



Weekly News from Grace Episcopal Church - September 11, 2026

On Forgiveness

On September 11, my thoughts and prayers turn to forgiveness. Specifically, am I ready, 25 years after that horrific day, to forgive those who perpetuated the deeds?

I am not. But. . .



Jesus isn't fooling around when he says to Peter that, offering forgiveness seven times to a person who repeatedly harms is not enough. "I tell you," Jesus says, "**seventy-seven times**," which is equivalent to, "never stop forgiving." You can read the gospel lesson for Sunday [here](#).

For me, fortunately, we have a confession in the service where I can ask God to forgive me for things left "undone." (I need far more than 77 forgives on that one.)

How do **you** grapple with Jesus' command to forgive without hesitation? Let me know this Sunday, as I am still trying to figure it out.

Tim Safford, Interim Rector

Fall Kickoff Sunday - This Weekend!

Grace Church will celebrate **Fall Kickoff Sunday** **this weekend!**

- 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.



For this year's Ministry Fair, we'll be like the Israelites when they left Egypt - on the go! Since we don't have a lot of space for different tables, we invite you to wander

around and talk to ministry leaders to learn more. You can identify them by their special brightly colored nametags.

Our Livestreaming Returns This Sunday!

Great news! We have replaced our livestreaming equipment (and added microphones for better sound in the Pavilion!) and are ready to resume our regular streaming schedule this Sunday!

Please see below for the streaming link and a downloadable bulletin for the service.



The Rector-Search Process - Just 10 Days Left to Sign Up!

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!

Get Ready!

Rector-Search Meeting on September 27

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!

**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.

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.



Sign Up Now!

Grace Walks to Support Parkinson's Research

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!**

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.)



AMERICAN
PARKINSON DISEASE
ASSOCIATION

Rhode Island Optimism Walk & 5K Fun Run

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



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!



AMERICAN
PARKINSON DISEASE
ASSOCIATION
RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER

Strength in optimism. Hope in progress.



RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK

Food Pantries: Should I Donate Funds or Food?

September is Hunter Action Month, and our friends at the RI Community Food Bank offered these insights to the question of how best to support our local food pantries. Here at Grace Church, we have a perpetual food drive for our friends at Pete & Andy's Food Pantry at Sts. Peter and Andrew Episcopal Church in Providence, and we're happy to accept both food and cash donations. And we thank you for your generosity!

Donating Food

Got food to spare? Donating directly to one of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank's **140 member agencies** is one of the easiest ways to help your neighbors. If

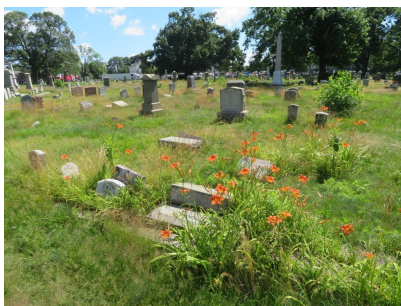
you're moving or finally cleaning out the pantry, drop off a box of unexpired non-perishables at the agency **closest to you**. It's a simple way to cut down on food waste, help the planet a little, and put food on someone's table.

Food drives are also a great way to get kids involved. They're hands-on, easy to understand, and a good starting point for conversations with children about food insecurity and why looking out for neighbors matters. **Our website** has a list of helpful tips for your food drive, as well as downloadable flyers and a list of most-needed items.

Donating Funds

Did you know the Rhode Island Community Food Bank actually purchases most of the food we distribute, **about 42%**? Because we're buying in bulk for 140 member agencies, often straight from distributors and wholesalers, we can stretch a dollar further than the average consumer can at the grocery store. In fact, **every \$1 donated buys about 1 pound of food**.

That's what makes **financial gifts** such a powerful way to support Rhode Islanders: even a few dollars go a long way. Want to make an even *bigger* impact this Hunger Action Month? Start your own **fundraiser** and get your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers involved.



Cemetery Spruce-Up on October 3!

Please join us on **Saturday, October 3, from 9am to noon** for a bit of light landscaping in the Grace Church Cemetery. The Cemetery has become an important service ministry for Grace, providing an increasingly-beautified 9-acre green space in the heart of a dense

urban cityscape.

October 3 also is the date for the Fall "Care for The Square" event in Trinity Square, which always sees scores of volunteers from the neighborhood, area schools and other churches who come out to work - principally on our Cemetery. As such, it is important that Grace has a strong turn-out. But mostly, it is a very rewarding experience.

Senior Warden Joel Goloskie will lead a short guided tour, including the stately gravestone of Bishop John Henshaw, who served as rector of Grace Church and led the construction of the beautiful church building we enjoy to this day - all while serving as the Episcopal bishop of Rhode Island. This year, repeat participants will note how nicely the 19th Century

Caretaker's Cottage has been renovated. And the Salvation Army across the street provides lunch – so there's free food!

The Cemetery is located at 10 Elmwood Avenue, just a few minutes' drive from Grace Church. See you there.

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 Westminster Street ~ Providence, RI 02903
www.gracechurchprovidence.org

Another Truck Arrives Monday!

On Monday, September 14, another truck arrives from Casavant. This one will contain the last of our restored pipes including the big Bombarde pipes - 32-foot ones! No doubt there will be lots of pics in blog posts next week.

This week's posts include behind-the-scenes pics showing pipes being actually installed in toeboards (which look like oversized cribbage boards, don't they?), and gratitude for all your support in providing snacks for Casavant's very grateful crews.

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



Staff Schedule - and a Warning!

Staff Schedule

Our Interim Rector, Rev. Tim Safford, will be away without access to voicemail or email from Monday, September 14 through Sunday, September 20.

If you have an urgent pastoral matter, please contact the parish office (401-331-3225) during work hours (8am-4pm, Monday to Friday) for assistance.

Warning!

In other news, we've seen an increase in the number of spam emails that supposedly are coming from Grace staff members, including our Interim Rector Tim Safford. There's nothing we can do to prevent them coming to you, so we encourage you to exercise caution if you get a message asking you to "be discreet" or "call me for more information," or if the message just sounds a little bit "off." Better to ask than to risk an encounter with a scammer!



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.

Worship with Us!

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 13, 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](#).)



Click the window above to view our live-streamed service.

Click Here to See the Bulletin for This Sunday's Service

Collect for This Sunday: *O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ 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

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