



GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

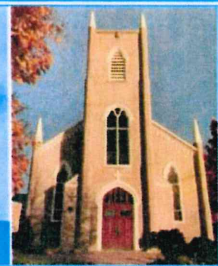
Mount Clemens, Michigan

Amazing Grace

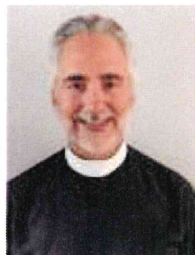
WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church

October 2025



Gun Violence in the United States, 2025



From January - August 2025 there have been 11 school shootings in the United States which resulted in the deaths of four students and the wounding of 38 other individuals - **THIS IS A TRAGEDY.**

In two houses of worship (Catholic/Minneapolis and Baptist/Lexington) during these same months, four people were killed by gunfire and 24 others injured because of gunfire – **THIS IS A TRAGEDY.**

During this same time-period, there have been 31 law enforcement officers shot and killed in the line of duty – **THIS IS A TRAGEDY.**

Looking at a broader view, there have been a total of 308 mass shootings in the United States from January – August 2025. Mass shootings are described as events where four or more people were shot, excluding the shooter. In these mass shootings, 300 people have been killed and another 1,353 wounded by gunfire – **THIS IS A TRAGEDY.**

There is not a comprehensive compilation of the total number of people who have died by gunshot wounds so far in 2025, but using 2024 as a benchmark, when roughly 44,000 people died by firearms, we can extrapolate to say that approximately 29,000 people have died from gunshots in the first 8 months of this year – **THIS IS A TRAGEDY.**

Charlie Kirk was killed by gunfire on September 10th – **THIS IS A TRAGEDY.**

These statistics are sobering and abominable! We have a national gun violence crisis happening right now in our country that has taken the lives of thousands of Americans and yet this has not been acknowledged or addressed by our political leaders in Washington – **THIS IS A TRAGEDY.**

What is most astounding about this overwhelming tragedy is that the president and vice president of the United States and several other high-ranking officials in their government attended and spoke at only one funeral for only one of these victims, and the president ordered all the American flags on governmental buildings and schools to be flown at half mast to honor this sole person killed. This funeral took place in a stadium with over 70,000 people in attendance and received high media and social media attention, but no mention was made of the thousands of other victims of gun violence, no public honor was given to them, and nothing was stated about the gun violence epidemic.

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.*



So, what was it about the murder of Charlie Kirk that motivated the leader of the most powerful nation in the world to speak up about it? And why hasn't the president acknowledged, attended funerals, or at least called the families of any of the other victims or called attention to this overall problem of gun violence? There is probably a myriad of reasons that are tempting to pursue, however, that is not within the scope of this short article; if you are interested, I would encourage you to think about it and do a little investigating on your own.

What I would like to suggest is that gun violence is a pandemic in our country that needs to be confronted head-on by our political leaders now. Why doesn't our government bring together leaders from a multitude of disciplines, to discuss, develop, and implement strategies and laws to address this problem? And what if we held an annual or bi-annual nation-wide memorial or prayer service gathering for ALL the victims of gun violence and honor all of them with lowered flags? This seems like a good way to include everyone who is impacted by this national scourge of gun violence.

You may or may not know that for the last 12 years in our Episcopal Church there exists an organization called Bishops United Against Gun Violence that has been working tirelessly to address this issue. Check out this link: <https://bishopsagainstgunviolence.org/> to find out more about this endeavor. Bishop Perry is involved at this national level, and she is also a spokesperson and activist for a local organization called End Gun Violence Michigan; you can find more information here: <https://www.endgunviolencemi.org/>

We as followers of Jesus are called to be peacemakers, to love our neighbors and our enemies. In the garden of Gethsemane as he was being arrested, Jesus restored the severed ear of one of the temple guards that was cut off by one of his disciples. Jesus did not tolerate violence and took steps to avoid and dissolve violent confrontations. Swords were the weapon of choice back then, but if Jesus were around today, he would most certainly tell the crowds to put away and not use their guns to hurt others. This is a hard act to follow, and yet, that is the expectation: to be Christ-like.

My friends, we have much work to do.

Blessings,

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 **October 10** at **6:30 PM**. We're currently working our way through the book of Hebrews.



Interparish Worship

We'll be celebrating a combined **10 AM** service on **October 26** with our friends at American Lutheran Church. Join us at 38795 Mulberry Street in Clinton Township; stay for a BBQ and Trunk or Treat afterward.



Highlights from the September 18 Vestry Meeting

After a brief hiatus in August, the vestry met again in September. There was some leftover business that had been previously approved and was now finished. This includes the installation of the beautiful new awning in the back of the church, the placement of two new glider chairs in the rear of the sanctuary (suitable for both young mothers and older parishioners), and the addition of Grace Church to Google Street View 360.

New business at the meeting included the upcoming stewardship efforts kicking off on October 19 and culminating in a parish dinner on November 23. We also reviewed the insurance quotes for next year (going up), our Diocesan Assessment, and the efforts to lease the rectory (slow going).

It was suggested that after every hall rental, someone from the parish could do a short inspection with a provided checklist, so that Marchea would know it's okay to refund the security deposit. We envisioned a handful of people available to do this, and since we rent the hall only about once a month, this would not be much of a burden to anyone. It's not too late to volunteer for this; just tell the front office or any vestry member.

We also received a letter asking us if some autistic students could come weekly to help clean the church. We think this is the same class that would come before COVID. We agreed to have them come to supplement our current arrangements, since there would be no charge.

Upcoming events:

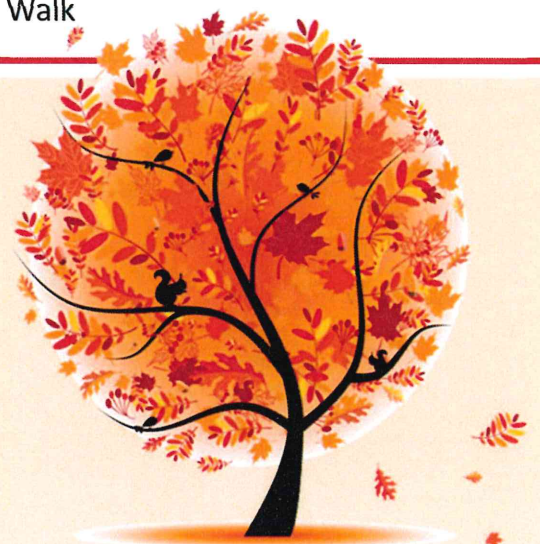
Sunday, October 26: One service at ALC at 10 AM, followed by a BBQ and then Trunk or Treat

Sunday, November 2: One All Saints Day service at 10 AM with Bishop Bonnie Perry, followed by brunch

Saturday, November 22: Mt. Clemens Christmas Parade. We will again pass out hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies, as well as have the church open for visitors. This year we would like to have more marchers as well. Volunteers needed!

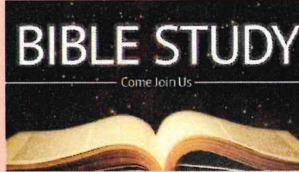
December: Watch for more information regarding the Cookie Walk

*Lord of all seasons,
As the leaves change and the days grow cooler,
help us embrace the rhythm of your creation.
Teach us to let go of what we no longer need
and to trust your timing in every part of life.
Thank you for the beauty of autumn—
for crisp mornings, golden trees, and the promise of harvest.
May this season deepen our gratitude,
renew our spirit,
and draw us closer to your heart. Amen.*



October Birthdays

Thomas Stotz	10/02
Cheryle Kahl	10/03
Kris Eckert	10/10
Veronica Dunbar	10/11
Mimi Lambert	10/17
Fran Merlo	10/19



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

Remembering **Teresa of Avila**, whose feast day is **October 15:**

Teresa was born in Spain, near Avila, in 1515. Her fellow Reformed Carmelite sisters urged her to write down some of her teachings on prayer for them, which is how we came to have her works *The Interior Castle* and *The Way of Perfection*.

Many people at the time felt that mental prayer (as opposed to reciting the vocal prayer of the liturgy) was too difficult and too dangerous for women, but Teresa insisted that "Mental prayer is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends. It means taking time frequently to be alone with him whom we know loves us."

Grace Episcopal Church Staff

Pastor Steven Steinberger-Domienik

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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