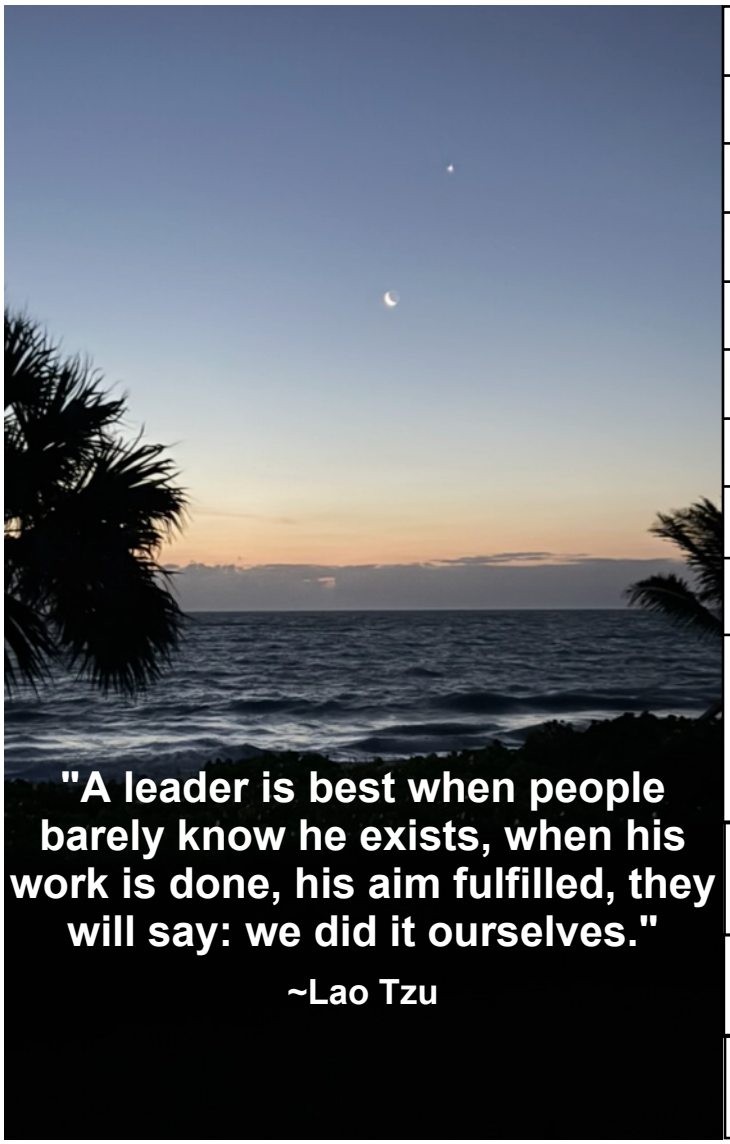
The Epistle

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

October 25, 2026 Phone 845 343-6101 FAX 845 343-8321 www.gracechurchmiddletown.org
email secretary.grace.episcopal@gmail.com

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost
October 25th (Rite II)

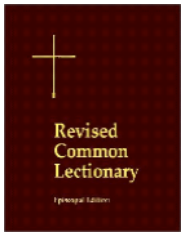


Subdeacon/Chalice	Rick Scott
MC/2nd Chalice	Torry Guardino
Thurifer	David Brokaw
Crucifer	David White
Acolyte	Phyllis Guardino
Acolyte	Claire Newquist
OT Lector	Lorraine Witkowski
NT Lector	Lourdes Cruz
Intercessor	Mark Strunsky
Ushers	Mark Strunsky John Cusack Volunteers

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

Sunday October 25th	**9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)** **Committment/Stewardship Sunday**
Wednesday October 28th	**10:00 AM Healing Mass**
Sunday November 1st	**9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)** **Remembrance Sunday (All Saints Day)** **Daylight Saving Time ends - set clocks back 1 hour**
Tuesday November 3rd	**Election Day - Polls are open from 6AM to 9PM** **(Early voting starts October 24th and ends November 1st)**
Wednesday November 4th	**10:00 AM Healing Mass** **7:00 PM Adult Ed - LGBTQ+ persons in the Bible (contact Fr. Victor for a Zoom link to attend)**
Sunday November 8th	**9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite II)**
Wednesday November 11th	**Veteran's Day Holiday - Office Closed - No Healing Mass**
Sunday November 15th	**9:30 AM Sunday Eucharist in-person and on-line (Rite I)** **11:00 AM Monthly Vestry Meeting**

The Photography Corner

While out on a walk, I photographed this pond with its blooming Sacred Lotus flowers with their pink and white petals, near our house. This plant acts as a biofilter and provides needed underwater habitat, shade and cover for young fish, frogs and aquatic insects. Additionally, their flowers attract bees and other pollinators and their seeds and roots attract ducks and beavers which feed on those parts of the plants. Unfortunately, in shallow ponds they can out-compete native species because of their aggressive growth patterns. So, while generally beneficial, they do sometimes have a negative effect on a pond's ecosystem.

I would like to thank all who have shared photographs with us. I need more photographs so if you can, please send some! ~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 Anne Caldwell or Claire Newquist.

Board Room Cinema Returns!

The Board Room Cinema will return with a showing of "The Ghost and Mr. Chicken" on Saturday, October 24 at 4 p.m. in the board room. Admission is free and open to parishioners. This movie is 90 minutes long, quite funny and not too scary (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0059221/). It is rated G and free popcorn will be served. Please bring your own beverage (non-alcoholic).

Reservations are recommended. Please RSVP to me so that we know how many will attend. You can email cdboyer@optonline.net or sign up on the signup sheet outside the Guild office on the bulletin board.

Holiday Fair 2026 - Baskets

Sue Scott and Claire Newquist have already begun making gift baskets to sell at our annual Holiday Fair on 11/21/26. You will get a preview of some of the baskets in the Board Room beginning in early November. Sue and Claire are very grateful for the monetary donations they have received to date. These monies help offset the cost of the items they purchase for the baskets, for the baskets themselves and for the bags for the baskets. They are still in need of a number of items for baskets they are making:

Mugs, both plain colors like red, green, black, grey and white; and holiday and winter themed ones.

Cloth napkins, white, red, black, etc.

Santa figures, ceramic, cloth or other types

Snowmen/women

Christmas trees, all sizes

Baskets or bins, particularly flat tray-like ones

Puzzles and small games for kids

Wrapping paper, gift bags, tape, tags, etc.

Advent calendars, holiday themed books

Last, but not least, anything that strikes your fancy!

If you don't feel like or don't have time to shop, monetary donations are always appreciated. What is not used for purchasing basket items, will go towards the Fair proceeds. As always, thank you for your continued support.

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

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 walk under a perfect blue sky

holding a perfect red leaf in my hand,

a future memory gathered

to carry home this day.

I see a wide winged bird silently floating

through the empty blue over my head.

I think I hear birds, but then I see

the gray squirrel sitting- just sitting

on the black box of twisted wires

at the top of a telephone pole,

head bowed, body bent, tail curled,

motionless, chattering, squirrel-speaking

a litany of anger or sorrow or pain.

Or warning. I walk by, listening

to this voice on this perfect day,

and I wonder about fear. I turn back

to look, to listen, shielding my eyes

against the bright shining sun.

I do not- cannot- understand

the story I see and hear;

I can feel my heart beating, opening

to all the joy and sorrow of a day,

and I carry a wordless story home.

~Eileen

Remembrance Sunday 2026

This year, All Saints Sunday actually falls on All Saints Day, November 1st. On this Sunday, we will again remember those members of our parish family and other family and friends who moved on to larger life over the past year as a part of our All Saints Day Service. You may also wish to remember loved ones who passed away at an earlier time. We invite you to bring in photographs or other small mementoes which will be placed on the side altar and blessed during the service. These will be returned after the service. Items may be brought in either before November 1st or on the 1st prior to the 9:30 am service.

Services were held for Darrell Callahan this past August, Ken Carpenter in April, and Dennis McGuire in December, 2025. In addition Camilo Riili and Father Victor's brother, Edward, passed away this Summer. If we have omitted any members of our parish family who died since our last All Saints Day service (11/2/2025), please let either Father Victor or Claire Newquist know so that we can include them.

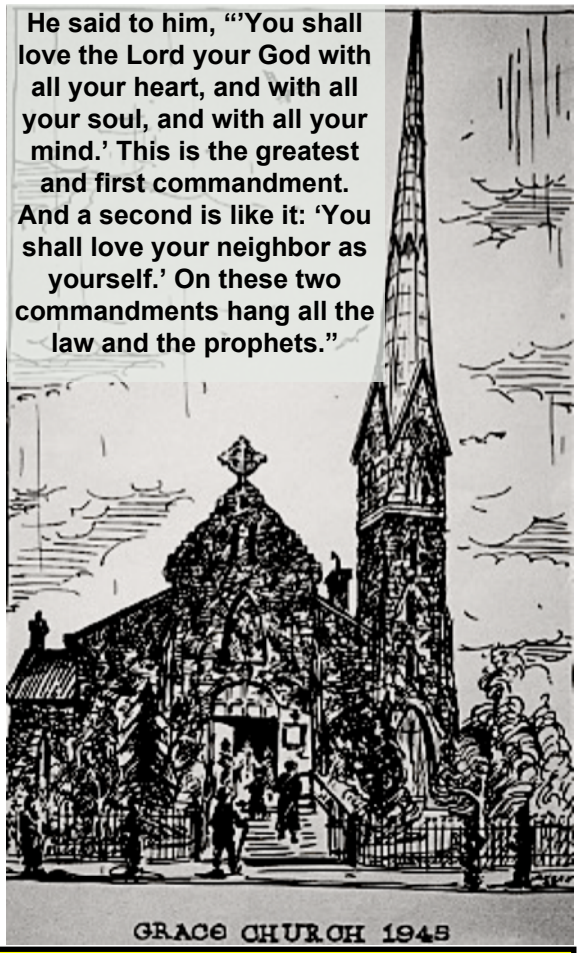
This is a time for us to remember and give thanks for all the saints who have been a part of our lives and remain in our hearts. ~Claire

The Grace Church website's "Giving" page has been updated with information about Online Giving, Stewardship and Pledging and Planned Giving. Please click on the link below to view the new website information. ~Don

https://gracechurchmiddletown.org/giving/

Grace Calendar

Giving Page QR Code



Vestry News

The next Vestry meeting will be held in the boardroom on Sunday November 15th starting at 11:00 AM.
All are invited to attend!

Click here to read the minutes of the September 9, 2026 Special Vestry meeting

Click here to read the minutes of the September 20, 2026 Vestry meeting

Your Grace Church Vestry

Wardens:

John Cusack

Claire Newquist

Clerk of the Vestry:

Treasurer:

Phyllis Guardino

Vestry:

Lorraine Witkowski
Barbara Chumard
Analise Reed
Mark Strunsky
Torry Guardino

Lucas Spisso
Michelle Tubbs
Joseph Barrett
Eileen Bloomer

David White (Student member of Vestry)