

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, April 22nd, 2026



The *Pace* of Grace

April 2026



Fare Thee Well!

Well, we have survived (and thrived) another Holy Lent. We prepared well for Holy Week. We are ready once more to walk with Jesus his Passion. Our reward is the fantastic reality of God's promise of Resurrection.

This is my last Pace article for you, beloved. I will miss you all as we wind up our time together. It was a true blessing to walk this journey of interim ministry with you. We have prepared well for your new Rector, Fr. Steve. You have a solid foundation on which to continue to build the many ministries of Grace Church.

Thank you all for your generous time and gracious hospitality. The Holy Spirit is strong among you. You will remain in my thoughts and prayers in our coming final weeks together. But it is time for me to 'decrease' as John the Baptist once said. I see a wonderful and faithful future for this faith community.

Now it is time for me to discern what God has in mind for my next call. I'll leave you once again with this appropriate prayer by John Henry Newman:

O Lord support us all the day long of this troublous life until the shadows lengthen, the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work on earth is done. Then in Thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a Holy rest, and peace at the last with Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fare Thee Well,

Fr Jeff+

Announcement from your Vestry and Search Committee

On behalf of the Grace Vestry and Search Committee, I would like to announce that Grace has a new rector, Father Stephen Ashby. Father Steve will begin as rector of Grace Episcopal Church on May 1, 2026

Walt Iliff, Senior Warden

Dear Friends in Christ at Grace Church,

It is with joy and enthusiasm that I accept the call to be your new Priest-in-Charge. I've already heard stories about your warm community where the Spirit's presence is so palpable. I can't wait to be a part of that.

In these first months, my hope is simply to get to know each of you. I want to hear about the ministries that bring you joy, the moments that have shaped your faith here, and the ways Grace has been a home for you. I also hope to share in the ordinary rhythms of parish life—praying together, worshipping together, and discovering together how God is calling us to serve our neighbors.

One of the things I love most about parish life is that the church is formed not only in Sunday worship, but in conversations after services, in shared meals, in prayer for one another, and in the quiet acts of care that often go unnoticed but matter deeply. Those are the places where community grows, and I look forward to being part of those moments with you.

Please know that I am already holding you in my daily prayers. I pray that our life together will be rooted in Christ, guided by the Spirit, and filled with the grace that allows us to grow in faith and love.

I cannot wait to meet you, hear your stories, and begin this journey together.

Blessings,

Fr. Steve Ashby

Fr. Steve Ashby Bio

Fr. Steve Ashby was born in Lexington, KY to two Episcopal priests. An only child, his family moved around to serve parishes in Arkansas and Michigan before he went to study classical and jazz saxophone at the University of Kentucky. In 2013 he enlisted in the Episcopal Service Corps and was placed at Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland. It was during this year of service that he first began to discern a call to ordained ministry.

He received his Masters in Divinity at Bexley-Seabury seminary in 2019 and was ordained to the transitional Diaconate. After briefly serving as Deacon at the Cathedral of St. John in the Anglican Diocese of Belize, he came home to the Diocese of Ohio to begin his first major call at Church of the Good Shepherd in Lyndhurst where he was ordained priest a few months later. After three years there, he helped oversee the

formation of the "Shared Priest Agreement" between Good Shepherd and St. Bartholomew's in Mayfield Village, where he has also been priest since 2023.

Steve lives in Kent, where his wife The Rev. Emily Culp Ashby serves as Associate Pastor of Faith Formation at Kent United Church of Christ. They have two daughters, Mara (6) and Evie (4), a cat named after Elijah the Prophet, and a dog named after Pippin the Hobbit. He enjoys playing music, watching classic films, and building his massive book collection.

Fr. Steve wants Grace Church to know how excited he is to begin this new chapter in all our lives. He looks forward to getting to know everyone and exploring new ways to minister to the community in Willoughby and find ways to draw our neighbors to the radical love of God.

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.

Vestry of 2025



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,

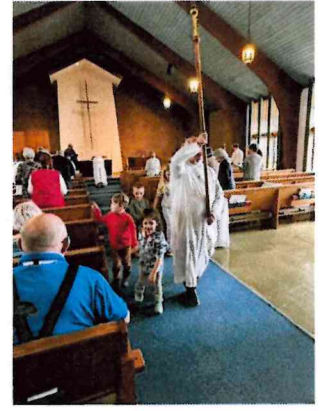
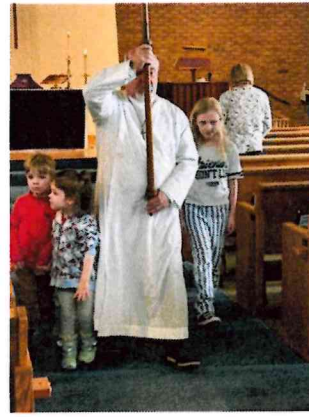
Jenny Lonsway



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!!!!



"A special Thank you!"

Erlene and William Trsek would like to say how grateful and thankful they are to Ray and Beth Sphatt. The travel wheelchair and mobility scooter will get much use between the two of them. They are just awaiting for warm weather. In the meantime, Dr visits will be much easier going forward.



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.



Father Jeff blessed shawls, sweaters and hats for little ones.
We are blessed with the "creative hands" of Thora Scott, Beth and Ray Sphatt and Pat Newyear (not shown).

'Creative hands' meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month @ 1pm.

As you enter the sanctuary of the church, the last pew on the left has many items made by fellow parishioners. They need to be in the hands of those who can use them. Please look them over, take one or two, and pass them on to someone who could use shawl, a lap quilt, baby sweater & hat or whatever. There is no charge, just blessings to those who receive the items. Let's see the back of that pew empty so new items can appear.

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!





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.—this position has been opened for over a year.

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!!