The Advocate
Grace Episcopal Church and Pantry, Mansfield
Diocese of Ohio

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly, *Bishop of Ohio*
The Rev. Christopher D. Hofer, *Priest-in-Charge*
The Rev. Daniel Orr, *Associate for Pastoral Care and Community Outreach*
Lori Turner, *Music Director*
Thomas Palmer, *Organist*
Pam Armstrong, *Church Administrator*
Michael Blue, *Sexton*
Tom Dornbusch, *Social Media Coordinator*

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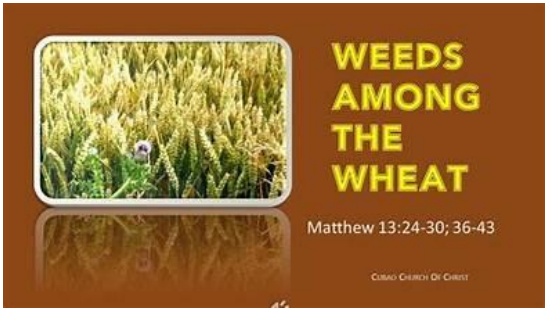

8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Our Mission: To Nurture Our Members and Feed Our Neighbors

8:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

BCP = *Book of Common Prayer*

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation	BCP 323
The Collect for Purity	BCP 323
Kyrie eleison	BCP 324

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion, we beseech thee, upon our infirmities, and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, mercifully give us for the worthiness of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

The Lessons

First Lesson: Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19	Page 6
Psalm: 86: 11-17	BCP 710
The Epistle: Romans 8:12-25	Page 7
The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Page 8
The Sermon: The Rev. Christopher D. Hofer	
The Nicene Creed	BCP 326
The Prayers of the People	Page 10
The Confession of Sin	BCP 330
Comfortable Words	BCP 332

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

Prayers Commemorating Special Occasions

Announcements

Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer	BCP 333
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 336
The Breaking of the Bread	BCP 337
Agnus Dei	BCP 337
Prayer of Humble Access	BCP 337
The Distribution: *All are welcome to come forward to the Table.*	
Post Communion Prayer	BCP 339
The Blessing	
The Dismissal	BCP 366

Please turn to page 20 for information about today's scripture readings and other important announcements.

Holy Eucharist – Rite Two
10:00 a.m.

Prelude:
Ringing of the Church Bell

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn No.372 "Praise to the living God" *Leoni*

Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise: "We Have Come Into His House" Bruce Ballinger

Words: Bruce Ballinger (b. 1945)
Music: Bruce Ballinger
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Celebrant: God be with you.
People: **And also with you**.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Please kneel as you are able.

The Collect (Celebrant): Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Lesson: Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19

Lector: A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

There is no god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly; for your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all.
For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it.
Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose.

Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God**.

Psalm No. 86:11-17

11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
and I will walk in your truth; *
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.

**12 I will thank you, O LORD my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.**

13 For great is your love toward me; *
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

**14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life; *
they have not set you before their eyes.**

15 But you, O LORD, are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

**16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.**

17 Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Second Lesson: Romans 8:12-25

Lector: A reading from the letter from Paul to the church in Rome.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a

spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn No. 482: "Lord of all hopefulness" *Stane*

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Matthew.

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the

weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated and the instructions of the preacher.

Sermon: The Rev. Christopher D. Hofer

Please stand, as you are able.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please kneel, as you are able.

Prayers of the People for the Shared Ministries
of Ashland and Richland Counties
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost — July 19, 2026

Celebrant: God of growth, you bring life from small seeds: increase our faith and the fruitfulness of your work among us, that your presence go forth in our communities. **Amen**.

Intercessor: For the Church's patient faithfulness, remembering Sean our Presiding Bishop, Anne our Bishop, Christopher our

Priest-in-Charge, Daniel, Grace's Priest Associate and David, Grace's Rector Emeritus; encourage ministries that may seem small but bear surprising fruit and help us rejoice in faithful growth. Lord, **hear our prayer**.

Intercessor: For civic leaders: Donald our President, Mike our Governor, Matt, Mayor of Ashland, and Jodie, Mayor of Mansfield; grant them foresight to invest in education, housing, and infrastructure so communities may flourish. Lord, **hear our prayer**.

Intercessor: For the welfare of the world: may hope take root where despair has grown and reconciliations yield durable peace and prosperity. Lord, **hear our prayer**.

Intercessor: For local outreach: bless the steady, quiet work of Grace Church and Pantry, St. Matthew's, and Shared Ministries—each act of service, each visit—that they multiply into transformed lives. Lord, **hear our prayer**.

Intercessor: For those who are ill or in need of encouragement. Brenda McGregor, Lavina Messimer, Pat Newcomer, Larry Oakley, Carol Palland. (A brief silence is kept for names spoken silently or aloud.) Strengthen them and grant recovery where it is your will. Lord, **hear our prayer**.

Intercessor: For those who have died. Douglas Windsor, Josephine Wise, Roger D. Wise, Elizabeth Witter, Kathryn Witter, **Bill and Ruth Echols.** (A brief silence is kept for names spoken silently or aloud.) Welcome them into your harvest of life and console those who mourn. Lord, **hear our prayer**.

Celebrant: God of seed and harvest, kindle in us a generous spirit that multiplies your love and presence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A moment of silence for reflection follows.

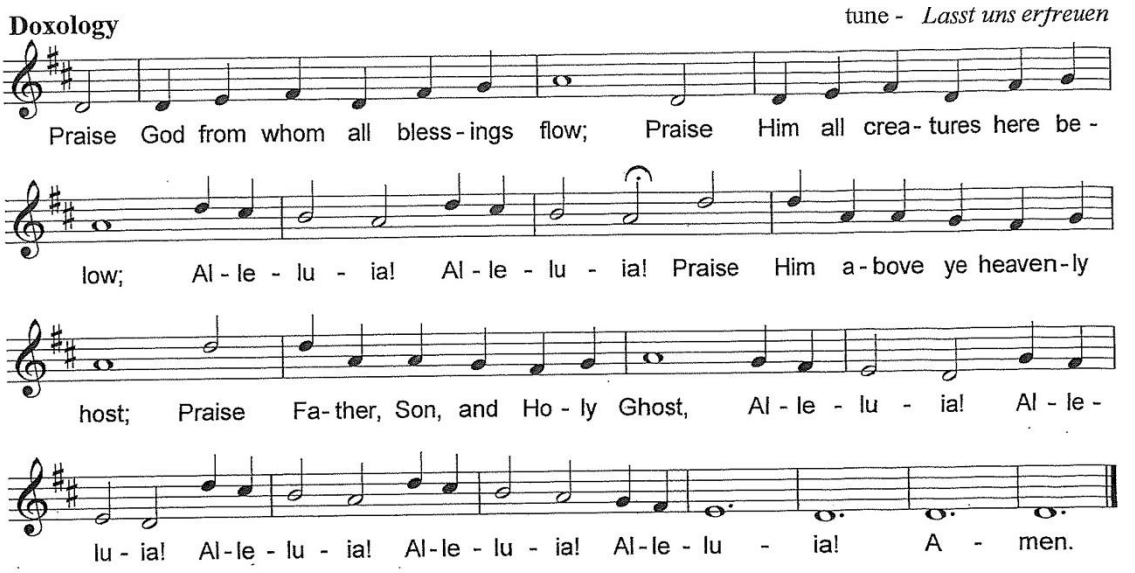
People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Please stand, as you are able.

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Prayers Commemorating Special Occasions
Announcements
Offertory Sentence
Offertory Anthem: "God is Love, let heaven adore him" – Carol Loveless *Abbot's Leigh*



The Liturgy of the Table

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

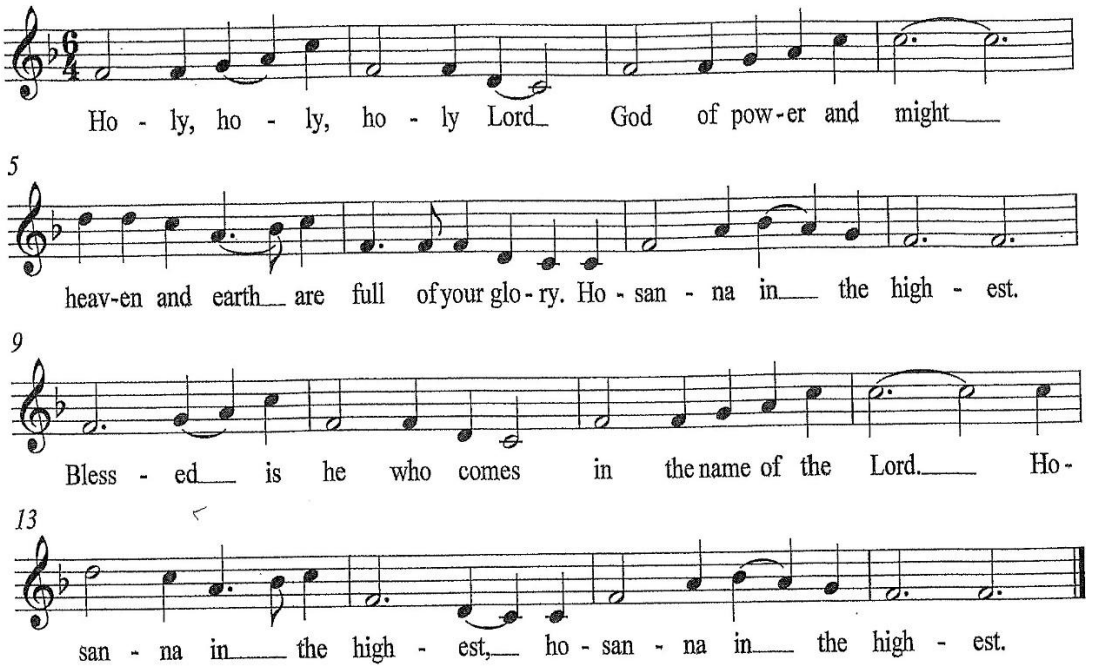
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you. Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down on this day from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

Therefore we praise you; joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Land Of Rest Acclamations- Sanctus

Pruner/Proulx



Please kneel, as you are able.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your

Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and have it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

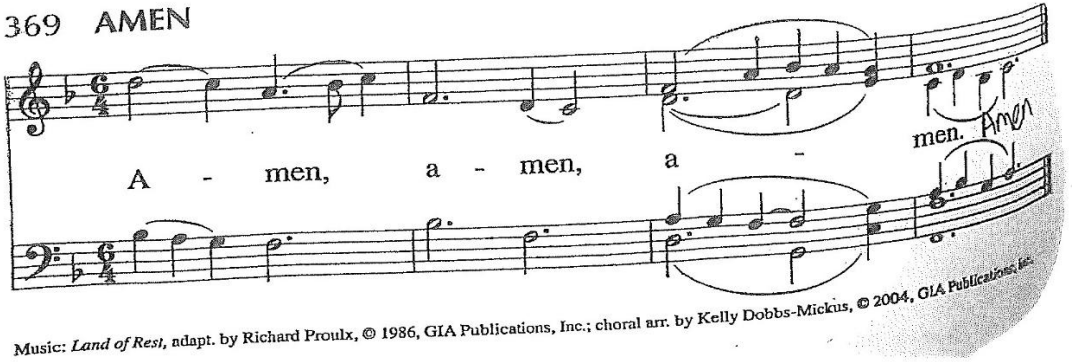
Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all, presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord,

the first born of all creation, the head of the Church and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory be yours. Almighty Father, now and forever.



Please kneel, as you are able.

Officiant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread:

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please be seated.

All persons are invited to join us at the Lord's Table.

If you need gluten free hosts, please speak with the clergy.

Communion Hymn No. 217: "Gifts of finest wheat" RENEW

WORDS: Omer Westendorf
MUSIC: Robert E. Kreutz
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Post Communion Prayer

Please kneel, as you are able.

Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing:
May the Christ who fed multitudes multiply your gifts for the sake of hungry hearts and bellies; may your hands do justice and your heart be warmed by God's nearness. Blessed be the triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — who walks with you always. **Amen.**

Please stand, as you are able.

Recessional Hymn No. 344: "Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing"
Sicillian Mariners

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

From the Desk of Father Christopher

Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church and Pantry

As we continue, Sunday by Sunday, to read the Gospel according to Matthew, we are in a section containing Jesus' parables concerning the Kingdom of God. This parable of the wheat and the weeds reaffirms God's patience with the Church. While we are often impatient with its imperfections, God is merciful and waits until the End before separating the good from the bad. Jesus urges us to grow into fruitful members of God's family.

In the first reading from the Wisdom of Solomon, God is acknowledged as all powerful. Yet God is forbearing toward us and in divine power chooses to judge us with patience and mildness.

In the second reading, Paul assures us that the whole creation is moving toward redemption. Through our redemption will come the redemption of the whole creation. Therefore, the whole creation waits with longing for our redemption to be complete.

We share in the Eucharistic action in order that God's redemptive power may lead us toward the Kingdom. We share also in order that we may be the means by which redemption comes to the whole creation. That is our vocation as the people of God and as members of the Body of Christ.

Vestry
Jenny Blue – Senior Warden Deb Landin - Junior Warden
Joanne Mudra– Clerk Larry Von Blon – Treasurer
Betty Diemer, Rita Glaser, Matt Moser Miller,
Stephen Myers, Ann Stump, Jason Whitehead

Grace Church Prayer List

Michael Blue, Charis Bower, Curtis Carter, Diane Carter, Ron Clinage, Philip Crane, Jeanette Dickerson, Michael Diemer, Zach Diemer, Dorothy Duckworth, Ellen Gleason, Gabe Godwin, Pamela Henney, Deja-Naya Jones, Ron Lemmon, Brenda McGregor, Lavina Messimer, Larry Oakley, Carol Palland, Logan Prater, Richard Rohm, Sally Rohm, Bob Smart, Nancy Smith, Paris Stewart, Jake Tyler, Paige Waeiss, Charlene Weishaupt, Sabrina West, Jim Wilson, Priscilla Wilson

Serving This Week

	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Acolyte:		Tabitha Reed Saoirse Dove
Lectors:	LuAnn Howard Joanne Mudra	Jason Whitehead Marcia Gagich
Chalice Bearers:	Gloria Harris	Marcia Gagich David Harmon
Altar Guild:	Rita Glaser Holly Carter	Mark Taylor Louise Taylor
Counters:		Matt Moser Miller Stephen Myers

The Flowers on the Altar
Are given today by Karen Davis
In Memory of Bill and Ruth Echols

This Week at Grace

Sunday:	8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
	9:15 a.m. – Christian Formation
Monday:	Office Closed
Tuesday:	9:30 a.m. – Yoga
	10:00 a.m. – AA
Wednesday:	9:00 a.m. – Healing Mass
	10:00 a.m. – Food Truck
	10:00 a.m. – AA
	11:00 a.m. – Pantry set up
	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Evening Pantry
Thursday:	9 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. - Food Pantry
	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Kitchen and Bath Pantry
Friday:	Office Closed

NOTE:

If you have items for the Kitchen and Bath Pantry please put them in my office. Thanks, Pam Armstrong

Greater Grace — Kitchen & Bath Pantry

First Christian Church and Grace Episcopal are partnering to open a Kitchen & Bath Pantry at First Christian to serve Grace Food Pantry clients. Items needed (gently used): pots, pans, toasters, crockpots, skillets, dishes, glasses, silverware, dish rags, kitchen towels, bath towels, washcloths. Crafters: pot holders and dish rags welcome. Volunteers needed. Donate: Drop off at First Christian Fellowship Hall (rear, off Dickson Ave) Thursdays, 9–11 AM, beginning April 25. Pantry hours: First & third Thursdays, 9–11 AM, beginning May 7 (shoppers enter via Bowman St.). From May, donations may be left at the Bowman St. door during pantry hours. Questions/volunteer sign-up: Deacon Beth Weisbrod, 614.333.9647.

Summer Christian Formation

This summer join us each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in Sipes Fellowship Hall for our Christian Formation Program as we explore the Gospel for the day. Led by Fr. Christopher alongside various parishioners, these sessions offer a chance to dig deeper into the day's text—so you can enter worship with richer understanding or step out to reflect further equipped to apply the Gospel in daily life.

Aaron and Connie Zhu!
If anyone would like their address to send them a card I have it in the office.
Just contact me by phone or email. Thanks
Pam Armstrong
Church Administrator

Fr. Christopher Hofer's On-site Office Hours

Mondays (@ St. Matthews) 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Tuesdays (@ Grace, Mansfield) 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesdays (@ Grace, Mansfield) 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Thursdays (@ Grace, Mansfield) 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Kindly refrain from contacting Fr. Christopher from 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evening until 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning each week, as this period is designated as his Sabbath time of rest. Please also avoid texting or calling between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please promptly text or call him at 516.456.9420.

Fr. Christopher D. Hofer, Priest-in-Charge
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516.456.9420 (Cell) – fatherhofer@gmail.com

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