

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
Wednesday, March 25th, 2026



The *Pace* of Grace

March 2026



I Invite You to a Holy Lent

Wow, it seems we were just getting ready for Christmas a minute ago! Easter is early this year and thus the Lenten season is upon us. Even though the word Lent has its roots in the word for Spring, a quick look out the window at the weather tells us otherwise! Hopefully the roaring lion in the beginning of this month will exit as a calm lamb.

So, we are called to the work of a Holy Lent to once again prepare us for the Passion of Our Lord and Jesus' ultimate Resurrection. Through giving alms, prayer, and self-denial, we walk together this journey. I look forward to our discussions and fellowship which our Wednesday evening Soup and Study facilitate. All of which give glory to God as our Collect for the 2nd Sunday in Lent reminds us:

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

May we all enjoy and endure a Holy Lent.

Faithfully and lovingly,

Fr Jeff+

We have new friends that have been joining us each week for worship, **Welcome!!!** 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

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

Pledge Envelopes

Dear Grace Members,

Due to the cost of supplying pledge envelopes (we have to purchase a much larger amount than needed), the Vestry decided not to supply them for 2026.

Please just put your pledge in the collection plate at service, mail in your own envelope or drop off at Grace Office.

Please write your pledge number on the check. If you do not know your pledge number you can call the office for it.

Thank you.

Toni Swisher

Senior Warden



Jennifer Lonsway

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 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**, then we warm up our voices at 9am, on Sundays and share our beautiful gifts that God has blessed us with during the 9:30 service.

All are welcome!!!!



Our beautiful future of Grace Sunday School assisting Greg.

We will not have Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

We will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt, on Sunday April 12. If you would like to donate a bag of wrapped candy please leave in the office. Thankyou.

Lynn, Bobbin and Debbie



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.

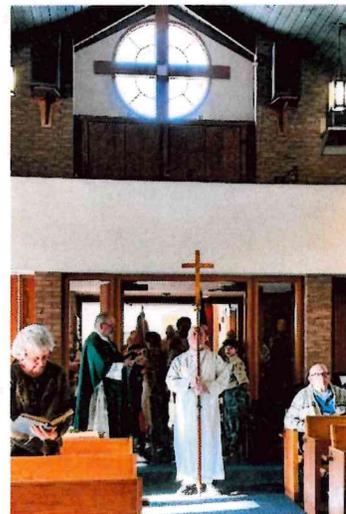
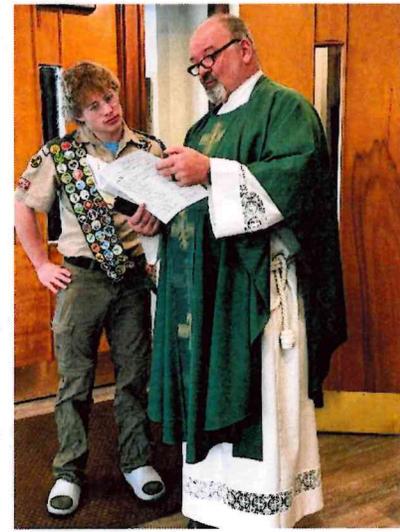
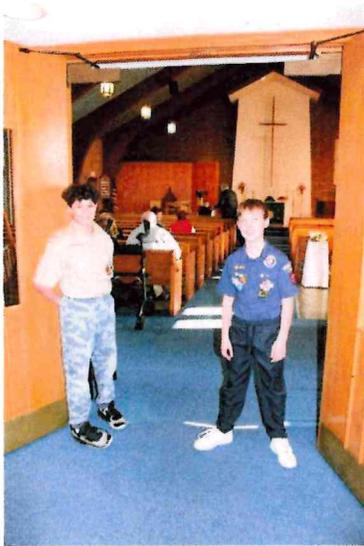
Hope to see you there!!!!

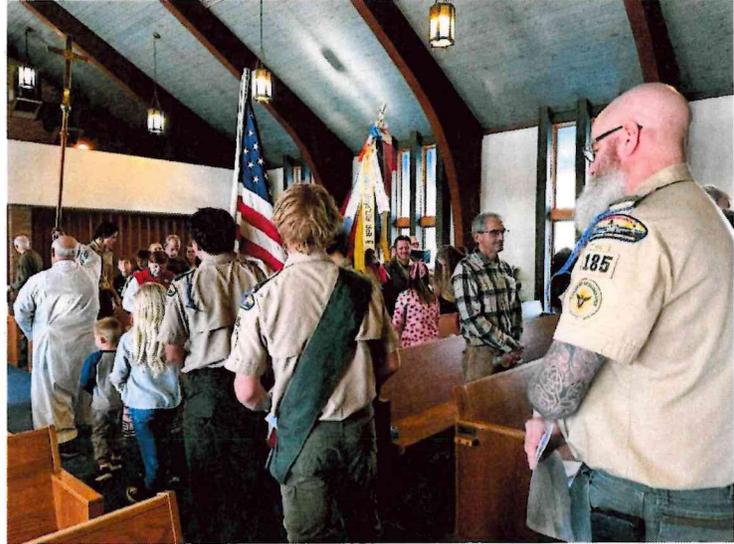
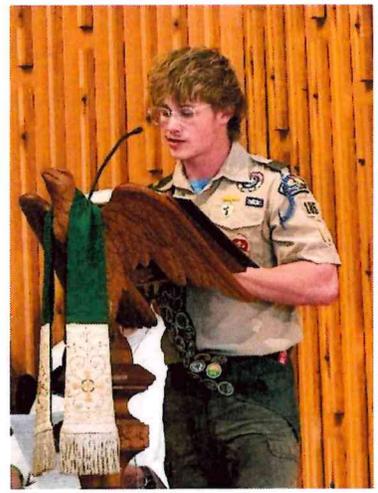
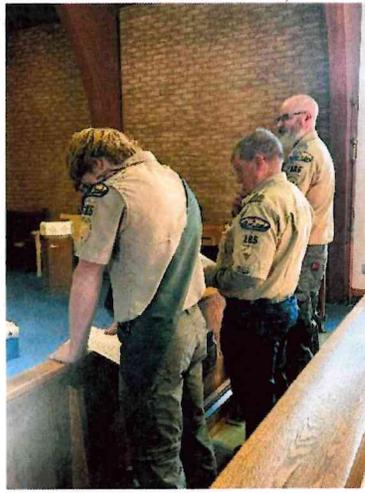
Scout Sunday

Each year, our troop 185 & Pack 282 are invited by us!, their charter Organization to assist with service in observance of Scout Sunday. This annual even celebrates the 1910 founding of the Boy Scouts of America and emphasizes the values of duty to God, community service, and the principles outlines in the Scout Oath of Law. 🌟

Scouts held doors, greeted congregants, presented the colors in the processional behind the Cross bearer, led a reading & Psalm during service and participated in Communion with their families. Afterward, Scouts made

A Scout is Reverent!









On Sunday February 8th, Pack 282 and Troop 185 hosted Scout Sunday at Grace Church. With over 70 people in attendance the celebration of the Scouting movement was a great success.

With plenty of home-baked goods, and that always popular Scout hot chocolate everyone went home nourished both spiritually and physically.

Thank you, Grace members, for being so kind and welcoming to all our Scouts families

"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.

2025-2026 weekly Altar Flower Sign-up Sheet

2026 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.



'Creative hands' meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month @ 1pm. Pictured: Pat Newyear, Beth Sphatt, Fr. Jeff, Thora Scott, and Carl (Pat Newyear's son)

Come join us on 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.

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 1st, please contact the church office to update the Prayer chain list for the weekly bulletin. Going forward this list will be wiped clean the 1st 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!



We ask for special prayers for Mason Trsek as he begins the next step in the process for Eagle Scout. We also pray for Riley Trsek as he has been promoted from private 1st class to Specialist.



Wednesday morning Book Study

What do a little donkey and the *Book of Common Prayer* have in common? A few years ago, we met Rachel Anne Ridge's first rescue donkey in FLASH. She thought that Flash needed a companion, so she and her husband Tom rescued Henry. In *WALKING WITH HENRY* Rachel and Henry struggle as they create a path for both of them. Each Chapter of their walk is based on a discovery by Rachel in our *Book of Common Prayer*. She is not Episcopalian. People are finding the book on Amazon or online. The link for 10am Wednesday is on our web site or Sherrie Miller can send it to you. You are welcome to "drop in" to our small informal 10 - 11 am support group when your schedule permits. Sue Mancino

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!!

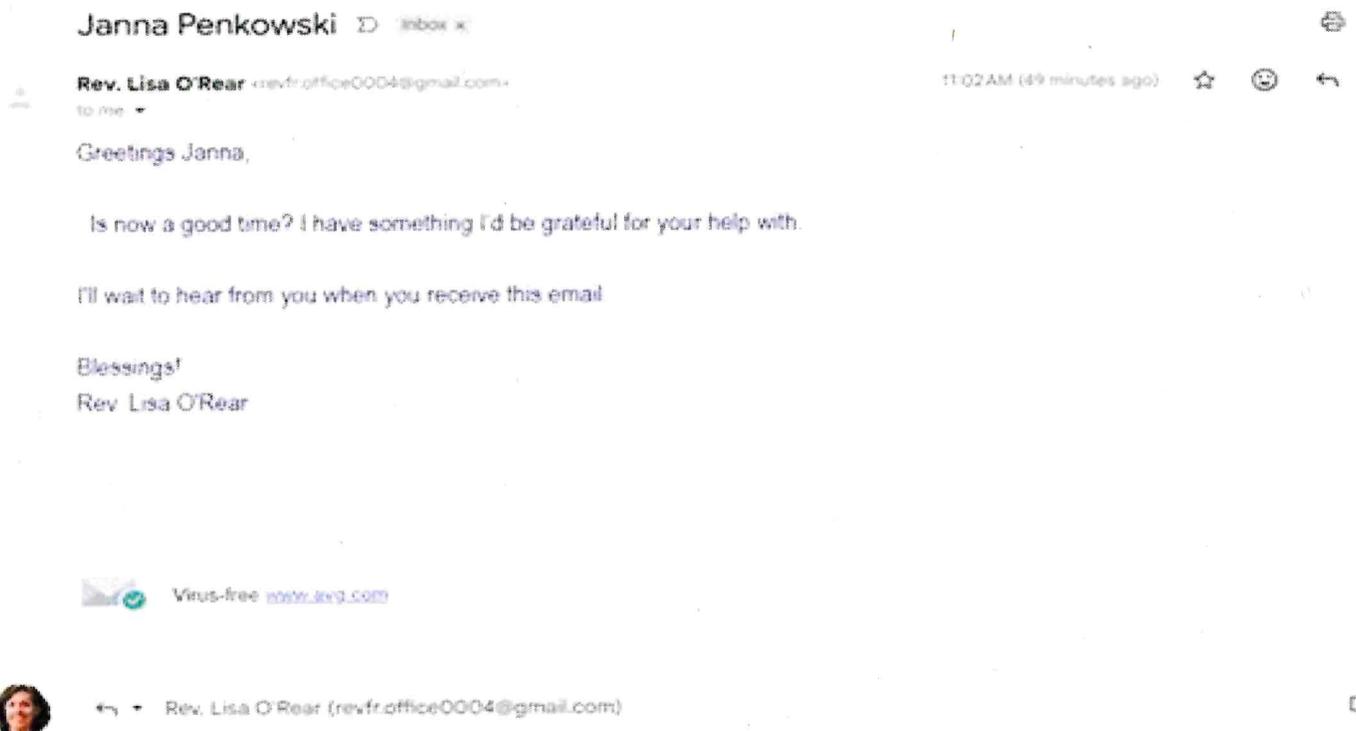
Good info to know from the Church office:

These church scams are going around all area churches -please be careful and always call the church to confirm before any action. Janna gave some great advice from St. Andrew in Mentor.

Church and Scams

Recently a parishioner at St. Andrew received an email from "Rev. Lisa" and something just seemed off about the message. I went to my laptop to check it out and the email address it came from was not her normal email. It was a "phishing" attempt using a "spoofed" email address. Phishing is trying to get personal information from you - in this case, the sender was trying to get me to communicate back to them in order to most likely scam me somehow. The "spoofed" email address looks like it is coming from a real person - The name says "Rev. Lisa O'Rear."

The email is shown below



Note that the name shows as Lisa's but the email address is not hers.

This seems pretty obvious on my laptop. BUT, I originally viewed it on my iPad. On both my iPad and my cell phone, you don't see the actual email address. You only see the name. This makes it seem perfectly legitimate.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time scammers have impersonated Lisa and churches. Churches are targeted in particular because of the trust church members have in their leadership and the generosity of church members. I am certain if I had replied to this email, there would have been a follow up asking me to purchase gift cards or send money.

If you received this same email, either mark it as "spam" or simply delete it.

Two quick tips:

Always verify the email address (this may not show automatically so you need to click on the name) If you cannot see the address, don't "reply" - instead contact the person directly.

Never buy or send money, gift cards, etc. to a person requesting them via text or email.

More information on phishing can be found here:

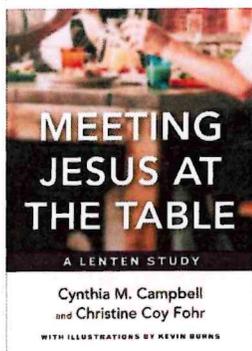
<https://www.occ.gov/topics/consumers-and-communities/consumer-protection/fraud-resources/phishing-attack-prevention.html#:~:text=If%20you%20provide%20the%20requested,ensure%20all%20charges%20are%20correct.>

The newest scam that I have received here at the church office through email, so far from 2 parishioners. Requesting the directory to be sent to them as a PDF. That they are unable to open the directory. I always double check the received email. These came from 2 different emails, but they did not belong to our Grace parishioners requesting the directories. Please be very careful, again, if you have any questions, please call the office.

Be God's

Sherrie

Soup and Study on Wednesday evenings at 5pm



March 4, 11, 18, and 25th

Sign-up sheet in lobby on bulletin board.

GRACE WOODS

Willoughby Fire Department (WFD) performed an ice rescue training exercise in January at Grace Woods, behind our church. I learned about it from our neighbor's posting, and I thought they had a couple of good photographs worth sharing with Grace Church. (FYI The Department's fire prevention representative walks throughout our church once a year for routine inspection, accompanied by our fire alarm vender.)

To get a better "picture" of this training, I contacted Chief Ungar and had an informative conversation with Battalion Chief Tim Gamiere, over the phone.



Key take-aways are:

WFD is part of the East Technical Rescue Team, so WFD is available to assist with incidents in many cities in greater Cleveland. The trailer in the top picture (far right) carries a boat

during seasons when a water rescue might be called for by Group East.



1) Part of the ice rescue training is utilizing the equipment, AND practicing communications. For example, fire fighters on the ice use hand signals with personnel on shore.

2) WFD desires to use Grace Woods' pond annually in the future for this training. The pond's fountain keeps some ice open, so they don't have to cut access through the ice.

3) These rescues are not just targeted for saving people. Animal rescues are part their mission too.

4) These rescues are not just targeted for saving people. Animal rescues are part their mission too.

5) WFD occasionally does training on other pieces of private property. Mr. Gamiere said that industrial facilities are used when available.

by Phil Davis



Easter Plants



If you would like an Easter plant on the altar this Easter, please fill out the slip and return to the church by Monday, **March 23rd**, 2026. Each plant costs only \$15. Any excess monies collected will be used throughout the year to purchase wafers and wine for Holy Communion.

Given in loving memory of _____

Or

Given in thanksgiving for _____

By _____

Please make checks payable to Grace Church Altar Guild



READINGS FOR THE DAY

March 1

The Second Sunday in Lent

- [Genesis 12:1-4a](#)
- [Romans 4:1-5, 13-17](#)
- [John 3:1-17](#)
- [Psalm 121](#)

March 8

The Third Sunday in Lent

- [Exodus 17:1-7](#)
- [Romans 5:1-11](#)
- [John 4:5-42](#)
- [Psalm 95](#)

March 15

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

- [1 Samuel 16:1-13](#)
- [Ephesians 5:8-14](#)
- [John 9:1-41](#)
- [Psalm 23](#)

March 22

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

- [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)
- [Romans 8:6-11](#)
- [John 11:1-45](#)
- [Psalm 130](#)

March 29

The Sunday of the Passion
Palm Sunday

The Liturgy of the Palms

- [Matthew 21:1-11](#)
- [Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29](#)

The Liturgy of the Word

- [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)
- [Philippians 2:5-11](#)
- [Matthew 26:14- 27:66](#)
- *or* [Matthew 27:11-54](#)
- [Psalm 31:9-16](#)