



GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

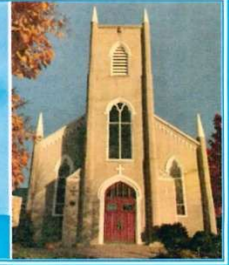
Mount Clemens, Michigan

Amazing Grace

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church

June 2026



The Juneteenth Holiday



Juneteenth is the newest federal holiday in the United States and commemorates the end of slavery in the country. Celebrated each year on June 19, the holiday marks the day in 1865 when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that enslaved African-Americans in Texas were free under the terms of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Although President Abraham Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation more than two years earlier, on January 1, 1863, slavery continued in some Confederate states during the Civil War. Texas, which was far from major Union military operations, remained one of the last places where enslaved people were held in bondage. When Union troops arrived after the war, the news of freedom was finally enforced there on June 19, 1865. The date became known as “Juneteenth,” combining the words “June” and “nineteenth.”

For generations, African-American communities celebrated Juneteenth with gatherings, parades, music, food, and educational events. Over time, the observance spread across the country and became a broader celebration of African-American history, culture, and the ongoing pursuit of equality.

Juneteenth officially became a federal holiday in 2021. President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law on June 17, 2021, making it the first new federal holiday established since Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was created in 1983. Today, Juneteenth serves both as a celebration of freedom and as a reminder of the nation’s history of slavery and the continuing struggle for civil rights.

Juneteenth is not a Christian holy day in the same way as Christmas, Easter, or Pentecost, and it is not part of the traditional Christian liturgical calendar. However, many Christians see Juneteenth as deeply connected to Christian beliefs about human dignity, freedom, justice, and deliverance from oppression.

The holiday’s themes strongly resonate with biblical teachings. In the Old Testament, the story of the Israelites’ liberation from slavery in Egypt is one of the Bible’s central narratives. Many African-

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.*



American Christians have historically identified with the Exodus story, seeing parallels between Israel's bondage and the experience of slavery in America. Passages such as "Let my people go" from the book of Exodus became powerful spiritual symbols during slavery and the Civil Rights Movement.

In the New Testament, Christians point to teachings such as:

- "There is neither slave nor free... for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28)
- Jesus' proclamation of "freedom for the prisoners" and "setting the oppressed free" (Luke 4:18)

Because of these themes, many churches observe Juneteenth with prayer services, worship celebrations, historical reflection, gospel music, and discussions about racial justice and reconciliation.

At the same time, Christianity in American history has had a complicated relationship with slavery. Some Christians defended slavery in the 18th and 19th centuries, while others, including abolitionists and many Black churches, fought against it using Christian teachings as their moral foundation. Juneteenth therefore also serves as a reminder of the importance of aligning faith with justice and compassion.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve



Grace Garden Updates

Happy spring! With all the seeds planted and the rain God provided, we should see some color this summer. The sunflowers are already beginning to pop up.

- If you happen to see hens and chicks free for the taking while out and about, please bring them to the church office. Sometimes they're listed on Facebook Marketplace or elsewhere when folks are thinning them out of their own gardens. We'll get them planted.
- You may have noticed that a few angels have appeared in the garden. These are in memory of loved ones. If you'd like to add your own angel, feel free to place it anywhere you like as we work to make the garden special for all of us.
- We'd also like two more people to help with a simple, short fundraiser: parking for the Mount Clemens fireworks on **June 26**, beginning around **5:30 PM**. Contact Lori Simon if you're interested.

June Birthdays

Dean Hindman	6/03
David Lau	6/17
Stefanie Lozon	6/26



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

Book Club at Grace

The book club will meet at Grace on **Thursday, July 9 at 6 PM.** We're hoping to see you there to discuss the book *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by author Shelby Van Pelt. This is a beautiful story of the interactions between an octopus named Marcellus and Tova, a cleaning lady for an aquarium. Bonus: The film with the same title is available on Netflix and follows the storyline very well, with Sally Field as Tova. Reading the book now and then watching the movie in early July will make for a good discussion at our next meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Strel.



"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



A Prayer for Juneteenth

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us, resist the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—*The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri*



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