

The PACE is published by

Grace Episcopal Church

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Web Site

<http://GraceWilloughby.org>



"Like us on Facebook"

Church Office Hours

Mon. 8-2pm

Tue. Wed. & Thur.

1:30-3:30pm

Fri. 8-2pm

We are disciples of Jesus: helping one another be the hands and feet of Christ by sharing God's love with the world.

Children's Christian Education

Sunday School

Team teaching by:

Bobbin Davis

Lynn Kramp

Debbie Zimmerman

Deadline for the next PACE is
Tuesday, December 23, 2025



The *Pace* of Grace

December 2025



A Watchful Advent and A Merry Christmas!

The Holiday season is officially upon us! Advent has begun and we are in a new liturgical year. Soon, we'll be exchanging presents and toasting to a new calendar year as well. But first, we are called to wait. That doesn't mean being idle. And, it doesn't mean filling our time with busyness, which our culture so often encourages. We are called to actively wait...to be present in our relationships with each other and especially with God. We await the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas, *and* we await Jesus' return as well. The collect for the first Sunday of Advent sums up Advent's purpose very well:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

So, as the secular world pulls at you to do all the things to prepare for the coming Babe lying in a manger, please remember set aside time in prayer to center on Jesus' Second Coming as well. In this way, you will have a Watchful Advent *and* a Merry Christmas!

Faithfully and lovingly,

Fr Jeff+

SafeChurch Training

Who needs safechurch training? Vestry members, lay leaders and those who work and interact with children and the public.

safechurch@dohio.org

Anyone interested in more information about the Episcopal Church, becoming a member, being received, This book study will help those interested walking down this path in a fun and interesting way. The book: Walk in Love, Episcopal Beliefs & Practices. Let Fr. Jeff know or leave a message with the office. 440-942-1015 office@gracewilloughby.org

Help Needed!!!!

Pat Newyear has retired from her long standing position here at Grace of heading up Pastoral Care-if interested please contact the office or Fr. Jeff.

We are in need of at least one usher-If you are able to volunteer your time and gift of greeting and welcoming our Grace family just one Sunday a month. We need help on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Please contact Sherrie in the office, she will set you up for training and get you on the schedule!!

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**We have new friends** that have been joining us each week for worship, and we would like to make sure that we are getting updated information to you right away, especially if there is an emergency or any date/time changes. The only way that we can do this is to be able to include you in our Grace Church Directory and to be able to send out through our church email.

You can give your information to the usher, or send to Sherrie @ [office@gracewilloughby.org](mailto:office@gracewilloughby.org)

Also, if anyone needs to update your information, even birthdays and anniversaries, please contact the office or give info to usher.

Hello Grace Family!

I will be taking over responsibility for the church happenings that play on the monitors. Please send me anything you think should be included! Photos of happenings at Grace, photos of Grace Family engaging in outreach in the community. Events in the community you might like to have us participate in.

Diocese happenings...

Things YOU are doing that you would like us to know about....

Please send submissions to [jllonsway@gmail.com](mailto:jllonsway@gmail.com) with **Grace Church** in the subject line.

With love,

Jenny Lonsway



### **From the Bench ~Music Director Scott Arra**

**Choir** – We practice every **Thursday at 7pm** warm up our voices at 9am, on Sundays and then share our beautiful gifts that God has blessed us with during the 9:30 service. All are welcome!!!!



### **Coffee Hour**

**Is a super fun way to get to know our Grace family and for us to get to know you. So please join us each Sunday after the service in the gathering room.**

**Everything is provided!** If you would like to host, please sign up at our communication board. Provide a simple snack. Before the service starts, make coffee, and set up the napkins, cups, plasticware, juice, and water. Once the coffee hour is over, just clean up the coffee pot and put away any unused utensils.

**Hope to see you there!!!!**



# Holiday Outreach



Every year when the kids are settled back in school, Grace's Evangelism/Outreach Team holds a shopping day for our young friends at Willoughby Eastlake Schools.

The schools we serve are Edison, Grant, Longfellow, Jefferson and Royalview elementary schools. We work with the school counselors who determine the eligible families. JCPenney supplies shoes and boots for our little friends to choose from on shopping day. There is no other ministry that we are aware of that allows children to select their own brand-new footwear right in the store. What a boost to their self-esteem!

Our Evangelism/Outreach Team is holding a fund raiser through August and September to raise money for the gift cards used to purchase shoes for the kids. Our Little Feet account needs some strengthening and we need your help with contributions of "Loot for the Boot"

Any contribution will be greatly appreciated and can be placed in the not so "Little" boot you will find in the entry area. Checks can be made payable to Grace Episcopal Church with "Little Feet" on the memo line or dropped off in the office. The donations will be locked up after coffee hour.

All prayers are welcome. I know the families are so grateful for the new shoes or boots for their little ones, especially with everything being so expensive, as we all know.

Many thanks for your help and loving hearts.  
Peace and Blessing,  
Kathy Hill

Please sign up to help out with our Little Feet Shopping Days, Dec. 6 & 7.



### GRACE EPISCOPAL 2025 LITTLE FEET MINISTR

It's that time of year again where we hold our Little Feet shopping event for our young friends at our community schools. As in past years we will be serving Grant, Edison, Thomas Jefferson, Longfellow Elementary and Royal View schools. JCPenney in Mentor will supply the shoes/boots. We will follow the same format as in past years:

- The Family Liaisons at the schools identify families with the greatest need.
- Eligible families will receive vouchers from the schools. These vouchers will be given to the cashier at JCP at the time of purchase and matched with a master list of children who are eligible for the program.
- Grace Episcopal purchases a JCPenney gift card which is held by JCPenney and used to purchase the shoes.
- On the shopping date, the children (with their parent or guardian) shop and select their own shoes. This is a real self-esteem boost for the child and so much fun!

As always, we need your assistance in meeting and greeting, and assisting these families at the store on shopping days. If you would please join us for an hour or two - or more if you can, we would greatly appreciate your help. Or, you can just stop in and say "Hi"!

**Hours we need your help on Saturday, Dec. 6 between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Hours we need your help on Sunday, Dec. 7 between 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

A sign-up sheet will be provided. Your help is so greatly appreciated. Many thanks for your generosity of time and treasure and your prayers are always welcome.

Peace and blessings,

Kathy

Evangelism/Outreach Team

JCPenny is located in the Great Lakes Mall. Store hours are Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.





This year we are participating in **HANNAH'S GIVING TREE** for Hannah's Home as we have done for the past 3 years.

Hannah's Home is a Christian based maternity home for pregnant women in crisis. We are located in Mentor.

The gift tags are on the tree located in the entrance of the church. There is a gift listed on each tag along with the mom's and child's initials. These gifts are for our mom's and little ones currently in the house and our alumni moms and kids.

Very simple – just select a gift tag or more than one if you wish. We can get more tags!

**Gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 7. You can leave them in the office.**

**Do not wrap the gifts.**

**PLEASE-PLEASE RETURN THE GIFT TAGS WITH EACH GIFT.**

Let me know if you have any questions.

And many, many thanks for your participation in making a Merry Christmas for these moms and little ones.

Gift tags with a QR code are available if you prefer, let me know if you want to shop using one of these tags instead. The code is to Hannah's Home Amazon Christmas Wish List with different priced items to select. These items are used as gifts, earned items for residents participating in our program, their children and in the day to day running of your home.



## **HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS:**

Also, if anyone knows of a family who is in need of a food basket for the holidays, please let Sherri, in the office know. I understand that we have 3 turkeys donated by the Boy Scouts available and we can get more. We can supplement with all the goodies for a great holiday feast for these families.





## **MITTEN AND SCARF TREE:**

Our own big giving tree will be up soon. We can fill it with scarves, mittens, gloves, hats, socks, undies and such for our little and not so little friends from the schools we serve for Little Feet.

Oh yes, and we can't forget our pets! There will be a container for food, treats and toys for our animal friends too!

Thank you so much.

Kathy, Evangelism & Outreach Team

## **Christmas Card Distribution**

Once again, the decorated Christmas boxes will be placed in the church lobby for Grace Parishioners to use to send Christmas cards to fellow parishioners.



### **Guidelines:**

- Please place cards in alphabetical order with a rubber band
- Place cards in one of the decorated boxes
- Cards will be available for pick-up on the morning of Dec. 24th

## **2025-2026 weekly Altar Flower Sign-up Sheet**

Sign-up sheet is now available in the hallway between the restrooms before the gathering room. Consider signing up for a week that will bless us all with the fragrance and beauty upon the altar. A donation of \$40 will cover the cost. And please let Sherrie in the office know if your blessing is in celebration, memory or thankfulness, so that she may mention in the bulletin.



**Shawl ministry- has changed their name! 'Creative hands' which meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month @ 1pm.** Pictured: Pat Newyear, Beth Sphatt, Fr. Jeff, Thora Scott, and Carl(Pat Newyear's son)

Come join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm to make whatever you would like. Some of us make hats, baby sweaters, shawls, lap rugs, quilts, crosses, etc. or nothing but enjoy the company. We meet in the social gathering area.

## **"To a New Home"**

**A mobility scooter with lift that fits on the car hitch. Have battery charger and cover.**

**A travel electric mobility wheelchair with battery. It weighs 50 lbs. and will hold up to 300lbs. It can fit in your trunk.**

If interested, or have questions please call or talk to Ray and Beth Sphatt

## **Search Committee**

Search Committee is working hard. Canon Jesse gave us helpful suggestions. We are upgrading the OTM profile. The new finance OTM profile has been approved by the vestry. A letter has been written by the committee telling the candidate what a wonderful church Grace is. Two new members have been added to the committee. If you have any questions, talk with Beth Sphatt or Peggy Burkacki.



## Prayer Chain, Prayers of the People, Prayer Calendar

"Prayer is standing in the presence of God with the mind in the heart; that is, at that point of our being where there are no divisions or distinctions and where we are totally one. There God's Spirit dwells and there the great encounter takes place. There, heart speaks to heart, because there, we stand before the face of the Lord, all-seeing, with us." — Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers*

**Each Month** before the 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact the church office to update the Prayer chain list for the weekly bulletin. Going forward this list will be wiped clean the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. Also, whenever an \* is seen after a name, please note that this name came from our prayer boxes.

**the Prayer Calendar**, which will come to you each month. You'll note that there is a parish member/family designated for each day of the month on the calendar. Please take a moment to pray for that person on the day indicated, whether you know them or not! Prayer blesses the one who prays and the one who receives prayer, so incorporating this prayer calendar into your daily devotions is a win/win situation!



# Up Coming Events



**December 13, Saturday – Christmas Party**

**Mark your calendars Now!!!!** Invitation below

Grace's Annual Christmas Party

December 13<sup>th</sup>

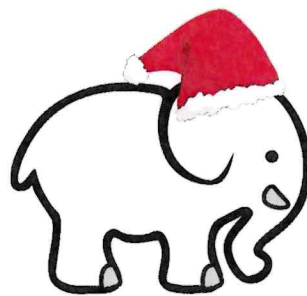
Lesson & Carols- 5pm

With Dinner @ 6pm

Gathering Rm

Ham provided

Please bring a potato, vegetable, salad, or desert dish to pass.



White Elephant Exchange

The Christmas Tree will be up and ready to be decorated: incase you would like to bring hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to help decorate.



# Hannah's Home

*at the heart of life*

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October 1, 2025

Grace Episcopal Church  
36200 Ridge Rd.  
Willoughby OH 44094

Father Baker,

We are overflowing with gratitude for your church's participation in this year's Baby Bottle Campaign! Because of your willingness to come alongside us, lives are being touched in a very real and lasting way.

Together with many other churches in our community, this year's campaign raised an amazing \$139,939.85! We are thrilled to celebrate that your church family contributed \$997.22 of that amount. What a beautiful picture of God's people working together for His purposes.

Your generosity helps provide safe housing, mentoring, and the loving support mothers need as they choose life for their babies. More than just raising funds, your church raised hope. You showed compassion, lifted burdens, and reflected the heart of Christ to women and children who need it most.

Please know how much we treasure your partnership. Every bottle filled, every dollar given, and every prayer lifted up matters—and together it's making an eternal difference.

From all of us at Hannah's Home, thank you for standing for life with us. We thank God for you and look forward to seeing all He will continue to do through this partnership.

In His name and for His glory,

Vicki Krnac  
Executive Director





***McKinley***

**COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH CENTER**

*Serving Those In Need Since 2013*

*\* 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization \**

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