



GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

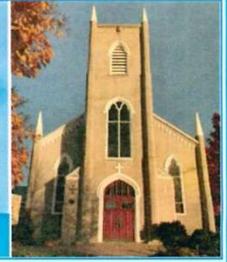
Mount Clemens, Michigan

Amazing Grace

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church

April 2026



Origin and Meaning of the Word “Easter”



The English word “Easter” is often traced to the fertility goddess Eostre, also called Ostara. This word connection comes from an 8th century monk named Bede who wrote that a month called Eosturmonath (roughly April) was named after a spring festival honoring Eostre. When Christianity spread in Anglo-Saxon regions, the name of the month became

attached to the Christian celebration. Bede is the only historical source for Eostre, so scholars debate how widespread or significant that goddess actually was.

It is important to remember, therefore, that the term “Easter” doesn’t come from the Bible; it only appears in the Germanic areas of Europe 700 years after the death of Jesus. Prior to this, the name for the day of the resurrection came from the word meaning Passover: In Hebrew it was Pesach and in Greek and Latin it was Pascha. These words connect the resurrection of Jesus directly to the Jewish festival of Passover, which is when Jesus was crucified and was raised from the dead. It is from the Latin word that we derive the current name of the Paschal candle that we light at Easter time and at funerals to remind us of the resurrection of Jesus and the promise that all of us will be raised from the dead.

The primary significance of the Passover is that God delivered the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt in mighty ways. This festival remembers the night that the angel of death “passed over” the Hebrew homes that displayed blood on the doorposts and only struck dead the first born of Egyptian homes that did not have the blood spattered on the doors. The early followers of Jesus referred to his resurrection as the Pascha feast and the theological significance changed to deliverance from sin and death because of his death and resurrection.

As Christians continued to celebrate the feast of the Resurrection, it maintained the connection to Passover and the celebration of the seder meal that Jesus and his disciples celebrated. That meal became known in Christian circles as the Last Supper. Jesus expanded the traditional blessing of the bread and wine and connected it to his body and his blood saying that we should continue the practice in memory of him. This continues to be the central ritual in our Sunday services today.

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.*



After Christianity was legalized around 312 A.D., the Council of Nicaea helped standardize when Easter would be celebrated. Early on, however, Western and Eastern Christianity used different calendars to calculate the day of Easter, so even today, these two branches of Christianity recognize Easter on different days. In both traditions, however, churches began holding special services, prayers, rituals, and baptisms while emphasizing that resurrection was foundational for the entire religion.

As the centuries passed, Easter became more structured and symbolic. A full season called Lent developed which emphasized 40 days of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Elaborate rituals such as Palm Sunday processions and the Way of the Cross became common. In addition, local cultural customs and practices started to sneak in, such as the incorporation of coloring and eating eggs which symbolized new life and depictions of rabbits which represented fertility. There were also many spring festivals that celebrated new life and growth after the long winter cold. Easter baskets and candy were developed later in the United States in the 19th and 20th century.

It is important to remember, however, that the Christian message of resurrection developed independently of these symbols. Over time, as Christianity spread, it absorbed and reinterpreted local customs, which is why these symbols became associated with Easter in places like Europe and later the United States. And for better or for worse, Easter has been commercialized in our country, and so in our grocery stores for several weeks before Easter we see aisles of shelves displaying marshmallow Peeps, chocolate rabbits, candy eggs, baskets, artificial grass, and many other products and images that don't have any connection to the resurrection of Jesus.

So, as we prepare to celebrate this very important religious holiday, let us take a moment to reflect on the importance of the resurrection and what it means for our lives today. And then may we enjoy our Easter day gatherings with family and friends when we share a meal, exchange some baskets, eat some sweets, and maybe even go on an egg hunt!

Easter Blessings!

Pastor Steve



Grace Garden Updates

- **Daffodils:** Keep your eyes out as the daffodils have moved to the east side of the parking lot on the easement between the parking lot and Gratiot. They may not be as big this year due to the move, but to give them a fighting chance, PLEASE do NOT spray weed killer in this area.
- **Church street garden:** We put in hens and chicks last fall to help with soil draining onto the sidewalk. More hens and chicks are needed if you have a surplus in your own gardens.
- **Mulch:** We've been working with a Boy Scout troop that will be spreading mulch soon.
- **Adopt a garden:** Do you have an hour a month? Consider adopting one of Grace's small gardens! See Lori Simon if you're interested.

April Birthdays

Toni Hindman	4/09
Ann Farrell	4/10
Pam Sherry	4/12
Robert Destafano	4/14
Gay Gillespie	4/16
Chris Heath	4/18
Jerry Gardner	4/26
Gary Keranen	4/28
Harvey Kahl	4/28

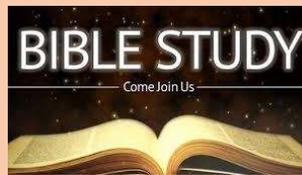


Book Club at Grace

The next book club meeting will be on **Thursday, May 14**, at Grace Church. At the last meeting we couldn't decide which book was next, so we ended up choosing two books! They are: *Hold Strong* by Robert Dugoni and *twice* by Mitch Albom. We hope to see you at the next meeting! If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Ann Strevel.

Draw us forth, God of all creation.
 Draw us forward and away from limited certainty
 into the immense world of your love.
 Give us the capacity to even for a moment taste the richness of the feast you give us.
 Give us the peace to live with uncertainty, with questions,
 with doubts.
 Help us to experience the resurrection anew with open wonder and an increasing ability to see you in the people of Easter.

—Anonymous



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.



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

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

2026 Vestry

Mike Oakley	Lucy Smith	Mike Zubas
Ernie Simon	Sharon Potter	Don Siefkes
Margaret Morgan		Selia Tuten

**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