



Weekly News from Grace Episcopal Church - August 14, 2026



Even Jesus Needed Reminding

Rite I Episcopalians (you know who you are!) will remember the “Prayer of Humble Access” said right before receiving the Holy Communion: “O merciful Lord, we are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. . . .”

That poetic, if not severe, language comes from [this Sunday's Gospel reading](#) of Jesus' encounter with a Canaanite woman. She asks for her daughter's healing and Jesus says, “No,” using the ethnically charged language of “Dog” to describe her. (Canaanites were ethnically “other” than Jews in Jesus' world.)

Her response: “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.” She changes his mind, and the healing results. Even Jesus needed reminding to be inclusive. If Jesus did, then we need reminding, too.

Let us remind ourselves again this Sunday. See you in church (a.k.a. the Pavilion at Grace).

Timothy Safford, Interim Rector

Final Week for Our Back-to-School Drive

We have just one more week of collecting school supplies to be shared with our friends at St. Peter's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Providence, and we invite you to join us!



Below is a suggested list of supplies students can use. We will accept items at Grace **through Thursday, August 20.** Items will be delivered on Friday, August 21.

- Backpacks in various sizes
- 3-ring binders

- Notebooks
- 2-pocket folders
- Crayons
- Markers
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Dry-erase markers
- Pencil cases
- Glue sticks
- Pens
- Rulers
- Paper

Please bring your donations when you come for church, or drop them off at the parish office during the week (8am-4pm, Monday through Friday). For added convenience, place an order through Amazon to be shipped directly here! (Just let the parish office know to watch for it.)

And if you can help with the delivery to St. Peter's and St. Andrew's, please call the parish office at 401-331-3225 or email admin@gracepyd.org.

Thank you for your generosity!

Next Steps in the Rector-Search Process

Mark your calendar for **two important congregational meetings** to be hosted here at Grace Church in the coming weeks. Both of these gatherings are critical parts of our rector-search process and your attendance is vital! These meetings are the most important gathering as a congregation to discuss what we hope for in our next rector, and we need everyone to be part of the conversations.

As we get closer, more details for the days will be provided, so stay tuned.

Please click the image below to download a larger, printable version of the flyer - and make plans now to join us after church on September 27 and October 11!

Grace Church's Rector-Search Process

As part of our rector-search process, we will host two separate meetings after church that will help guide the Search Committee. These meetings—both of them led by Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew—are a critical part of the process, and **they are the only opportunity for us to gather as a group and identify what we hope for in the next rector.**

Please make every effort to join us, and let your voice be heard!



Parish History Event

This event helps create a shared awareness of the church's history from a congregational perspective and provides a foundation of information for the profile and discernment process.



Congregational Conversation

At this event small groups will have an opportunity to respond to the questions of The Episcopal Church's Vocation Hub portfolio. Those answers provide additional information from the congregation in the format used for the actual portfolio.

After October 11...

- * The Profile Team begins work with Canon Dena to develop the primary search document.
- * The Search Committee also begins to meet, initially with Canon Dena, to build relationships, set regular meetings, and start its work in earnest.
- * The Communications Team oversees the process of keeping the congregation informed.
- * The Prayer Team continues to pray daily for the people of Grace Church and for all those engaged in the search/discernment process.

Pipe Surgery Onsite!

In [this week's blog post](#), Grace's Director of Music Vince Edwards reminds us that some of the organ work is being done here - in Providence, in our church.

Because it was more cost-effective to refurb the largest pipes here rather than send them to Canada, the Casavant team is doing restoration work as well as installation. Meaning that they've brought tools and supplies to perform some pretty extensive "surgery" onsite.



In addition, painting of the Chancel continues - from what we can tell, the results will be a fitting framework for our newly restored organ. Stay tuned for more!

Also, be sure to check out Vince's blog posts in ["The Pipes Are Calling"](#) to learn more and to see some of the MANY photos and videos he takes to document this once-in-a-lifetime experience restoring Grace's organ!

Fall Worship Schedule

Our **Wednesday Noontime services resume on September 2** in the Pavilion. If you're in the area or need a bit of peace in the middle of your week, stop in and join us for worship!

Grace Church will celebrate **Fall Kickoff Sunday on September 13!**

- Our Grace Church Choir will be back in full voice, and we look forward to hearing the Pavilion ring with song!
- We'll have our annual Ministry Fair where you can learn about the many ways you can get involved in our church services and ministries.

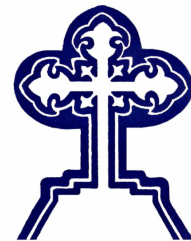
We look forward to seeing you!



More "Picture Days" for the Parish Directory

We will issue an updated Grace Church directory in September. So that we have the most accurate information in it, please make sure we have your current contact info (address, home and cell phones, and email address). AND, if you already log in to Realm to manage your giving online, feel free to update your own information and add an updated photos for yourself and for your family.

*Updated
Parish
Directory!*



If you don't use Realm, just send your favorite family pic as a .jpg or .png to the parish office at admin@gracepvd.org. Don't have a current one? Not to worry! Parishioner Doug Ditmars will provide additional photo sessions during coffee hour on August 16, 23, and 30) so bring your family and we'll take care of the rest!



Shawl Ministry at Grace

Shawl Ministry is currently making hats and scarves for mariners at the Seamen's Church Institute, the largest and most comprehensive seafarer and mariner service agency in North America. These hats and scarves are given to both international seafarers and U.S. Mariners. Knitters and crocheters are invited to join us at Shawl Ministry each Wednesday at

10am in the Pavilion. All are invited! Questions? Please contact Jane Ditmars at shawls@gracepvd.org.

Worship with Us!

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost

August 16, 2026

Most Sunday mornings, Grace Church live-streams our 10am service of Holy Eucharist on YouTube. We hope this experience allows those who are not able to join us in person on Sundays to participate in our worship life at Grace.

Live-streamed Worship: Our Sunday services are live-streamed on the Grace Church YouTube Channel. If you can't join us Sunday morning, visit [our YouTube channel](#) and watch/share at your convenience. (Note that if the recording isn't in [the "Live" listing](#), you may find it in [the "Videos" tab](#).)



Please click the image above to join our live-streamed service on Sunday.

[Click Here to See the Bulletin for This Sunday's Service](#)

Collect for This Sunday: *Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Readings: For the texts of the readings for Sunday worship, [please click here](#).

More About the Episcopal Church: [Click here](#) for the latest from the Episcopal News Service. [Click here](#) for current news from the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island.

*Regardless of how you choose to participate in our worship life together,
ALL ARE WELCOME at Grace Church!*

Find Sunday's Readings

Find Recent Services

**Planning a Special Event?
Rent The Pavilion at Grace!**



The Pavilion
at Grace



300 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903

(401) 331-3225 | www.gracechurchprovidence.org

info@gracepvd.org

Connect with Grace Anytime!



*The Mission of Grace Church is to build, by the grace of God,
a loving and joyful community which lives the Gospel through worship,
proclamation and service to each other, to downtown Providence, and
beyond.*

Grace Episcopal Church | 300 Westminster St | Providence, RI 02903-3499 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!