Amazing Grace

April 2026

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
315 Wayne Street
Sandusky, OH 44870

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SANDUSKY
EST. 1835

~ 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.

Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
In-Person, livestreamed on Boxcast, and on Facebook

Tuesday at 5:30pm
In-Person and on Facebook

Daily Mass at 9am
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
In-Person and 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
Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster	rarcpa@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer/Staff Accountant	finance@gracesandusky.org

Parish Staff
Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector
Rev. Carol Fleming, Priest-in-Residence
Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster
Debbie Chase, Parish Administrator
Jeremy Pifer, Treasurer
Barbara Johnson, Staff Accountant
Susie Kuns, Housekeeper

RECTOR'S REFLECTION - APRIL 2026

I secretly love that this newsletter is coming to you as the church begins the Sacred Triduum (the three Holy Days) of the church's calendar! So often Holy Week and Easter come at the end of a month or in the middle, but this one fits our newsletter publication date so well.

Despite the sheer number of services we offer for Holy Week, it is a beautiful time in the life of Grace Church, because it is becoming more and more rare for churches to celebrate the breadth of the Paschal Mystery with such vigor and life. Randy and Brandon and the choir work especially hard to ensure they are ready for the main services of each of the days. Debbie ensures we're all on the same page through her diligence in printing bulletins for each of the days. Ellen and the Altar Guild put up with my insanity as we move from service to service each day. And all of it culminates with the glorious Easter Vigil and subsequent services on Easter Sunday. It takes a lot of people's time, efforts, and love to make Holy Week something beautiful and a time and place where we can enter more fully into Jesus' last days on earth in his bodily form. If your Lent has ended up like my Lent – i.e., not doing really great in one's spiritual practices, then Holy Week may be yours and my literal saving grace!

Holy Week begins on Palm (Passion) Sunday where we recount Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It continues with Spy Wednesday where we recount how Judas set about to betray Jesus and the deal he made with high priests to do so. It continues into Maundy Thursday where we recount Jesus' last Passover with his disciples and how he washed their feet before celebrating the Eucharist with them. We move to the somberness of Good Friday where we meditate upon the saving acts of Jesus as he hangs upon the cross for our salvation. We keep Vigil with the women at the tomb while Jesus descends into hell to begin the work of salvation of the progeny of Adam (us). And we come on Easter Sunday, like St. Mary Magdalene, like Sts. Peter and James, and we too rejoice that it is empty - that Jesus is who he says he is - the Resurrection and the Life! Then no one comes to church the following Sunday for whatever reason – a practice I would desperately like to see changed!

I encourage you to make this week holy. It is a special time in the life of our church and in the life of our parish. Things around the church quiet and calm down and we turn inwardly to the ultimate head of the church – Jesus Christ in his last hours in his earthly form. Allowing the week to unfold and not rush to the empty tomb on Easter Sunday and to enter into the week, I promise you, will change you – if you let it.

This Easter Season is made extra special by us hosting Bishop Anne on the 3rd Sunday of Easter for our church's rededication and celebration of Confirmation and Reception; this year's group includes: June Copper, Payton Crum, Dan & Kim Deming, Zach & Jewlia Jardon, Karen Mork, and Bernie Wilson.

As we have tired (or tried to tire) ourselves through Lent by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; Easter allows us to tire ourselves in feasting and celebrating Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

See you in church on Sunday,

Fr. Seth | Rector

IMPORTANT
dates to remember

1st - 6p – Shared Grief Discussion Group in the Guild Room

2nd – 9a – Morning Prayer in the Chapel
6p – Mass of the Lord's Supper (Maundy Thursday) in the Church
7:15p – Compline in the Chapel

3rd – 9a – Morning Prayer in the Chapel
Noon – Stations of the Cross in the Chapel
6p – Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts in the Church

4th – 9a – Morning Prayer in the Chapel
9:15a – Blessing of Easter Baskets in the Chapel
10a – Decorate the Church
8p – The Great Vigil of Easter – begins in Washington Park, moves to the Chapel, then to the Church

5th – 8a – Mass of the Lord's Resurrection in the Chapel with the Flowering of the Cross
10a – Mass of the Lord's Resurrection in the Church with the Flowering of the Cross

9th – 9:30a – Men's Coffee Clutch

11th – 10a-2p – Volunteer Day at Bellwether Farms

12th – 9a – Adult Faith Formation: Episcopal Church 101

13th – 9a – Thrift Shop Steering Committee Meeting via Zoom

16th – 6p – Shared Grief Discussion Group in the Guild Room

18th – 4:30p – First Community Meal of the month

19th – 10a – Rededication of the Church with the Official Visitation of Bishop Anne
(Note – 1 service this weekend)

21st – 1:15p – Investment Committee Meeting in the Guild Room

23rd – 6p – After Hour Office Hour

24th – 6p – Euchre Night in the Mary Simpson Room

25th – 4:30p – Second Community Meal of the month
5:30p – Vigil Mass

26th – 3p – Sandusky Choral Society Spring Concert

30th – 6p – Shared Grief Discussion Group

NEW LOGO APPROVED!

At the most recent Vestry Meeting the Invite Committee submitted a new logo and tagline for the Vestry's approval. The new logo (pictured below) is a stylized version of our lone steepled tower. The desire to update the logo came from the Invite Committee of Becky Montague, Melissa Wymer, Kaleen Lawrence, Debbie Chase, and Jewlia Jardon. The intention behind the change came from:

- The renovation of the church – given the transformative work of the church it made sense to update and modernize our logo.
- Reflective of the church's future – much like the needed work of the renovation, this logo will help set us for future endeavors as we promote the church in new and varied ways.
- It seems like a moment of renewal – a re-grounding of our work that is rooted in Jesus

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The design of the new logo had intention and wanted to emphasize a different aspect of our church:

- The enlarged cross on the steeple roots our church in its Christian faith and identity
- The single steeple is a recognizable aspect of our church and is the back drop to events happening in Washington Park
- The red door is a sign of welcome and synonymous with Episcopal Churches across the country
- The water grounds the logo in our connection and proximity to Sandusky Bay
- The established date harkens to our longevity as a staple in Sandusky and reminds us and those who see it that we are the oldest continual use church in Sandusky

Right is another iteration you may start seeing on church swag, website, and social media.

Lastly, the Invite Committee developed another tagline that we can use moving forward:

BUILDING ON TRADITION. WELCOMING ALL.

Since the diocese copyrighted "God Loves You. No Exceptions" we can still use that messaging, which still has value in today's world. The Invite Committee wanted a tagline that builds on our almost 200-year history and stresses Grace's welcoming and affirming nature to those in the Firelands.

While the tagline may go between our two approved ones depending on the venue and the swag, the logo's above will start to make more of a staple on printed materials and things with the Grace Episcopal Church name.

We a huge THANK YOU to the Invite Committee for their thoughtfulness, fore sight, and energy in bringing this to fruition. Also, a huge THANK YOU to the Vestry for trusting the process and moving this project along.

April Birthdays!

1st	Randy Ruthsatz
11th	Lisa Fowler
14th	Kenneth Neiding
	Terrin Schnee
17th	Mike Poyer
20th	Jo Pankow
21st	Kitty Smith
22nd	Tim Bressler
23rd	Kai Cummings
24th	Robert Speers
27th	Bridget Holzhauser
30th	Leon Wieber

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.

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

We are resuming our Saturday evening Vigil Masses starting Saturday, April 25th at 5:30pm.

MEN'S COFFEE

Thursday, April 9th at 9:30am
Vita, 256 Columbus Ave.

Join Fr. Seth in a judgment free discussion of today's hot topics.

Thank you to:

All who donated or gave towards Solidarity Farms and Church of the Redeemer in Lorain. Fr. Alex sends his thanks to those who gave and invites us to find some time in our collective calendar to volunteer for a morning/afternoon at Solidarity Farms. More information will be coming on some days and times.

Also, thank you to the Parish Life Committee, the "Party People" of the parish: Jenny Schoewe, Judy Smith, Diane Ernst, Katie Crum, and Carol Fleming.

OFFICE VOLUNTEER HELP

A huge thank you to Kitty Smith and Karen Mork for volunteering to help around the Office when the real head of the parish is out! We will keep you all posted when Office Hours may be reduced during the week because of vacations or illnesses (as we know them).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF COMFORT OR HEALING

Amelia
Amy
Bernadette
Bev
Bob
Brinley
Butch
Caine
Carolynne
Chad
Cheryl
Dave
Dawn
Doug, Beth & Owen
Dudley & Linda
Emily
Emily & baby
Erica
Ernie
Jane
Jeff
Jenny, Dave, & Tate
JoAnn
Joe
Joea & Neill
John
Judy & Jim
Karen
Kian
Lauren
Madeline
Marie
Mary
Matthew
Mia
Michael
Mike, Shelly & Derrick
Paula & Family
Pauline
Rich
Ron & Alice
Ron & Rene
Ruth
Sha Kaira
St. Barnabas Episc. Church
Steve
Steve & Kathy
Ted & Carol
Tim
Timothy
Tom
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.

ST. PAULI MURRAY [i]

Some of you have astutely noticed then we use Eucharistic Prayer B (borrowed heavily from St. Hippolytus) or EP D (follows the Roman Catholic Eucharistic Prayer 1 [the Roman Canon]) that I have name dropped St. Pauli Murray. I appreciate the question and will lay out a quick synopsis of her life and writings below – I encourage you to read up on their life and their writings are equally fascinating!

Born as the 4th of six children to Agnes Fitzgerald (a nurse) and William Murray (a teacher) on November 20, 1910. Pauli's mother died just 4 years after her birth of a cerebral hemorrhage and her father was sent to Crownsville State Hospital where he suffered from depression and long-term effects of typhoid fever in 1919. He would later be murdered by a white guard in 1923 in the State Hospital.

Pauli was sent to live with their aunt, Pauline, and grandparents Robert and Cornelia Fitzgerald in Durham, NC. After graduating from Hillside High School in 1926 Pauli moved to New York City and attended Hunter College and financed their studies with various jobs, graduating in 1933 with a degree in English Literature.

During the 1930's Pauli questioned their sexuality and gender identity. He repeatedly asked for hormone therapy and gender affirming care and was repeatedly denied because of their color. At this same time, they wrote a number of article and poems that were published in *Common Sense* and *The Crisis*, the later being a publication of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In the late 1930's they became involved in the civil rights movement. They were involved in letter writing campaigns sponsored by the NAACP and garnered an introduction with Eleanor Roosevelt as a result of their efforts. In March of 1940 they were arrested in Virginia for failing to sit at the back of a bus.

In 1941 they enrolled at Howard University with the intention of becoming a civil rights attorney. With the help of 3 other individuals they formed the Congress of Racial Equality – a peaceful focused group aimed at ending segregation in the South. In 1943 they wrote three pieces: "Negroes Are Fed Up" in *Common Sense,* an article on the Harlem race riots in *New York Call*, and *Dark Testament* – a poem that tried to express their thoughts on race and segregation. In 1944 Pauli graduated at the top of their class, after being denied entrance to Harvard Law School they went to the Boalt School of Law at the University of California where they graduated with a Master of Laws degree with the thesis *The Right to Equal Opportunity in Employment.*

In 1951 while working to support the civil rights movement in New York City they published a book *States' Laws on Race and Color*; Thurgood Marshall called the book "the Bible for civil rights litigators". In 1956, after losing a US State Department post at Cornell University Pauli was offered a job as a litigator at a law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkin, Wharton, and Garrison – it was there that they met their partner Irene Barlow, the office manager.

In 1960 Pauli traveled to Ghana and explored their African cultural roots and taught law. Upon returning to the States they enrolled at Yale Law School where they studied and earned their JSD. In 1961 President John F. Kennedy appointed Pauli to the Committee on Civil and Political Rights. Pauli worked closely with A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, and Martin Luther King. They ultimately left the group because of the male dominated group they found themselves in and the lack of representation from African-American women in that discussion.

From 1968 to 1973 they were a faculty member of Brandeis University. In 1973, after the death of their partner Irene, they left the teaching position and became a candidate for holy orders at General Theological Seminary. In 1977 they were the first black person, perceived as a woman to be ordained in the U.S. as an Episcopal priest.

Pauli died of cancer in 1985 in Pittsburgh.

Throughout their life they struggled to come to terms with their gender identity. They ultimately outwardly portrayed a female, yet to the end never gave in to defining their gender ideology to anyone.

Their notable works are: *Song in a Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage*, *Dark Testament and Other Poems*, and *Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family*.

Their feast day is July 1.

[I]Information used for this synopsis is taken heavily from the biography found on the Pauli Murray Center website: https://www.paulimurraycenter.com/who-is-pauli

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

AFTER HOURS OFFICE HOUR

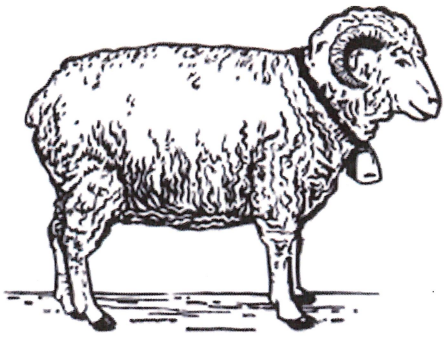
On Thursday, April 9th and 23rd Fr. Seth has his after hours office hour at 6pm at the church.

Stop by if you want to chat!

Children's Chapel

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday

For children Preschool through 3rd grade

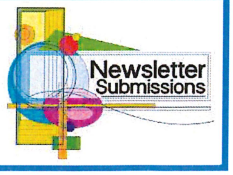


BELLWETHER FARM

We all know how incredibly blessed we are at Grace Church. A lesser known blessing you may not know is our proximity to Bellwether Farm. Bellwether Farm is a working farm owned by the Diocese of Ohio that is located on the outskirts of Wakeman, OH. Not only is it a working farm with cattle, sheep, goats, (now 2 baby sheep), and chickens. It is also a beautiful place to disconnect, with comfortable lodgings, and delicious farm-to-table food.

Bellwether also hosts a number of retreats, quiet days, and will host you for some time away from all the business of the world. Their website is below you can peruse their calendar, read about their facilities and grounds, and check their calendar for things that you may be interested in: https://www.bellwetherfarm.com/

The deadline to submit information for the May newsletter is **Friday, April 24th.**



COMMUNITY MEAL

Our April 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 is 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).

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
Brandon Robinson
Thomas Roesch
Cameren Scholl
Jamison Shriver
Ayden Swinehart
Matt Trautman
Ben Wesney

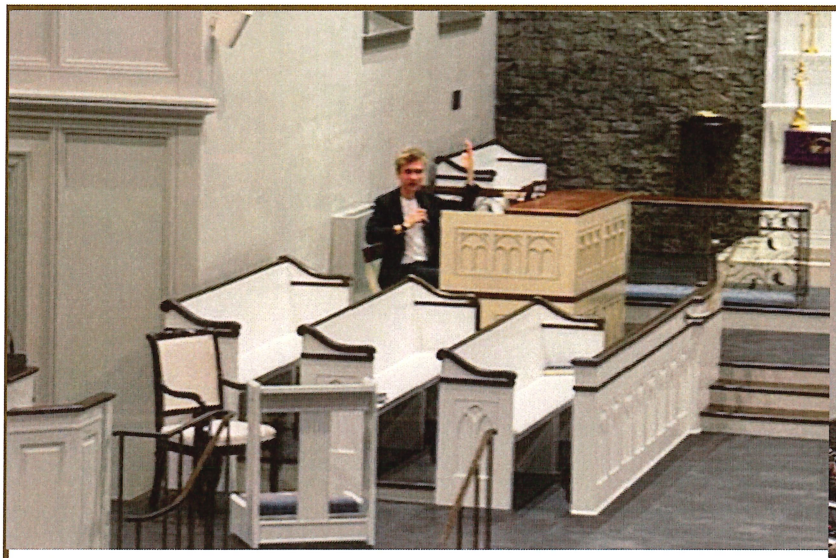
PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, ESPECIALLY

Webster Maughan *(March 24, 2026)*

Luanne Rock *(February 24, 2026)*
Robert Toney's sister

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.*

Thank you to Ken Neiding for purchasing a spare rechargeable battery for the leaf blower.



Paul Fey

We had a wonderful organ recital here at Grace on March 19th.

Paul Fey was fantastic and everyone was very impressed by this talented young man.

We'd like to thank our Invite Committee and all the volunteers who helped make this a memorable event.

IT'S TIME TO PLAY EUCHRE!

Join us **Friday, April 24th** for our next 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 6pm in the Mary Simpson Room.

This is going to be a Finger Food potluck. You are welcome to bring your favorite snack to share.

Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. If you want to bring your own *"refreshment"*, you are most welcome to.

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Spy Wednesday Eucharist 9 am Shared Grief 6p in Guild Room Choir Practice 7pm	2 Maundy Thursday Morning Prayer 9 am Maundy Thursday Mass - 6pm Compline - Chapel 7:15pm	3 Good Friday Morning Prayer 9 am Stations of the Cross - Noon Good Friday Liturgy - 6pm	4 Holy Saturday Morning Prayer 9 am Blessing of the Easter Baskets 9:15am Decorating the Church - 10am Easter Vigil - 8pm
5 Easter Mass 8am - Chapel Mass 10am - Church	6 Rector's Sabbath Church Offices Closed	7 Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	8 Daily Eucharist 9 am Choir Practice 7pm	9 Daily Eucharist 9 am Men's Coffee Vita 9:30am After Hours Office Hour 6pm	10 Daily Eucharist 9 am Food card giveaway 9am	11 Volunteer Day @ Bellwether Farm 10am - 2pm
12 Mass 8am - Chapel Episcopal Church 101 - 9am Mass 10am - Church DOK Meeting Huron 1pm	13 Rector's Sabbath Thrift Shop Steering Committee Mtg 9am Choral Society Practice 7pm	14 Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	15 Daily Eucharist 9 am Choir Practice 7pm	16 Daily Eucharist 9 am Shared Grief 6p in Guild Room	17 Daily Eucharist 9 am	18 NCMAC Meeting St. Paul, Norwalk 10am Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p
19 Bishop Anne Visitation Mass 10am - Church Children's Chapel Vestry Meeting 11:30am	20 Rector's Sabbath	21 Investment Committee Meeting 1:15pm Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	22 Daily Eucharist 9 am Choir Practice 7pm	23 Daily Eucharist 9 am After Hours Office Hour 6pm	24 Rector's Sabbath Euchre Night 6pm	25 Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p Vigil Mass 5:30pm
26 Mass 8am - Chapel Mass 10am - Church Sandusky Choral Society Concert 3pm	27 Rector's Sabbath	28 Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	29 Daily Eucharist 9 am Choir Practice 7pm	30 Daily Eucharist 9 am Shared Grief 6p in Guild Room		

APRIL RESPONSIBILITIES

	April 2 Maundy Thursday	April 3 Good Friday	April 4 Easter Vigil	April 5 Easter Day	April 12 Second Sunday of Easter	April 19 Third Sunday of Easter	April 26 Fourth Sunday of Easter
Lector/Chalice Bearer 8AM	——-	——-	——-	Debbie Chase	Kitty Smith	——- No Service	Mark Pifer
Lector/Chalice Bearer 10AM	Jeff Mettert (6pm)	Ellen Mettert (6pm) Amy Fox	Becky Montague (8pm)	Jeff Mettert	Marcia Fordham	Becky Montague	Amy Fox
Lector/Chalice Bearer 5:30PM (Sat.)	——-	——-	——-	——-	——-	——-	Amy Fox
Acolyte	Ellen Mettert (6pm)	——-	Rick Doyan	Ellen Mettert	Rick Doyan	Rick Doyan	Ellen Mettert
Livestream			——-				
Altar Guild 10AM	Ellen Mettert	Ellen Mettert	Ellen Mettert Barby Gravengaard	Ellen Mettert	Marcia Fordham	Judy Porterfield	Barby Gravengaard
Coffee Hour	——-	——-	——-	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Jim and Judy Smith	Bishop's Visit Luncheon	VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Sandusky Choral Society, Inc.

presents their annual

SPRING CONCERT

Music Lives in Everything

Patsy Subcasky
Director

Charles Scroggy
Accompanist

Friday, April 24, 2026
7:30 p.m.
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
243 Benedict Ave.
Norwalk, Ohio

Sunday, April 26, 2026
3:00 p.m.
Grace Episcopal Church
315 Wayne Street
Sandusky, Ohio

Admission is Free - Reception to Follow
- Freewill Offering -

Sandusky Choral Society, Inc. is a 501(C)3 Organization