

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 6 Number 8

September 2026

Happy September, everyone!

As you can see from this newsletter, we have a lot going on this month. Indeed: the Grace elves (helpers) have been hard at work behind the scenes since August making sure we hit the ground running once we get past the Labor Day Weekend. We are almost there. Start your engines!

Be sure to join us on Sunday, September 13th for our Annual Welcome Back BBQ. We shall have worship at 10:30 AM at St. Paul's with the picnic afterwards. Come and connect. All are welcome, whether you are new, regular, or returning. Consider bringing a friend. We shall also have a Sunday school program available for kiddos and their friends that day in the Parish Hall before and during service. In fact, on pages 6 and 7, you'll find Grace's schedule of children's activities through Christmas. Also, we will bless backpacks, so bring yours for a blessing even if you don't use it for school. And it's also Grandparents Day, so we will have a grandparent blessing, as well.

It's going to be a truly blessed way to start our new program year.

Also, notice the collaboration we have with the Ossining Sing Sing Museum on Thursday, September 10 from 5-9 PM at our St. Paul's campus: *UNSUNG: Transcendence*. They are graciously paying us \$500 for the use of our space, and I will be on their panel. Many others from the community will be there reflecting together on the topic of Religion and Incarceration. Grace has had a presence at Sing Sing through Deacon Dorothee's work in the recent past – among many others in Grace's long history – and there is discussion among regional clergy about whether we can all contribute to keep the Sing-Sing ministry going in the future. It's going to be a fascinating discussion on September 10th. It's free and open to the public. For more information and to register, see page 9. I'm looking forward to it.

Also note that we have a Safe Church Training on Saturday, September 19th at the St. Paul's campus. This is a diocesan-required event and you may be required to attend. If one of the many hats (roles) you wear at Grace requires Safe Church Training, then you will need to take the Safe Church Training. Deacon Jean Marie and I, all paid staff, and the vestry are all required, for instance, and many of you are, too. Kate Pendzuk, our Safe Church Administrator, has some more information on page 5.



On a more personal note: what are your favorite hymns? As we start the new program year, we want to be sure to sprinkle everyone's favorite hymns in throughout the year. We asked this a few years ago, and it's time we asked again. What hymns do you love? Email Tina at graceossining@gmail.com with your choices!

The vestry met on the morning of Saturday, August 15th to start creating a process for sharing all the information we have about Grace's campuses: deferred maintenance, costs, structural issues, campus values, etc. You can learn more about the three main goals the vestry has created for itself this year in the Warden's Report on page 4. At that Saturday vestry meeting, the vestry found this Bible passage fruitful, and so I will close with it now. It's from the Letter of James in the New Testament, chapter 3, verses 13-18:

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. (New International Version)

My prayers for Grace as we start this program year are twofold. First, that we act on and implement the call we heard last program year through our New Futures Discernment: to stay deeply involved in Ossining and to specifically contribute to its benefit by sharing space with people and organizations in need. Second, that we implement that call together in the Spirit that St. James describes above: with wisdom, humility, and not out of bitter envy or selfish ambition; that we are peace-loving, considerate, submissive (i.e., collaborative with one another), full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere; and that we are peacemakers who sow in peace to reap a harvest of righteousness for all in Ossining.

Amen. God's will be done!

With love and prayers,

Fr. Hal+

ICE ACTIVITY IN OSSINING

Mayor Rika Levin shared information regarding verified ICE activity in Ossining on Wednesday, September 2, at approximately 5:45 pm in the downtown Ossining area. This information was provided to her by the Chief of Police, following reports of ICE activity in downtown Ossining. [Click here](#) for her full statement.



DEACON'S MESSAGE

THE LONG GREEN SEASON

We are in the season of Ordinary Time, which began the Sunday after Pentecost and will continue until Advent I. Almost all worship will feature green frontals and vestments.

Did you know there are two parts to Ordinary Time? They are Rest and Creation.

In 1989, the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed September 1st, a day of prayer for the environment, The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. In 2000, a Lutheran congregation in Australia developed a four-Sunday program to follow and the idea for a "season" of creation began. This focus on Creation will end on October 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, who is the patron saint of ecology.

During the next four weeks let's care for Mother Earth, let's pray and act with intention. All of nature is God's great gift to us.

OSSINING PRISON MINISTRY

Canon Sam Owen recently held a meeting on Zoom to discuss reviving the ministry at Sing Sing Correctional Facility. On the call were many volunteers and board members of the nonprofit Ossining Prison Ministry. There is a long history of clergy and lay volunteers participating, including our own Deacon Dorothee Caufield. She attended the Zoom meeting and shared about her work on the board.

She and others were a welcoming presence in the trailer outside Sing Sing, which is where visitors come to visit those incarcerated. The ministry ensured that there were snacks, water, and soft drinks in the trailer, given that some were coming from long distances. They also stored children's books and coloring books. There was donated clothing there, too, so that visitors could meet the dress code. Sing Sing has guidelines on what is deemed appropriate to wear for a visit.

During COVID, Sing Sing stopped welcoming this ministry. Canon Sam is gauging interest in restarting it. A number of us on the call are interested. There will be a second Zoom meeting soon. Please let me know if you would like to join us by sending me an email at jeanmarieangelo@gmail.com.



WARDEN'S REPORT

PARISH PROPERTY STRATEGIC WORK SESSION

The Vestry met on August 15th to brainstorm our next steps in a thorough, analytical, and transparent manner to help guide us ALL during this critical and historic next chapter for Grace Episcopal Church.

The months preceding this meeting gave us much data on who WE, Grace Church, are to our parish family, to the Episcopal Diocese of New York, to our local not-for-profit partners, to our Village and Town leaders, and to the greater Ossining community at large. Our Brand is known, respected, and valued by many and so we have an obligation to ALL those we serve spiritually, pastorally, and compassionately as an Episcopal Church as long as our resources, both financial and material allow. 🙏

The Vestry's blueprint will help us navigate this project in an orderly and organized process. These Three Goals have been built into our model:

- 1) Design & Implement a process to keep our parish informed via structured forums/meetings which encourages discussion
- 2) Design & Implement a fair, transparent, and inclusive process for our parishioner's vote on our campus options regarding Grace's properties.
- 3) Complete this work with the final property vote by the end of our program year in June 2027.

We have promised to look at ALL our options and to respectfully proceed with open minds, open to reimagined possibilities and potential outcomes. 🙏

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

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



September 6	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Proper 18
September 13	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 19
September 20	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer (Trinity Campus)	Proper 20
September 27	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 21

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/>



KEEPING "GOD'S PEOPLE SAFE"

"The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also." (1 John 4:21).

Safe Church training is one way the Diocese of New York seeks to fulfill this pastoral mandate to care for God's people. The Diocese uses an online curriculum facilitated by Praesidium Academy to provide the knowledge and expertise needed to nurture welcoming and safe communities.

Not everyone who is reading this is required to take the training. I will be sending out information to those who are required to complete the training in the next few weeks. This training is only available online. You can complete it either on your device or at the one-day in-house session on September 19th.

If you haven't received an email from me by September 15th (meaning you aren't required to take the training) and/or are interested in completing it anyway, please contact me at katependzuk@gmail.com or call me at 914-523-8464.

Kate Pendzuk



Apples are everywhere, the days are getting shorter and there are backpacks everywhere - it is back-to-school time which means the return of Family Sundays at Grace! Junior at Yorktown High School Ben Whalen and his mom Megan are excited to be back with some Sunday Fun for children this fall. Ben and Megan will be at Grace once a month and hope to see our old friends and meet some new ones too! The dates, locations and descriptions of each family Sunday are below so please mark your calendars. And the next page has a graphic with all the dates!

ATTENTION TEENS! If you would like to come help out, we are happy to sign for community service hours and would love to get to know you better. Hope to see you at church!

September 13, 10:30 AM, St Paul's Campus: Welcome Back Sunday

Let's play some games, do some crafts and get to know each other. It is Holy Cross Sunday so we will celebrate the light of Jesus in each of us.

October 25, 10:30 AM, St Paul's Campus: Halloween

Decorate a pumpkin, have fun snacks and wear your costume to church! Spooky fun for everyone.

November 22, 10:30 AM, St Paul's Campus: A Season of Thanks

We can all share the things we are thankful for and make a fun craft for our Thanksgiving table. And guess what - Jesus is thankful for YOU!

December 6, 10:30 AM, Trinity Campus: St. Nicholas Day

Learn about the legend of St. Nicholas and he will leave a special surprise in your shoe! We may even get a visit from the Saint himself. A great way to kick off the Christmas season!

If you have any questions please reach out to Ben and Megan and 914-441-3050 or meganswidorski@hotmail.com. Kids and Grandkids of all ages are welcome. We look forward to a great Program Year!



Grace
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FALL 2026



Grace Family Sundays

SEPT 13- WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

(THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE...)

OCT 25- HALLOWEEN

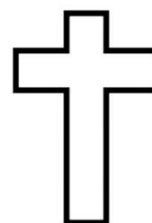
(WEAR YOUR COSTUMES TO CHURCH)

NOV 22- GIVE THANKS

(I AM THANKFUL FOR...)

DEC 6 - ST. NICHOLAS DAY

(ADVENT + CHRISTMAS JOY)



ALL AGES WELCOME!!



Questions?

Contact Rev. Hal or the office:

hal@graceossining.org

churchoffice@graceossining.org (914) 941-6627



PREPARING BACKPACKS FOR HOPE'S DOOR STUDENTS



Thanks to everyone who came to pack and who contributed financially to this project!

Tami at Hope's Door is thrilled and grateful for what our little team is able to do for them. Seven little boys are walking into school with brand new supplies, just for them, packed in a really cool backpack! I love our little church. Cheers and happy wishes for new beginnings for those families.

Thanks for everything!

Sue Monroe and Terri Roman



Join us for Afternoon Tea on Thursday afternoon, September 24, from 4:00–5:30 PM at our St. Paul's Campus. Jo McGrath & Amy Kitahata-Sporn thought it would be nice to gather informally to chat. No agenda, just company. Please let us know if you would be interested or just drop by. Tea will be provided. If anyone has any questions or would like more information, please email Tina at tina@graceossining.org

UNSUNG

A MULTIMEDIA COMMUNITY
CONVERSATION ON STORIES FROM
THE PRISON SYSTEM

A 4-PART SERIES

SING SING PRISON MUSEUM **CARNEGIE HALL**
Weill Music Institute
Musical Connections



The Sing Sing Prison Museum (SSPM), in partnership with Carnegie Hall's Musical Connections program and four regional houses of worship, is proud to announce **UNSUNG**, a four-part storytelling and music series bringing together formerly incarcerated individuals, artists, advocates, and community members to explore the prison system through story and song. Each of the four free, public evenings pairs reflection and dialogue with live musical performance built around a distinct theme. The event at on September 10th at our St. Paul's campus is built around Transcendence.

All **UNSUNG** events are free and open to the public; [advance registration](#) is encouraged using the link below.

[Click here](#) for more information or to register.



FIRST A HOME

What does it really mean to be homeless? Who are the people behind that word — and what would they want us to understand? On Sunday, October 11th, Grace Church and Gretchen Metzloff will present *First a Home*, an original short play by Joni Fritz, directed by Lori Myers in recognition of World Homeless Day.

Through the stories and experiences of people who have faced homelessness, *First a Home* challenges some of the assumptions we make about who becomes homeless, how it happens, and what it takes to begin again.

The performance will raise both awareness for homelessness and funds for the Ossining Food Pantry. But we hope it will do something more: open our eyes, change the way we see the people behind the word “homeless,” and leave us asking ourselves what we can do to help.

And we’d love members of our Grace congregation to help us tell these stories.

First a Home has five roles, and we hope to cast all five from our own congregation. Auditions will be held Sunday, September 20th, after services at the Trinity campus. No need to worry about memorizing lines — the performance will be a staged reading, with scripts in hand.

No previous acting experience is necessary — we encourage anyone who’s interested to join us on September 20th.

Whether you’d like to audition, help with the event, spread the word, or simply be part of the audience, we hope you’ll join us. We believe theater has the power to open hearts, change the way we see one another, and start conversations that matter.

AUDITIONS: Sunday, September 20th, after coffee hour

PERFORMANCE: Sunday, October 11th, Trinity Campus, 3:00 PM

all saints briarcliff.org

All Saints' Episcopal Church Presents

Lunch and Learn Erasure in America

Dennis D. Parker of the National
Center for Law and Economic
Justice

FREE

**Sept. 16, 2026
12 noon**

All Saints' Episcopal Church
201 Scarborough Road
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10562



Dennis D. Parker

ALL SAINTS' BRIARCLIFF'S LUNCH AND LEARN

ERASURE IN AMERICA

Too often, the call to "make America great again" is an invitation to return to a time when significant segments of American society were systematically deprived of opportunities to fully participate in American society. Increasingly, efforts to turn back the clock have included banning books, rewriting or censoring history, purging employees in federal departments and agencies, and waging all-out war on attempts to create and protect diversity in all aspects of life. We will discuss how these efforts of erasure and discrimination harm not only people who are subjected to unfair treatment because of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual preference, nationality, national origin, and other individual characteristics but also how they work to the detriment of society as a whole.

Please RSVP by September 16 by [clicking here](#).

GRACE GRIEF GROUP

Our Grace Family has experienced many losses during the last few years and this ministry has been a real blessing. We have been meeting for over four years and word-of-mouth has effectively spread in Westchester about the support, fellowship, and wisdom which we all share at our table. Feel free to share this information with anyone experiencing loss of any kind.

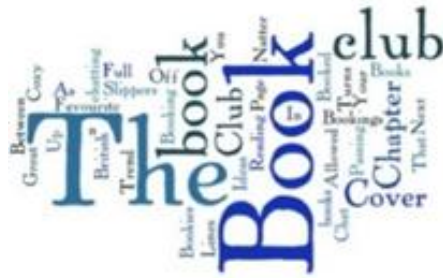
We meet on the second (September 12) and fourth Saturday (September 26) of the month at 10:00 AM in our St. Paul's Family Room, 40 Ganung Drive. There is no need to register or be a member of any faith. The Grief Group welcomes anyone in the community who may be seeking support.

— The Tracks of Life —

Life is a lot like an old railroad. We pass through beautiful places, difficult stretches, and stations we wish we could visit just one more time. But the train only moves forward.

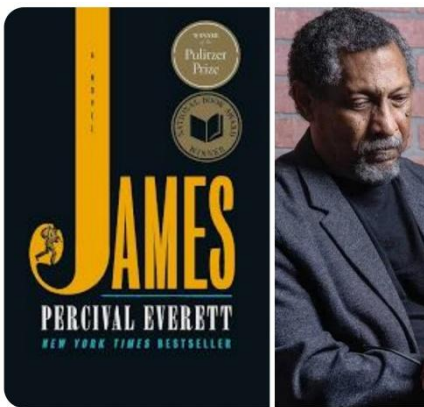
So hold close the memories, cherish the people still beside you, and be thankful for every mile you've been given. ❤️





Time to start reading! 📖

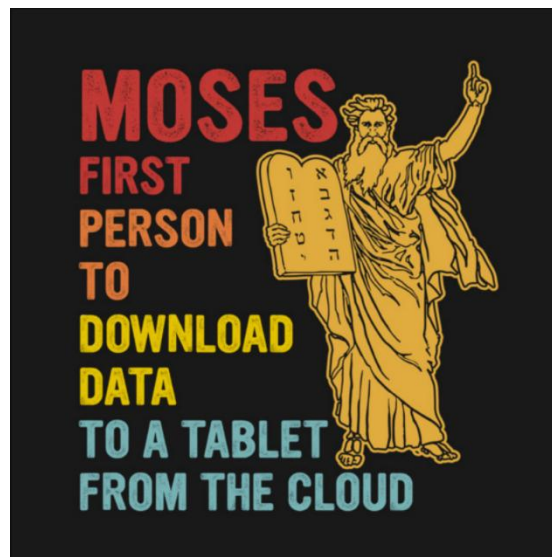
TBC



be

will be reviewing the award winning bestselling novel *James*, which is a retelling of the classic Mark Twain novel *Huckleberry Finn*. This time, it is narrated by James, the runaway slave! Looking forward to hearing about how it compares to the original novel? Think about who you would cast as James for the upcoming film version. 🤖

Please save the date: October 4! Looking forward to seeing you all at this long overdue TBC event ❤️ We will suggesting a classic Good Old Southern comfort food theme for our buffet ✨



Canvas in Common

Community Picnic &
Collaborative Art Experience



Saturday,
September 5, 2026



2:00–5:00 PM



Grace Episcopal Church –
St. Paul's Campus
40 Ganung Drive,
Ossining, NY 10562



Hosted by the
Ossining Arts Council



Come make your mark. ♥

Join us for an afternoon of creativity,
conversation, and community.
Add your mark to one large shared canvas.



The Episcopal Diocese of
NEW YORK

The Installation of

The Rev. Canon Sam Louis Owen

*Canon for Westchester and Putnam Counties and
Canon for Global and Local Organizing*

Sunday, September 20, 4pm

*St. Thomas Episcopal Church
168 W Boston Post Rd.
Mamaroneck, NY 10543*

The Rev. John Zahl, Preacher

The Rt. Rev. Matthew Heyd, Celebrant

Clergy are invited to process
in Red Stoles

Reception to follow.



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 5 OAC *Canvas In Common* Event (2:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus Parish Hall)
- 10 UNSUNG Storytelling Event (7:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus Parish Hall)
- 12 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 12 Grace serves at Loaves and Fish (4:00 PM, Trinity Campus)
- 13 Welcome Back BBQ (After the service, St. Paul's Campus Parish Hall)
- 19 Safe Church Training (9:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Parish Hall)
- 20 Auditions for *First A Home* (Noon, Trinity Campus)
- 20 Installation of Canon Sam Owen (4:00 PM, St. Thomas Mamaroneck)
- 23 Vestry Meeting (7:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 24 Tea and Talk (4:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus Parish Hall)
- 26 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Amy Kitahata-Sporn	1	Darryl Moy	24
Helen Kamp	3	Charles Baker	27
Tyler Moy	5	Brandon Moy	28
Kellie Ishmael	8	Marilyn Barnes	30
Ronald V. Lazaro	8	John Anton Nieto Cullen	30
Tamsen Hernández	10	Betty Ann Frank	30
Jack Davis	12	Ciara Monroe	30
Asa G. Barnes, Jr.	20		
Yara Roman	20		

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Mark and Susan Monroe	14	Cecilia Quintero and Dennis Parker	18
Terri and Michael Roman	16	Roland and Barbara Rose	25



CLERGY

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

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.