



GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

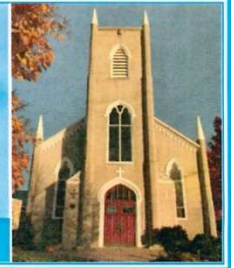
Mount Clemens, Michigan

Amazing Grace

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church

November 2025



All Saints' Day



All Saints' Day is always November 1, but it is one of the few holy days that our church allows and even encourages us to transfer to the Sunday immediately following the first of November. In the early days of Christianity, the word "saints" was used to describe the living followers of Christ. This

term was taken from the Greek word for "holy." Throughout the Hebrew scriptures, objects, animals, and people were set apart for God's service, and because of this special relationship with God, they were considered holy.

In the NT, Christians were deliberately setting themselves apart from the religions and practices that surrounded them and serving only the one true God. So St. Paul describes all of the people in the Christian community he visited or wrote to as saints: people set apart from others to serve God. As time went on, however, the definition of this term narrowed. Within a few generations after Paul's death, sporadic persecutions of Christians started happening around the Roman Empire. The followers of Christ began to see the martyrs—people who were killed because of their faith—as the real saints who gave their very lives to God. But as the centuries wore on, the persecutions ended, so the definition of saint was expanded to include martyrs and other special people who showed extreme piety, devotion, and a lifelong commitment to God.

The fact remained, however, that people could only be called saints after they died and after the church completed a lengthy process to recognize them as saints. This continues today, and the Roman Catholic Church continues to have people in the canonization process. There are thousands of named saints, and you can look them up online or read about them in a variety of books.

Now it is interesting to note that The Episcopal Church and the rest of the Anglican Communion does not confer the title *saint* on anyone. Our church recognizes a calendar of saints that have come to us throughout the centuries, but we do not have a process to give someone the title of *saint*. So why is it that the Episcopal Church does not add to this list of official saints? I think one of the main reasons is that our church has a broader understanding of what it means to be a saint. So rather than follow a rigid formula and lengthy process to identify a few select individuals to be called saints, we are moving to recapture that original understanding of all believers as the saints of God.

Worship Opportunities

Sundays at 8:30 and 10:30 AM

**TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE ONLINE
VIA ZOOM, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND
FOLLOW THE LINKS**

www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

**TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE BY
PHONE VIA ZOOM:**

8:30 Service: Call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300

Password: 246040

10:30 Service: See YouTube link
on Website

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

9:30 AM in Guild Room

*Worship resources are available
on our Website 24/7/365.*



Take for example that every week we recite the Apostles' Creed in which all of us state that we believe in the communion of saints. Now, we are not just talking about that elite group of deceased Christian heroes; we are describing how all believers past, present, and future will one day be together to worship and glorify God throughout all eternity. Until that day comes, we who are living now are somehow united with all Christians who have gone before us. We look to them as role models and guides to accompany us along the journey.

All Saints' Day, then, is a feast that includes all of us, not just the specific people the church has historically recognized as saints. This day has become a day for celebrating the ongoing communion of all believers, both those living today on earth and those already experiencing heaven. This is a day for remembering our loved ones who have passed before us, and it is also a day for acknowledging our fellow saints in the pew beside us.

On this day we rejoice in the communion of all the saints throughout the ages and here today.

Now, my guess is that most of us do not think of ourselves as saints. That's because we are stuck in the mindset that a saint has to be perfect, 100% holy, overly pious, and someone who suffers doing penance all the time and never has any fun or makes any mistakes.

Who of us would fit that mold? Given this definition, it is no wonder that we don't see ourselves as saints.

The challenge for all of us is to rethink our understanding of what it means to be a saint. To expand our self-concept to believe that God truly does call each of us to follow Jesus in our own way, in the places we live and work and play. We do not have to leave family, friends, careers, and homes to travel the world in God's service. We do not need to be perfect in every way. All we need to do is be thankful for what we have been given, appreciate and care for the natural world around us, and love the Lord our God with our whole hearts and minds and love our neighbor as we love ourselves. If we do these simple things, we will be serving God and all of creation with care and respect as living saints in the world. The Feast of All Saints then is a holy day of the Church honoring all saints—each and every one of us—living and deceased.

Blessings to all of you saints of God!

Pastor Steve

Monthly Bible Study

Did you know that Grace also hosts monthly Bible study sessions in addition to our regular Sunday meet-ups? Join us on **November 14 at 6:30 PM**. We're currently working our way through the book of Hebrews.



Diocesan Convention Update

The 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan was held October 24 and 25 at the Suburban Showcase Collection in Novi. Representing Grace as lay delegates were: Kris Eckert, Shirley Lappi, and Pam Sherry. The theme of this year's convention was "COURAGE; Fierce Faith, Fierce Hope, Fierce Love," and that theme was wrapped throughout many of the presentations.

Prior to the official opening of convention, with the first business session, four pre-convention workshops were offered to delegates and guests. The first one was on the Civil Rights Pilgrimage, now an annual diocesan event. It is a trip to Alabama to view various sites important in the struggle for civil rights and to more deeply learn about the sin of slavery. This year, the attendees walked over the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma, on the 60th anniversary of what has been called Bloody Sunday. The Rev. Sr. Veronica Dunbar coordinates this event, and the 2026 pilgrimage will be held February 19-23.

The second presentation was entitled *A Taste of the College for Congregational Development*, by the Rev. Canon Ellen Ekevag. It is a two-year training program that seeks to improve the way that leaders function in congregations. Next was a Mission Budget hearing, with the CFO, Chris Ventura. This was an opportunity for attendees to do a deeper dive into the budget and ask questions.

The final pre-convention session was entitled *Fierce Faith*, and was presented by our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie Perry. It was a Bible study of the Gospel story of Jesus and the Woman at the Well, and a call for us to develop courage by digging deep into our scriptures, faith, and traditions. But more than that, it was somewhat interactive, and as she read the Gospel, she asked us to think about the environment, body language, tone and response, vulnerability, and transformation. We were asked to examine ourselves and determine what risks we and our congregations might be willing to take in our polarized world, just as the Samaritan woman took risks in telling the townspeople about Jesus.

The first business session reviewed Roberts Rules of Order, as well as the history of the document, and how a proposed resolution gets approved by convention. Clergy new to the diocese were introduced, as were diocesan staff.

Then, the diocesan banquet was held, and afterward, the bishop had a dance party.

Saturday morning began with Eucharist. The Gospel was once again the story of the Woman at the Well. In her sermon, the bishop stated that she speaks to us in a time when the Supreme Court has ruled it OK for the authorities to stop anyone due to their skin color, language, and work site. She then asked "How shall we act; what do we do?" She further stated that with courage, we are called to go to the heart of who we are, that our call is to go down deep, into the heart of the image and likeness of the one from whom we are made. "Courage comes from that. We are called to remember we are in this together." She encouraged us to save the world with courage, and we manifest courage with love, fierce love. She reminded us that the Woman at the Well had courage, and that courage led to meaningful results. In our time, meaningful change is the result of many small acts of fierce faith, fierce hope, and fierce love. She concluded with a reminder that we are called to lead in Christ, and with God working in us, we can do infinitely more.

At the second business session, leaders of the three campus ministries updated the convention on the status and activities of these vital ministries. Then participants in the end-gun-violence and disarmory ministries updated the convention about their activities and successes, and reminded attendees that their goal is to still respect people's Second Amendment rights while creating common-sense laws and culture.

Sister Vee then updated the assembly on the Civil Rights Pilgrimage and efforts to reparations, and what that might look like. She then discussed themes of Becoming Beloved Community, Telling the Truth, Proclaiming the Dream, Practicing the Way, and Repairing the Breach.

Next, there was a presentation on Immigration ministries within some congregations, some of them in concert with the Catholic Church.

There was a resolution to support the Episcopal Church in Palestine, and it passed. There were four suggested changes to the diocesan canons, and all passed without any dissent. And there was a presentation on Legacy Giving, which is a planned giving program, to leave assets or money to the congregation or diocese upon death.

Finally, the 2026 budget was presented, with the following priorities: Congregational Vitality, Public Witness, and Financial Stability. The proposed budget of \$2,623,713.00 was unanimously passed, without any objections.

The 2026 Convention will be held October 23 and 24.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Lappi

*Remembering **Kamehameha and Emma**, whose feast day is **November 28**:*

Within a year of ascending the throne in 1855, the twenty-year-old King Kamehameha IV and his spouse, Emma Rooke, embarked on the path of altruism and unassuming humility for which they have been revered by their people. The year before, Honolulu, and especially its native Hawaiians, had been horribly afflicted by smallpox. The people, accustomed to a royalty which ruled with pomp and power, were confronted instead by a king and queen who went about, "with notebook in hand," soliciting from rich and poor the funds to build a hospital. Queen's Hospital, named for Emma, is now the largest civilian hospital in Hawai'i.

In 1860, the king and queen petitioned the Bishop of Oxford to send missionaries to establish the Anglican Church in Hawai'i. The king's interest came through a boyhood tour of England where he had seen, in the stately beauty of Anglican liturgy, a quality that seemed attuned to the gentle beauty of the Hawaiian spirit. England responded by sending the Rt. Rev. Thomas N. Staley and two priests. They arrived on October 11, 1862, and the king and queen were confirmed a month later, on November 28, 1862. They then began preparations for a cathedral and school, and the king set about to translate the Book of Common Prayer and much of the hymnal.

Kamehameha's and Emma's lives were marred by the tragic death of their only child, a four-year-old son, in 1862. Kamehameha seemed unable to survive his sadness, although a sermon he preached after his son's death expresses a hope and faith that is eloquent and profound. His own death took place only a year after his son's, in 1863. Emma declined to rule; instead, she committed her life to good works. She was responsible for schools, churches, and efforts on behalf of the poor and sick. She traveled several times to England and the European continent to raise funds and became a favorite of Queen Victoria's. Archbishop Longley of Canterbury remarked upon her visit to Lambeth: "I was much struck by the cultivation of her mind...But what excited my interest most was her almost saintly piety."

The cathedral was completed after Emma died. It was named St. Andrew's in memory of the king, who died on that saint's day. Among the Hawaiian people, Emma is still referred to as "our beloved Queen."

O God, who called your servants Kamehameha and Emma to an earthly throne that they might advance your heavenly kingdom, and gave them zeal for your church and love for your people: Mercifully grant that we also may be fruitful in good works, and attain to the glorious crown of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Supper

Sunday Supper begins at Grace on Sunday, November 2nd and continues each Sunday from 4-5 with the last supper on March 29th. Then, First United Methodist Church will offer Sunday lunch through the spring, summer and early fall.

We have opportunities for Grace parishioners to participate this season.

Our loyal cooking and serving crews will return; however, there are some suppers where we could use assistance.

On December 7th, January 4th, February 1st, and March 1st, we need salad or a side dish and dessert.

We have needed 75 servings for each meal during the summer and we anticipate the same for fall and winter.

We have a budget for our Sunday Supper Ministry suppers, so if you purchase food, please turn in the receipt to Marchea in the office and you will get reimbursed.

Please let either one of us know if you would like to contribute to the meals and/or join us for fellowship during the meal. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Thank you,
Ann & Dave Farrell
Sunday Supper Coordinators



From Our Parish Administrator

Hello, Grace Community,

I wanted to share an update about my new work schedule and explain a few adjustments that will be taking place.

Beginning November 3rd, my parish office hours will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, and I will continue completing the remaining five bookkeeping hours throughout the week as usual.

The reason for this change is that I have recently accepted a position as a nursing assistant at Corewell Health Hospital, where I will be working 12-hour night shifts on days that vary weekly depending on the hospital's staffing needs. Because of the nature of that schedule, I'll be keeping my additional two hours flexible instead of locking them into specific days.

There will be times when I'll work directly after a hospital shift, sometimes as long as 17 hours in a day—so maintaining some flexibility will help ensure I can stay balanced while continuing to meet all parish responsibilities.

I'm grateful for everyone's understanding and support as I take on this new opportunity in healthcare while remaining committed to serving our Grace community.

Warm regards,
Marchea Brown
Parish Administrator

For U.S. Cities Living Under the Fear of Increased Enforcement

O God of every city and town, we pray for Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Memphis, Chicago, and all places where the presence or threat of increased federal forces has sown fear among your people. Uphold the vulnerable and strengthen the weary. Stir the hearts of leaders in our federal government, that they may deal justly with local authorities, seeking not control, but peace. Guard communities from violence and nurture in them the patience of your Spirit. May your wisdom guide us toward reconciliation, living as citizens of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Prince of Peace, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

—The Episcopal Public Policy Network

November Birthdays

The Rev. Dcn Betty Brogan	11/1
Jane Carpenter	11/1
Robert Johnson	11/6
Monica Dunbar	11/7
Carolyn Siewert	11/10
Tom Murphy	11/16
Pam Schafer	11/23
Donna Chapman	11/28



Join us in the Guild Room for Bible study, every **Sunday at 9:30 AM.**



"F" Dollars for Fueling Kids' Futures

If your wallet has any dollar bills with **F** on them, please pass them along to help us fill backpacks with weekend food for hungry Mt. Clemens students.

Book Club at Grace

The next book club meeting will be **Thursday, November 13 at 6 PM** at the church. The book we will discuss is *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup*, by John Carreyrou. Elizabeth Holmes, CEO of the Theranos Company, deceived many brilliant scientists and investors with the Unicorn, a lab machine purported to make blood testing faster and easier. The author, John Carreyrou, worked for the Wall Street Journal and, through tips from former Theranos employees, was able to expose Holmes and her secrets, leading to her conviction and prison sentence. Please join us for a very interesting discussion.



COMMUNITY SUPPERS

Wednesdays at 4 PM

Sundays (Nov.-Mar.) at 4 PM

GRACE FOOD PANTRY

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10 AM to 12 PM
Curbside distribution



Recommended Food Pantry Donations

Canned soups, canned fruits and vegetables, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna/chicken, SpaghettiOs, Hamburger Helper, instant mashed potatoes, spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereal, canned applesauce

For Our Hungry Sisters and Brothers:

Lord, you made us to know what hunger is, but also to know the goodness of your provision. We pray for those who share this earth with us, but for whom hunger is a crippling, life-threatening danger. We pray for those who have nothing and those who have too little to eat. Make us joyfully share our own riches, so that all may be fed. Amen.

Grace Episcopal Church Staff

Pastor Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Cell: 203-641-2068

Email: pastor@gracechurchmtclemens.org

Music Director: Josh Dulin

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan

2025 Vestry

Martha Houser	Ernie Simon	Dash Heath
Mike Oakley	Lucy Smith	Mike Zubas
Don Siefkes	Bill Siewert	Sharon Potter

Beaumont Hospice



Become a Hospice Volunteer



Brighten someone's day with your presence! Hospice volunteers play a vital role by visiting patients and providing support to caregivers through listening, conversation, and companionship. This is a long-term commitment. Join us in making a meaningful difference during one of life's most significant journeys.

**Macomb, Oakland and
Wayne Counties**



248-743-9400



Ask for Leandra - Volunteer Coordinator