



Weekly News from Grace Episcopal Church - October 2, 2026

Pay Attention!

There is **a lot** going on this week!

1. The **Parkinson's Walk** is tomorrow! Details below.
2. The Fall clean-up of the **Grace Church Cemetery** is tomorrow, for those not walking! Details below.
3. The **Youth Group and Church School** are meeting! Details below.
4. The **Blessing of the Animals** in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi is this Sunday afternoon at **Evensong**! Details below.
5. The next **Rector Search workshop** with Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew is Sunday, October 11 after the 10am service! Details below.
6. A **new class for adults** begins Sunday, October 18 at 9am. Details below!



Timothy Safford, Interim Rector

Saturday's Walk to Support Parkinson's Research - Tomorrow!

The Rhode Island Optimism Walk to support Parkinson's research will take place tomorrow - Saturday, October 3 - at Warwick City Park, and **we need you!**

Grace Church has a team walking in honor of our former rector, Jonathan Huyck, and we would love to have you there to cheer them on. Our team will be wearing brightly colored "Grace Episcopal Church" t-shirts so they'll be easy to spot.

If you can't make it tomorrow, please keep this effort in your prayers. And [click here](#) to make a donation in support of **Team Grace Church!**



AMERICAN
PARKINSON DISEASE
ASSOCIATION

Rhode Island Optimism Walk & 5K Fun Run

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!



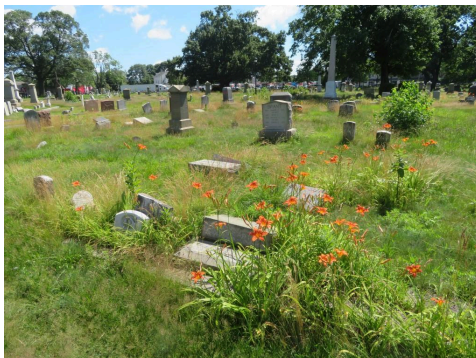
Earn great prizes for raising \$100,
\$500 and more!



AMERICAN
PARKINSON DISEASE
ASSOCIATION

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER

Strength in optimism. Hope in progress.



Cemetery Spruce-Up Tomorrow!

Please join us **tomorrow 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.

Choral Evensong & Blessing of the Animals - Sunday

This year, the Blessing of the Animals - in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi - is part of our Choral Evensong service at 4pm this Sunday. 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

Christian Education at Grace

The **Youth Group** (for youth in grades 7-12), under the direction of Cass Suten Coats and Noah Klein, will meet this Friday at 7pm. Please contact Cass (youthgroup@gracepvd.org) or Noah (nklein@gracepvd.org) with any questions.



Grace's Nursery (for kids up to age 3) is open on Sunday starting at 8:30am.

Our Second Rector-Search Meeting - October 11!

Thanks so much to those who were able to attend last Sunday's Rector-Search meeting, whether in person or online. It was an energetic and informative recap of Grace Church's history since the mid 1900s, and a good foundation for things that have worked well in the past.

Please remember that the second parish-wide meeting in the Rector-Search process takes place on **Sunday, October 11!** At this meeting, we will work more closely on developing the specific strengths we'd like to find in Grace's next rector - and we need your help in this work!

Since it worked so well last week to offer online access to this meeting, again, **we're 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)

- In next week's issue of *Grace Abounds*, we will provide a link to **join our meeting via a livestream link** on YouTube.
- 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**, so please make plans now to join us on **Sunday, October 11!**

Grace Church's Rector-Search Process

Mark Your Calendar!

As part of our rector-search process, we will have two separate meetings after church that will help guide the Search Committee. These meetings—both of them led by Canon Debra Clavette-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 Vocational Faith portfolio. These 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 Debra to develop the primary search document.
- The Search Committee also begins to meet, initially with Canon Debra, to build relationships, set regular meetings, and start to 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.



Spiritual Growth on Sunday Morning

Starting Sunday, October 18, Interim Rector Tim Safford and our adjunct clergy invite you to join them each Sunday morning at 9am for a participatory conversation reflecting on the Sunday readings. Always, we'll focus on the question: **How is the Holy Spirit speaking to me?**

The group will meet in the Chafee Room promptly at 9am and will end exactly at 9:40am. Please be sure to stop by!

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.

*Updated
Parish
Directory!*



Parish Directories Available This Sunday

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 this Sunday 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.

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, October 7, is the [feast day of Birgitta of Sweden](#), a 14th-century mystic. Join us to celebrate her, and we hope to see you there! (Parking is available in our lot on a first-come, first-served basis.)

Worship with Us!

Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost

October 4, 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: *Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; 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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