



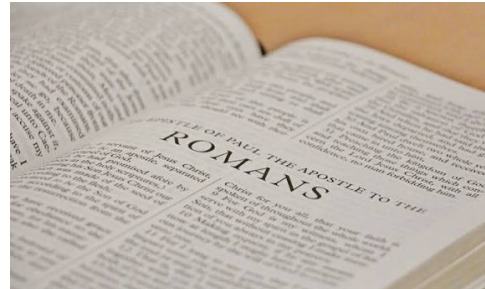
Grace Abounds!



Weekly News from Grace Episcopal Church - August 28, 2026

Sunday Worship is Service

Do you use the word “service” to describe our Sunday worship? I do, as in, “Our service is at 10am,” or “The usher will give you a service leaflet.”



Because Sunday worship is service. We fulfill our responsibility to God and to each other. We live out our baptismal promise to “continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers.”

And when I’m feeling fancy and erudite, I call worship “The Liturgy.” “Liturgy” is biblical Greek meaning “the work of the people.”

The service may feel a bit more like work while we continue worship in the Pavilion. I’ve been here two months and have received so many complaints: “I can’t hear,” or “The seats are hard,” or “I can’t get to coffee,” or (most worrisome), “I won’t be back until we’re back in the church proper!”

Each time, I smile and nod, and want to say, “But we have work to do.”

Worship is not an option. It is the service we do.

Timothy Safford, Interim Rector



Sign Up to Help With the Rector-Search Process

The Grace Church Vestry invites all church members - communicants in good standing who are at least 16 years old - to reach out if you are interested in serving on one of the four committees we will form as part of the rector-search process.

The four committees are:

- **Prayer Team:** Individuals who are willing to pray daily for the people of your church and for all those engaged in the search/discernment process. May also create or adapt a prayer for the search process to be used regularly in worship, shared on the website, and prayed by the Profile Team and Search Committee.
- **Communications Team:** Communicates regularly with the Interim, Wardens, Search Committee, and Canon to the Ordinary to keep the church informed as to the search/discernment process and where the church is in the process.
- **Profile Team:** Works with the Canon to the Ordinary to develop the Vocation Hub Profile, the primary search document for promoting Grace Church to potential rector candidates. *This team should include people who can work well as a team, have strong writing skills, and will represent the church accurately.*
- **Search Committee:** Comprised of Vestry members and/or other representative members of the church. Commits to prayerfully discerning the next right priest for the church, must be able to keep information confidential, work toward consensus in decision making, and is willing to build trusting relationships. *Meets at least weekly for several months of the search process. The Chair and/or Wardens work closely with the Canon to the Ordinary.*

If you're interested in being part of one or more committees, please send an email to rectorsearch@gracepvd.org with your name and the committee/s you'd like to join and a member of the Vestry will follow up with you regarding next steps. **All such requests are due no later than Monday, September 21.**

Please keep in mind that, depending on the committee size, number of applicants, and needs of the search process, there may not be room for everyone who sign up for a particular committee. But rest assured that there will be work for all of us and ways to participate in the process!

Upcoming Meetings for Rector-Search Process

Please make every effort to attend 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! At these meetings, we will gather as a congregation to discuss what we hope for in our next rector, and we need everyone to be part of the conversations.

Meetings will begin immediately after our 10am worship. More details will be available soon, 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!



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.



Wednesday Services Resume Next Week

Our **Wednesday Noontime services resume next week 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!

Fall Kickoff Sunday - September 13

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!

Do You Know a Child Who Likes to Sing?

The Grace Church Choristers are always welcoming new members!

- Our Training Choir (ages 5 to 7-ish) meets on Fridays at 5pm. We learn basic music skills and how to use our voices.
- The Choristers (ages 8 to 18) meet on Fridays starting September 18 from 5:30 to 6:30 and have pizza following. The Choristers join the Grace Church Choir approximately twice per month to sing for Sunday services.

Of special interest – the Choir and Choristers have a trip planned to England next summer, where they will sing at Bath, Bristol, and Gloucester Cathedrals!

If you're interested in one of these groups for your child, please contact Vince Edwards:

vedwards@gracepvd.org.



Save the Date: Evensong October 4

CHORAL EVENSONG



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 ~ 4:00 PM

*The Choir & Choristers of Grace Church sing music of
Byrd, Smith, and Gibbons.*

The service and reception will be held in the Pavilion.

Grace Church in Providence
300 Westminister Street ~ Providence, RI 02903
www.gracechurchprovidence.org

Grace Walks to Support Parkinson's Research - September 26

In honor of Grace Church's former Rector, Rev. Jonathan Huyck, you are invited to join our team for this year's **Optimism Walk & 5K Fun Run for Parkinson's**. Enjoy raffles, live music, a catered lunch, and more at this **FREE event!**

Sponsored by the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, the Walk (the largest PD community event in Rhode Island) raises funds to support our friends and neighbors with the illness. Join us and access valuable resources, learn about programs, and strengthen our supportive network.

Donations will help empower individuals affected by Parkinson's to live vibrant lives and impact groundbreaking research aimed at improving treatments and ultimately finding a cure.

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

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 on the flyer below, or see Ed at church on Sunday or in your parish directory. (You also can email the parish office at admin@gracepvd.org and we can relay a message to Ed.)



September 26, 2026

Check-In: 9:30 AM

5k Fun Run Starts: 10:30 AM

Walk Starts: 11:30 AM

Lunch, Awards & Raffles: 12:00 PM

Warwick City Park

Stephen O'Connor Blvd, Warwick, RI

Sponsored by



abbvie



Medtronic



Greenwich Farms at Warwick | Capitol Ridge at Providence | Blenheim-Newport
Benchmark Senior Living Experiences

Boston Scientific

Join Team Grace Church



www.apdaparkinson.org/ri

(401) 439-8435

apdari@apdaparkinson.org

Walk with us and make a difference for families impacted by Parkinson's!

-  A short and accessible walk route and 5K Fun Run option.
-  Every six minutes, someone is diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.
-  The more funds we raise, the more people we can help!
-  Earn great prizes for raising \$100, \$500 and more!

apda AMERICAN PARKINSON DISEASE ASSOCIATION
RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER
Strength in optimism. Hope in progress.

Support Local Immigrant Communities

The Rhode Island State Council of Churches is offering a session to train "observer" advocates for local immigrants in court actions and upcoming local elections.

The training will take place on Sunday, October 4, from 2pm to 4pm, at Beneficent Congregational Church. For more information, please click [here](#).



The Rhode Island State
Council of Churches



A Loss to Our Grace Community

We learned this week that Grace member Barbara Muniz died on August 7. Due to health issues, Barbara had been unable to attend services for some time, but she stayed in touch with us and was always glad to see visitors from Grace.

Barbara's full obituary may be found [here](#).

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Our Livestreaming to Return Soon

You may have noticed that last Sunday's service wasn't live-streamed as usual. Unfortunately, we experienced a theft from the Vestry room on the morning of August 17 and lost approximately \$5,000 worth of A/V equipment, including the laptop used for streaming and microphones used in both the church and the Pavilion. We are working with the Providence Police Department's investigation and pursuing an insurance claim to replace the equipment.

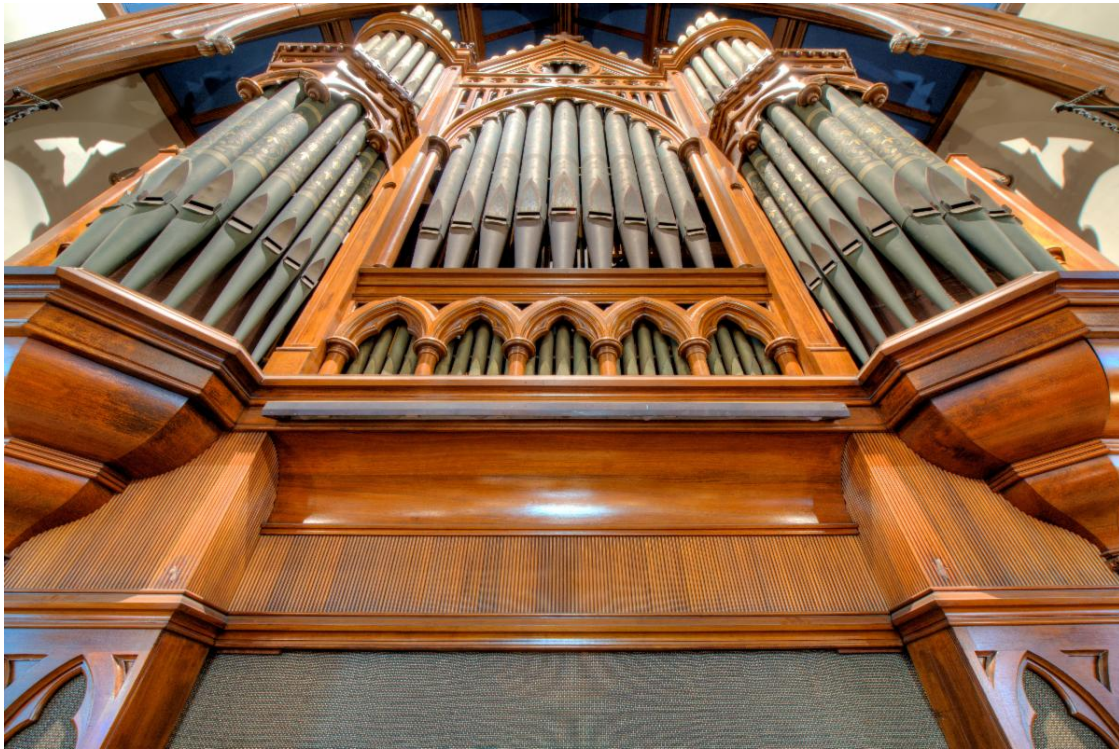
As of this writing, we are hoping to be back up and running within the next couple of weeks. Please stay tuned for updates. And thank you for your patience!

Organ Work Continues

While the re-installation of our restored organ continues, it can be hard to remember how the organs are *supposed* to look!

As we look forward to the end result, here's a photo of the Gallery organ from before the project began. Feels like forever since we last saw it live!

And be sure to check out regular blog posts in "[The Pipes Are Calling](#)" where Grace's Director of Music Vince Edwards documents the progress of this once-in-a-lifetime experience restoring Grace's organ!

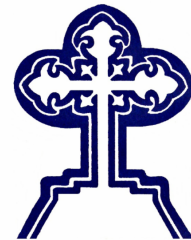


Last Sunday for Picture Day and Updates!

Have you had your picture taken for the new Grace Church directory to be distributed in September. If not,

Parishioner Doug Ditmars will offer a free session to take a photo of your family during coffee hour **this Sunday (August 30)**. Just bring your family and we'll take care of the rest!

*Updated
Parish
Directory!*



If you can't make it to worship, please send a current picture of your family as a .jpg or .png to the parish office at 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**.

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

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!

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

August 30, 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](#).)

Our livestreaming will return soon. Thank you for your patience.

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

Collect for This Sunday: *Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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



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

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