

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 6 Number 4

April 2026



Happy Eastertide, everyone!

Eastertide is the 50-day season between Easter and Pentecost when we exult in the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead and all the loving implications of that for our lives. Eastertide is the season of celebrating resurrections, and there are a number of resurrections to celebrate within Grace!

For example, we now have enough families with teens and children attending Grace that we are launching a Family Service once a month so we can begin providing monthly teen and child programming. The dates through the end of June are April 26th at St. Paul's, May 10th at St. Paul's (Mother's Day), June 7th at Trinity, and June 28th at St. Paul's (our annual Parish Picnic). The structure is that teens, children, their parents (if they wish), and any others who want the new programming will start in the Parish Hall for developmentally appropriate child/teen education during the first part of worship and then join their families after announcements for the Eucharist. After worship, there will be more activities for the children and teens during coffee hour.

The program is free and families are encouraged to email me at hal@graceossining.org so I can learn more about what we at Grace can specifically provide you and your family in these challenging times. We would like to set up a Zoom meeting to discuss our options. Many thanks to Megan and Ben Whalen and to Deacon Jean Marie and her wife, Ann Post, who have been helping us create and implement this program. (I didn't see that one coming this early, did you? The Spirit is moving in our midst, y'all!)

Continue to pray for Grace as we seek to discern God's will for Grace and the changes we need to make to fulfill God's will and to ensure Grace's thriving as an Episcopal parish in Ossining for decades to come. Speaking of God's will for Grace, we held our New Futures Community Panel on Wednesday, March 18th. We heard from Ossining Village and Town leadership, the Ossining Public Library, the Ossining Chamber of

Commerce, and Neighbors Link. [Click here](#) to read the complete summary. To provide you with an abbreviated summary here, each group shared a concern about supporting, defending, and enhancing the uniquely diverse and integrated community that is Ossining. Each also expressed a need for more commercial space within Ossining for non-profits to enhance Ossining's community life even more.

Be sure to attend the next Grace New Futures discernment meeting on Tuesday, April 28th from 5:30-7:30 PM in Potter Hall on our Trinity Campus. It is called the Discovery Café, and you can learn more about it in your Congregational Handbook on pages 23-24. ([Click here](#) to download a copy.) Dinner will be provided! During this session, we will listen to local Ossining non-profits who will give us more input about how Grace can support the unique, diverse, integrated, and supportive fabric of community life that is Ossining.

We have a very busy Spring ahead, beloved! Thanks be to God! Stay involved in whatever way makes sense for you — joining one of Grace's many ministry groups, participating in weekly worship in-person or online, serving at Loaves & Fish or the Food Pantry, and more. Isolation during these dark times easily feeds feelings of loneliness, powerlessness, anxiety, depression, temptations to hopelessness, and more. Those are not the traits of a connected community of faith who cares for one another and those in need in Ossining. They are not the traits of those who celebrate the Resurrection of Christ from the forces of darkness and death. We are also led by the Holy Spirit of the one who resurrected from the dead and is active in our midst. So come and join us! Invite acquaintances, friends, and family who might be struggling to feel hope. Together, we are powerful, connected, and effective.



“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.”

(Ephesians 3:19-21; NRSV Anglicized version)

With love and prayers,

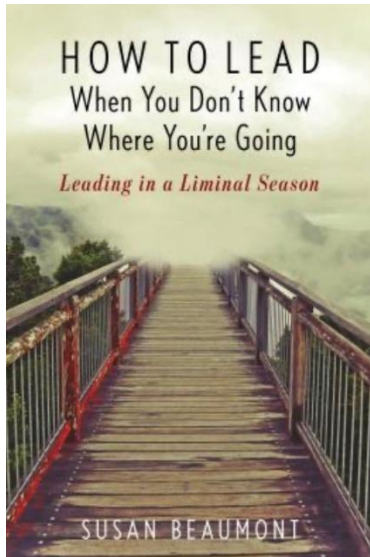
Fr. Hal+

DEACON'S MESSAGE

WHO LIKES CHANGE?

I don't. I wonder who does.

It is human nature to resist change. Yet, our lives are ever-changing and our church life is ever-changing.



Months ago when we began the New Futures discernment process with our guide Canon Claire Woodley, it was recommended that we read a few books. (What church work doesn't include readings and writings?) It took me a while, but I finally completed *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You are Going* by Susan Beaumont. It took a while not because it is a difficult read, but because it is very much a "how to" guide that is packed with lists and outlines and examples. I read a page or two, took in the ideas, then came back to it the next day.

The book is filled with case studies of churches that were in some state of change: finances that had depleted, congregations that were made up of fewer people; children's ministries in churches where there no longer were children. You get the idea. In other words, these were faith communities that were in "liminal" space. Liminal spaces are the uncertain transitions between where you've been and where you're going physically, emotionally, or metaphorically. To be in a liminal space means to be on the precipice of something new but not quite there yet. The word "liminal" comes from the Latin word "*limen*," which means threshold.

The first challenge is to embrace the liminal space. That is not easy. It makes us anxious to "not know." When we feel anxiety and fear we might cling to what seems to be an answer that makes it all better. Beaumont observes:

A liminal organization needs to unlearn old behaviors, challenge the status quo, experiment, take risks, and learn. Liminal seasons are also exciting and innovative. The promise of a new beginning unleashes creative energy, potential, and passion. All truly great innovations are incubated in liminality. God's greatest work occurs in liminal space. During liminal seasons, our destination is not yet clear. The leader must keep the people moving forward, but the endpoint is fuzzy. Liminal seasons require us to build the bridge as we walk on it.

As I read this book I challenged myself to get more comfortable with the "not knowing." The first part of discernment work is not about thinking up the answers to problems, as much as it is about listening. That includes listening to myself and listening to others.

It is also important to tell our stories. To that end, Graham offered in a Morning Prayer reflection his story of his faith journey, how he came to Grace, and what has kept him coming back. This was then opened to all, and we have had two subsequent discussions after worship where all are invited to share. I have appreciated everything that has been shared and I now know some of you in a way I would not have known you otherwise.

Some of us have wondered if this sharing will make any difference as Grace faces choices and decisions in the months to come. I leave you with this passage from *How to Lead*:

Every Person Matters: Each person is created in the image of God, endowed with creativity and entrusted with spiritual gifts. We are each called to make a unique and humble contribution to the world.

Taking the Next Step: Discipleship is a journey, an ongoing pilgrimage that begins where we are. We are guided in each stage of the journey by engagement with Scripture and the Holy Spirit.

Authentic Community: We are better together than we are alone. We seek to be a community that God might dwell among—loving, open, truthful, welcoming, and non-judgmental.

All of Life Is Worship: God is good. We respond to God's goodness with reverence and praise. Opportunities for worship exist in every aspect of our lives: in work, play, study, prayer, giving, and service.

Love in Action: God loves people, and so we love people. We show God's love to the world through action born of compassion. Avoiding judgment, we seek to embody the love of Jesus Christ through tangible acts of service.

Sending Out: God told us to spread the good news of the Gospel. We send empowered and equipped disciples of Jesus Christ into the world. Every member of our community is a missionary every day."

Personally, I would like to keep these discussions going as we do all the other work of discernment that brings Grace further along its spiritual journey. If you want to be part of this, please let us know. Getting to know each other in this new way is enriching. It is an honor to know you.

Deacon Jean Marie



OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

April 2	Noon	Maundy Thursday (St. Paul's Campus)	Maundy Thursday
	9:00 PM	Overnight Vigil (Trinity Campus)	
April 3	Noon	Stations of the Cross and Good Friday Liturgy (Trinity Campus)	Good Friday
April 4	7:00 PM	Great Vigil of Easter (All Saints' Briarcliff)	Holy Saturday
April 5	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Easter Day
April 12	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer (St. Paul's Campus)	Second Sunday of Easter
April 19	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Third Sunday of Easter
April 26	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Fourth Sunday of Easter

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_ucKEGA

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

ANNUAL RENEWAL OF VOWS AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Fr. Hal attended and Kate Pendzuk verged!



WARDEN'S REPORT



As we celebrated Easter together, other members of our community were celebrating Passover and Eid this season. It was a hopeful sign that unity, hope, resilience, miracles, and prayers still could inspire humanity to connect, protect, and live out those lessons which Jesus showed us during his lifetime. We had a robust Easter service, new families attended, which was followed by an Easter Egg hunt and was a welcome reminder of what Easter used to be like back in the day. Thanks to the hard work of Fr. Hal, Deacon Jean Marie, Ordinand Janine, Verger Kate, the

Altar guild, our gifted Music Director Suji, the Grace choir, and our Hospitality team it all came together beautifully. It was a welcome and hopeful reminder of what is possible and it offered a vision of what the future can look like for our Grace Family.

So far, the Vestry has done much work and research, remaining focused on our goals during the New Futures Discernment. We also have important work in progress addressing our deferred maintenance list and physical assets. While we are still not yet finished, we are pressing on, looking forward to the time when we can all finally sit down and review where our journey has taken us during our missions, in our relationships in Ossining, and in our worship and faith together. We thank you for your time, the sharing of your stories and experiences with us and for your continued support as our work proceeds. This important effort will rely on our open hearts, vision, trust, faith, and prayers! I was very moved by Savannah Guthrie's deeply personal reflection during this Easter which ended with this image:

"It is the darkness that makes this morning's light so magnificent, so blindingly beautiful. It is all the brighter because it is so desperately needed."

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Wardens: Cecilia Quintero (2027) cquintero1506@gmail.com
Richard Shaw (2028) rsshaw@gmail.com

Vestry Members: Ann Barringer Spaeth (2027) abspaeth55@gmail.com
Alison Ford (2028) alisonford@msn.com
Graham Gulian (2029) ggulian@gmail.com
Milton Kerr (2027) mkdj46@yahoo.com
Jo Ann McGrath (2029) mcgrathinator@gmail.com
Maribeth Osgood (2028) mbosgood@outlook.com

HOLY WEEK AT GRACE



Gretchen and Jo after work



Their Work



After Matzoh Preparation for Seder at Trinity Campus



Palm Sunday



Hope's Door Baskets



Maundy Thursday
Altar of Repose

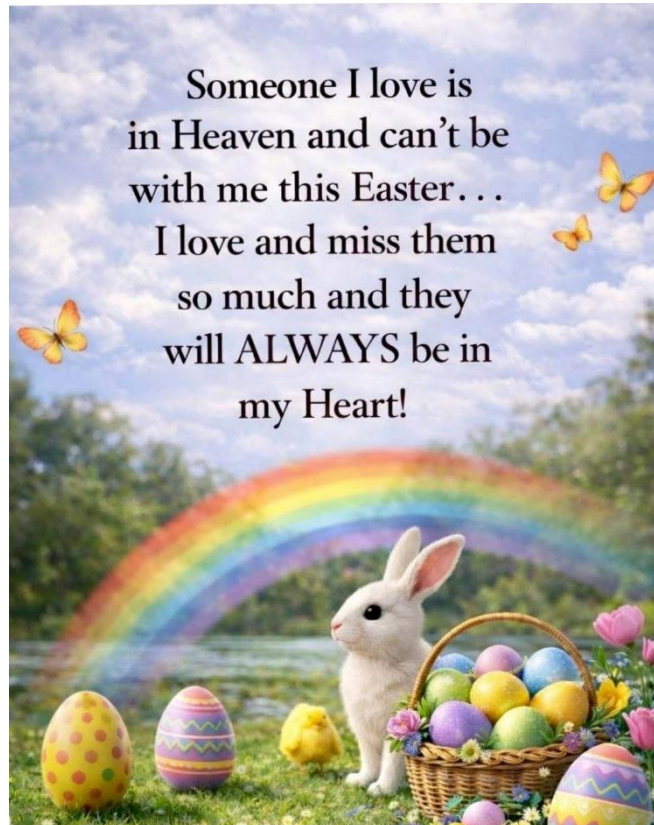
ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!! THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!



GRACE GRIEF GROUP

We meet on the second (April 11) and fourth (April 25) Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM in the Family Room at 40 Ganung Drive. Anyone who may be experiencing a loss, seeking a safe space to listen, learn and feel supported is invited to our gatherings. People of all faiths, the agnostic, and unchurched are welcome.

Jewish tradition teaches that between the living and the dead there is a window, not a wall. Like the rituals of Shiva, Kaddish, and Yahrzeit, Yizkor opens windows to loved ones who are no longer with us. Yizkor creates a sacred space and time wherein we can open our hearts and minds to the possibility of a genuine interconnection with beloved family members and friends who have left behind the world of the living. Yizkor is a window. Within the wellsprings of our infinite souls we find the window of connection between the living and the dead. Prepare to open that window...by [clicking here](#).



HAPPY 23RD ANNIVERSARY TBC!

(We discussed our first book on March 31, 2003!)

We kicked off 2026 with our annual TBC toast on March 15th in Potter Hall.

I am most grateful for the food and giggles our 15 members generated for our gathering! We all agreed that the talented Stephen King did not disappoint us in his story *The Life of Chuck*. Both the book and the 2024 film adaptation were worthwhile and timely, given our current challenging and unpredictable times and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The story's recurring message, the wisdom and resilience of its characters who always seemed to allow room for love, joy, and dance were just what we needed to experience on that Sunday morning!



Fr. Hal read the following poem from the book *The Hope Prayer: Words to Nourish the Soul*, by Liam Lawton

BELIEVE

I will sing you a different song
Echoes that go on and on
I will dance to a different beat
Guided by my head and feet
I will play you a different tune
Voices that will call to you
Whispers that you hear all round
Whispers of a different sound

Believe- what I tell you is true
Believe- that this song is for you
Believe- in your heart some things pass
Believe - there is love that can last

Somewhere a new voice is heard
I will dream of a different place
No tears from a frightened face
I will sing of a question too
A question that is just for you
Will you, will you take the chance
To follow in a different dance?

DRUM ROLL PLEASE...

For This Year's Winners of TBC's Annual Oscar Quiz!!!!

Yahra Roman –1ST Place – 19/24 ballots were correct!
Michael Papamihalis –2ND Place- 13/24 ballots were correct!

TBC's NEXT BOOK (date TBD)

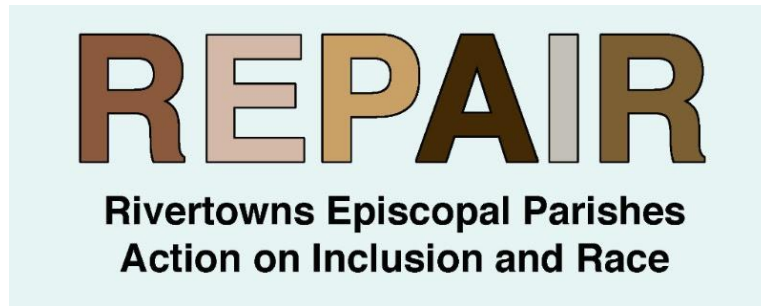
James, a novel by Percival Everett



THANK YOU FROM MIKE RISKO MUSIC

Thanks to the beautiful donated guitars from Carolyn Black's program at Grace Church, Mike Risko Music has been able to bring even more music into the community. These instruments are used constantly—from "Strum & Sip" classes at local events to kids' beginner lessons and community music gatherings. They make it possible for people of all ages to pick up a guitar, try something new, and experience the joy of making music together. We're incredibly grateful for the generosity that helps keep these guitars in people's hands and music in our community. Thank Grace and Carolyn for helping us keep music alive in the community and for helping us make more music makers!

"Christianity stands or falls with its revolutionary protest against violence, arbitrariness, and pride of power, and with its plea for the weak."--Dietrich Bonhoeffer



LIVING FAITH IN PERILOUS TIMES Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Part Two

In a year that REPAIR has dedicated to the theme of Reclaiming Christianity, the life and message of Dietrich Bonhoeffer provide a powerful model—one that can teach, challenge, disturb, and ultimately inspire us.

A theologian and pastor in the German Lutheran church, Bonhoeffer was deeply committed to following the example of Jesus in his daily life. Drawing insights from sources that included the struggle for freedom of the African-American church and the nonviolent activism of Mohandas K. Gandhi in India, Bonhoeffer provoked the ire of the Nazi movement in 1933 when he delivered a radio address warning against idolatry of a deceitful Führer. Later accused of joining a plot to assassinate Hitler, he was arrested and ultimately executed at the Flossenbürg concentration camp in April, 1945, just two weeks before it was liberated by American forces.

What can American Christians learn from Bonhoeffer as we face our own struggles of conscience in a time of division, violence, and anger? Join REPAIR as we explore his legacy for a second session with the help of special guest Thomas K. Johnson.

Meeting Date: Tuesday April 21, 2026

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

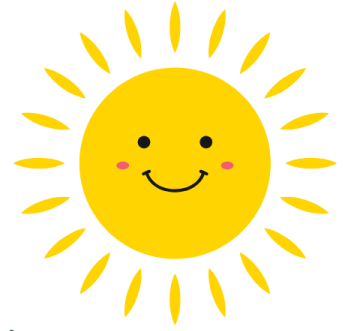
Zoom Link: [CLICK HERE](#) or use the QR code at right.

HANDOUT: TURNING POINTS IN BONHOEFFER'S LIFE—AND IN YOURS. [CLICK HERE](#).





Grace
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



JOIN US!

ALL WELCOME!

Grace Family Sundays

DATES:

- **April 26th**- Family Service, 10:30 AM
- **May 10th**- Family Service & Mother's day craft, 10:30 AM
- **June 7th**- Family Service, 10:30 AM
- **June 28th**- Family Service followed a by Free Annual Parish Picnic 10:30 AM

Questions?

Contact Rev. Hal or the office:

hal@graceossining.org

churchoffice@graceossining.org (914) 941-6627





**OSSINING CHILDREN'S
CENTER**

SAVE THE DATE

*Spring
Gala*

26 April | 5 p.m.

**Abigail Kirsch at Tappan Hill
Tarrytown, NY**



THE CENTER AT MARIANDALE

A LIVING LEGACY OF THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF HOPE

299 NORTH HIGHLAND AVENUE, OSSINING, NY 10562-2327

DEEPEN YOUR SPIRITUAL PATH ON SACRED LAND

INDIGENOUS WISDOM

Empowering Your Spiritual Path

with Shawn Stevens & Shannon Chada



Friday, May 1 to Sunday, May 3, Join spiritual mentors Shawn Stevens and Shannon Chada for a transformative journey of self-discovery and connection, enriched with Indigenous wisdom. Explore the four sacred hills of life—North, South, East, and West—as a spiritual compass for personal growth, and embrace the 7 Elder Teachings through storytelling, ancestral healing, and timeless guidance.

Through guided practices and hands-on activities, Shawn and Shannon will help you strengthen your connection to Mother Earth and embrace your place within the sacred circle of life. You'll return home feeling connected to a welcoming community, equipped with grounded tools to continue your unique path of spiritual discovery in everyday life.

NOTE This program welcomes everybody and the wisdom shared respects all diversities. Tuition includes materials for crafting your own spiritual tool bag to take home.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register.



APRIL EVENTS

- 4 Hospitality Steering Committee (11:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 11 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 11 Grace serves at Loaves and Fish (4:00 PM, Trinity Campus)
- 22 Vestry Meeting (7:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 25 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 26 Special Family Service (10:30 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 28 New Futures Discovery Café (5:30 PM, Trinity Campus)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Katrina DiLoreto	3	Liam Houghtaling	16
Ellie Houghtaling	3	Marta "Marti" Bowen	18
Leslie Blatz	4	Kara Pauline	19
Graham Gulian	7	Arlene Lazaro	20
Robert Pauline	7	Lisa Rosenbloom	20
Dorothee Caulfield	8	Charlie Gulian	23
Karen Otten	8	Scott Hunt	24
Sheryl Muth	9	Synara Okyne-Aryee	26
Kayla Skylar Nixon	13	Frances King	26
Ann Visconti	13		

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Donna and Neville Harvey	12
Kate and Steve Pendzuk	24



CLERGY

The Rev. Hal Roark, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Jean Marie Angelo, Deacon
Janine Thwaite, Deacon Ordinand

VESTRY

Cecilia Quintero, Warden Richard Shaw, Warden
Jo Ann McGrath, Clerk

Ann Barringer Spaeth
Alison Ford
Graham Gulian

Milton Kerr
Maribeth Osgood

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.