

Grace Notes

July 2026

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**Grace Episcopal Church
41 Bowman Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44903
www.gracemansfield.org**

***Our Mission:
“To Nurture our Members and Feed our Neighbors”***



Celebrating America 250: Rekindling Unity and Hope ... Along the Way

As I sit down to reflect on this month of July, I'm transported back to a sun-soaked afternoon in 1976, when I was just five years old in the quaint town of Rio, Wisconsin. It was a time of jubilation as we celebrated America's Bicentennial. I remember marching alongside other children, small American flags fluttering in our hands, our faces alight with excitement as we paraded down Main Street during the 4th of July festivities.

The carnival loomed large, filled with vibrant rides, although I was too small to experience many of them. Yet, my heart soared as I watched older kids scream with joy on the Ferris wheel. The community-wide picnic was a cherished gathering of friends and families, sharing food, laughter, and stories that bound us together. But above all, there was the most mesmerizing event of the weekend – the fireworks. In my young eyes, they were explosive displays of color and light, truly larger than life. In those moments, I felt deep pride as we celebrated the founding of our nation. We were a melting pot, a tapestry of diverse backgrounds and cultures, unified under one flag. Our differences made our country unique and great.

Now, as we approach the monumental occasion of celebrating our nation's 250th birthday in just a few days, it's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the freedoms we

cherish: the right to practice our religion, the freedom of speech, a free press, the right to assemble, a trial by jury, the privilege against self-incrimination, and the sacred act of voting. These are the blessings we hold dearly, often taking them for granted. As we come together, let us give thanks to God for these gifts and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives, allowing us to enjoy these freedoms.

Yet, I can't help but notice something different about this celebration compared to 50 years ago. There seems to be a certain loss of innocence. Perhaps it's the weight of global events pressing on our hearts, or maybe it's the way in which our traditions of celebrating diversity have been overshadowed by political divides. Instead of coming together, we find ourselves pointing fingers at one another, assigning blame to various "sides" for the challenges our country faces. This atmosphere casts a shadow over the excitement that should accompany this significant birthday.

As Christians, particularly within the Episcopal tradition, we have a difficult but vital task ahead. We are called to rekindle that spirit of unity and joy, to bridge the gaps that divide us, and to shine once again as the "city on a hill" that reflects the admiration of others. It starts with engaging with one another in love and understanding, listening to differing viewpoints, and approaching conversations with a heart filled with grace.

We should look towards a time when our nation's citizens and the guests among us can come together to celebrate what has made our nation great: our commitment to liberty, our spirit of innovation, our belief in justice for all, and our ability to uplift those in need. These enduring principles can guide us as we seek to navigate this complex social landscape.

Let us remain people of hope. As we place our hope in the resurrection, we look forward to a time when we can rediscover our shared values and traditions, drawing strength from our diversity while fostering a sense of belonging.

In closing, let us embrace this significant anniversary with renewed excitement and purpose. May we celebrate our shared freedoms and strive to be instruments of peace and unity. Together, we can create a world where hope flourishes, and the light of our faith shines brightly, illuminating the path for others to follow. Happy 250th Birthday, America!

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Christopher D. Hofer, Priest-in-Charge

Growing in Grace: Summer Service, Safety, and Celebration

Vestry Update

Summer at Grace is bursting with growth, service, and hope. At our June Vestry meeting we celebrated the life-changing expansion of the Pantry: since May 2022 we've grown from 842 to 1,497 households served, from 592 to 1,147 children served, and average monthly visits per household have risen from 1.7 to 2.9. This ministry is bearing much fruit thanks to your gifts of time, supplies, and prayer.

Practical needs: our pantry guests would greatly benefit from wheeled carts, wagons, strollers, hand trucks, and bicycles. The Household Goods Pantry continues to serve on the first and third Thursdays at First Christian Church. Volunteers are always needed — whether greeting guests, helping with distribution, or checking in at community events. If you can help, please let us know.

Finances remain healthy and enabling continued ministry: the Pantry Operating Fund sits above \$100,000 and our Joint Investment Fund is about \$1.9 million. Food purchases from the Cleveland Food Bank have resumed and will be reflected in upcoming budgets. Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

Serving and safety: the Vestry approved a new volunteer position — Head of Safety and Security — to strengthen building safety, emergency preparedness, and training. Tom Dornbusch will develop recommendations and procedures; this is part of our commitment to welcome and protect all who come through our doors.

Mark your calendars and get involved:

- Mansfield Fourth of July events & America's 250th Ice Cream Social — volunteers needed
- Parish picnic & outdoor worship — August 2 (join us for food and fellowship)
- Praise in the Park — August 23 at John Todd Park (in partnership with Greater Mitchell Chapel)
- Mutual Ministry Review — October 17 (a day to reflect on our worship and shared ministries)

Ongoing ministries: Magical Mondays continues to serve about 30 children each week at John Todd Park — volunteers welcome. The Vestry members were reminded of mandatory Diocesan training in Safe Church (online) and Everyone Beloved (in-person anti-racism training).

Thank you for the generous spirit and collaborative energy that make Grace's ministries possible. Together we are answering God's call to serve our neighbors with love and resilience.



Our Friday noon Bible study is taking a break for the summer. Questions? Contact **Jenny Blue at 419-612-6813.**

Generosity

Scarcity whispers that the everyday does not matter, that only the grand gestures or the extraordinary count. But God reveals that holiness is woven into the fabric of daily living. The

parables of Jesus are full of seeds, bread, lamps, and coins, ordinary things that reveal extraordinary truths. In this long season of green growth, we are invited to trust that our daily generosity – whether in prayer, presence, or financial support – nurtures a flourishing Heavenly Kingdom.



*** ALTAR GUILD REQUEST ***

The Altar Guild is in need of restoring their supply of vases or urns for Altar flowers. These urns/vases are used for the Altar Flowers (*after the church service*) when they are presented to the donor.

If you would kindly look into your closets, garages, basements, storage areas, etc. to check if you have vases or urns similar to this request (*as listed below*), we would appreciate your donation.

WHAT IS NEEDED:



What is NOT needed:



TYPE OF POT:

Any shape or type *such as ceramic or plastic*

EXAMPLES:

- Wide-mouth vases,
- Wide-mouth ceramic canisters,
- Flower pots (*no holes at the bottom*),
- Floral arrangement bowls,
- "Medium-size" floral baskets with liners (no handles)

SIZE:

- TOP OPENING: (*at least*) 5" x 5" wide or larger
- HEIGHT: any height except not a tall slender vase

NOTE: Please do not bring us any clear glass vases with narrow necks or vases that are used for floral bouquets (*as shown in the "NOT Needed" photo*).

CONTACT: If you have any questions or are confused on the types of vases, please contact Rita Glaser or Karen Davis.

P.S. If you have any vases from our Altar Guild and forgot to return them, this also would be helpful.



Midweek Mending

Our Healing Mass (Midweek Mending) is celebrated in the Chapel at 9:00 a.m. each Wednesday, concluding by 9:45 a.m. Please arrive a few minutes early if you can.

Each Wednesday we will gather for the prayers and lessons appointed for the day, hear a brief homily, and celebrate the Holy Eucharist. There will be opportunity for the laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil for healing of mind, body, and spirit. Fr. Christopher, Priest-in-Charge, and Fr. Daniel, Priest Associate, will lead the service and offer pastoral prayer and care.

The service is timed to finish before Food Pantry setup but is open to everyone— parishioners, pantry volunteers and guests, neighbors, coworkers, those on the margins, the sick and suffering, people struggling with addiction, the lonely, and anyone who wishes to pray.



2nd Tuesday of the Month at noon

July

**Ohio Fire
88 East Main Street,
Ashland**

RSVP by April 12 by noon
to 419-651-9789 and please put your name



4th Tuesday of the Month

4:30 p.m.

July

Wokano

2284 West Fourth St.,
Ontario

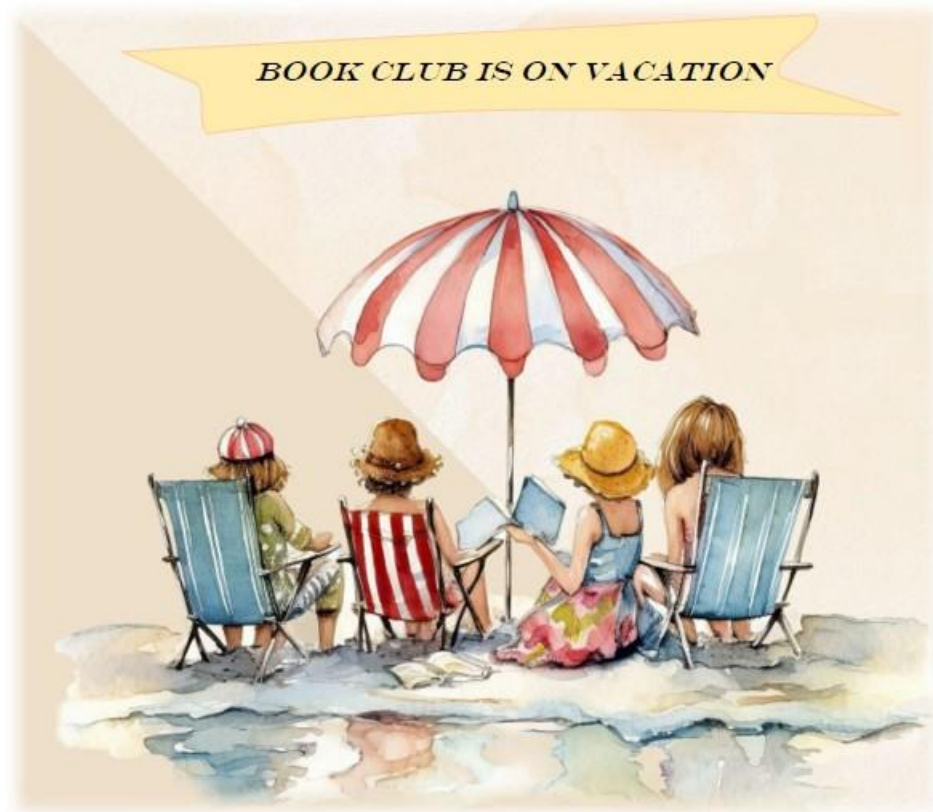


JULY BIRTHDAYS:

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Emily Prater |
| 4 | Phil Leonard |
| | Brian Saterfield |
| | Lynn Seiler |
| 5 | Terri Winnick |
| | Charla Clinage |
| 7 | Heather Nelson |
| 11 | Michael Blue |
| 12 | Barbara Eldridge |
| 13 | Jacob Stump |
| 14 | Rick Taylor |
| 21 | Louise Taylor |
| 22 | Andrew Stump |
| 27 | Diane Heaberlin |
| 29 | Kristine Saterfield |

July Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 3 | Amy & David Hubbard |
| 8 | John and Terri Winnick |
| 14 | Jeffrey and Kristin Baker |
| 18 | David and Melissa |
| | Dauterman |
| | Michael and Karen Davis |



* * * * * **SUMMER READING** * * * * *
(for September 1, 2026 meeting)

Book: *Demon Copperhead*

Author: *Barbara Kingsolver*

* * * * * **Book Club will reconvene in September** * * * * *

Meeting: September 1, 2026 (Tuesday) 6 PM

Location: Grace Episcopal Church
Sipes Fellowship Hall

The Founding Fathers and Mothers: A Fun Look at Their Episcopal and Anglican Connections

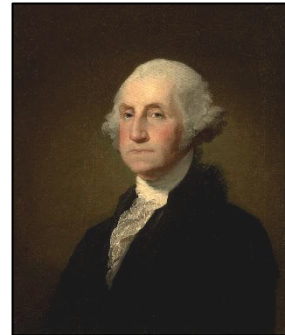
The foundation of the United States was shaped by remarkable individuals known as the Founding Fathers and Mothers. Many of them had strong ties to the Episcopal Church, which has its roots in the Anglican tradition. Let's explore this relationship with some fun facts!

The Founders and Their Faith

1. George Washington:

- *Connection:* Washington was an Anglican and regularly attended services at Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

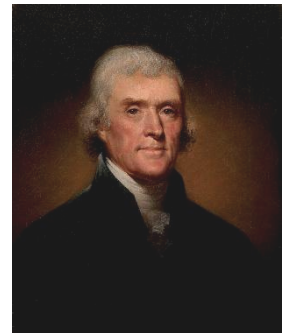
- *Fun Fact:* He was known for keeping a personal prayer book that shows his commitment to faith.



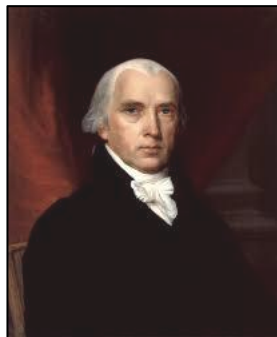
2. Thomas Jefferson:

- *Connection:* While Jefferson had a complex relationship with Christianity, he was raised in the Anglican Church.

- *Fun Fact:* He created his own version of the New Testament, known as "The Jefferson Bible," which excluded supernatural events.



3. James Madison:



- *Connection:* Madison was also an Anglican, and later, he helped shape the constitutional separation of church and state.

- *Fun Fact:* Often referred to as the "Father of the Constitution," he was influenced by Enlightenment thinkers, but his Anglican upbringing played a role in his views on religion in governance.

4. Benjamin Franklin:

- *Connection*: While not strictly Anglican, Franklin was a member of the Anglican Church later in life and often attended services.

- *Fun Fact*: Franklin's autobiography discusses his desire to live a life guided by virtue, which he framed within a broader Christian context.



5. John Adams:

- *Connection*: Adams was a Unitarian later in life, but he grew up in the Congregationalist tradition, which has roots in the broader Protestant Reformation, including Anglicanism.

- *Fun Fact*: He had a lifelong correspondence with Thomas Jefferson and often debated religious matters with him.



6. Abigail Adams:



- *Connection*: Abigail, John Adams' wife, was a strong advocate for women's rights and education, influenced by her Puritan upbringing.

- *Fun Fact*: In her letters, she urged her husband to "remember the ladies" in the new laws, showcasing her forward-thinking spirit.

The Role of Episcopalians/Anglicans in Early America

- *Influence on Governance*: Many leaders were shaped by Anglican principles, valuing reason and tolerance, which influenced early American ideas of liberty and democracy.

- *Education and Society*: The Church was instrumental in founding some early American schools and universities, advocating for education as a means of enlightenment.

Fun Facts About Episcopal Heritage:

- *The Book of Common Prayer*: This book, integral to Anglican worship, was used by many Founding Fathers, influencing their views on governance and ethics.

- *Anglican Influence on Law*: Many legal principles in early American law were drawn from Anglican theology, emphasizing justice and morality.

Conclusion

The Founding Fathers and Mothers had a diverse set of beliefs, but their connections to the Episcopal and Anglican traditions enriched the spiritual and ethical foundation of the United States. Their legacies continue to influence American culture, governance, and discussions of faith and reason. So next time you think of America's founding, consider the vital role that faith played in shaping the nation!

Another Piece of History



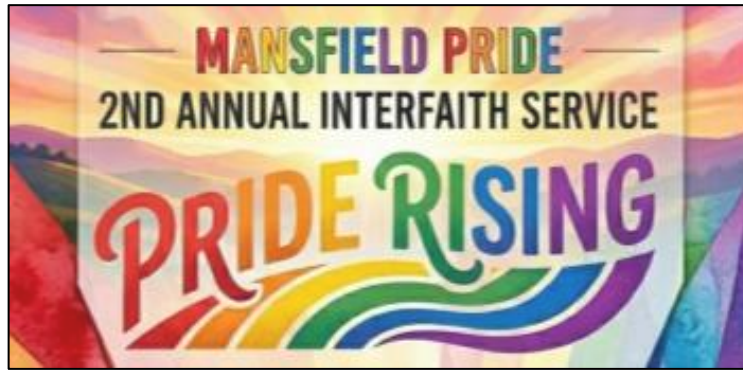
Emma Lazarus was an American poet and writer born in New York City in 1849. She is best remembered for “The New Colossus,” a sonnet she wrote in 1883 to help raise funds for the Statue of Liberty’s pedestal. Her words later became closely associated with the statue’s meaning as a symbol of welcome, refuge, and opportunity for immigrants arriving in the United States.



The New Colossus

by Emma Lazarus, 1883

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”*



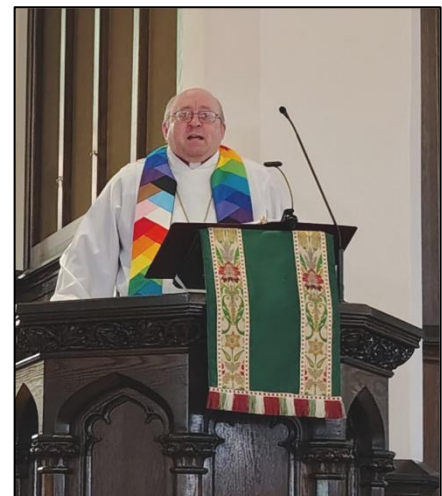
*Morah Nancy Shimer
Emanuel Jacob Congregation,
Mansfield*



Soloist Patrick Clinage accompanied by David Crane



Soloist Thomas Salter, Peace Fellowship, Mansfield



*Archbishop Joseph C. Richards
Inclusive Catholic Church,
Mansfield*

Mansfield Pride Weekend Parade & Festival





Greater Grace

Putting our Faith in Action in A New Way

Monday July 6, 10am-12noon - Magical Monday at John Todd Park

Monday July 20th, 1-3pm - Make 45 sack lunches at Friendly House

Tuesday July 21st, 10am-1pm - Thrilling Tuesday at John Todd Park (includes lunch)

Sunday August 23rd, 4-6:30pm Praise in the Park at John Todd Park (includes potluck) - Father Christopher will be preaching

Kitchen & Bath Pantry

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.

Should you have any questions or to sign up as a volunteer, please feel free to give me a call at 614-3339647.

Blessings, Deacon Beth



**Gently Used
Kitchen & Bath
Supplies Pantry**

200 W Third St.,
Bowman St. Door

1ST & 3RD Thursday's
9:00 am ~ 11:00 am

*A Joint Outreach Ministry with Grace Episcopal
Church and First Christian Church*

Save the Date

Bishop Jolly to Visit St. Matthew's

On **Sunday, July 12**, Bishop **Anne Jolly** will make her Episcopal visitation to our sister Shared Ministry congregation, **St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**, 1515 Mifflin Avenue, Ashland.

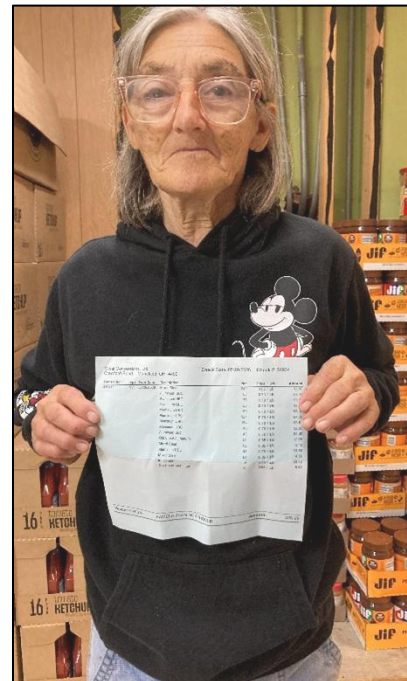
The schedule for the morning is as follows:

- **9:00 a.m.** – Teaching with Bishop Jolly
- **10:00 a.m.** – Celebration of the Holy Eucharist and sermon
- **11:15 a.m.** – Community potluck and fellowship
- Following the potluck – Meeting with the Parish Vestry

Members of **Grace** are warmly encouraged to attend to lend support to our friends at St. Matthew's and attend the activities and worship service that morning. **Carpooling is welcome—feel free to ride-share.**



Pam's Recycling Progress ⇒



**Grace Church Ministry/
Organizational Tree**

Vestry

Jenny Blue – Senior Warden
Deb Landin – Junior Warden
Joanne Mudra – Secretary
Larry Von Blon – Treasurer

Betty Diemer
Rita Glasser
Matt Moser Miller
Joanne Mudra
Stephen Myers
Anne Stump
Jason Whitehead

Staff

Pam Armstrong, Church Administrator, gracechurch41@yahoo.com
Lori Turner, Director of Music
Thomas Palmer, Organist
Michael Blue, Sexton
Tom Dornbusch, Social Media Coordinator

