



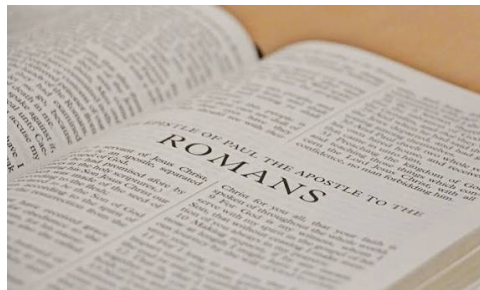
# Grace Abounds!



## Weekly News from Grace Episcopal Church - August 21, 2026

### A Living Sacrifice

This Sunday, the Apostle Paul says the most startling thing (at least to me) in the [Epistle to the Romans](#): “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”



I think that means that what I do in church on Sunday morning is not the worship that God cares about. Rather, worship is how I testify to God’s presence in my life through my day to day living of it. On Sunday, I am essentially bringing my entire life to the altar, and laying it there as a living sacrifice.

Paul takes it a step further: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

That’s what we do on Sunday, together—we renew our minds and discern the will of God. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

*Timothy Safford, Interim Rector*



AMERICAN  
PARKINSON DISEASE  
ASSOCIATION

## Rhode Island

September 26, 2026 | Warwick, RI

Warwick City Park

Check-in: 9:30 am | 5k Fun Run: 10:30 am

Ceremony and Walk: 11:30 am

# Grace Walks to Support Parkinson's Research - September 26

In honor of Grace Church's former Rector, Rev. Jonathan Huyck, we are forming a team to join in this year's **Optimism Walk & 5K Fun Run for Parkinson's**. You are invited to join us for this day that is dedicated to community, resources, and support for families in Rhode Island affected by Parkinson's disease.

Sponsored by the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, this event raises funds to support our friends and neighbors with the illness. As the largest PD community event in our state, the Walk offers a platform to connect, access valuable resources, learn about programs, and strengthen our supportive network. With over 25 community partners sharing information, this event has been a cornerstone for 28 years. The APDA is also the only grassroots organization that directly serves the Rhode Island community.

**This event is free to attend and participate.** If you decide to fundraise, your support helps us expand programs and services throughout Rhode Island, empowering individuals affected by Parkinson's to live vibrant lives. Plus, your donations impact groundbreaking research aimed at improving treatments and ultimately finding a cure.

Enjoy raffles, live music, a catered lunch, and more! Bring friends and family and consider making it a tradition by starting your own team!

And if you don't want to walk/run, we still need you! Be a supporter of the team, cheering on our Grace Church friends as we help build awareness of Parkinsons' impact on our community!

## Event Details

- When: **Saturday, September 26, 2026**
- Where: **Warwick City Park | Steven O'Connor Blvd, Warwick, RI 02889**
- Check-in: 9:30 am
- 5k Fun Run: 10:30 am
- Ceremony and Walk: 11:30 am
- Catered lunch, raffles, awards: 12:00



Vestry member **Ed Morgan** will lead the Grace Church team, and each participant on our Walk team will receive a free logo'd Grace t-shirt!

For more information, click the QR code above, or see Ed at church on Sunday or in your parish directory. (You also can email the parish office at [admin@gracepyd.org](mailto:admin@gracepyd.org) and we can relay a message to Ed.)

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## 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!

**Mark Your Calendars!**

*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!**

**SEP  
27**

*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.

**OCT  
11**

*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.

## A Bird's-Eye View of the Organ Work

The re-installation of our restored organ continues apace. As reported by Grace's Director of Music Vince Edwards in [this week's blog post](#), this project is reaching into all corners (and heights!) of the sanctuary.

You can see from some of the pictures he's posted that Vince has taken advantage of the ladders and scaffolding throughout the space to share views most of us have never seen. (In the picture at right, that image in the distance is the very top of the Chancel mural which was restored last year!)



Be sure to check out Vince's regular blog posts in ["The Pipes Are Calling"](#) to follow the progress of this once-in-a-lifetime experience restoring Grace's organ!



## Parishioner Recognized by the Diocese

Grace Church parishioner Pam Baker recently was recognized by the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island as "an exemplary woman of the Protestant Christian faith."

In a letter from Bishop Nicholas Knisely, Pam was honored and thanked for all she does to enrich the life of our parish.

Congratulations, Pam!

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## 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!

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## Directory Updates Due August 30

Have you had your picture taken for the new Grace Church directory to be distributed in September. If not, there still is one more time you can get it done!

Parishioner Doug Ditmars will take a photo of your family during coffee hour **next Sunday (August 30)** so bring your family and we'll take care of the rest!

Alternately, you can send a current picture of your family as a .jpg or .png to the parish office at [admin@gracepvd.org](mailto:admin@gracepvd.org). And please don't forget to provide us with any updates to your contact info (address, home and cell phones, and email address).

Please send all new pictures and updated contact info **no later than Sunday, August 30.**



*Updated  
Parish  
Directory!*





*Directories will be distributed next month; they will be available to all church members whose names are in the directory.*

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## 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@gracepyd.org](mailto:shawls@gracepyd.org).

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# Worship with Us!

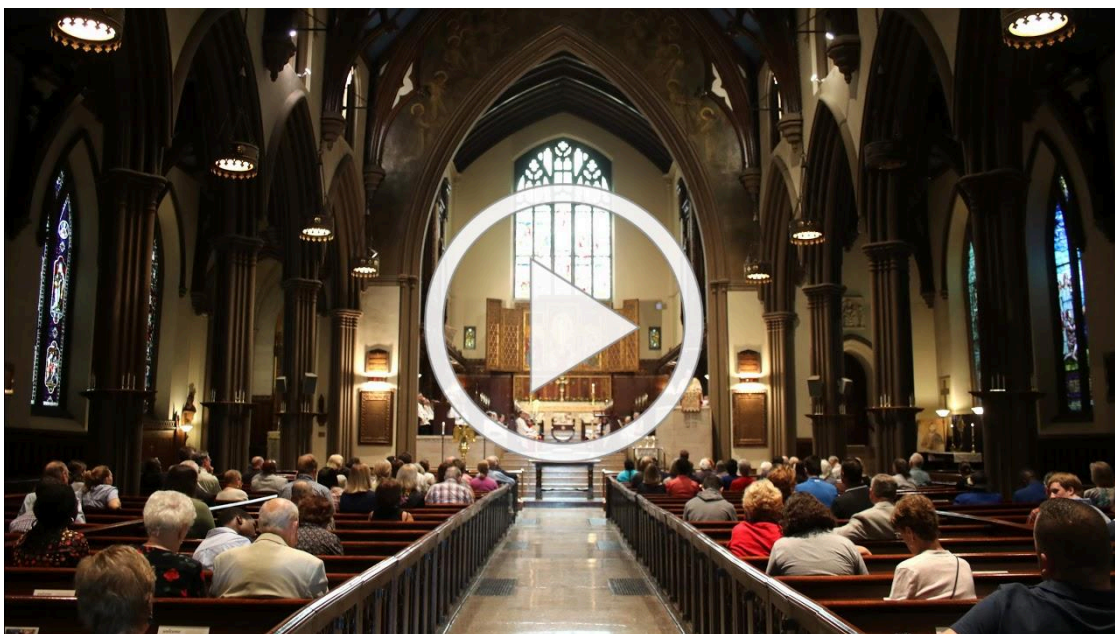
## Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

### August 23, 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](#).)

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*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:** *Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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*



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[info@gracepvd.org](mailto: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

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