



Weekly News from Grace Episcopal Church - October 9, 2026

Our Second Rector-Search Meeting - Sunday!

Are you planning to attend the second parish-wide meeting in the Rector-Search process? It takes place **this Sunday, October 11, and we need you!**

Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew will focus attention on the specific gifts and skills of the next Rector. We'll quickly be in small-group discussions, working through a list of questions; answers will be posted online for potential candidates to review.

With the small group discussion format, it is not possible to livestream the meeting. If you are unable to attend in person, please request the material from Michele Adamo (madamo@gracepvd.org) so you may complete and return it to her.

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.
- **Coffee servers have the day off!** A hired team of servers will be here to help so that all church members can fully participate in the process.

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 join us!**

Mark Your Calendars!

Grace Church's Rector-Search Process

As part of our active search process, we will have two separate meetings this 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 Holy portfolio. These surveys 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.



Memorial Service for Mack Woodward - Today at 11am

At 11am this morning, we will host a memorial service in honor of William "Mack" Woodward in the Pavilion, with a reception to follow. Please join us to

celebrate Mack's life, and keep his husband Joe Handly (on the left in the picture above) and all of Mack's family in your prayers.

To learn more about Mack's life, [click here](#).

Children & Youth at Grace

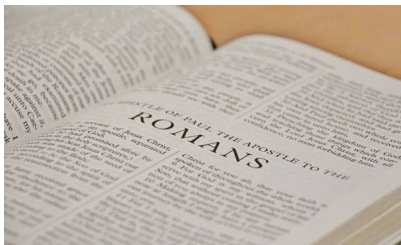
The **Youth Group (for youth in grades 7-12)**, under the direction of Cass Suttan Coats and Noah Klein, will meet tonight at 7pm. Please contact Cass (youthgroup@gracepvd.org) or Noah (nklein@gracepvd.org) with any questions.



Our Church School's "Big Kids" class (for ages 7-12), meet on select Sundays - including this weekend! Email sundayschool@gracepvd.org with any questions.

The "Little Kids" class (for ages 3-6) meet every week. Like the Big Kids, the Little Kids start in the service with their families, then leave soon after the opening hymn to go upstairs to the classrooms. They return to the service in time for Communion with their families. Email sundayschool@gracepvd.org with any questions.

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



Spiritual Growth on Sunday Morning

Starting next 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!

"Un-Retiring Persons" to Meet October 18

Announcing the kick-off meeting at Grace Church of the AUP (Association of Un-retiring Persons)! Join us in a corner of the Pavilion after service on Sunday, October 18 and 25, and bring coffee and an inquiring mind.

This AUP initiative will be led by Oliver Chamberlain, Jr., and will include conversation about anything of interest you want to discuss.

I hope to see you Sunday.

—Oliver

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. (Parking is available in our lot on a first-come, first-served basis.)

The Rite of Confirmation on January 10

The Bishop of Rhode Island, Nicholas Knisely, visits Grace Church on Sunday, January 10, and will offer the rite of Confirmation during the service to all desiring adults and youth 7th grade and up.

In the Rite of Confirmation, the Bishop says a unique blessing upon you to be strengthened with the Holy Spirit and empowered for service in the Church.

Especially for youth, Confirmation is the opportunity to “confirm” your baptism; this is a critical spiritual step in the journey toward adulthood.

For adults, Confirmation is an opportunity to make a mature statement of your faith and receive a unique blessing from your Bishop. Those confirmed in another branch of the “one, holy and apostolic Church” are invited to be “Received,” declaring that you are under the spiritual care of an Episcopal bishop and have received their unique blessing.

We are members of Grace Church by virtue of our baptism; nothing more is required. Still, it is **highly encouraged or required** that those in certain ministry positions here at Grace (Chalice Bearer, Eucharistic Visitor, Altar Guild, Vestry, etc.) have been confirmed or received. If you have questions (and who wouldn't?), speak to the Rev. Maggi Dawn or me.



Confirmation requires preparation. For **adults**, Maggi and I are holding preparation classes on three Sundays in November (8, 15, and 22), at 11:45 a.m. A quiet day (half-day, really) and rehearsal for the service is scheduled for Saturday, January 9, from 9am to noon. Please register by emailing me at rector@gracepvd.org.

For **youth confirmation**, Cass Suttan Coats will communicate with you and your parents shortly.

-Timothy Safford

Team Grace Church: "True Parkinson's Heroes"

Dear Team Grace,

What a beautiful day of celebration, community, and hope. Even with the event date change, it was truly special to see so many familiar faces from Grace and the Providence community come together in support of families impacted by Parkinson's disease.



I'm excited to share that **Team Grace Church raised an incredible \$13,705, making this group the second-highest fundraising team at this year's Optimism Walk & 5K Fun Run.** That achievement is remarkable, but what makes me equally proud is that **we had the largest registered team with 38 members of Team Grace registered to participate, and - even with the date change - more than 20 showed up Saturday!** Your presence, enthusiasm, and commitment to the Parkinson's community meant so much.

If you walked with Team Grace and didn't receive an APDA Walk event t-shirt and want one, please email me directly (mmach@apdaparkinson.org) your preferred size, and I will do my best to accommodate your request.

Thank you for being true Parkinson's heroes. I hope the day felt as meaningful to you as it did to all of us. Your support helps create a stronger, more connected community and advances a mission that impacts so many lives!

With gratitude,

Michelle Mach

Executive Director

**American Parkinson Disease Association
Rhode Island Chapter**



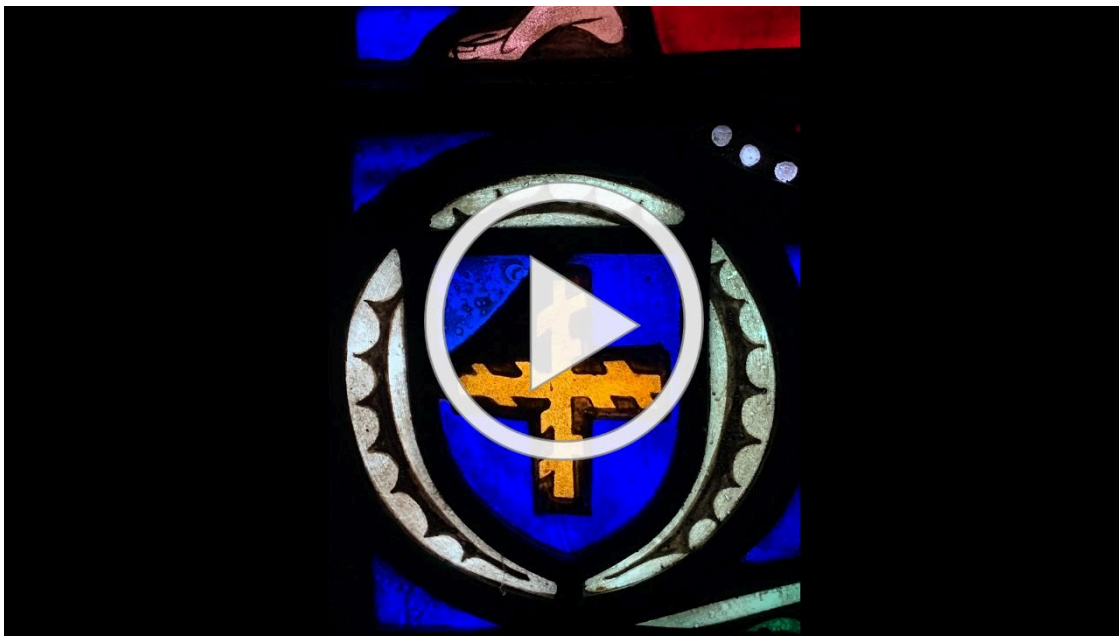
Worship with Us!

Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost

October 11, 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: *Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; 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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