

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 6 Number 2

February 2026



“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” Jeremiah 29:7

Happy February, everyone.

As you know, we will hold our annual meeting this Sunday, February 8th, at Grace's St. Paul's campus after worship. The weather will no doubt be cold but fine for driving. Be sure to join us, if you can. We'll even bribe you with great food and dessert. And, if you can't make it for any reason, call, text, or email me and I'll drop by personally and we can chat about the meeting together. In fact, if anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

One of the important parts of the meeting will be talking about the Community Panel, the next task in our New Futures Discernment program. The Community Panel will be held Tuesday, February 24th, from 6:00–8:00 PM at Grace’s St. Paul’s campus. Dinner will be provided for all attendees. Please plan to come. You can learn more about the Community Panel in your Open Doors New Futures Mission Search Congregation Handbook on pages 21-22. (If you need another copy of that, you can download one for free [here](#). Here are the goals of our Community Panel:

- To discover what other non-profit leaders in our community are doing and who they are serving.
- To listen for what others see as challenges, where they see life, and what they are building on.
- To listen for alignment of purpose, potential partnerships, inspiration, information, mutual support, and connections to previous points of the congregation's discernment and mission.

We have invited a number of leaders of important Ossining non-profits to attend, and they know we will ask them four questions:

1. What is your name, your organization, your organization's work, and who is your constituency?
2. What are your challenges?
3. Where do you see life and what are you building on?
4. What might be a special request of our parish that you and/or your constituents have that would help you better serve the members of the community?

We are listening for missional opportunities: where can we as a faith community—using ourselves, our assets, and our space—make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need in Ossining?

Personally, I think this next phase of our discernment work may be the most fun and impactful for Grace. Talking with other non-profits and non-profit leaders about where they are seeing success and experiencing need perfectly fits Grace's relational character. In identifying a specific need and our inspiration to do something about it collectively, I believe Grace will begin to hear more clearly God's specific call to us now. As the prophet Jeremiah reminds us, we need to seek the welfare of Ossining and pray to God on Ossining's behalf, for Grace's welfare comes not from focusing on itself, but from focusing on the welfare of others in need in Ossining.

As Jesus taught and as we remind ourselves weekly at the start of every Grace Rite 1 worship service:

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. (BCP, p. 324)

We love our neighbors as ourselves when we prioritize the needs of our neighbors as we would prioritize our own needs. We can't be all things to all people in Ossining, but we have the personnel and resources to make a huge difference for some. Who are the "some" we feel called to help? **That** is what we are listening for in the next phase of our Grace New Futures Discernment program.

I close with a prayer recently written by a member of our Discernment Prayer Choir:

Lord Jesus, we your church always want to know how we can be faithful to you. As we look at the past year, open the eyes of our hearts to rejoice in the ways that we have magnified your name, here at Grace and in our community. Forgive us where we have strayed and be our companion as we try to be even more faithful in the new year. Amen.

Amen indeed.

In gratitude for each of you and our important discernment work together,

Fr. Hal+



INTERFAITH COMMUNITY STATEMENT AGAINST ICE RAIDS

We, the members of the Briarcliff and Ossining Ministers Association, stand united in defense of the dignity and safety of our immigrant neighbors. We affirm that every human being carries sacred worth and deserves to live without fear or intimidation.

Across our diverse faiths and moral traditions, we share a common call: to welcome the stranger, protect the vulnerable, and honor the humanity of all people. Immigration raids that separate families and disrupt communities stand in direct opposition to these shared spiritual values.

We recognize the role of lawful governance, yet we affirm that laws must serve the cause of justice and compassion. The enforcement of immigration policy must never come at the expense of human rights, due process, or basic decency.

We call on all law enforcement agencies to act with integrity, fairness, and restraint. We call on the federal government to end militarized raids and to pursue humane and transparent immigration policies that strengthen, rather than shatter, the bonds of community.

As faith communities, we pledge to continue offering refuge, support, and solidarity to all who seek safety and belonging. We will not be silent while our neighbors live in fear. Our collective faith compels us to act with love, courage, and moral clarity.

We are one community—diverse in belief, united in purpose, and bound by our shared humanity.

Love your neighbor. Welcome the stranger. Protect one another.

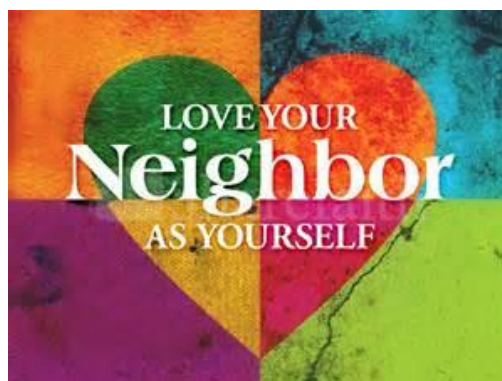
These members and affiliates of the Briarcliff Ossining Ministerial Association endorse this statement. This is a personal endorsement not necessarily an endorsement from the organization they work for.

The Rev. Daniel Lawlor, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Hudson Valley

The Rev. Jeniffer Rodríguez, First Presbyterian Church of Ossining

The Rev. Todd Farnsworth, Briarcliff Congregational Church

The Rev. Velda Lowery, Pastor, Greater Love A.M.E. ZION Church
The Rev. Glenn M. Courtney, First Baptist Church Ossining, N.Y.
Sister Ola Nosseir, Founder Our Common Beliefs
Rabbi Shoshana Leis, Pleasantville Community Synagogue
Bishop Joan Whittaker, HORAC Ministries Ossining
Carl B. Procario-Foley, Ph.D., Executive Director for The Center at Mariandale, Dominican
Sisters of Hope Leadership Team
Fr Francis J Breen, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
Rabbi Dina Rosenberg, Congregation Sons of Israel
The Rev. Hal Roark, Grace Episcopal Church, Ossining
The Rev. Jessie Turnier, All Saints' Episcopal Church
Rev. Tenku, Ruff Beacon Zen Temple
Sr. Lelia Mattingly Maryknoll Sister
Sr. Rosalva Sandi, Maryknoll Sisters
The Rev. Shaun Jones, Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church
The. Rev. Tim Ives, Scarborough Presbyterian Church
Dr. Robert J. Berson, Leader, Ethical Society of Northern Westchester (Retired)
Bill Ford, Chief of Staff, Mission Animator, Maryknoll Sisters
The Congregational Leadership Team for the Maryknoll Sisters:
 Sr. Teresa Hougnon, MM
 Sr. Leonel Montiel, MM
 Sr. Genie Natividad, MM
 Sr. Claris Zwareva, MM
Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz, Congregation Sons of Israel





OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

We are holding services at our St. Paul's Campus during February because we are hosting the Traveling Shelter at our Trinity Campus

February 1	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	The Presentation of Our Lord
February 8	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 15	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Last Sunday after the Epiphany
February 18	7:15 AM	Imposition of Ashes (Trinity Campus)	Ash Wednesday
February 18	7:30 AM	Ashes to Go (Ossining Train Station)	Ash Wednesday
February 18	12:00 Noon	Ash Wednesday Liturgy (St. Paul's Campus)	Ash Wednesday
February 22	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	First Sunday in Lent

All Sunday services are live streamed to our YouTube channel. You can find our recorded services there, and on our Facebook page after the service is over. The links are:

YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP1qGAuJlIxWU8Z_ucCKEGA

Grace's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/graceossining/>



From Kate Pendzuk

I would like to thank the following people for helping prep the Church at the Trinity Campus for the Homeless Shelter:

Charles Korr, JoAnn McGrath, Tam Hernández, Sam Bethea, Fr. Roark, and one who doesn't want to be mentioned.

We will send an email in February to ask for help to put things back in the Church. Thank you again and stay safe during the winter season.

DEACON'S MESSAGE

WAYS TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

Ash Wednesday is February 18th, and the day we move from the church season of Epiphany to Lent. Each Lent I return to seven practices that were printed in an Ashes to Go leaflet years ago. I have since printed them in our materials when we offer ashes for Ash Wednesday at the Ossining Train Station.

Give thanks – cultivate gratitude.

Pray – talk to God, and listen.

Study – read Scripture and other words that inspire you.

Share – give and do service.

Embrace the stranger – Jesus said, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

Fast – let go of the behaviors and things that distract you.

Celebrate – center yourself in hope and light.

Simple practices for Lent, which is a "keep it simple" church season.

I want to focus on the second practice – **pray**.



I try to begin and end every day with prayer. It is one of the crucial practices that help me cope and keep going. I believe we all have a right to spiritual well-being and praying is one way I keep myself on a peaceful and positive path. Prayer takes all forms. Sometimes it is praying the prayers in the Book of Common Prayer, word for word. Sometimes it is a simple conversation with God. As writer Anne Lamott says, sometimes her prayers are, "God, please," and "God, thank you." There is no right or wrong. Just the desire to connect.

Prayer is powerful when we are in community. That is why worship remains so important to me. We gather together to witness each others' faith.

There is a small group of us that has decided to gather for Morning Prayer every week. We meet on Zoom, usually at 8:15 AM. Please [click here](#) to email me if you would like the log in information.

In peace,

Deacon Jean Marie



WARDEN'S REPORT

As we look forward to making continued progress in our journey in 2026 and beyond, Grace needs to be open, honest, and clear in our work together to meet the challenges which lie ahead. We need everyone to continue to be engaged and remain active participants as we share our spiritual biographies, our lessons learned during our community engagements, and our evolving visions and dreams of what Grace's future might look like for us and future generations.

Our upcoming 5th Annual Meeting gives us a time to reflect and focus on what our calling is... or what it potentially could be. We might consider some of the following questions before February 8th:

What are my skills?

What is my heart telling me?

How might I make a difference?

What impact might my calling have in my life and the lives of others?

What are you being called to do for—and with—Grace?

"We need God's Grace. We need each other." – Bishop M. Heyd

Wardens:	Graham Gulian (2026) ggulian@gmail.com Cecilia Quintero (2027) cquintero1506@gmail.com
Vestry Members:	Ann Barringer Spaeth (2027) abspaeth55@gmail.com Alison Ford (2028) alisonford@msn.com Milton Kerr (2027) mkdj46@yahoo.com Jo Ann McGrath (2026) mcgrathinator@gmail.com Maribeth Osgood (2028) mbosgood@outlook.com Kate Pendzuk (2026) katependzuk@gmail.com

SCOTT ROGER ROWE

June 24, 1973– January 28, 2026

Scott Roger Rowe, age 52, of Briarcliff Manor, New York, passed away peacefully on January 28, 2026. Born on June 24, 1973, in White Plains, New York, Scott lived a life defined by devotion—to his family, his work, and the people lucky enough to know him. Scott was the beloved son of Melanie and the late Roger Rowe. He built a successful career as Director of Sales at Securitas Electronic Security, where he was respected for his leadership, integrity, and unwavering loyalty. But above all else, Scott was a family man. His greatest joy came from spending time with his wife, Michelle, and their two daughters, Madeline and Lily, who were the center of his world.



Scott loved the simple and meaningful things in life: hiking trails with his dog, Boomer; lifting weights at 6:00 AM; snowboarding; spending time with close friends and savoring a great craft beer or a well-aged bourbon. He had a rare combination of kindness and sarcasm, humor and heart—his positive energy and light lifted everyone around him. Those who knew Scott will remember his generosity, his quick wit, his steady loyalty, and the way he made people feel seen and valued. He had a gift for connection and a presence that lingered long after he left the room.

Scott is survived by his loving wife, Michelle Rowe; his daughters, Madeline and Lily; his mother, Melanie Rowe; and his brother, Craig Rowe. He was preceded in death by his father, Roger Rowe.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mount Sinai, Abilities Research Center, where Scott participated in trailblazing neuro rehabilitation research at 5 East 98th Street, SB-18, New York, NY 10029 or online at <https://icahn.mssm.edu/research/abilities-research-center/make-a-gift>

Scott was deeply loved and will be profoundly missed, but his warmth, laughter, and light will live on in all who knew him.

Laissez Le Bon Temps Rouler!

**Grace Episcopal
Welcomes you to our
Shrove Tuesday...Mardi Gras Dinner**



St. Paul's Campus, Ossining, NY

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 6 - 8 PM

*Gumbo for God, Jambalaya for Jesus, and
...Pancakes for Y'all*

Donation (suggested):

\$20/adult; \$10/child (6-11)

Children 5 and under FREE

Sign-Up: **914-941-6627 - Church Office**

Join us...and...

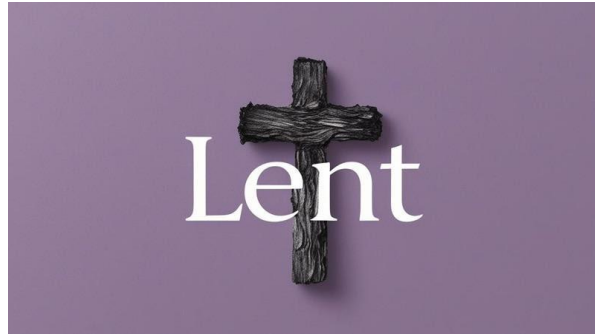
Let The Good Times Roll!

LENT PRACTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

**Lent begins on Ash
Wednesday on February 18.**

We'll offer spiritual formation resources for the communities across the Diocese.

The theme will be *Reclaim Our Shared Humanity*.



- [You can sign up here](#) for daily spiritual meditations via text.
- [You can sign up here](#) for a weekly online book study using [For A Time Such as This: An Emergency Devotional](#) on Thursdays at noon beginning on February 19.

The Anti-Racism Committee and the diocesan Young Adult Network are hosting a Lenten study on the dangers of white Christian nationalism. There will be two study tracks:

- Six-week book study curriculum using [The False White Gospel](#).
- Discussion Curriculum for the ChurchNext "Exploring Christian Nationalism With Jim Wallis" course.

You can [click here](#) to access the resources and learn more.

- The Public Witness Task Force is preparing for a diocese-wide action on Ash Wednesday.

READING THE BIBLE WITH VINCENT

Ann Post is offering another Bible study, this time on the works of Vincent Van Gogh. Ann is director of Christian Education at St. Paul's Riverside in Connecticut and recently earned her doctorate of ministry from the University of Toronto. She is also the spouse of Deacon Jean Marie.

In the Fall of 2024 and Lent 2025, Ann conducted a series on Rembrandt's biblical art. This time, she will be focusing on Van Gogh's impressionist style and biblical messages. It is important to note that he was a man of faith and worked for a while as a missionary in Belgium.

Van Gogh painted with vibrant colors that created ethereal images. He explored The Good Samaritan, the Sower, and other biblical characters in his works.

This Bible study will be offered on Zoom on a weekday evening. Please let Jean Marie know if you would like to be informed about it by [clicking here](#).



GRACE GRIEF GROUP

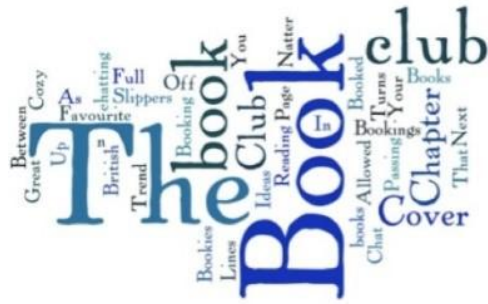


*Grief isn't just about missing who we lost.
It's also about grieving the parts of ourselves that disappeared with them.
The version of me I was before you died is gone too.
Carefree. Innocent. Unafraid.
I grieve that person.
But I'm slowly learning to accept who I'm becoming,
someone who loves deeper, sees life differently,
and understands just how fragile it all is.
Grief doesn't just change your life.
It changes...you.*

From the Surviving Grief Facebook Page admin and author, Gary Sturgis

The Grief Group welcomes anyone in the community who may be seeking support because of the loss of a loved one or any other life-changing event. There is no need to register. This month, we will meet, Saturday, February 14th and 28th at 10:00 AM in the Family Room at the St. Paul's Campus of Grace Church, 40 Ganung Drive, Ossining.

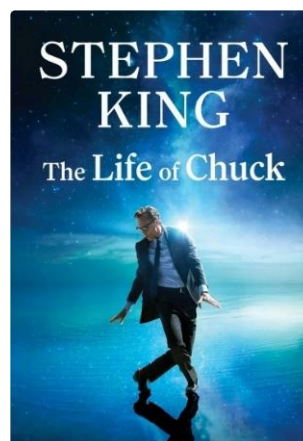
ALL ARE WELCOME!



We finally have a date for our 2026 gathering for our annual Champagne Toast, our Oscar Quiz, and the discussion of *The Life of Chuck* by Stephen King. (Sadly, this brilliant film adaptation which was directed by Mike Flanagan and featured an amazing cast did not get any Oscar nominations. But IMHO it is still worth viewing, Mark Hamill delivered an unforgettable performance in this film.) So, if you have seen the film, read the book, or just want to check out our book club, please join us after coffee hour on **Sunday, March 15th**! (By the way, the presentation of the 2026 Academy Awards will take place later that night on ABC.) Our first meeting of the year is one of my favorite events. It is a welcoming gathering which gives us a chance to get to get to know one another better and plan for our reading list for the year ahead!



Cecilia Quintero



LOAVES & FISH



On Saturday evening, January 17th, our Loaves and Fish menu was spicy chicken thighs, roasted potatoes and vegetables, and Caesar salad. We had bread and baked goods donated by ShopRite, and a lovely surprise – some desserts donated by Baked by Susan in Croton. We love those guys! In spite of the snowy weather, we had 39 patrons in-house and 16 meals to go.

We prepare a Saturday night meal about every ten weeks. On Grace's Saturday, we prep from 4:00–5:00 PM, serve meals from 5:00–6:00, and clean up from

6:00–7:00. We welcome volunteers to shop, cook, serve, and clean up. Help your neighbors, have some fun, and lower your blood pressure! Contact alisonford@msn.com for more information.

SOCIAL ACTION INITIATIVES

WE STAND FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

Grace has always participated in many vital ministries that do God's work in the world. In recent years we have supported the Ossining Food Pantry, the BOMA Shelter System, and the Loaves and Fish Dinner at the Trinity Campus on Saturday nights. Last year, we discussed white Christian nationalism after the Sunday service, using the Rev. Carter Heyward's book, *The Seven Deadly Sins of Christian Nationalism*, as our text. From there, we created a number of action steps and initiatives.

Our Christian presence in Ossining and our greater community is needed now more than ever. ICE raids, detentions, and deportations have touched our community and our diocese. We now have seen the actions and the violent deaths of protestors in Minnesota. All who seek justice have been called upon to support a Christian response in any way we can.

We regularly receive notices of local and regional rallies, protests, and trainings. Some are initiated by our diocese and the Episcopal Church USA. Others are coming from other activist groups.

If you would like to be on an email list to be kept up to date on upcoming social justice events, please send an email to graceossining@gmail.com.

Deacon Jean Marie



Feast of Blessed Absalom Jones



**Saturday, February 14th
10:30am**

Guest Preacher
***The Rt. Rev. Carlye
Hughes, Bishop of Newark***

Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine

You can [click here](#) to register for the event and [click here to donate](#) to the Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal HBCUs.

This Service will also be streamed live on the Cathedral's website and social media pages. [Click here](#) for the website.

REPAIR

**Rivertowns Episcopal Parishes
Action on Inclusion and Race**

RECLAIMING CHRISTIANITY: An Urgent Mission

In a powerful homily delivered last December, Rev. Anne Marie Witchger of St. Mark's Church in the Bowery declared:

I worry every day about raising my own kids in a world like this—a world where public language dehumanizes, where violence can be ordered casually, where people seeking refuge can be turned away, where detention can stretch on without justice, where saying simple things like “Diversity matters,” “All people deserve to have food,” “Everyone should be able to afford medication,” or “God loves everyone” have become divisive political statements.

How did this happen? How did America become a country where the affirmation of universal human dignity is considered controversial? And most disturbing, how has this cultural transformation been driven in the name of Christianity?

At REPAIR, we've been examining the dangerous force of Christian Nationalism—the doctrine that the United States is a white, Protestant nation defined by a narrow set of political and social ideals ordained by God, and that any actions, even violence, can be justified in the name of those ideals. The organizing committee of REPAIR has dedicated the coming year's programming to the theme of Reclaiming Christianity. We'll be exploring how Christians and others of good faith are called to respond to hateful acts and policies supposedly justified by religious teaching. And we'll be discussing concrete actions we all can take to embody the values of love, compassion, and forgiveness in a world where hatred, anger, and revenge often seem to dominate.

Tuesday, February 24, at 7:30 PM, REPAIR will host an online gathering to discuss the difficulties and promise of reclaiming Christianity in today's America. Priests from three of the Episcopal churches that sponsor REPAIR—the Rev. Gareth Evans of St. Barnabas, Irvington; the Rev. Bill Baker of Christ Church San Marcos, Tarrytown; and the Rev. Jessie Turnier of All Saints, Briarcliff Manor—will offer their perspectives, and audience members will be invited to share their questions, concerns, and ideas. REPAIR leaders Dennis Parker and Karl Weber will moderate.

Whatever your background, you're invited to join us for an evening of conversation that promises to be challenging, tough, and ultimately inspiring!

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Meeting Time: 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Zoom Link: [Click here](#)



FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 7 Hospitality Steering Committee (11:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 8 Grace Annual Meeting (Noon, St. Paul's Campus)
- 14 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 17 Shrove Tuesday Dinner (6:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 24 Community Panel and Dinner (6:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 25 Vestry Meeting (7:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 28 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)

1/26--2/15 Homeless Shelter (Trinity Campus)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Karen Pauline	2	Zach Sporn	20
Dhalya Baker Wagner	5	Stephanie Silicato	22
The Rev. Cooper Conway	9	Emerica Jusu-Davies	23
Robert Docker	9	Julie Gross	25
Susan Holsten Madera	9	Brooke McGrath Antonopoulos	25
Nicholas Kip	14	Ian Robertson	25
Linnet Baker	15	Audrey Del Bene	26
Adam Wagner	18	Jessica Bowen	29
Doris Beresford	20		

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Janet Hughes and Diahann Malcolm 14



CLERGY

The Rev. Hal Roark, Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Jean Marie Angelo, Deacon

Janine Thwaite, Deacon Postulant

VESTRY

Graham Gulian, Warden

Cecilia Quintero, Warden

Jo Ann McGrath, Clerk

Ann Barringer Spaeth

Maribeth Osgood

Alison Ford

Kate Pendzuk

Milton Kerr

STAFF

Beth Pollack, Treasurer

Tina Farrell and Tamsen Hernández, Parish Administrators

Suji Jung, Music Director

Katherine Pendzuk, Verger

Megan Whalen, Bookkeeper

Anthony Sena, Sexton, St. Paul's Campus

Pablo Montoya, Sexton, Trinity Campus

MISSION STATEMENT

To love God is a call to action. Strengthened by prayer, worship, and study, Grace Church embraces and serves all people, the earth, and every living thing.