



Weekly News from Grace Episcopal Church - September 25, 2026

Starting the Rector Search Process This Sunday

Yes, the weather forecast is frightful, but the Rector Search Process begins this Sunday with the first of two workshop sessions with the Rev. Dr. Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew, Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Rhode Island. Details below.

Please know how critical this workshop is in understanding the history of Grace and its uniqueness as a church. Grace Church is one of the most diverse churches under the Episcopal canopy, so it's critical that the complete diversity of those voices is heard.

And, Church School reopens! Details below!

Timothy Safford, Interim Rector

Our First Rector-Search Meeting - Sunday!

We're excited that this **Sunday, September 27** is the first parish-wide information-gathering meeting in our rector-search process! We hope you plan to attend to share your thoughts and insights regarding this effort - it can't happen without you!

Mark Your Calendars!

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!

Grace Church's Rector-Search Process 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 Path portfolio. These answers provide additional information from the congregation in the format used for the actual portfolio.
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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.

Now, given the weather forecast, we know that it will be hard for some of our folks to attend so **we are offering an option to participate through a livestream!**

Attending In-Person

Some housekeeping details:

- We've arranged for extended parking that day** in the two lots where we rent spaces on Sunday: at 346 Westminster and 357 Westminster. Please use those spaces if you can't park in our lot.
- Lunch will be provided.** We'll have an "indoor picnic" with a variety of sandwiches, chips, cookies/brownies, and apples - a seasonal favorite - as well as our regular coffee and tea.

- **Coffee servers have the day off!** A hired team of servers will be here to set up, tend, and clean up the food areas, so that all church members can fully participate in the process.

Attending via Livestream (starting at 11:30am)

- Here is the link to **join our meeting via a livestream link** on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMSbyQ5okdE>
- If you want **to participate in the meeting in real time**, please add a comment in the window below and your question/comment will be shared with the meeting.

Sunday's meeting will start after the worship service (approximately 11:30am). This gathering is a **critical** part of our rector-search process and **your attendance is vital!** Between this meeting and the one in two weeks - on October 11 - we will gather as a congregation to discuss what we hope for in our next rector, and we want your voice to be heard.

As we meet in earnest for this phase of the rector-search process, our Prayer Committee offers this prayer:

With joyful hearts and confident faith, let us seek God's blessing on the Search Process on which we are embarking. We praise the Lord for this holy place, consecrated almost two hundred years ago, and for those who have stewarded it through their generations. We celebrate the myriad ways in which Grace Church has been a beacon of light and truth in our community, and we give thanks for the community around us, for all who come to this place seeking rest, refreshment and peace.

As we begin our journey of discernment, we pray that the Holy Spirit will come powerfully on the person who will eventually be called to pastor us, and likewise that each member of this church will prayerfully commit to supporting the process. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, who is our great High Priest and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday!



Church School, Youth Group, Nursery - Updates for This Sunday

Grace's Church School reopens this Sunday, September 27. Children age 4 to grade 6 are invited to process from the Pavilion to the Church School room and return at the Peace to share Communion with their family. Two classes will be offered: one for younger kids and one for older kids.

The **Youth Group (for youth in grades 7-12)**, under the direction of Cass Suttan Coats and Noah Klein, has started meeting and will alternate between Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. This Sunday, all youth are encouraged to participate in the Rector Search session after worship and stake their claim to the future of Grace.

So that parents of Church School children can fully participate in the Rector Search session, we'll offer a special program for children during the meeting, and the **Nursery**

(for children 6 months thru 3 years) will stay open.

And, remember that the Nursery is open each Sunday, too!

Unsure where your child should be? Check in with Cass Suten Coats at youthgroup@gracepvd.org.

Reminder About Parking at Grace



As we look ahead to a busy season of church services, choir rehearsals, rental events, weddings and wedding receptions, it's a good time to remind all of us about the use of Grace's small parking lot.

- On Sundays, the gate is open and parking is available first-come, first-served - help yourself!
- On weekdays from 6am to 6pm, in addition to our staff parking spaces being unavailable, the ten double/tandem parking spots are rented out to local teachers for use throughout the day. If you come to church during business hours, please do not use those spots.
- On Friday afternoons/evenings, the parents of our choristers and youth group routinely park in our lot while waiting for their children. These families always have priority in the parking lot at those times.
- During private rental events (like the weddings/receptions taking place this Saturday, September 26, and in two weeks on October 10), the parking lot may not be available depending on the needs of the renter. If you have a key fob and will be downtown for an event, you are welcome to use the lot **unless** it's being used for an event. (In that case, there usually is a sign at the parking gate.)

At all times, we ask that you kindly do not use the spaces marked "staff only" since many of our staff live on the property and those spots are used when they're at home.

Saturday's Walk to Support Parkinson's Research - Postponed to October 3!

Due to the weather forecast for tomorrow morning, the Rhode Island Optimism Walk to support Parkinson's research has been postponed to next weekend - Saturday, October 3. Location and start time remain the same.

The good news is that this means you have another opportunity to sign up and join the team! Already, **Team Grace Church is exceeding all expectations:**

- Team Grace Church has 31 members signed up - **the largest team registered!**
- Our original fundraising goal of \$5,000 has been completely obliterated - **more than \$10,000 raised so far!**

And know that your efforts are appreciated: Grace's former rector, Jonathan Huyck - in whose honor we'll walk - is incredibly grateful for all the support. While he can't join us in person, Jonathan will be praying for all those who are walking and donating.

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! Click the QR code on the flyer below to register, or contact Ed (in your parish directory) for more information. (You also can email the parish office at admin@gracepyd.org and we can relay a message to Ed.)



September 26, 2026

Join Team Grace Church

Check-In: 9:30 AM

October 3, 2026

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



www.apdaparkinson.org/ri

(401) 439-8435

apdari@apdaparkinson.org

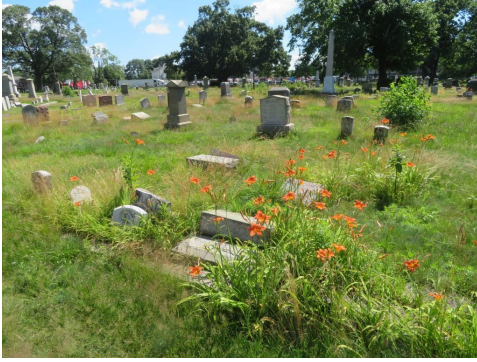
Walk with us and make a difference for families impacted by Parkinson's!

- 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!



Cemetery Spruce-Up on Saturday, 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.

*Updated
Parish
Directory!*



Parish Directories Available October 4!

The latest issue of our Grace Church Parish Directory now is available! If you haven't already done so, please stop by the table in the Pavilion during coffee hour on Sunday, October 4, to collect yours.

Please note that directories will be given only to those whose names appear in it. If you'd like to become a member of Grace Church and be added to the next issue of the directory, please complete a Membership Form (found in the literature rack) and return to the parish office.

Choral Evensong & Blessing of the Animals - October 4

This year, the Blessing of the Animals - in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi - is part of our Choral Evensong service at 4pm next Sunday, October 4. All pets are welcome!

Please keep all animals leashed, crated, or contained in some way. And if your furry friend needs to stretch their legs, feel free to take them (leashed) into the Courtyard for a break. For pets that don't like to be still, we'll offer a "blessing to go" in the Courtyard at 3:45pm.

If your pet no longer is with us, please bring a photo or other memento; we will say prayers from a new Episcopal liturgy for remembering beloved animals.

CHORAL EVENSONG

✻ BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 ~ 4:00 PM

The Choir & Choristers of Grace Church sing music of Byrd, Smith, and Gibbons. You are invited to bring your pets for a blessing in honor of the Feast of St. Francis.

The service and reception will be held in the Pavilion.

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



Shawl Ministry at Grace

Shawl Ministry is now making hats, scarves and mittens for the youngsters at Children's Friend of Providence. Warm items are needed for children of all ages.

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.

Weekly Wednesday Eucharist

Did you know that each Wednesday at noon, Grace Church offers a mid-week service of Holy Eucharist which is open to the public? If you're in the area for the day or work/go to school downtown and are on your lunch break, please join us in the Pavilion for a spoken service of Holy Eucharist.



Next Wednesday, September 30, the celebrant is the Rev. Dr. Maggi Dawn, who will observe the Feast Day of St. Michael and All Angels. We hope to see you there! (Parking is available in our lot on a first-come, first-served basis.)

New Grace Website Under Construction!

By the end of the year, Grace Church will have a brand-new website! Our current site has been a helpful tool in spreading the word about Grace for many years, but its technology is outdated and the design structure isn't as flexible as we need it to be.

A small team has been hard at work since the summer, and we expect the new site to be ready in late December - in time to help the Profile Committee attract candidates in our rector search.

Until the new site launches, please email the parish office at admin@gracepvd.org with any corrections/updates needed on our current site. We want to put our best foot forward if rector candidates start looking at Grace before the new site goes live!

Please keep this effort in your prayers, and stay tuned for a new look to come!

Worship with Us!

Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 27, 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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 Westminister 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 Westminister St | Providence, RI 02903-3499 US

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