

# Amazing Grace

## May 2026



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 Rev. and the Rt. Honourable the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally  
The Most Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop  
The Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Bishop, Diocese of Ohio

#### MASS TIMES

Saturday at 5:30pm

Sunday at 8:00am

Sunday at 10:00am  
In-Person, Livestreamed  
on Boxcast, and on Facebook

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

Wednesday and Thursday at 9am  
In-Person and on Facebook

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
8am - 3pm

#### 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

#### CONTACT US

Telephone  
Website  
Church Office E-Mail  
Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector  
Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster  
Treasurer/Staff Accountant

419-625-6919  
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rarcpa@sbcglobal.net  
finance@gracesandusky.org



## RECTOR'S REFLECTION - MAY 2026

Normally I spend my Newsletter time to work through what has happened this month and what will happen in the upcoming month – and of course Debbie does such an AMAZING job of doing that so I am not going to duplicate her work this month. In lieu of that I will be taking this opportunity to talk about lanes. It may sound weird to talk about lanes and driving here, but hear me out!



Next month I will be starting my 19<sup>th</sup> year of ordained ministry. In these nearly 19 years I have found myself in, been one of the agents for, witnessed, and tried to help congregations grow. Before a parish can healthily move into growing it has to deal with its own baggage. Part of that is dealing with conflict, anger, its own history (we've always done it this way), and where people are in this season of their life. Usually it is hard work – leaving where we are (leaving comfortability) and moving into something different is hard and its scary! Almost 90% of issues parishes suffer from is folks have crossed their lanes and found comfort in their new lane while others have felt discomfort because there is no lane for them.

Now before I get angry emails coming in – I am 100% aware that folks find themselves in these mismatched lanes because someone (usually a clergy person) asked them to step into these roles. I am certainly not absolving myself or clergy from messing this up. But lanes are still important – imagine driving down the road and you're faced head on with a set of headlights that shouldn't be there!

As Episcopalians we have a *Book of Common Prayer* that helps guide what lanes we should be in. On page 855 in the BCP there is the question posed in the Catechism:

Q: What is the ministry of the laity? A: The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the church.

That is an amazing ministry (NOTE: It is a ministry!) – you are called to it! As Episcopalians you are called by God into this vocation. You are also called, based on the gifts God has given you, to put those gifts in the service of the Church by participating in it! In how the church functions and fellowships, how the church worships, and how the church takes care of itself by being the Sacrament of Salvation in the world. Your lane is to have a foot in the world and a foot in the church – you are a bridge! A bridge to where is entirely up to you. Hopefully it is a two-way bridge that you are able to bring others to Jesus (note – not just to church) and that you are able to bring Jesus to them.

In a similar vein there is an understanding in the BCP about the ministry of a priest, on page 856:

Q: What is the ministry of a priest or presbyter? A: The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.

Shocking isn't it?! My calling, according to the BCP, is to be here for all of you and to share the loving and merciful message of Jesus Christ. Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ is easy when one has experienced that love and mercy. My lane is to shepherd you all – where? Hopefully to heaven!

At Grace we are blessed by our continued growth and we are blessed by people wanting to get involved in the life of this church – their church – our church *together*. We have a number of committees that are up and running and doing amazing work in the life of the church. While these committees, staff, and clergy all have lanes there is going to be some crossover. This crossover can either be cross-termination or cross-pollination. As we suffer through these literal growing pains love and grace will allow us to cross-pollinate and not cross-terminate.

As we continue to grow and continue to weave new members into the fabric that is Grace Church we will continue, as we always do, to show one another love and grace as we move and grow *together*. I mentioned in a sermon a while ago – we work as hard as we work because we should want to share heaven with one another. We will only get there through showing love and mercy to God, to our neighbor, and to ourselves.

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

# IMPORTANT

## dates to remember

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Rector's Sabbath
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Saturday evening Mass @ 5:30p in the Chapel
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Properties Committee Meeting in the Meeting Room @ 9a  
@ 10a Children's Chapel
- 7<sup>th</sup>: 9:30a – Men's Coffee @ Vita  
6p-7p – Shared Grief in the Guild Room
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Lay Preaching School Kick-off event at Bellwether Farm
- 9<sup>th</sup>: Lay Preaching School Kick-off event at Bellwether Farm  
Saturday evening Mass @ 5:30p in the Chapel with a blessing for mothers
- 10<sup>th</sup>: 8a and 10a: Mass with a blessing for mothers
- 12<sup>th</sup>: 9a Thrift Shop Steering Committee via Zoom
- 14<sup>th</sup>: 6p-7p: Shared Grief in the Guild Room
- 16<sup>th</sup>: 10a Daughters of the King Spring Assembly  
5:30p – Saturday evening Mass in the Chapel
- 17<sup>th</sup>: @ 10a Children's Chapel
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> No Service's Fr. Seth and Rev. Carol are on retreat**
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: 4:30p – First Community Meal of the month  
5:30p Saturday evening Mass in the Chapel
- 24<sup>th</sup>: 4p Organ Recital by David Saunders in the Church
- 25<sup>th</sup>: Parish Offices are closed in observance of Memorial Day
- 28<sup>th</sup>: 6p-7p – After Hours Office Hour
- 30<sup>th</sup>: 4:30p-5:30p – Second Community Meal of the month  
5:30p – Saturday evening Mass
- 31<sup>st</sup>: 11:15a Vestry Meeting in the Meeting Room

### *Thank you to:*

To Jenny Shoewe, Diane Ernst, Patty Pascoe, Debbie Gerold, Donna Andres, Janet Poyer, Barby Gravengaard, Judy Porterfield, and all of the people that worked so hard to make the reception for the Bishop such a welcoming and inviting place for those who came to join in fellowship!



To the members of our Pride Committee of: Zack & Jewlia Jardon, Kai Cummings, Pete Fox, and Rick Doyan. There are some exciting things coming up as we prepare for Pride Month (and the months thereafter which can be equally prideful).

Please join us for a special organ recital by Dr. David Saunders.  
A highly accomplished musician, Dr. Saunders has performed across the Midwest and internationally, including appearances in France and holds advance degrees in organ and church music from institutions such as the University of Michigan. With decades of experience as an organist, choir director, and educator, he brings both technical mastery and deep musical expression to his performance.

Admission is free, with a freewill offering gratefully accepted.  
All are welcome to come and enjoy an afternoon of inspiring music.



# David Saunders



## Organ Recital

**MAY 24 · 4:00 PM**

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
315 Wayne Street  
Sandusky, OH 44870

Admission is Free

Freewill Offering





6 <sup>th</sup>	Martha Speers
9 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Hunt
10 <sup>th</sup>	Dave Schoewe
11 <sup>th</sup>	Debbie Gerold Judy Porterfield
12 <sup>th</sup>	Andy Short
14 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Welch
16 <sup>th</sup>	Penelope Pifer
18 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny Schoewe
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Patti Lippert

*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.***

As you know, we now email our newsletters each month. Hard copies are always available at the church for those who don't have email. If you haven't been receiving the newsletter via email, please contact Debbie at the church office (office@gracesandusky.org) to be sure we have an accurate address for you.

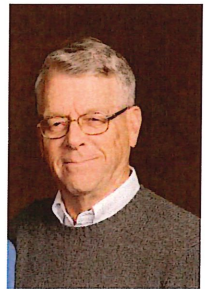


**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED  
OF COMFORT OR HEALING**

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

***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.***

Dr. Robert Speers has asked to resign from his role as Historiographer and the Investment Committee. Bob has done an amazing job in his documentation of the history of Grace Church and putting the many directories, pictures, and Vestry minutes in chronological order. Bob has also helped be a steward of the invested funds that Grace holds. We are grateful for Bob's dedication in these roles and wish him well as he attempts to retire again!



**AFTER HOURS OFFICE HOUR**

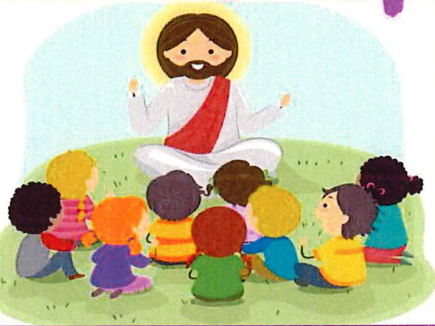
On Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> Fr. Seth has his after hours office hour at 6pm at the church.

Stop by if you want to chat!

***Ohio Bike Week is May 29<sup>th</sup> through June 6<sup>th</sup>.***



# Children's Chapel



Every 1st and 3rd Sunday

For children  
Preschool  
through 3rd  
grade

**CLOSED  
MONDAY**

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

## 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](mailto:frseth@gracesandusky.org)

## FR. SETH ON RETREAT

*Retreat*

Fr. Seth will be out of the office May 18<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you should need assistance, please call the church office (419-625-6919).

## MEN'S COFFEE

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am  
Vita, 256 Columbus Ave.



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

## PLUM BROOK COUNTRY CLUB



THE CENTER



Join us on July 6, 2026 for the Fifth Annual Golf Tournament at **Plum Brook Country Club**. This annual event brings together golfers and community partners who share a commitment to supporting children and families across Erie County.

### REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- Eighteen holes of championship golf
- Golf cart rental included
- Morning Coffee Station
- Driving Range will be open during check-in (weather permitting).
- Lunch boxes on carts
- BBQ dinner buffet
- Auctions & 50/50 Raffle with extra prizes
- Games & Challenges on the course
- Optional skins and mulligans for purchase

Register by May 1, 2026 to receive early bird pricing of \$200/player, \$800/Team.



Register and pay for individual golfers and teams by June 15th!

Scan the QR Code or visit [thecentersandusky.org](http://thecentersandusky.org)



THE CENTER

## THE CENTER'S FIFTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING PLUM BROOK COUNTRY CLUB

Monday,  
July 6, 2026

Shotgun start  
at 10:00 am

Plum Brook  
Country Club

\$250 per person or  
\$1,000 per team

\$200 per person or  
\$800 per team (Before 5/1)

Register & Pay at  
[thecentersandusky.org](http://thecentersandusky.org)



## LENTEN HEIFER COLLECTION

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Lenten Outreach for Heifer International. We collected \$1,769.96! This will go a long way in helping to end hunger.



Donors were:

Kai Cummings  
Julie Eastlake  
Lisa Fowler  
Julie Geiger  
Barby Gravengaard  
Howard & Bridget Holzhauser  
Sue Johnson  
Don Lenhart  
Jeff Mettert  
Becky Montague  
Karen Mork  
Ken Neiding  
Patty Pascoe  
Jeremy Pifer  
Judy Porterfield  
Wendy Rankin  
Carol Schemmer  
Jenny Schoewe  
Andy & Beth Short  
Judy Smith  
Roz Stevenson  
Mary Toney  
Tim Work

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PROTECT AND SERVE

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

## COMMUNITY MEAL

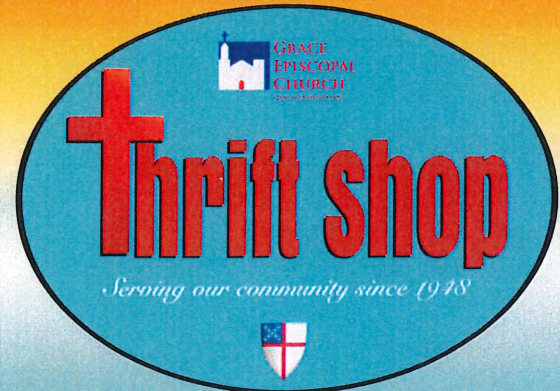
Our May Community Meal dates are **Saturday, the 23rd and Saturday, the 30th**. We serve our meals in the Mary Simpson Room from 4:30 - 5:30 pm.



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](mailto:lisa.fowler@bex.net) or 419-602-7969).



### **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** •

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US FOR THE DOK SPRING ASSEMBLY!**

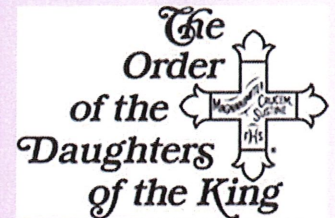
*All Women of the Parish Are Welcome!*

Grace Sandusky, St. Paul's Norwalk, and Christ Huron are part of the **St. Catherine of Siena Chapter of the Daughters of the King (DOK)**. Formed in 2023, our chapter together brings together women from all three parishes in prayer, service, and fellowship.

**Saturday, May 16 at GRACE EPISCOPAL - Sandusky  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Join women from across the Diocese of Ohio for a meaningful and joy-filled day including:

Eucharist  
Music  
Programs  
Lunch  
Fellowship & social time



**Interested in attending?**

Please contact one of our Grace members:

**Becky Montague • Roz Stevenson • Barby Gravengaard • Lisa Fowler • Jane Wood**

*We would love to welcome you—and hope you may want to learn more about our DOK sisters!*

**St. Catherine of Siena – Spring Community Outreach  
Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter**

Our chapter is supporting **Safe Harbour Domestic Shelter of Erie County**, which provides housing and many support services for women and their children starting over—often with few or no household belongings.

All DOK members attending the Spring Assembly will also assist in collecting items from each of their Parishes.

**Items Needed**

Bath, kitchen, and self-care items  
Paper products  
Personal care items for adults and children  
Household cleaning supplies

**Donation bin located in the church entrance**

**Please donate by May 16**

**Monetary donations** are also welcome

(Check payable to *Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter*)

***Thank you for your generosity and support***

**St. Catherine of Siena – Daughters of the King**

## GRACE REDEDICATION AND VISITATION OF BISHOP ANNE

Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> was an exciting day here at Grace. At our 10am service we had Bishop Anne as our celebrant. We re-dedicated our newly renovated church and we had nine people from Grace and St. Thomas, Port Clinton confirmed. We also had two people from Grace and Christ Church, Huron received into the Episcopal Church. Afterwards we had a luncheon and Bishop Anne talked with us about being a faith development community. The day was lovely and we were blessed to have so many parishioners and visitors come to share this special occasion.



### CONFIRMED

Ashley Dunbar (St. Thomas)  
Darrell Dunbar (St. Thomas)  
Zach Jardon (Grace Church)  
Jewlia Jardon (Grace Church)  
Payton Crum (Grace Church)  
Karen Mork (Grace Church)  
Dan Deming (Grace Church)  
Kim Deming (Grace Church)  
Bernie Wilson (Grace Church)

### RECEIVED

Martie Emling (Christ Church)  
June Copper (Grace Church)



# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Rector's Sabbath	2  <b>Vigil Mass 5:30pm</b>
3 Mass 8am - Chapel  Properties Committee meeting 9am  Mass 10am - Church <b>Children's Chapel</b>	4 Rector's Sabbath	5   Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	6  <b>Daily Eucharist 9 am</b>  Choir Practice 7pm	7  <b>Daily Eucharist 9 am</b>  Men's Coffee Vita - 9:30am  Shared Grief 6p in Guild Room	8 Rector's Sabbath  Food card giveaway 9am	9   <b>Vigil Mass 5:30pm</b>
10 Mother's Day  Mass 8am - Chapel  Mass 10am - Church	11 Rector's Sabbath	12  Thrift Shop Steering Committee mtg 9am  Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	13  <b>Daily Eucharist 9 am</b>  Choir Practice 7pm	14  <b>Daily Eucharist 9 am</b>  Shared Grief 6p in Guild Room	15 Rector's Sabbath	16  DOK Spring Assembly 10am  <b>Vigil Mass 5:30pm</b>
17 Mass 8am - Chapel  Mass 10am - Church <b>Children's Chapel</b>	18 Rector's Sabbath	19	20	21	22 Rector's Sabbath	23  Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p  <b>Vigil Mass 5:30pm</b>
	<b>Fr. Seth on Retreat</b>					
24 Pentecost  Mass 8am - Chapel  Mass 10am - Church  David Saunders Organ Recital 4pm	25 Rector's Sabbath  Memorial Day Church Offices closed	26   Mid-Week Eucharist 5:30pm	27  <b>Daily Eucharist 9 am</b>  Choir Practice 7pm	28  <b>Daily Eucharist 9 am</b>  After Hours Office Hour 6pm	29 Rector's Sabbath	30  Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p  <b>Vigil Mass 5:30pm</b>
31 Mass 8am - Chapel Mass 10am - Church  Vestry Meeting 11am						

## MAY RESPONSIBILITIES

	<b>May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>May 10 Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>May 17 Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>May 24 Pentecost</b>	<b>May 31 Trinity Sunday</b>
Lector/Chalice Bearer 8AM	Kitty Smith	Debbie Chase	Mark Pifer	Kitty Smith	Debbie Chase
Lector/Chalice Bearer 10AM	Ellen Mettert	Janet Poyer	Jeff Mettert	Marcia Fordham	Ellen Mettert
Lector/Chalice Bearer 5:30PM (Sat.)	Marcia Fordham	Becky Montague	Marcia Fordham	Becky Montague	Amy Fox
Acolyte	Ellen Mettert	Rick Doyan	Ellen Mettert	Rick Doyan	Ellen Mettert
Livestream	Jeff Fowler	Brandon Johnson	Brandon Johnson	Jeff Fowler	Jeff Fowler
Altar Guild 10AM	Mary Ellen Hart	Marcia Fordham	Judy Porterfield	Barby Gravengaard	Mary Ellen Hart
Coffee Hour	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	Becky Montague	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>	Becky Montague

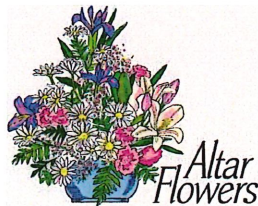
### ALTAR FLOWER GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Whether you come to Grace weekly, or live far away and are still connected to this faith community, you are invited to sponsor Sunday flowers - a beautiful way to give thanks to God. People sponsor flowers for many reasons: for blessings, past and present; in memory of beloved friends and family, in thanksgiving; in celebration; to honor a person or commemorate an event.

Your gift of flowers beautifies our worship, is a gift to God, and delight to those who worship. We acknowledge each sponsorship in the Sunday bulletins – according to the wording provided by the sponsors.

We have the following upcoming Sundays open if you wish to sponsor one or both arrangements:

- July 5<sup>th</sup> - 2 arrangement
- July 12<sup>th</sup> - 1 arrangement
- July 26<sup>th</sup> - 2 arrangements
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> - 1 arrangement
- August 30<sup>th</sup> - 2 arrangements



The cost is approximately \$30.00 per arrangement and you are billed directly from Golden Rose Florists. Call the Church office at 419-625-6919 if interested or go to our website <https://www.gracesandusky.org/altar-flowers> to sign up.

### A NOTE FROM THE GRACE CHURCH MEDIA GROUP

Is the Grace Church Media Group for you? Interested in learning how we produce our weekly services?

Interested in being a part of a small but fulfilling ministry? The Grace Church Media Group might be just the thing.

We are in need of adding to our group of livestreamers and encourage anyone with any interest to check us out.

I invite anyone interested to speak with me or Brandon Johnson and we will be happy to answer any questions.

I also want to thank Don Lenhart who recently retired from the GRACE CHURCH MEDIA GROUP. We thank Don for his 5+ years of service bringing our weekly masses into our homes.

Jeff Fowler

**God loves you.  
No exceptions.®**

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The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. [www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org)