

Grace Notes

June 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”***

Along the Way . . .

Flashbacks



For the past 18 years I've been drawn to social media — foremost among them Facebook — and I continue to be surprised by its power to reconnect us. It's become more than a place for updates: a public noticeboard, a parish directory, and a living scrapbook. Our Grace page has welcomed thousands of new visitors recently, many of whom have discovered the pantry and our ministries because of posts and shares. We meet new friends every day, and messaging and comments keep me in regular contact with parishioners and neighbors.

One of the sweetest gifts has been finding people I hadn't seen in decades. Reconnecting with a classmate from Rio, Wisconsin stirred a rush of memories — some joyful, some difficult — but all part of the story that shaped me. Memory works that way: a photo, a name, or a short exchange can unlock an entire chapter of life.

Those flashbacks matter. They help us make sense of who we are and where we've been, even when the memories are hard. For Christians, communal remembering has always been central to our life together. Every Sunday, when we partake in the Holy Eucharist, we practice *anamnesis* — a remembering of Christ's life, death, and

resurrection, especially in the pattern of the Last Supper. That shared remembrance forms and binds us, shaping our faith and our common life.

It might sometimes be easier to push memories aside, but I'm grateful for these reminders of my past and for the ways our community remembers together. They keep us rooted as we travel onward — together . . . along the way.

Peace and Blessings,

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



June: Abundance

After the fire of Pentecost, the Church enters its longest season – marked by green, the color of growth. The spiritual Plenty Good Room echoes the call of this season. God's kingdom is not only revealed in mountaintop moments or holy days, but in the steady unfolding of daily life – plenty good room for us to grow in love, service, and generosity. Each ordinary day becomes a chance to choose our seat at God's table and to make space for others.

We are called to see that God's abundance is present in the regular, even mundane, moments – when we teach a child, share a meal, volunteer in our community, or support the ongoing mission of the church.

TENS Season after Pentecost Reflection
Selection by the Shared Ministry Stewardship Team

Returning to pre-COVID Communion Practices

Beginning Sunday, June 6, 2026

Beginning Sunday, June 6, 2026, Grace Episcopal Church will resume our pre-COVID practice at the principal Sunday service of using two identical chalices at the altar rail (both of which will be used for intinction or consuming).



History of the practice

Pre-COVID we used two chalices (dividing the altar rail in half); during COVID we shifted to separate intinction and sipping chalices. Now, six years later, we are returning to our pre-COVID practice of two equal chalices at the rail. We also use a single chalice at the 8:00 a.m. service and at our Wednesday Midweek Mending Healing Mass, equalizing practice across the board.

Practical details

- If you do not wish to receive from the cup, simply cross your arms over your chest when you come forward and the Eucharistic Minister will pass you by.
- If you wish to receive from the cup, please wait for the Eucharistic Minister to reach you. Receive the bread first, then either dip the host into the wine (intinction) or receive by sipping from the chalice—whichever you prefer.

About the safety of the common cup

The common cup is used safely in many congregations. Evidence and guidance from health experts indicate that transmission of ordinary respiratory or gastrointestinal illnesses through a shared communion chalice is low, especially when ministers and communicants follow basic hygiene. Our Eucharistic Ministers will continue careful handling practices—clean hands, discreet wiping of the rim between communicants, and attentive care for anyone who prefers not to receive from the cup.

If you have questions or concerns, please speak with a clergy member or a warden before or after worship.



A tidbit from
the Altar Guild
church mouse.

Did you know.....?

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH LITURGICAL COLORS

A few "Liturgical Colors" in Episcopal worship
signify our place in the Church Year.



WHITE...

the color of Jesus' burial garments that symbolizes joy, purity, and truth. White is used for Christmas, Easter, Trinity Sunday, and other 'feasts' or festival days, as well as marriages, baptisms, and funerals.



PURPLE...

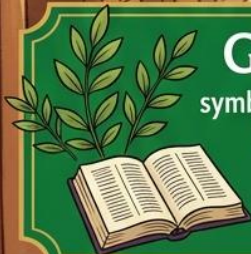
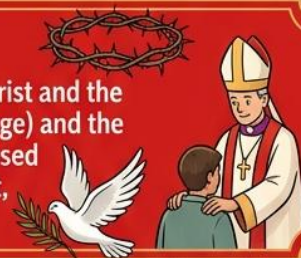
is used during Advent and Lent seasons. It symbolizes penitence, preparation and reflection.

Note: Some churches use 'royal blue' for Advent to distinguish it from Lent, emphasizing hope and anticipation of Christ's coming.



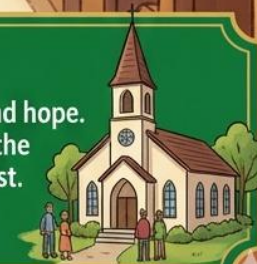
RED

Symbolizes the blood of Christ and the martyrs, (sacrifice and courage) and the fire of the Holy Spirit. It is used in Holy Week, Pentecost, and at ordinations.



GREEN.....

symbolizes growth, renewal (life), and hope. It is used during Epiphany and the "Ordinary Time" after Pentecost.



A resource from your Episcopal Altar Guild.

SUMMER *Book Study*



Our weekly Bible Study is on hiatus for the summer.
We will be gathering a couple of times for book studies.



FIRST GATHERING:

**Friday, June 26th
at noon**



We will begin discussing
An Altar in the World
by Barbara Brown Taylor.

All are welcome!

Questions? Contact **Jenny Blue at 419-612-6813.**

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
noon

June

Cracker Barrel

I-71/Ohio 13

Mansfield

RSVP by June 8 by noon
to 419-651-9789 and please
put your name



4th Tuesday of the Month
4:30 p.m.

June

Brown Derby Roadhouse

Park Ave West/Ohio 314,
Ontario



June Anniversaries

7 Steve and Linda Schumacher
20 Delwin & Stephanie Herz
Mark and Louise Taylor
28 Touby & Lauren Bender
Michael and Jenny Blue

June Birthdays

1 Peg Baker
3 David Hubbard
4 Paige Waeiss
Lauren Bender
7 Amber Mills Dornbusch
8 Ted Sazdanoff
15 Cathy Evans
20 Delwin Herz
21 Patrick Clinage
22 Melanie Prater
23 Pat Adams
25 James Roberts
26 Ann Stump
30 Heidi Sazdanoff

Greater Grace



Thanks to all who have donated so far to our new Kitchen and Bath Pantry at First Christian Church!

Volunteers are needed to help with Magical Mondays at John Todd Park.

Have questions? Call Deacon Beth at 614-333-9647

YOU ARE INVITED TO
John Todd Park - Bowers Ave, Mansfield

FOR

MAGICAL MONDAYS

Basketball - Art Activities - Kickball
Nature Hike - Badminton

Mondays | June 8- July 6
10 AM - 12 PM

Children Going Into Grades 3-7

Made possible through a partnership between:

- Salvation Army Dewald Community Center
- Mansfield City Parks Department
- Greater Grace Partnership
(Greater Mitchell Chapel & Grace Episcopal Church)



The June 2 Meeting will be held at

China Town Restaurant
283 Ashland Rd,
Mansfield, OH 44905

Time: 6 PM

Contact: Please contact Margaret Ransom
for reservations. Cell: 419-565-7654

*This invitation is also opened to the
"Friends of Grace Book Club".*

* * * * * **JUNE 2, 2026** * * * * *

BOOK: *A Piece of the World*
Author: *Christin Baker Kline*

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

BOOK: *Demon Copperhead*
Author: *Barbara Kingsolver*

Summer Christian Formation: Deepening Our Sundays

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.

Whether you're a longtime student of Scripture or curious to learn more, make this a summer discipline. Conversation, insight, and fellowship await—bring your questions and open hearts. All are welcome.



A Prayer for Fathers and All Touched by Fatherhood

Almighty God, Giver of every good gift, we praise you for the many faces of fatherhood and for the ways fathers shape our lives. We thank you for those whose loving care and faithful example have shown us your goodness: for fathers who taught us by patience and tenderness, for mentors and elder brothers who guided and protected us, and for those whose steady work provided safety and hope. Bless them and grant them wisdom, humility, and joy.

We remember those whose fathers are absent — by choice, by circumstance, or by distance. Comfort the hearts that carry longing, answer questions left unasked, and surround them with your sustaining love and faithful community.

We acknowledge especially those whose fathers have died. Hold them in your compassion; in their seasons of memory and mourning be a sure and gentle presence. Give them the consolation of friends, the peace that passes understanding, and the strength to tell their stories.

We bring to you the pain caused by fathers who harmed, who were cruel or neglectful. O God of justice and mercy, bring healing to survivors, repentance to wrongdoers where possible, and the courage and resources needed to mend what can be mended. Grant survivors safety and the means to find restoration.



We pray for fathers whose work kept them away from home. Forgive when busyness became a barrier to love. Restore relationships strained by absence, and grant the grace to balance provision with presence.

We hold before you, fathers who grieve the loss of a child. In the face of a grief that words cannot hold, be their refuge and comfort. Surround them with tender care, and in your time bring the balm of hope.

We remember those who long to be fathers but cannot—by fertility, circumstance, loss, or thwarted desire. Be near to those whose longing is deep; fill their homes and hearts with your life, and open new ways for love and parenthood to flourish.

Bless those who step into fatherly roles without title: foster fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, coaches, teachers, and friends who give fatherly love. Grant them patience, compassion, and the grace to nurture those in their care.

Help us, O Lord, to reflect your fatherly love: to be merciful where there has been harm, honest where there has been silence, faithful where there has been desertion, and generous where there has been scarcity. Teach us to honor and support one another in all our differences and wounds, that your kingdom of justice, mercy, and peace may grow among us. Amen.

Pride Rising: Celebrating Community, Faith, and Inclusion

Love, community, and radical hospitality are at the heart of everything we do. This June, we have an incredible opportunity to put our faith into action as we celebrate Mansfield Pride.

You are cordially invited to the **2nd Annual Mansfield Pride Interfaith Service** on **Wednesday, June 24, at 7:00 p.m.**, hosted right here at Grace Episcopal Church.

This year's powerful theme is "**Pride Rising.**" The service will bring together an inspiring lineup of religious and community leaders from throughout the greater Mansfield area to celebrate unity, hope, and the diverse fabric of our community. Immediately following the service, we will host a welcoming reception in the parish hall to honor our guests and continue the fellowship.



Walking the Walk: Parade & Festival

The celebration continues into the weekend, and we want a strong showing from our community!

- **Mansfield Pride Parade (Saturday, June 27):** Join fellow Grace and St. Matthew's members as we march together. We will meet at the church at **10:00 a.m.**, and the parade kicks off at **11:00 a.m.**
- **Mansfield Pride Festival (Saturday, June 27, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.):** Following the parade, head over to South Park for the festival. Grace is proud to be sponsoring a booth once again this year.

"Hosting the interfaith service, marching proudly in the parade, and hosting a table at the festival fits perfectly into our parish's core mission," says Fr. Christopher Hofer. "It is profoundly important that we let the wider community know that Grace really does live what we preach. This is a beautiful opportunity to meet our neighbors, share our hearts, and welcome individuals who may very well become our newest parishioners."



How You Can Participate & Help

It takes our entire church family to show the full warmth of Grace hospitality. Here is how you can get involved:

- **Be There to Welcome:** We need a robust presence in the pews for the Interfaith Service on Wednesday night to worship alongside our visitors, as well as friendly faces to greet guests as they arrive and help host the reception afterward.
- **March with Us:** We want a vibrant, joyful contingent representing Grace and St. Matthew's in Saturday's parade. Bring your walking shoes and your energy!
- **Staff the Festival Table:** We need enthusiastic volunteers to staff the Grace table at South Park for one-hour shifts:

- **12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
- **1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**
- **2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
- **3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**
- *Helpers are also needed for setup before noon and tear-down just after 4:00 p.m.*

Ready to jump in? Please check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board just outside of the Parish Office to claim your festival table shift or let us know how you'd like to assist.

If you have any questions about any of these upcoming activities, please reach out to a member of **Grace's Pride Ministry Team**: Fr. Christopher Hofer, Deb Landin, Terri Winnick, or Jason Whitehead.

Let's stand together, celebrate "Pride Rising," and show Mansfield the warmth and unconditional love of the Grace community!

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.**



SNAP cuts will soon take effect. We will see our first people removed from snap for not meeting work requirements in June. Bigger cuts to SNAP will come later when the state loses administrative funding.

The Cleveland Food Bank is so far brilliantly maneuvered around, cuts to USDA. They have found new sources of



We strung Christmas lights and orange slices to promote an old seeded variety of orange that deserves more love.

food and funding. Eggs have been abundant. For the first time we have had chocolate peanut butter and pancake syrup. Betty even found hot dogs for the Fourth of July.

In Other News...



Father Daniel's son Lewis married Hannah Whitaker, Saturday, May 16. Family gathered from France, Germany, Japan, and celebrated in Oberlin.

Change of Address

Dennis and Margaret Ransom
63 Shaffner Blvd.
Mansfield OH 44907

Around the Diocese

June 7

Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst invites all riders and community members to its **Annual Motorcycle Blessing** on June 7. The event will take place from 12:00-1:00 p.m., with the blessing beginning at 12:30 p.m. This relaxed and welcoming gathering offers an opportunity to pray for a safe and enjoyable riding season. Whether you ride every day, on weekends, or simply wish to participate in a community event, all are welcome. Attendees are encouraged to bring their motorcycles, invite friends, or simply come as they are. A free lunch of hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be provided. For more information, visit Good Shepherd's website or reach out through email.

Planning ahead ...

All are invited to the **210th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Ohio**. Convention 2026 will take place **November 20-21** at the Sawmill Creek Lodge in Huron, Ohio. More information is forthcoming.



**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