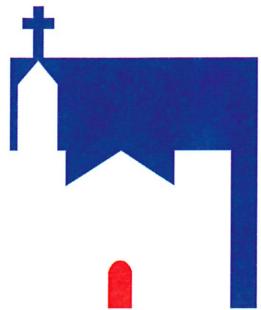


Amazing Grace

June 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

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

In-Person, livestreamed on Boxcast, and on Facebook

Daily Mass at 9am

(Wednesday and Thursday)

In-Person and on Facebook

Tuesday at 5:30pm

In-Person and on Facebook

All services are in the Chapel during our Church renovation

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

Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster

rarcpa@sbcglobal.net

Parish Staff

Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector

Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster

Debbie Chase, Parish Administrator

Susie Kuns, Housekeeper

Bob Speers, Parish Historiographer

RECTOR'S REFLECTION - JUNE 2025

I am writing this month's article two weeks prior to when I normally do. We just came off of our first successful new weekend schedule, relishing in the fact that Jesus is still Lord. Despite the hiccups that came up, he is still on his throne as King! Gratefully our first foray into a more "contemporary" service went really well, despite my poor attempt at leading the music (FYI it will get better and plans are already in motion to improve that aspect – namely taking me out of it!). The 8a folks breathed a sigh of relief realizing that the music in the bulletin was for the 10a folks and not them! And other than working with the 10a folks on getting up the communion rail and back to their pews in an orderly fashion, all went extremely well! And thanks to a cheap priest, Etsy, and the sewing abilities of Amy Fox we have four new altar hangings for the Chapel altar. All-in-all it's a win!



We will be ending May by gathering together for a Euchre Night and having some fun! In May we silenced the organ, readied the church for the repair work, blessed mothers of all makes and models, spent Saturdays on the soccer field, and gathered for coffee to talk about the world's problems and solve none of them. We also gathered to say good bye to Barb Reszko who was assigned to us for a year and half! We sent Barb off with our prayers and knowledge that she'll always have a home here. We did all of that while still gathering for prayer throughout the week, operating a Thrift Shop, and feeding those in need! May was busy, but busy being the church in Firelands.

June will find us in a similar vein: For those who are interested on Saturday the 14th we will be heading to Trinity Cathedral to celebrate Barb's ordination to the diaconate. As the parish where she "cut her teeth" (perhaps not the most apt description of her field education time with us), I am hoping we will be able to carpool and caravan to the Cathedral to support her in this important step and have some numbers to help show our love and support of her! On the 21st the Vestry will be gathering at Bellwether Farm to spend time discussing and discerning where the Spirit is leading Grace Church in this next year or two. We will also be looking at how we, as an organization, have evolved and discern better ways to meet the challenges of the time based on this new mode of existence. We will also have a special prayer and donuts with dad for Father's Day. And we will do all of this while still gathering for prayer, clothing the naked – thanks to the Thrift Shop and the many volunteers it takes to keep the doors open, and feeding the hungry – thanks to the many volunteers who cook and serve the meal, as well as bring in items to give away!

Lastly, in June I am hoping to find a couple of volunteers to assist in leading Children's Chapel on the 1st Sundays of the month. With Barb preaching on the first Sundays of the month it allowed me to be a volunteer for Children's Chapel with Jane Wood. Given that Barb is leaving us, we need a couple of volunteers to help. Prior to doing it there is an online Safe Church training that volunteers must attend, and I am happy to meet and plan with the team who is willing. If you feel so moved or called to help I (and Melissa and I am sure the other parents who have yet to darken our doors) will be grateful!

See you in church on Sunday,
Fr. Seth

Below are some important dates of events taking place here and in the Diocese in June. If you have any questions or would like further information, please reach out to Fr. Seth or Debbie in the Parish Office.

Upcoming EVENTS

Friday, May 30th @ 6:30p:

Euchre Night in the MSR!

Saturday, May 31st:

4:30p-5:30p: 2nd Community Meal of the month in the Mary Simpson Room
5:30p in the Chapel – Saturday Evening Mass

Sunday, June 1st:

9a: Adult Faith Formation – Women in the Bible
11a: Outreach Committee Mtg in the Guild Room

Thursday, June 5th from 6p-7p:

After Hour Office Hour

Saturday, June 7th @ 5:30p:

Saturday Evening Mass of Pentecost

Sunday, June 8th: Pentecost

9a Adult Faith Formation – Women in the Bible
1p – Daughters of the King – Huron

Saturday, June 14th: Trinity Sunday

11a @ Trinity Cathedral: Barb Reszko's Diaconate Ordination
5:30p Saturday Evening Mass
Donuts with Dad after the service

Sunday,

June 15th: Trinity Sunday and Father's Day

9a Faith Formation – Women in the Bible
Donuts with Dad after both services!

Thursday, June 19th from 6p-7p:

After Hour Office Hour

Saturday, June 21st: Feast of the Body and Blood of Our Lord

9a-3p @ Bellwether Farm – Vestry Retreat
4:30p-5:30p 1st Community Meal in the Mary Simpson Room
5:30p Saturday Evening Mass

Sunday, June 22nd: The Feast of the Body and Blood of Our Lord

9a Faith Formation – Women in the Bible

Saturday, June 28th

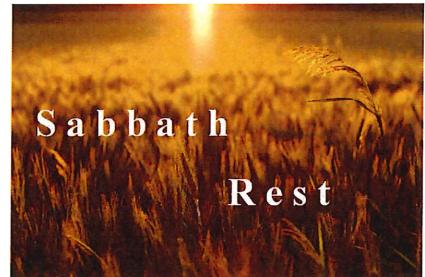
Noon to 5p @ Shoreline Park: Shoreline Sandusky Pride
4:30p-5:30p in the MSR – Second Community Meal of the month
5:30p Saturday Evening Mass

Sunday, June 29th

9a Adult Faith Formation – Women in the Bible

SABBATH DAYS

One addition to our monthly calendar you may notice is a second Sabbath Day for me on Fridays. One may wonder: Why does he deserve *another* day off? Given the addition of our Saturday evening service, the Vestry wanted to ensure I was taking adequate time for myself and for my family - a sentiment I am grateful to them for recognizing and ensuring that it happens!



The notion of Sabbath is one of the core tenants of the Law given to Moses by God, and it finds its origins in creation itself. While I am not in the office, please know that you and the parish at large are being prayed for during my recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours. I appreciate everyone's efforts in keeping communication with me during these days of rest to pastoral emergencies - it does allow me to unwind and enjoy time with the family. It also allows me to be a better priest to you all when I have time to refill my own tank.

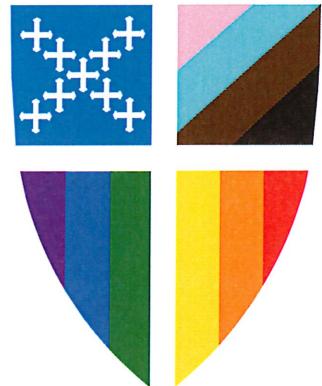
~Fr. Seth

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

As we approach June things will continue to get busier. June is a special month: We join the LGBTQIA+ community in celebrating Pride. A month where we spend time celebrating the amazing impact that LGBTQIA+ persons have had and continue to have in our world and in our community. While we celebrate their achievements and contributions to society, we also have to acknowledge the hurt and harm that has been inflicted on them, even by the church. There may be some among us that think it is *too much* or that we pay “too much attention”, or that we are *giving* everyone a month (think of our African American sisters and brothers in February) and the “grief” we hear.

Episcopalians have always had a long history of inclusion, of being the “middle ground”. While we claim a common heritage with Catholics there are ideas and polity that we disagree with and find ourselves aligning more closely with our Orthodox or Protestant cousins. We were one of the first denominations to wrestle with the notion of ordaining women and openly gay persons and have *always* sided with the option of being more inclusive than exclusive!

Like celebrating Black History Month our celebration of Pride Month brings attention to this group of individuals who, because they are “different” than the majority have been ostracized and often times relegated to second or third-class citizens. And while we may not be African Americans or find ourselves in the LGBTQIA+ community, as followers of Jesus Christ we are called to “respect the dignity of every person” (as our Baptismal Covenant has been reminding us this Eastertide), to be allies, we are called to give voice to those whose voices have tried to be silenced, we are called to stand with those whom the world has cast aside. In the Gospels Jesus never once aligned himself with those in secular or religious positions of “power” – Jesus is **ALWAYS** found with the outcast and the voiceless.



Our participation in Shoreline Sandusky Pride may look a little different this year. While myself, the Vestry, and I daresay the vast majority of our parish, relishes being the LONE church who has a presence at these events this year we may not be as visible – not because we don’t want to be, but because some of the organizers may have been victims of hate preached from a pulpit. While I am saddened at this, I (and I dare say again that most of us) do not want to re-traumatize or continue the trauma by forcing the issue. That being said I still think it is important that the community sees us as we plan to march in the parade and/or stand outside our church to let those know that there is a place, that like God, loves you – the authentic you – the real you and not the you that is shown to the world to survive in it, but you – no exceptions! There will be more information about this later in the month, but please put it on your calendars now: **Saturday, June 28th from noon – 5p Shoreline Park.**

There is a fundamental need in humanity to have a place where we feel comfortable – it is why we decorate our homes the way that we do, it is why we have our favorite chairs. Church is no different – we get used to, we get comfortable to the way things are done. Imagine never being comfortable in your own skin, let alone being told you are going to hell for how God has made you; yet, in the same breath, being told all are created in God’s image and likeness?! This is the battle we as a church face (it is a battle any church is going to have to face) – the years of being told that you are wrong or that somehow God has made a mistake in creating you. This is the image and the perception and in some horrific instances the reality that we, as followers of Jesus Christ, have to combat.

It is for these reasons that Pride Month is so important. Those first employees and patrons of the Stonewall Inn had enough and fought against the police and the picketers and the people that thought they were “odd” because they were being their authentic selves – *the self* God created them to be – *the self* made in God’s image and likeness. The Stonewall riots paved the way for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world. In that scenario, where do you think would Jesus be? He would have been with those standing up for their right to love.

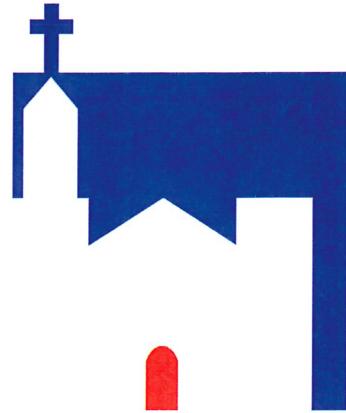
Church Renovation

In this fourth installment we are witnessing the beginning of the church work. All 60 pews have been removed and will be heading out of town to be stripped, repaired, and repainted before coming back and being some of the last things to go back into the church.

While they are gone the workers will begin with the electrical work of adding more lighting to the nave, transept, and sanctuary of the church. Some of this lighting will be functional (i.e., helping folks be able to read and navigate the church), while others will highlight the beautiful stained glass, and liturgical furnishings in the church: the altar, ambo, pulpit, and baptismal font. It'll get ugly before it gets pretty, but such is life and in the end it will enhance our beautiful building.

As always, if you have any questions or want to stop up before or after Mass on the weekend please know you are more than encouraged to do so!

Fr. Seth



Pride Eucharist



As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to "respect the dignity of every person" (as our Baptismal Covenant has been reminding us this Eastertide), to be allies. We are called to give voice to those

whose voices have tried to be silenced. We are called to stand with those whom the world has cast aside. In the Gospels Jesus never once aligned himself with those in secular or religious positions of "power" – Jesus is ALWAYS found with the outcast and the voiceless.

At our Masses on **Saturday, June 28th** and **Sunday, June 29th** we will acknowledge and pray for those who are part of, or support, the LBGTQIA+ community.

Fr. Seth's dear friend (*and brother from another mother*), Deacon Paul Scanlan will be here to preach at the Sunday 10am service..

VESTRY RETREAT

The Vestry will have their annual retreat on Saturday, June 21st at Bellwether Farm, Wakeman.



AFTER HOURS OFFICE HOUR

On Thursdays in June, Fr. Seth has his after hours office hour at 6pm at the church.



Stop by if you want to chat!

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 **17 households registered**.

Please call the church office if you have questions.

As you celebrate the blessings of June, may you also celebrate the gift of faith, praising God for His goodness and grace.

BARB RESZKO'S ORDINATION

On Saturday, June 14th at 11am at Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland Barb Reszko will have her ordination.



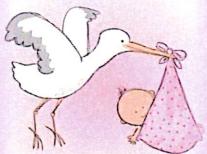
We would like to have a good group of people from Grace to attend and show our support.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office for those who wish to attend and/or be a carpool driver.

Congratulations to Brett and Kara Wieber on the birth of their daughter, Maeve Elizabeth, who was born on March 22nd. Maeve is the new granddaughter of Lee and Mary Ellen Wieber.



Congratulations to Jim and Mary Ellen Hart on the birth of their newest grandbaby, Hadley Sue Avila who was born on April 29th. She is the daughter of Ross and Emma Avila.



A huge thank you to Jenny Schoewe and Marcia Fordham for planning and creating a wonderful yogurt bar for Barb's going away gathering on May 25th. You did a beautiful job!

June Birthdays!

6 th	Roz Stevenson
9 th	June Copper
11 th	Wendy Rankin
13 th	Rick Doyan
	Amy Fox
16 th	Barbara Mayer
17 th	Becky Montague
18 th	Sarah Deming
20 th	John Nichols
21 st	Mary Ellen Hart
24 th	Arel Bucalo

*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.*

*Happy Belated Birthday
to Dave and Jenny Schoewe,
who celebrated their birthdays
on May 10th and May 18th.*

Hope you had a wonderful day!



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to Kelly Gerhardstein for her time with us as our Housekeeper. Kelly found a full-time position and we send her forward with our love and appreciation!

Children's Chapel



Every 1st and 3rd Sunday

For children Preschool through 3rd

Given Barb's upcoming ordination we are in need of some help to lead Children's Chapel on the 1st Sundays of the month.

A love for Jesus and completion of Safe Church Training is all that is required.

If you have questions please speak with Fr Seth, Jenny Schoewe, or Judy Smith (the latter lead it on the 3rd Sundays of the month).

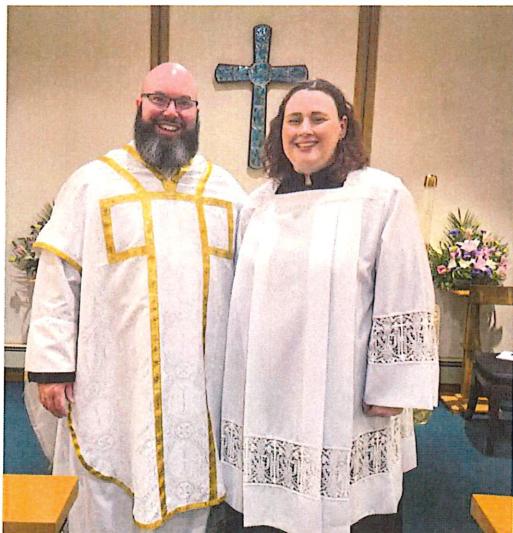
Volunteers Needed



DOUGHNUTS with DAD

As we prayed for mothers in all of their forms on Mother's Day in May, we will celebrate those who have been fatherly towards us on Sunday, June 15th.

Please join us for donuts with dad after the Saturday evening and Sunday morning services!



Barb Reszko's last day with us was Sunday, May 25th. She will be ordained as a Deacon on June 14th at Trinity Cathedral.

We'd like to thank Deacon Paul Scanlan for being here to share in Barb's final service.

After the Sunday services members of the parish shared a yogurt bar and said their good-byes.

We wish Barb well on the next step of her spiritual journey.





thrift shop

Serving our community since 1948



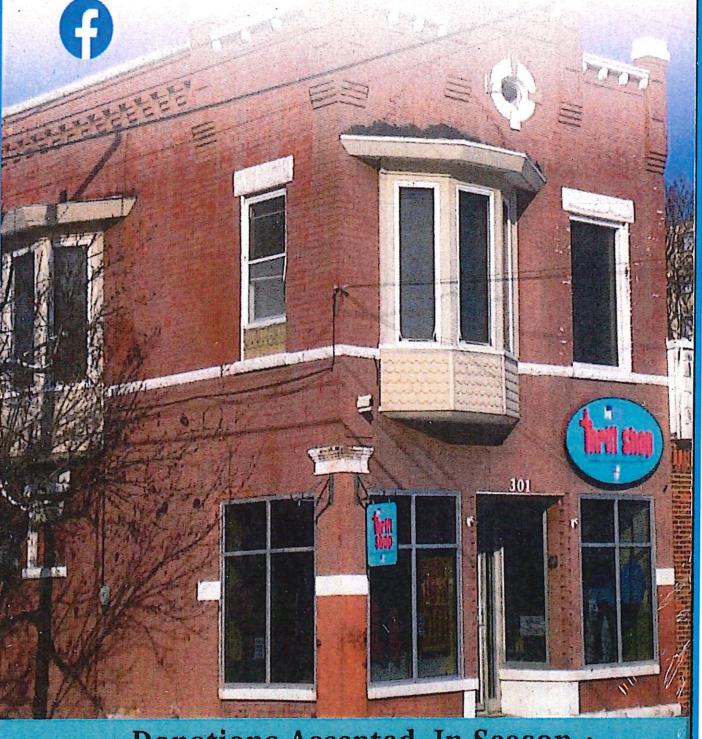
Grace Episcopal Thrift Shop
 301 East Market Street • Sandusky, OH 44870
419-626-5453

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 •

COMMUNITY MEAL

Our June Community Meal dates are **Saturday, the 21st and Saturday, the 28th**. 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)



I want to take this opportunity to thank the few families and individuals who volunteer to cook our Community Meal twice every month! If you have been thinking about assisting or want to try please know there are plenty of people willing to help without throwing you to the wolves!

One person was inadvertently omitted last month in our list of contributors toward our Lenten outreach project.

Thank you, Debbie Coffey, for your support of Heifer International!



The deadline to submit information for the July newsletter is **Thursday, June 26th**.



Beginning in June and through August the Church Office will be closed on Mondays so that Debbie can use up some vacation time.



Stuff the Bus

Stuff the Bus Erie County is a committee comprised of the Sandusky Mall, Sandusky Bay Kiwanis Foundation and VacationLand Federal Credit Union. This program is for any child in grades K-8 attending a school in Erie or Huron County in 2025. This is possible through the generous donations we receive each year from community partners. Grace Church is again a partner and collection site this year. **Last year over 850 backpacks were stuffed,** and they expect to meet or exceed the same need this year.



Soon a box will be located in the lobby for donations.

We are collecting items until August 4th

Below is a list of supplies needed. **Items should be new.**

Backpacks

(non-gender colors preferred, drawstrings acceptable, no wheels)

No. 2 Pencils

Crayola crayons (16-24 ct)

Crayola markers (watercolor, 8-10 pk)

Colored Pencils

Pens: black, blue & red

Highlighters

Glue sticks

Bottled glue

Rulers

Folders (2 pocket, solid colors)

Wide-ruled paper (loose leaf & spiral)

College-ruled paper (loose leaf & spiral)

Composition books

Scissors

Pink erasers

Pencil boxes and pencil pouches

3-ring binders

Fiskars scissors

Tax deductible monetary donations will also be accepted for backpacks and school supplies. Please make checks payable to United Way of Erie County (write "school supplies" on memo line). Mail checks to: VacationLand Federal Credit Union, Attn: Heather Gilchrist, 2911 Hayes Ave., Sandusky, OH 44870.

June 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Chapel Children's Chapel Outreach Meeting 11:30am	2 Rector's Sabbath Church Office Closed	3 Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	4 Daily Eucharist 9 am	5 Daily Eucharist 9 am After Hours Office Hour 6pm	6 Rector's Sabbath	7 Evening Eucharist 5:30pm
8 Pentecost Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Chapel DOK Picnic Huron	9 Rector's Sabbath Church Office Closed	10 Thrift Shop Steering Committee Mtg 9am Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	11 Daily Eucharist 9 am Choir Practice 7pm	12 Daily Eucharist 9 am After Hours Office Hour 6pm	13 Rector's Sabbath Food card giveaway 9am	14 Barb Reszko's Diaconate 11am Evening Eucharist 5:30pm
15 Father's Day Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Chapel Children's Chapel	16 Rector's Sabbath Church Office Closed	17 Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	18 Daily Eucharist 9 am Choir Practice 7pm	19 Juneteenth Daily Eucharist 9 am After Hours Office Hour 6pm	20 Rector's Sabbath	21 Vestry Retreat Bellwether 9am Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p Evening Eucharist 5:30pm
22 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Chapel	23 Rector's Sabbath Church Office Closed Thrift Shop Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon 11:30am	24 Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	25 Daily Eucharist 9 am Choir Practice 7pm	26 Daily Eucharist 9 am NCMAC Clericus 11:30am After Hours Office Hour 6pm	27 Rector's Sabbath	28 Shoreline Sandusky Pride Noon-5pm Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p Evening Eucharist 5:30pm
29 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Chapel	30 Rector's Sabbath Church Office Closed					

JUNE RESPONSIBILITIES

	June 1 Seventh Sunday of Easter	June 8 Pentecost	June 15 Trinity Sunday	June 22 Second Sunday after Pentecost	June 29 Third Sunday after Pentecost
Ushers/Greeters	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Lector/Chalice Bearer 8AM	Kitty Smith	Amy Fox	Debbie Chase	Mark Pifer	Amy Fox
Lector/Chalice Bearer 10AM	Jim Hart	Ellen Mettert	Jeff Mettert	Ellen Mettert	Jim Hart
Lector/Chalice Bearer 5:30PM (Saturday)	Amy Fox	Becky Montague	Marcia Fordham	Becky Montague	Marcia Fordham
Livestream	Don Lenhart Jeff Fowler	Don Lenhart Jeff Fowler	Don Lenhart Jeff Fowler	Brandon Johnson Jeff Fowler	Brandon Johnson
Altar Guild	Mary Ellen Hart	Ellen Mettert	Marcia Fordham	Barby Gravengaard	Mary Ellen Hart
Coffee Hour	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED
OF COMFORT OR HEALING**

Amelia	Jeff	Michael
Andrea	Jeff & Nancy	Mike, Shelly &
Barbara	Jenny, Dave,	Derrick
Bettie	& Tate	Nancy
Betty & Mike	JoAnn	Pauline
Bev	Joe	Richard, Lisa
Bob	Joea & Neill	& Missy
Caine & Owen	John	Ron & Alice
Carolynne	Judy & Jim	Ron & Rene
Cheryl	Karen	Ruth
Dawn	Kate	Sr. Rosemary
Doug & Beth	Kian	St. Barnabas
Dudley & Linda	Kris	Episcopal Church
Emily	Lauren	Steve
Emily & baby	Liz	Steve & Kathy
Erica	Marie	Sue
Ernie	Matthew	Vince
James	Mia	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**

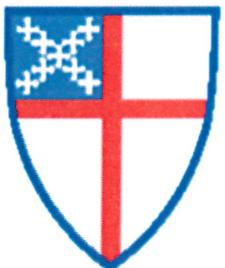
Ted Bertsch	Brian Michael Laws
Cameron Brace	Marcus Mettert
Chris Cheek	Kevin Poyer
Sam Freeman	Sean Poyer
Adam Hagelberger	Thomas Roesch
Joel Hagy	Cameren Scholl
James R. Hart, III	Jamison Shriver
Craig Lambert	Ayden Swinehart
Vance Lambert	Matt Trautman

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



**God loves you.
No exceptions.**



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. www.dohio.org