

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 5 Number 6

June 2025

HAPPY JUNE, BELOVED OF GOD!



It's easy to conclude, after looking at all the reports, photos, and articles for inclusion in this month's Grace Notes, that May was a busy month for us. And you would be right! And you might be tempted to think that June – the last month of the Church “program year” (September-June) – would slow down a bit and we would coast. And you would be very wrong!

For example, just on the remaining Sundays of June alone we will celebrate Pentecost (6/8), Father's Day/Trinity Sunday (6/15), our annual parish picnic (6/22), and our annual Art & Action Sunday (6/29) in partnership with Bethany Art Community and others. And, as you can see from the articles below, we shall have parish and local opportunities to do much more than that this month, including celebrating Pride Month, Juneteenth, and more. It's going to be a great last month before we slow down for summer and July. Join us for whatever makes sense for you and yours.

Also know that last month representatives from the vestry began to meet with companies and individuals to solicit bids so we can receive comprehensive campus assessments of both the St. Paul's and Trinity campuses. The first group interviewed was Parish Property Management, (<https://parishmgt.com/>) which is the company our diocese uses for their diocesan property needs. Our needs include a complete list of deferred maintenance projects, a schedule or priorities and repair estimates, and more. The diocese is also providing names of commercial property appraisers so both campuses can be monetarily valued.

We also have been in touch with officials from the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island to learn about the discernment process they use when their parishes are in transition and discernment. Their program is called Open Doors, New Futures and you can learn about it here: <https://www.dioceseli.org/open-doors-new-futures>.

Why Long Island? Because they are widely regarded to have some of the best parish transition materials in The Episcopal Church. Note, however, that Grace won't have to do the first step — “clergy search.” You already did that and I am blessed to be here! The process we are exploring is Part Two, Mission Search. Click on the link and download the materials they provide for free. Feel free to give me and the vestry feedback with what you notice.

We haven't made any final decisions or commitments yet for anything I've discussed — indeed, we are still soliciting names for bids — but we are working hard to gather the data the parish has asked for, including a proven model for parish-wide discernment, so that next fall we can put ourselves in the position to begin to wrestle with what I have started to call “Grace’s Two-Campus Dilemma — the blessing of having two campuses but only needing one.” We will keep you informed of all these and other details along the way so there are no surprises and there are ample opportunities for you and the parish to give its input.

As I close, I have a request: please say the Grace discernment prayer below regularly in your prayers. We modeled it after a prayer in the Book of Common Prayer. We are now praying it weekly during our Sunday services in our Prayers of the People:

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us as we take counsel for the renewal and mission of Grace Church. Teach us in all things to listen to the Holy Spirit and seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

Don't hesitate to contact me if I can support you in any way.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Hal+

HELP FOR THE OSSINING FOOD PANTRY

As Sue Monroe mentioned at Sunday's service, the Food Pantry is facing tremendous demand. If you would like to donate to help this cause, the items below are the most expensive to get in the smaller sizes needed for our client families. If you have questions, please contact Sue at m1roz@msn.com



THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



DEACON'S MESSAGE

It's June. It's Pride month. It is time for Resistance, Resilience, and Joy.

In late fall 2016, my friend Scott was employed at The LOFT, an LGBTQ Community Center in White Plains. I was on the board of The LOFT for a number of years in the early 2000s and was president of the board in 2007 and 2008. I had a say in hiring him as our program director. In late 2016, our community was anxious and afraid regarding the new political climate we were about to face. The transgender community was facing then—and is again—a ban in military service. Medical care and other economic supports were being ripped away. The rest of the community felt the backlash on every level. Hate crimes then, as now, are up. Contacts to our Helpline increased. Then, as now, our youth are much more likely to struggle with social stigma, depression, and suicide.

I ran into Scott one night at a meeting at The LOFT. You should know that The LOFT rents space at Memorial United Methodist Church on Bryant Avenue. I was the one who moved us there. "A church, JM, really?" Honestly, it was my last resort. When we moved the organization in the mid-2000s, MUMC was the ONLY landlord who would take us, no questions asked. Other commercial property managers said they would rent to us, but made it clear that we could not meet in the evenings, or on Saturdays, or on Sundays. Basically, they wanted our money, but they didn't really want us. Legally, they could not say no to us, so they found all sorts of subtle ways to let us know we weren't wanted.

That night in November 2016 Scott said, "You know, I am not a religious man, but I had to do something. I came to service here on Sunday morning. I talked to the choir director, who is a gay man. We are going to create a Pride Chorus." Of all that we were up against, Scott felt we needed to bring some harmony and joy to counter hate and homophobia. We needed a purpose. I was all in. That choir director helped us for free. Singers from all over the county came together to learn basic interfaith songs. After we accomplished that, we moved on to songs from *Rent*. As society tried to make it harder for us to be ourselves, we sang. Soon we were performing at Pride festivals and church concerts. We were invited to MLK Day in White Plains. We even made it to Madison Square Garden and sang the National Anthem in June 2017 to kick off Pride for the New York Liberty.

Well, here we are in 2025. Scott has moved on... but the music will not die. Another friend, Robert, an Episcopalian and a music director at a church in New Rochelle, attended our Lessons and Carols in December. I was thrilled to see him there. "We have to resurrect the Pride Chorus" is the first thing he said to me. We finally met for breakfast this week and have put together a game plan. We could not pull it off for June, but we are aiming for October. A group of LGBTQ people and their allies, singing and creating some joy in this world. October 11 is National Coming Out Day. I will be doing all I can to pull together an Evensong with glorious music. Stay tuned.

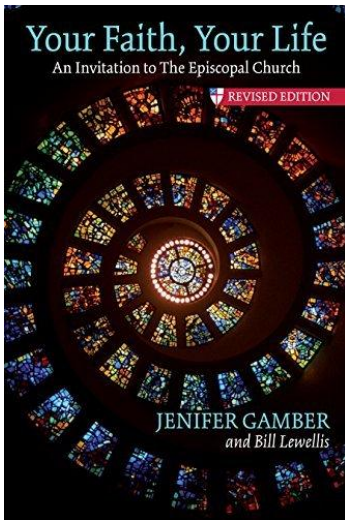
For now, Happy Pride! I am looking forward to all the rallies, flag raisings, festivals, concerts, and all the colors that make our community so strong. I am especially grateful to Grace for all the acceptance and love. We are truly walking the walk in Ossining. I hope you know that and feel that.

In peace,

Your Deacon,

Jean Marie

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH?



All are welcome to join a new study group that will meet on select Sundays after service during the summer months, using *Your Faith, Your Life* as our discussion guide.

This book and study guide has important material for those inquiring about faith, but is also meant for adult formation groups and lifelong Episcopalians who desire to know more about their church. The language of worship, theology, church structure, sacraments, and discipleship offers a framework to explore the meaning and practice of being an Episcopalian and follower of Jesus.

This updated and revised version of the popular original 2009 book incorporates new initiatives and changes in the Episcopal Church, including marriage, inclusion of LGBTQ persons, former Presiding Bishop Michael

Curry's call to join the Jesus Movement, and taking our faith out into the world, following our baptismal promises. Each chapter includes discussion questions.

It is available from Church Publishing ([click here](#) to be linked to their distributor), and Amazon ([click here](#)). Let me know if you are interested.

Deacon Jean Marie

jeanmarieangelo@gmail.com

(914) 318-0056



OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

June 1	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Seventh Sunday of Easter
June 8	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Day of Pentecost
June 15	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Trinity Sunday
June 22	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 7
June 29	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Proper 8

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/>

OUR TEAM PLANTS NEW TREES FOR OUR CAMPUS—AND THE ENVIRONMENT!



WARDENS' REPORT

"The only thing that overcomes hard luck is hard work." Harry Golden



We are very blessed with an active and dedicated vestry/treasurer and Priest who have all committed to the challenging work ahead at Grace Episcopal Church. Since our Vestry's April work session, we remain prayerfully focused on our current discernment process on what defines Grace's mission and purpose. You will be updated via a letter which outlines the process, objectives, and phases of our journey as a parish so far. Finally, Grace is also fortunate to have access to local

clergy with experience in evolving churches, a Diocesan Network of experts and the benefit of acting now and not delaying or denying some important realities we are now facing.

"Order [our] Steps in your word, dear Lord!"

Hymn sung by the Gospel Music Workshop of America Women Of Worship

Word about our Grace Grief Group is definitely helping to fulfill a need. Since we started meeting over 2 years ago, all seats are filled with some of our parishioners, and men and women from Westchester or out of town. If you know of anyone who may want information about our group, please contact me at: cquintero1506@gmail.com or, Tina at: tina@graceossining.org.

Belated Happy 80th Birthday wishes to Carolyn who shared the blessed event with everyone at Grace this May! We are also most grateful for her generous and timely gift of Thuja trees to Grace Church! Thanks to Carolyn and the crew of volunteers who planted the quick growing trees at the 40 Ganung Drive entrance into our lower parking lot.

Last but not least, we are very appreciative of everyone who gave us their time and talents behind the scenes during the year: Amy and her taskforce, always evaluating how we can improve systems at Grace; the new Art Evaluation Task Force, tasked with reviewing assessments of our windows and other items that may be of value; Darryl and the Buildings & Grounds team, tireless in keeping track of our physical property; and Kate, who is our guardian angel whenever our contractors are doing needed repairs. Truly, it takes a village to keep things running at Grace!!! AMEN!

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

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS UPDATE

Since our annual meeting in February, the B&G Committee has continued its stewardship to Grace. Some of what we share may show up in other's reports.



Projects In Progress

- Trinity Parish Hall Floor: Clemco, our contractor, is pouring the concrete for the permanent pilings with the intent to be done and ready for inspection and approval in June. Thanks to Kate for overseeing our contractor and providing them access.
- Trinity Basement: a sewage back-up flooded the basement with a foot of water. Indusi, our plumber, responded and cleared the blockage. Thanks, Kate for overseeing Indusi. Al's Junk Removal carried out 3-4 truckloads of material. Thanks Mark and Kate for managing the clear out. Wastewater remediation contractors are being contacted for estimates to complete the final clean-up.
- Trinity Roofs: a contractor should be approved in June to repair the Narthex roof. A final assessment will be made on the southeast roof over the stage area and the connected east roof in June.
- Joseph's Garden: Thanks, Kate, for running point on beautifying our sacred space and adding and relocating slate stones. There are over 50 spaces available. And more changes to come...

Projects Completed

- St. Paul's Sanctuary: Mold assessment came back negative (YIPPEE!), indicating that the internal air quality is similar to the external environment. Many thanks to Suji, choir members, and others, who helped with clearing the choir loft and subsequently improving air flow by unblocking vents and to Milton for running point with the building inspector.
- St. Paul's Masonry Work: The failing brick wall in the courtyard was safely removed and the shed wall was fully repaired. Thanks to Mark Monroe for running point with our contractor. As an aside, with the shed repaired and cleared of long-unused items (thanks, Beth), the Old Mill Singers will be renting space to store their risers.

There's always something....

- Recently on a tour of the Trinity basement a water leak was found under the sanctuary. It was determined that a radiator pipe was leaking and we are waiting for Indusi to repair and check the other fittings

If you see something, say something...to a B&G or Vestry member so we can address it.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS, CAROLYN!



WELCOME, MAVERICK!



Thank you so very much. Maverick's baptism was absolutely beautiful - I'll never forget it. Everyone was so welcoming and it truly was a special day. I'm so happy there is a YouTube link to share with those who could not make it. Thank you for all your help organizing everything over the past year! I'm forever grateful.

Andrea Ellsworth

Kate served at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine on May 17,
as three new vocational deacons were ordained.



LOAVES AND FISH



On Saturday evening, May 24th, we served 50 dinners. Our menu, a nod to summer, was hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni salad, and green salad. In addition, our local Shoprite contributed bread and assorted pastries to the meal.



Our team included Ann Barringer-Spaeth, Jean Bonito, Kim Howard, Nicola Kenny, Jo Ann McGrath, Mark and Sue Monroe, Darryl and Cha Moy, Elfreda Okyne, and Beverly Vaillancourt. These rockstars turned what could have been chaos into a fun, wonderful evening.

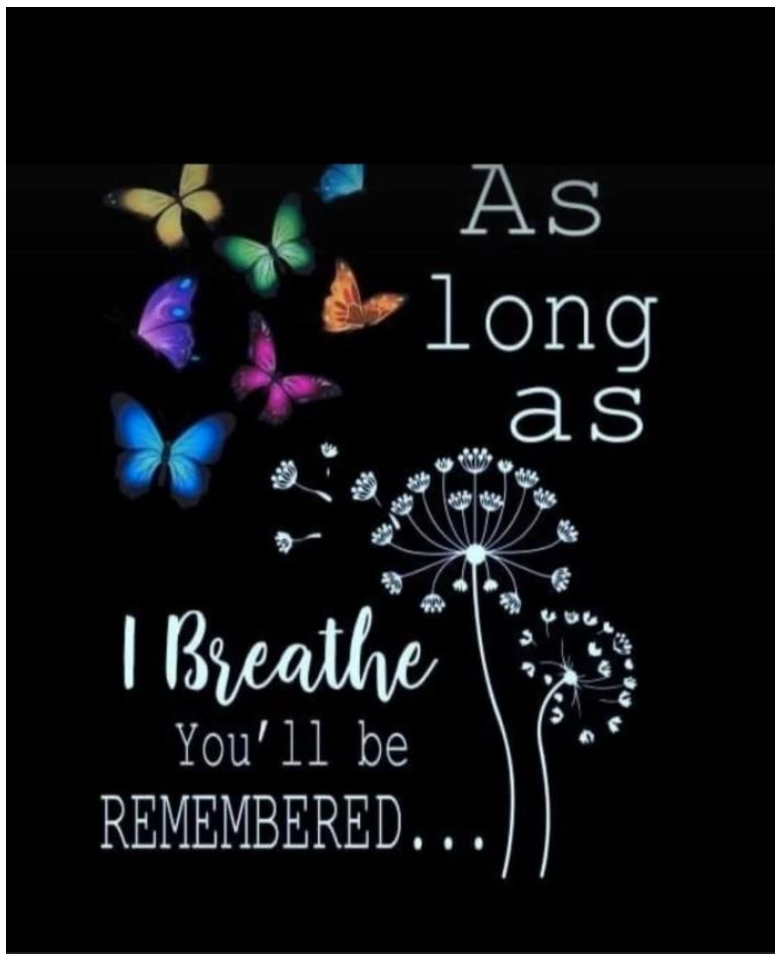
In Southern Westchester, the Loaves and Fish teams are ten groups of people who work to provide meals for our neighbors. Grace's team prepares a Saturday night meal about every ten weeks. On the Grace Saturday, we prep from 4:00-5:00 PM, serve meals from 5:00-6:00 PM and clean up from 6:00-7:00 PM. We 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 information.

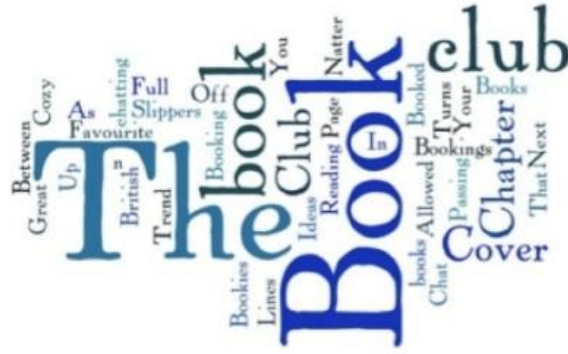
GRACE GRIEF GROUP

We will meet Saturday, June 14th and June 28th in the Family Room
on the St. Paul's Campus of Grace Church – 40 Ganung Drive, Ossining, NY

THE GRIEF GROUP welcomes anyone in the community who may be seeking support
because of the loss of a loved one. There is no need to register.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



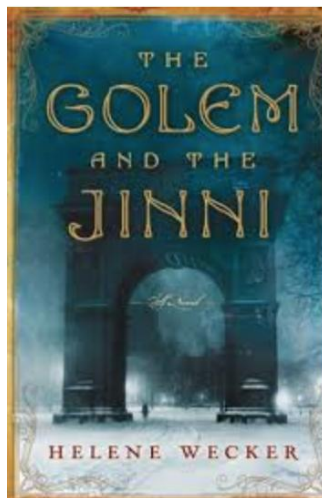


The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker is our next book, a historical fiction debut novel which was a huge bestseller! It is 485 pages long and it's time to finally land on a date for our discussion.

Unfortunately, both June dates were not good for some of our members,

We are now hoping that Sunday, July 6th or July 13th might work!

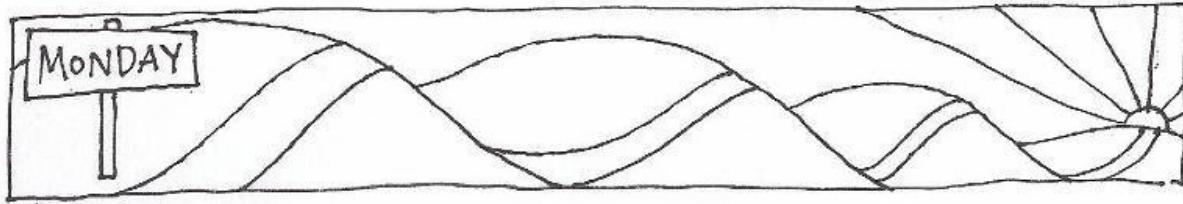
Let me know which one is best for our members via my email: cquintero1506@gmail.com.



OPL NEWS

Thanks for supporting the Ossining Public Library and School Budget Vote on May 20th! It has been an honor to serve on the Board of Trustees at the Library, I am very proud of what the Board, Executive Director, and staff have accomplished and planned for the future.

Stay tuned.....



MONDAY MATTERS: *REFLECTIONS TO START THE WEEK*

Every Monday, Jay Sidebotham sends an email called Monday Matters with reflections on the prior Sunday's psalm. Jo Ann McGrath found last week's particularly thought-provoking. Here it is!

PSALM 67: A DEI PSALM

I've been told that the preacher is supposed to have the Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other. So when I read the psalm heard in church yesterday (reprinted in this email) and noticed the reference to equity, I wondered how that intersects with current concerns about diversity, equity and inclusion. Those three values have been presented by some as pernicious threats to our common life. So I was struck with how the call to equity surfaces not only in this psalm but in several others (Psalm 9, 45, 75, 96, 98, 99, as well as Proverbs 1, 2, 29, and Isaiah 11.9). When the psalm calls for equity, it is not simply earthly powers that are to practice this virtue. Equity is also an attribute of the Holy One.

I looked into what equity means. It's not the same as equality, though equality is obviously an important value in a world where many say that some are more equal than others. Equity is essentially about fairness. It therefore involves consideration of the other. It calls for compassion, which scholar Karen Armstrong has described as the central virtue in all the world's religions. News of the day indicates that equity, fairness, compassion seem to be in short supply, seen by some as wokeness or weakness or both.

Psalm 67 also seems to value inclusion, even if that word is not used. Note the references to all the ends of the earth, to all peoples, etc. This message of inclusion carries through all of scripture. Jesus' words to his disciples near the end of his earthly ministry for instance: When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself.

And with a message of inclusion, there's an implication of diversity. If all are included, then differences between us don't separate us. The image of the body of Christ, repeated by St. Paul in several letters, speaks of many gifts brought together. It's a vision of unity, not uniformity.

I'm grateful to worship in a tradition that celebrates equity with the baptismal promise that we seek Christ in all persons and respect the dignity of every human being. Note: all and every. I'm grateful to worship in a tradition that celebrates inclusion, with that aspirational sign that appears on street corners and can be read by anyone: The Episcopal Church welcomes you. I'm grateful to worship in a tradition that recognizes the stunning beauty of diversity, and the richness that diversity adds to our common life.

After decades in the church, I know all too well that we don't always get those things right. More than 70 years after Martin Luther King noted that Sunday morning at 11am is America's most segregated hour, we have not changed all that much. We've got work to do.

But in the current political climate, I'm grateful for commitments made by leaders in the church to embrace diversity, equity and inclusion, to see them as biblical values. Matthew Heyd, Bishop of New York, announced last month that the diocese had approved a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, admitting that now is time for our practices to reflect our prayers, for our common life to reflect our deepest commitment, even and especially if it moves in the opposite direction from our culture. He said that diversity is God's own beautiful creation, and that equity and inclusion are the call and way of life for every Christian community.

You can breathe a sigh of relief that I have absolutely no influence on the making of public policy. Those who have brought this issue to the political forefront can battle that out. But I do think that each one of us can focus on how we treat other people with equity, mindful of challenges, systemic and otherwise, that others may face. We can all work on inclusion, looking for those how have been excluded by race or economic standing or point of view. And we can all give thanks for diversity, indeed a gift of God's creation. Those are things that followers of Jesus do.

—Jay Sidebotham

pray twice.

if you catch yourself judging someone,
pray twice.
once for the person you are judging
and once for God to change how you
react to something you have never walked.
make this a practice. wear it out until
it feels automatic.
then watch your heart soften for a world
that doesn't always think the way you do.
you don't have to understand someone
in order to love them.

wash. rinse. and repeat
as needed.

ullie-kaye



OSSINING SINGS!



TO BENEFIT



NeighborsLink

Sunday, June 29, 2025

2:00 PM

Grace Episcopal Church/Trinity Campus
7 S. Highland Avenue, Ossining, NY 10562

Grace Church Choir
Suji Jung, Music Director
graceossining.org/choir

Sing We Enchanted
Nell Macdonald, Artistic Director
facebook.com/SingWeEnchanted

Old Mill Singers
Nell Macdonald, Director
oldmillsingers.org

The Westchester Women's Chorus
Carol Arrucci, Director
westchesterwomenschorus.org

No charge, but consider a freewill contribution to
Neighbors Link of \$10 or more, if possible.



GraceOssining.org
The Rev. Hal Roark

REPAIR

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

NEWS FROM REPAIR

Resources for Defending the Vulnerable



Our May 6th meeting explored the challenges our communities face in this time of divisiveness, anger, and fear. Three great panelists shared their experiences as well as ideas about what we can do to push back against those who seek to inflame and exploit social and racial divisions. Here are links to some of the resources we learned about.



29 Ways to Protect Democracy: Recommended by our panelist Dennis Parker, these are concrete steps you can take to defend the hard-won freedoms of Americans. Click [here](#).

Episcopal Positions on Immigration Policy: A concise summary of steps our nation can take to defuse the perceived "crisis" and protect the rights of all. Click [here](#).

Know Your Rights--If ICE Visits Your Home: From the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Click [here](#).

Amplifying the Truth About DEI: Facts about how diversity initiatives--now under attack--benefit us all. Click [here](#).

LGBTQ Rights: The American Civil Liberties Union explains the legal rights you enjoy regardless of your sexual orientation. Click [here](#).



BRIARCLIFF

PRIDE

IS COMING

JUNE 7



**AT 7:30-
10PM**

Sponsored by
Briarcliff Congregational Church
Pleasantville Therapy
Susan and Peter Chatzky

Law Park Pavilion
Briarcliff Manor

**BECOME A SPONSOR
CONTACT**



[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/BCLIFFPRIDE25](https://tinyurl.com/bcliffpride25)



Names Change Love Doesn't

Holy Eucharist with Service of Renaming

Authorized by the National Episcopal Church in 2018, this service blesses and celebrates a person's new name—whether from gender transition, personal authenticity, or other life changes.

June 8
10:00 am

St. John's Episcopal
Church
8 Sunnyside Avenue
Pleasantville, NY 10570

Learn more at

stjohnspleasantville.org



ST. JOHN'S IS
A PROUD
SPONSOR OF
PLEASANTVILLE
PRIDE!

June 8 2pm-5pm
Emanuel Lutheran Church
197 Manville Road

pleasantvillepride.org



SAFE CHURCH IN-PERSON TRAINING

Saturday, June 21st, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Grace Church
130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960

Register by June 19th. Walk-ins will not be accommodated

Haven't completed your Safe Church Training yet? Join us for an in-person Safe Church Training session with EDNY, where you can complete the required online Praesidium modules in a supportive, community-based setting. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions, receive guidance, and learn alongside others.

Please bring your laptop and headphones. If needed, you can request to use an Episcopal Diocese of New York Chromebook when registering.

Click below to register, and contact safechurchinfo@diocesenyc.org with any questions.

[Click here](#) to register,



JUNE EVENTS

- 14 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 15 Father's Day (10:30 AM, Trinity Campus)
- 21 Jim Bowen's Funeral (11:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 22 Parish Picnic (11:40 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 28 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 25 Vestry Meeting (7:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 29 Art in Action and Neighbor's Link Funding Concert (1:00 PM, Trinity Campus)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Isabella Catherine Gentile	1	Lori Liberti	13
Joseph Orfino	1	Jan Barrows	14
Arthur Hightower	2	Kim Lee Howard	15
Sarah Davis	6	Georgie Docker	16
Beth Pollack	6	Cha Moy	23
Julianna Piscitelli	6	Catherine Rosenbloom	23
(Carolyn Black's granddaughter)		Scott Rowe	24
Dina Flihan	8	Alex Pasioka	26
Leah Barceló	12	Nunzio Liberti	27

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Peter and Dina Flihan	2
Darryl and Cha Moy	7
David and Karen Kamp	16
Glenn and Joanne Prince	17
Arlene and Ronald Lazaro	23



CLERGY

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

VESTRY

Graham Gulian, Warden Cecilia Quintero, Warden
Jo Ann McGrath, Clerk

Ann Barringer-Spaeth
Alison Ford
Milton Kerr

Maribeth Osgood
Kate Pendzuk

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.