility, and love always involves sacrifice. And we do not really love Christ unless we are prepared to face His task and to take up His Cross."
 ~William Barclay**

Subdeacon/Chalice	Allison McLean
MC/2nd Chalice	Claire Newquist
Thurifer	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Phyllis Guardino
Acolyte	
OT Lector	Charlotte Durma
NT Lector	Connie Herm
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	Mark Strunsky Joseph Barrett Eileen Barrett

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>

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10th (Rite II)

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

Grace Episcopal Church Annual Meeting

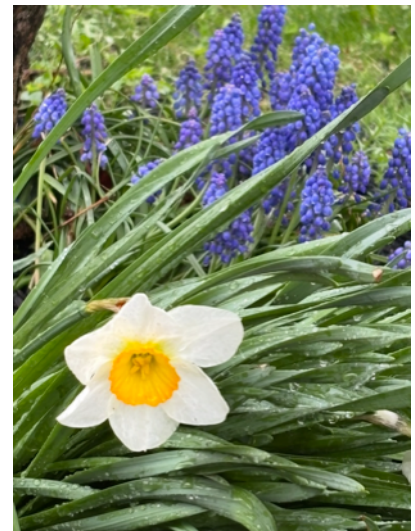
On Sunday, May 3rd, the 181st Annual Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church will take place following Mass. So far, we have the following positions open and the following volunteers running for election.

Warden - John Cusack
 Vestry Member - Lorraine Witkowski
 Vestry Member - Lucas Spisso
 Delegate to Convention - Anne Caldwell
 Alternate Delegate to Convention - Michelle Tubbs

The Vestry also needs a volunteer to serve as Clerk to the Vestry. If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please contact Fr. Victor, Claire Newquist or John Cusack. ~Joe



It's that time of year when our Grace churchyard gardens show off their colors. Here are a couple of examples of that in our North Street garden near the entrance to church.



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.

Upcoming Events

Sunday May 3rd	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I) 181st Annual Meeting of Grace Church
Wednesday May 6th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday May 10th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II) Happy Mother's Day!
Wednesday May 13th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday May 17th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I) Monthly Vestry Meeting
Wednesday May 20th	10:00 AM Healing Mass
Sunday May 24th	9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II) Pentecost Sunday
Monday May 25th	Memorial Day - Office closed

The Photography Corner



I took this photograph of a stairway in a Japanese subway station in 2018 while we were visiting Kyle, who was stationed there while in the Navy. I enjoyed the detail and vivid colors of the mural, as well as its imaginative location! I wish I knew what the writing meant at the top of the stairs.

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

From the Rector's Desk



Dear friends at Grace,

I want to take this moment to simply encourage you to fill out our parish survey. As the vestry and I begin future planning, it is important that we have a clear sense of your hopes and your desires for the future of our parish. Especially, your sense of what is working and what needs to be changed.

You can use the following link to fill the survey out online or ask one of our wardens to provide you with a printed copy.

<https://forms.gle/avCPhNdMdH17qpWJ8>

Thank you for investing your time and energy in Grace Episcopal Church!

Fr. Vic



Several months ago, Don noticed that our Parish House did not have its building number on it. He bought this new sign and we mounted it this week. ~Joe



Annual Meeting

The 181st Annual Meeting of Grace Church will take place this coming Sunday after Mass. Below are several links to click on if you'd like to read various reports for the meeting.

~Joe

[Annual Committee Reports for 2025](#)

[Guild of St. Margaret Annual Report](#)

[Grace Episcopal Church Amended 2026 Budget](#)

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.

I carefully lift the green stems
from the glass jar, the water
where the spindly, saved cuttings
have lived all winter, slowly growing
in the feeble light.
We watched and waited patiently
through cold dark days. Now
the sun rises warmer,
the earth travels a new path-
time to return to air and ground.
I separate the dripping tangled roots;
I smell the lemon scented leaves
in my hands. I feel the warmer air,

warmer sun on my skin and the green skin.
I dig a hole in the dark and ready soil,
carefully planting roots and stems in the
earth
as we stand, our faces to the light.
We live a thirsty life,
so I pour water from the glass jar,
the glass where I saw darkly
what can grow in living water.
I water this new ground of being
in a new season. We will grow.

~Eileen



This past Sunday we celebrated our April birthdays. Happy Birthday Marge and Mark! And, in a first for our monthly birthday celebrations, a young "photo bomber" is in the photo!



Grace Calendar

Vestry News

The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday May 17th 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 March 15, 2026 Vestry meeting.](#)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also."



GRACE CHURCH 1948

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)