

Amazing Grace

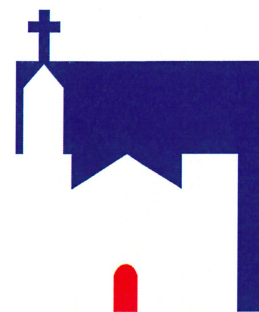


January 2025

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Wayne Street

Sandusky, OH 44870



~ Mission Statement ~

*"In light of our confidence that 'God loves you. No exceptions',
Grace Episcopal Church strives to be a welcoming community,
inviting everyone to learn, serve, and share in Christ's love."*



The Most Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop

The Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Bishop, Diocese of Ohio

MASS

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

In-Person, livestreamed on Boxcast, and on Facebook



Daily Mass at 9am in the Chapel

(Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)

In-Person and livestreamed on Facebook



Tuesday at 5:30pm in the Chapel • In-Person and livestreamed on Facebook

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 8am - 3pm

CONTACT US

Telephone

419-625-6919

Website

GraceSandusky.org

Church Office E-Mail

office@GraceSandusky.org

Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector

frseth@GraceSandusky.org

Barb Reszko, Postulant for Holy Orders

babrauniii@gmail.com

Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster

rarcpa@sbcglobal.net

Parish Staff

Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector

Barb Reszko, Postulant for Holy Orders

Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster

Debbie Chase, Parish Administrator

Kelly Gerhardstein, Housekeeper

Dr. Robert Speers, Parish Historiographer

RECTOR'S REFLECTION - JANUARY 2025

First, on behalf of the Wardens, the Vestry, the Staff and me - I want to wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

We are coming off of a beautiful celebration of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. A huge THANK YOU to Randy Ruthsatz and Brandon Johnson for their diligence in picking beautiful music, and to the choir and Kaleen Lawrence for sharing their talents during the Christmas Eve Mass!

Another huge THANK YOU to the Altar Guild and those who were deputized on the 22nd in making our church look extra special for the Christmas Season. And to Barb Reszko for a beautiful sermon on what this season of Christmas *should* mean to us! I think often times we forget the sheer number of talented and interested parishioners right in our midst!



During December the Vestry approved our 2025 Budget, which will be given to the parish at our Annual Meeting. We also in the process of receiving another quote on the scope of work for our renovation. In the coming weeks the Properties Committee and the Vestry will take up discussion on the quotes.

January will find us busy in a number of different ways:

Throughout the month of January and into February I will be offering to come by your home to bless it during the Season of Epiphany. As in years past I am not looking to be fed or padding to a mileage reimbursement. This is just a way for us to bring into our homes some of what we do and who we celebrate in church on Sundays. If you are interested in getting scheduled please send me an email (frseth@gracesandusky.org).

On Friday January 17th starting at 6:30p we will play host to a Grace Church Euchre Night. I hope you can make plans to attend and feel free to bring a friend along. We will have a table (or two) set up to help those who may be rusty or interested in learning how to play. We will also provide childcare for those with young ones – please consider coming and enjoying a fun night with your Grace Church family.

On Sunday, January 26th after the 10a Service we will hold our Annual Meeting. During this business meeting we will present the budget to the parish, vote on our Vestry slate for the class 2028 (Julie Geiger, Rick Doyan, and Mark Pifer). We will also vote on our Convention Delegates (Becky Montague, Brandon Johnson, and Debbie Chase). We will also celebrate Don Hanck, after 19 years as our Treasurer this will be Don's last Annual Meeting with us as he is retiring at the end of 2025. Following our meeting we will have our 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off and a small celebration for Don – please plan to attend and contemplate if you have what it takes to de-throne Kelly Gerhardstein as Grace Church Chili Champ!

As of this writing, we have surpassed our Stewardship goal of \$120,000! THANK YOU to those who made pledges this year towards our church's mission in 2025. A breakdown of the pledges are as follows:

60 pledging families
27 increases
12 new pledges
Totaling \$121,865

Lastly, as we begin this new year, let us remember by whose grace we have been allowed to live the life we live – Jesus Christ. May he always find us gathered at his altar offering him the worship that is due him.

See you in church on Sunday,
Fr. Seth | Rector

Below are some important dates of events taking place here and in the Diocese in January.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please reach out to Fr. Seth or Debbie in the Parish Office.

Wednesday, January 1st

Parish Offices are closed and no service is offered

Sunday, January 5th

No Adult Faith Formation this Sunday

Thursday, January 9th

After Hour Office Hour @ Vita

Saturday, January 11th

Celebration for Canon Anna 2p-4p
@ Bellwether Farm

Sunday, January 12th

No Adult Faith Formation this Sunday

Tuesday, January 14th

Thrift Shop Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 16th

After Hour Office Hour 6p-7p @ Vita

Friday, January 17th

Euchre Night @ 6:30p in the Mary Simpson Room

Saturday, January 18th

4:30p-5:30p: Community Meal
in the Mary Simpson Room
5:15p: Evening Prayer in the Chapel



Sunday, January 19th

9a: Adult Faith Formation – Church Architecture
and Windows of Grace Church

10a: Children's Chapel (3rd grade age and below)

11:30a: Vestry Meeting

Thursday, January 23rd

6p-7p: After Hour Office Hour @ Vita

Saturday, January 25th

9a: NCMAC Meeting @ Port Clinton

4:30p-5:30p: Community Meal
in the Mary Simpson Room

5:15p: Evening Prayer in the Chapel

Sunday, January 26th

9a: Adult Faith Formation – Church Architecture
and Windows of Grace Church

11ish: Annual Meeting in the Church

Noon: 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off and Retirement
Celebration for Don Hanck

Thursday, January 30th

6p-7p: After Hour Office Hour @ Vita

Friday, January 31st-Saturday, February 1st

Winter Convocation @ Sawmill Resort
(if interested in attending please email Debbie in
the office at office@gracesandusky.org)

Join us for Evening Prayer

When: 5:15pm (On Community Meal Saturdays)

In January - the 18th and 25th

How long: 20 minutes

Where: Chapel, Grace Episcopal Church, Sandusky, Ohio

Who: EVERYONE

What to expect: Pray and reflect together, Share God's love.



EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSINGS

During the month of January Fr. Seth will be driving to all the corners of the parish boundaries blessing homes. One of the first things he started when he came to Grace two years ago was the blessing of homes during the Season of Epiphany.

If you had your house blessed last year you can have it blessed again (simply wipe the chalk marks off from last year before he shows up). If you are interested in having your home blessed please send him an email and he can get something scheduled frseth@gracesandusky.org.



Join us on **Friday, January 17th** for our first Euchre Night!

Bring a partner or just bring yourself (we'll find you a partner). Don't know how to play but want to learn? We will have a table and teachers there for you.

The fun starts at 6:30pm in the Mary Simpson Room.

Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages provided. If you want to bring your own "refreshment", you are most welcome to.

Arts @ Grace

This month we have a brand new artist displaying their work at Grace. Below is her bio. We hope that you will take the time to stop in the Mary Simpson Room to view her photos.

Greetings to all,

My name is Susan Shamhart and I am excited to be able to share some of my photos in your beautiful church. I was born and raised in Huron, Ohio, moved to Columbus in 1984, and returned to Huron in 1996. I have worked in the field of healthcare since 1983 in a variety of positions. I have been an avid lover of photography for a long time, and it became a passionate hobby during COVID. The COVID pandemic brought many changes and disruptions to everyday lives, which prompted people to seek different means of coping. I developed a daily coping routine of walking the Huron Pier to watch the sunrise, to help bring me a sense of peace and calmness prior to starting my work day. I then started taking numerous photos daily from various beautiful areas of Huron and began posting them on social media. I felt a need to share the photos in an effort to help remind myself and hopefully others, that beauty still surrounded us even in the midst of the pandemic or other difficult times.

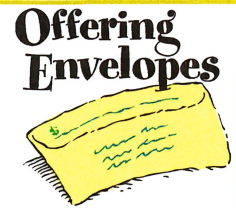
I view photography as a therapeutic lens to practice mindfulness and presence. I hope that in sharing my photos it will impact others in a similar way.



2024 Giving Statements will be mailed in January. If you have not received yours by January 31st, find an error, or have a question about your statement, please call the Church Office (419) 625-6919.



If you returned your pledge card and indicated that you would like offering envelopes for next year, they are ready to pick up in the narthex or chapel.



2024 GIFTS TO GRACE

Please have all pledge payments for 2024 in by January 5, 2025. If you are writing a check, please be sure it is dated for 2024. Any 2024 pledge payments made after January 6th will be credited for 2025.



The deadline to submit information for the February newsletter is **Friday, January 24th.**

PASTORAL CARE



If you know of someone in the congregation who is ill, homebound or in the hospital please let the parish office or Fr. Seth know so that he can visit them. Fr. Seth's contact information is: 740.624.5818 and frseth@gracesandusky.org

Children's Chapel



Every 1st and 3rd Sunday

**For children
Preschool through
3rd grade**

DAILY EUCHARIST IN OUR CHAPEL

**Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday at 9am.**

It is offered both in person and livestreamed to our Facebook page so you can watch it at your leisure. if you cannot make it in person.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, ESPECIALLY

Anne McDermond (January 19, 2024)
Jessica Dickman (January 13, 2024)

Gracious God, nothing in death or life, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, nothing in all creation can separate us from your love. We commend these our beloved ones into your loving care. Enfold them in the arms of your mercy. Bless them in their dying and their rising again in you. Bless those whose hearts are filled with sadness, that they too may know the hope of resurrection; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



Since Jeff Bezos has ended the charitable program that was



Amazon Smile. A new entrepreneur has stepped up and created a platform where charitable organizations (like Grace Church) can benefit. Clevergiver is a "launch site" that allows you to set up a profile and a charitable organization to benefit (like Grace Church) that you can use to access popular retailers like Target, Walmart, Rite Aid, Stride Rite, Nike and the list goes on and on. With us being intentional as shoppers Grace Church can benefit anywhere from 2.5% of your purchase up to 12% of your purchase by just taking the 3 minutes it takes to create an account using it to jump to your favorite retailer or brand from their site instead of Google. This is an easy way for us to do some fund raising.

COMMUNITY MEALS

Our January Community Meal dates are **Saturday, the 18th** and **Saturday, the 25th**. We serve our meals in the Mary Simpson Room from 4:30 - 5:30 pm.

Donations of fresh fruit and desserts are always needed and appreciated. These donations help keep the cost of the meal down.

If you can help, items can be dropped off at the church the week before the meal(s) between 8am and 3pm or the Saturday of the meal after 3pm.

Interested in possibly being one of our cooks? Helpers? Questions? Please contact Lisa Fowler (lisa.fowler@bex.net or 419-602-7969).



I want to take this opportunity to thank Ken Neiding who quietly ensures that our little food pantry is stocked with items to give to those who come by our church in need of their next meal.



Thank you Ken!

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who donated to our yearly collection for the youth at the Erie County Juvenile Justice Center.

Your generosity is amazing!

Marcia Fordham and Barby Gravengaard delivered all these goodies to the facility on December 13th.

As always, the staff and children at the Center were extremely grateful.



Grace Episcopal Thrift Shop

301 East Market Street • Sandusky, OH 44870

419-626-5453

Hours: Tuesday-Friday: Noon-4pm

Saturday: 10am-1pm

Closed Sunday & Monday

• Clothing, Decor and Housewares •

*All Proceeds Benefit Erie County Charities
Our Store Is Staffed By Community Volunteers*



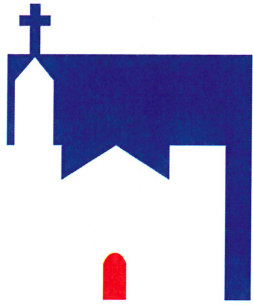
• Donations Accepted, In Season •

AFTER HOURS OFFICE HOUR

On Thursdays in January (*except January 2*), Fr. Seth has his after hours office hour at Vita, 256 Columbus Ave., from 6-7pm.

If they are closed for any reason, Fr. Seth will be at the church.





ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The 189th Annual Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church
will take place on **Sunday, January 26th**
immediately following the 10am Mass in the church proper.

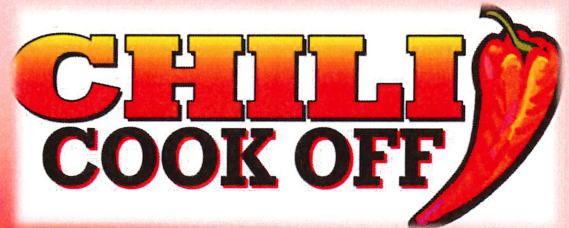
At this meeting we will:

- Elect three persons to the Vestry
- Certify three persons for the Diocesan Annual Convention
- Review and adopt a budget for the year 2025 proposed by the Vestry
- Hear a report from Senior Warden, Julie Eastlake
- Hear a reflection from the Rector, Fr. Seth Wymer
- Review the Annual Reports for 2024

Please note: If you are responsible for an annual report, please have hand typed or electronic versions of these documents in the office or emailed to the office by **Friday, January 17th** in order for us in the parish office to format, collate and duplicate the reports in time for the meeting.

If you are sending a copy of your report through electronic mail you may attach it as a Microsoft Word document or embed your text into the body of an email and we will be able to retrieve it. Please speak with Debbie Chase or Fr. Seth at (419) 625-6919 if you have any questions.

**After the Annual Meeting
you are invited to the
Mary Simpson Room for the
*3rd Annual Grace Church Chili Cook-Off***



The judges will be all of you.
Every chili chef will have a basket at their station
that you can vote with your wallet: \$1.00 = 1 vote,
the one with the most money wins the popular vote
(and the funds go to Grace Episcopal Church Fundraising).

The trophy will be awarded that day!

There will be a sign-up for chefs on the bulletin board outside the office
starting January 2nd – come and show off your skills
and take home the bragging rights of the 2025 Grace Church Chili Chef.

WEATHER CLOSURES

In the event of severe weather this winter the church
office *may* be closed. Please call first to be sure
Debbie made it in.

For services - if the weather is extreme, please check
our Facebook page before heading to church. We will
post if we have to cancel services.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY NEWS TO SHARE?

A birth, baptism, wedding,
special event, have you
moved? Drop us a note and
we'll include it in our next newsletter
office@gracesandusky.org





4 th	Julie Eastlake
6 th	Stephen Hunt
9 th	Mark Pifer
18 th	Lee Wood
27 th	Zach Jardon
30 th	Debbie Coffey
31 st	Kelly Gerhardstein

*Watch over your children, O Lord,
as their days increase;
bless and guide them wherever they may be.
Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them
when discouraged or sorrowful;
raise them up when they fall;
and in their hearts may your peace
which passes understanding,
abide all the days of their lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

***Our apologies if we missed your birthday.
Please advise the church office
of any changes or omissions.***

COFFEE HOUR



Every Sunday, after our
10 o'clock worship,
we meet in the Mary Simpson
Room for fellowship, coffee and
sweet treats.

We couldn't do this without the help of those who
host Coffee Hour.

We have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board
outside the office for anyone who wishes to bring
in something to share and to host.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT OR HEALING

Amelia	Jameson	Matthew S.
Barb	Jeff	Mia
Barbara	Jeff & Nancy	Michael
Betty & Mike	Jenny, Dave,	Mike, Shelly &
Bev	Todd & Tate	Derrick
Bob	JoAnn	Nancy
Caine & Owen	Joe	Pauline
Chris	Joea & Neill	Ron & Alice
Dan & Sue	Judy & Jim	Ron & Rene
Dawn	Karen	Ruth
Debbie M.	Kate	Sr. Rosemary
Doug & Beth	Kris	Steve
Emily	Lauren	Steve & Kathy
Ernie & Grant	Marie	Vona, Stewie &
Greg E.	Matthew	Alizander
		Wayne

***If you, a family member, or a friend is in need
of Pastoral Care, or is hospitalized,
please call the Church Office at 419-625-6919.***

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PROTECT AND SERVE

Ted Bertsch
Cameron Brace
Chris Cheek
Sam Freeman
Adam Hagelberger
Joel Hagy
James R. Hart, III
Craig Lambert
Vance Lambert
Brian Michael Laws
Marcus Mettert
Kevin Poyer
Sean Poyer
Thomas Roesch
Cameren Scholl
Jamison Shriver
Ayden Swinehart
Matt Trautman

**Our Outreach Grant Fair, for those who received grants in 2023,
was again held virtually this year.
In this, and future newsletters we will publish their reports.**

ERIE SHORE NETWORK, INC.

This letter is to thank you for your support of our Erie Shore Network, Inc. Arts and Crafts Class. I hope you enjoy the video presentation with samples of different projects that we have completed over the past year. The arts and crafts projects have been a vital tool in helping our members to maintain their mental health.

As you know, our membership consists of people who suffer with mental illness. Arts and crafts projects are a wonderful way for members to escape from the stresses of life and the anxiety that many times comes with mental illness. Members concentrate on the projects and focus on creating beautiful projects. Once projects are completed, members are filled with pride and accomplishment. They take their projects home with them upon completion and are reminded every day that they can be productive and creative. This program is good for the soul!

With the grant funds that ESN was awarded by Grace Episcopal Church, we were able to purchase art supplies that members would normally not be able to use. The lanterns, potted plants, handmade pillows, jewelry, home decor, upcycling, tote bags, and hanging shelves were a big hit this year! The supplies for these projects can be very costly. It is amazing what power art has to heal, strengthen, and encourage. Members enjoy the projects that they are creating and the socialization that comes with working as a group. There are currently 15-20 members each week for the Arts and Crafts Class. We continue to create art, as well as well-being with the funds we received from Grace Episcopal.

This program is a huge draw for new membership. More and more mental health consumers are finding their way to ESN and taking part in our other activities and programs because of their first visit to Arts and Crafts Class. We are so pleased!

We are hopeful that we can continue to partner with you on future grants to continue to provide this valuable program to our members.

Brenda Baum
Executive Director

Erie Shore Network created a YouTube video of some of their activities for 2024. Go to this page to view their Book of Memories [Grace Episcopal 2024 Book of Memories presentation - YouTube](#)

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

We are registered with the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Please visit <http://kroger.com> and log into your Kroger account. Search for Grace Episcopal Church (Sandusky) either by name or **KW315** and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card. We currently have 14 households registered. Please call the church office if you have questions.



January 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Church Offices Closed Choir Practice 7pm	2 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	3 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	4
5 Mass 8am Chapel Mass 10am Church	6 Rector's Sabbath	7 Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	8 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel Choir Practice 7pm	9 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel After Hours Office Hr - Vita 6pm	10 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel Food card giveaway 9am	11
12 Mass 8am Chapel Mass 10am Church	13 Rector's Sabbath	14 Thrift Shop Steering Committee Mtg 9am Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	15 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel Choir Practice 7pm	16 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel After Hours Office Hr - Vita 6pm	17 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel  EUCHRE Euchre Night 6:30pm	18 Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p Evening Prayer 5:15pm - Chapel
19 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Church Children's Chapel Vestry Meeting 11:30am	20 Rector's Sabbath Church Office Closed	21 Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	22 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel Choir Practice 7pm	23 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel After Hours Office Hr - Vita 6pm	24 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	25 NCMAC Meeting 9am - Pt. Clinton Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p Evening Prayer 5:15pm - Chapel
26 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Church Annual Parish Meeting 11am Chili Cook-off after meeting in MSR	27 Rector's Sabbath	28 Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	29 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel Choir Practice 7pm	30 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel After Hours Office Hr - Vita 6pm	31 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel Winter Convocation PM	

JANUARY RESPONSIBILITIES

	January 5 Baptism of the Lord	January 12 First Sunday after Epiphany	January 19 Second Sunday after Epiphany	January 26 Third Sunday after Epiphany
Ushers/ Greeters	Patty Pascoe Diane Ernst	Patty Pascoe Diane Ernst	Patty Pascoe Diane Ernst	Patty Pascoe Diane Ernst
Lector/Chalice Bearer 8AM	Mark Pifer	Kitty Smith	Debbie Chase	Kitty Smith
Lector/Chalice Bearer 10AM	Jim Hart	Ellen Mettert	Amy Fox	Marcia Fordham
Acolytes	Rick Doyan	Ellen Mettert	Rick Doyan	Ellen Mettert
Livestream	Jeff Fowler	Brandon Johnson	Don Lenhart	Jeff Fowler
Altar Guild 10AM	Ellen Mettert	Marcia Fordham	Barby Gravengaard	Judy Porterfield
Coffee Hour	Jenny Schoewe	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	Chili Cook-Off

WINTER CONVOCATION

At our 208th Convention, Bishop Jolly cast the vision for our diocese:
 “Connected in Beloved Community, we seek to be faithful, healthy, effective,
 and sustainable sharers of the transformative love of Jesus.”

Lay and clergy people of all ages from across the diocese are invited to Winter Convocation, **January 31-February 1, 2025**, at Sawmill Creek in Huron to learn tangible skills for how to live out our vision in our faith communities and across the Diocese. We'll be joined by two visiting trainers from The College for Congregational Development (CCD) who will lead us to deepen our faith and build our practical skills for being the church in the world today.

The cost to register is \$50.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children/youth. If interested in attending, please contact Debbie at the Parish Office and she will register you. **The Parish will pay for all participants to attend. The deadline to register is Friday, January 17th.** If we have a group of six or more from Grace, the Diocese will reimburse half of the registration fees.

Childcare and interactive activities for youth will be available.

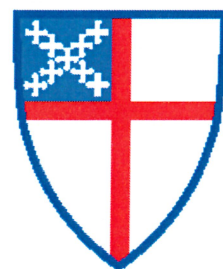
Registration includes the Convocation sessions, Friday reception with hearty hors d'oeuvre, coffee, tea, and water stations, buffet lunch, resources, and the opportunity to build relationships with your siblings in Christ.

Same-day registration (cash/check only) will be available at Sawmill Creek on both Friday, January 31 and Saturday, February 1.

If you have any questions about the Winter Convocation, please talk with Fr. Seth.



**God loves you.
No exceptions.**



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. www.dohio.org