

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
Monday, May 25, 2026



The *Pace* of Grace

May 2026

Fare Thee Well!

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 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, worshiping 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.

Parishioner Corner

Beginning with the April PACE, parishioners will find a new section here in the PACE which will identify information about certain members of Grace, which will hopefully help members of Grace to get to know each other better. This new addition of the PACE will be included each month.

Vestry board



This month we get to know Ray and Beth Sphatt a little better.

Raymond Sphat(Ray) rsphatt@gmail.com . Ray has been a member of Grace between 4-10 years. In the past and currently he has been involved in vestry, search committee, Building & Grounds, Junior Warden, Greeter, Usher.

Ray is a retired custodian and is married to Beth, they have 2 children and he loves working with wood and yarn. Ray is originally from San Diego, California. He started coming to Grace in 2017. What attracted him to keep coming to Grace was the people in the church and the way they made them feel like family. When asked what does your faith mean to you? "My faith is above all else."

Elizabeth Hannah Sphatt(Beth) ehsphatt@gmail.com. Beth has been a member at Grace between 4-10 years. In the past and currently she has been involved in Creative Hands, Book Study, Phone ministry, Taking meals to those coming home from the hospital and a counter.

Beth is married to Ray for almost 58 yrs. She has a daughter, son, son-in-law, grandson & his fiancée, twin sister and older brother and a deceased sister. She was a teacher for 31 years, K, 2nd and 4th grade. She likes to sew, crochet, read, be outside, and go on cruises. Beth is originally from Cleveland, Ohio. She started coming to Grace in the summer of 2017. What attracted her to keep coming to Grace was that she is an Episcopalian and wanted to go back to the Episcopal Church. When asked what does your faith mean to you? "My faith is my life. It is who I am. Her favorite bible verse or quote: 1Corinthians 13, Philippians 4:6-8. Sadness comes at night but Joy comes in the morning. Beth loves to read and crochet, Her favorite restaurant is DQ Her favorite characters of the Bible are Ruth & Esther. A surprising fact about her: She loves Star Wars.

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



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. Choir will be taking a summer break! Our last Sunday service will be May 31st. Don't worry! PopUp Choir will begin the following Sunday, June 7th. More details to come. Request a Hymn forms will also be available around May 24th.

All are welcome!!!!



Last Vestry Meeting with Fr. Jeff submitted by Mary Miragliotta



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.

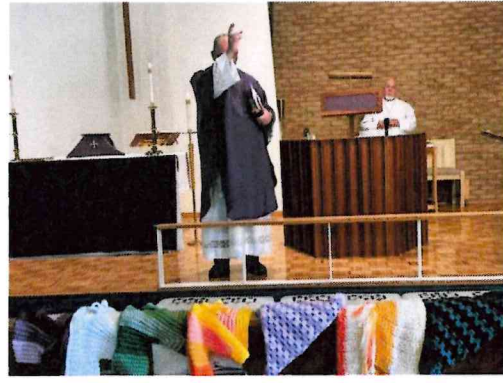
Everything is provided! If you would like to host, please sign up at our communication board. Provide a simple snack. Before the service starts, make coffee, and set up the napkins, cups, plasticware, juice, and water. Once the coffee hour is over, just clean up the coffee pot and put away any unused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

Hope to see you there!!!!



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 a 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. Steve know or leave a message with the office. 440-942-1015 office@gracewilloughby.org

He Is Risen!!! He Is Risen Indeed!!!!





Helping hands



Seasonal Brass



Mary Miragliott's Easter Bonnet

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

The Pastoral Care Committee's purpose is to assist members of the parish in their time need. We have supplied meals to those who have just returned home from the hospital. The family is contacted to see when they would like a meal and if they have any dietary restrictions. Since there are only a few members of the parish able to prepare meals for others, we have been buying the meals from Kuhar's catering and carry out. The families have enjoyed the meals and appreciate our caring.

The committee also have provided the funeral meal for parish families. We work with the family to see if they are supplying and special items and what they would like us to supply. Again the service is greatly appreciated.

We are willing to help parishioners in other ways but we need to know the needs. Please contact the office @ 440-942-1015 or office@gracewilloughby.org to let us know what is needed and we will do our very best to meet those need.

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!!

Great fun this year at our Easter Egg Hunt!!





Cc, Landon (in green), Lucas, Madelyn, Katelynn (behind Arianna) Arianna and Hudson.

A BIG thank you to everyone who donated Easter candy for our Easter egg hunt. We filled about 200 eggs. The kids really enjoyed looking for the eggs and we think the adults enjoyed the candy too.

~The Sunday School team



Easter Pictures submitted by Kathy Hill

2026 HANNAH'S HOME BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Dear Friends,

It's time again for Hannah's Home Bottle Campaign 2026!

We need your help to raise essential funds for the operation of Hannah's Home, a faith based maternity home on Lakeshore Blvd. in Mentor.

Grace Episcopal Church's past generosity has helped to make a significant impact on the lives of pregnant women, their children and new mothers and babies in crisis. Hannah's Home provides these moms with a safe and nurturing environment where they can receive counseling, continue their education and become equipped to make life decisions based on the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The funds raised plays a crucial role in providing shelter, resources and care to mothers and their little ones in need.

This campaign runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day and it's so easy to participate. Some of you already know the routine – easy, right?

Empty baby bottles are provided by Hannah's Home and can be filled with loose change, cash or checks. (Checks can be made payable to Hannah's Home.)

Hannah's Home volunteers will then come and collect all the bottles beginning just after Father's Day. After the campaign Hannah's Home will let us know how much our church was able to raise.

Baby bottles and information on Hannah's Home and the campaign will be available soon.

Our goal this year is to raise \$160,000 to support the moms and babies we serve. Won't you please help us?

If you have any questions, please call Kathy Hill at 440-715-3515, text, or feel free to email, khill1253@sbcglobal.net. Also, you can call Hannah's Home at 440-209-9615.

Peace and blessings,

Kathy Hill & the Evangelism/Outreach Team





May 3

The fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10

The sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17

The seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24

Day of Pentecost

May 31

The First Sunday after Pentecost
Trinity Sunday

READINGS FOR THE DAY

- [Acts 7:55-60](#)
 - [1 Peter 2:2-10](#)
 - [John 14:1-14](#)
 - [Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#)
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- [Acts 17:22-31](#)
 - [1 Peter 3:13-22](#)
 - [John 14:15-21](#)
 - [Psalm 66:7-18](#)
-
- [Acts 1:6-14](#)
 - [1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11](#)
 - [John 17:1-11](#)
 - [Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36](#)
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- [Acts 2:1-21](#)
 - or [Numbers 11:24-30](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 12:3b-13](#)
 - or [Acts 2:1-21](#)
 - [John 20:19-23](#)
 - or [John 7:37-39](#)
 - [Psalm 104:25-35, 37](#)
-
- [Genesis 1:1-2:4a](#)
 - [2 Corinthians 13:11-13](#)
 - [Matthew 28:16-20](#)
 - [Psalm 8](#)
 - or [Canticle 13](#) (or Canticle 2)