



WELCOME TO

AMAZING
Grace

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK



OUR MISSION

The mission of Grace Episcopal Church is to devote ourselves to the teachings of Jesus Christ, to celebrate together the Eucharist, and to spread the knowledge of the love of God throughout our community.

The foundation of Grace Church is its loving congregation that welcomes and embraces diversity and seeks to unify people of all ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds. In accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ, we seek to increase our spiritual growth, to feed the hungry, give relief to the sick, tend to those in need, and promote peace, justice, and love.

INTRODUCTION

Grace Church has a rich heritage of urban outreach and witness for social justice. Grace deeply values this inheritance and works to perpetuate it through the ministries of our congregation. We are a diverse parish — ethnically, culturally, and economically. Our diversity reflects our strong commitment to equality, tolerance, and reconciliation in the world beyond our doors. We believe that the solutions to injustice and violence are found not only in our compassion for and acceptance of each person but in our belief in the love and teachings of Jesus Christ. We are a friendly and receptive parish. We strive to live fully into our Church's motto, "Friendship and Service," by being a compassionate and caring community of Christians, serving one another as well as the community at-large.

FRIENDSHIP & SERVICE



The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop, giving communion during his visit at Grace Church.

WELCOME

Grace Episcopal Church is among the oldest Episcopal Churches in the city of Syracuse, NY. Today we are one of the only fully integrated congregation in the Diocese of Central New York. We are seeking a new rector who will appreciate the special history and unique diversity of our parish and will partner with us to discern God's call for us and fulfill our mission to serve Christ in the years to come.

WHAT MAKES GRACE CHURCH UNIQUE



Our People

Grace is truly diverse in every sense of the word – from age, to ethnicity, to sexual orientation.

Our Buildings

Grace is blessed with vibrant historic buildings. The physical layout of our church and parish hall provides opportunities for worship, programming and community engagement, as well as additional space for generating income. The church underwent a major restoration in 2014. More on pg. 8.

Our Holy Communion

Our congregation gathers around the altar to receive communion together as Christ's family. This symbolic statement of community is uniquely Grace.

Our Community Engagement

Grace is home to a weekly **food pantry** serving those in need. We also host a **weekly supper** every Wednesday for those looking for faith, fellowship, and a well balanced meal. Several years ago, we launched **Grace Project**, an outreach at the Justice Center, in which parishioners visit, work with, and advocate for with incarcerated youth.

Our Place in Anglican History

For 125 years, Grace Church has been a leader in inclusiveness and a faith community that is committed to leading by uplifting. Our commitment is evidenced in our history which includes **baptizing** (1878) and **ordaining** (1881) **O-kuh-ha-tah/** David Pendleton Oakerhater, the first Native American saint; becoming one of the **first racially integrated** congregations in the episcopal Church (in 1957); and welcoming and supporting one of the **first female priests** in the country in the 1970s. Today, this commitment is shown in the work of **The Grace Project**. More on pgs. 5, 10 and 11.

Our Physical and Spiritual Connection to University Hill

Grace is located within walking distance of Syracuse University, SUNY Environmental Sciences and Forestry and SUNY Upstate Medical University and has been the spiritual home to students for decades. Grace is strategically situated along the Connective Corridor, which links SU and arts and cultural institutions downtown, providing opportunities for growth and collaboration. More on pg. 2.



OUR UNIQUE LOCATION

Grace Church is located on University Hill, in walking distance of downtown, Syracuse University, SUNY Upstate Medical University, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and the city's eastside neighborhoods. As the closest Episcopal parish to these campuses, the church is well situated to attract students and faculty who live, attend school, and work on "The Hill." The church property adjoins a recently renovated hotel and is neighbor to new, multi-unit student housing, the Ronald McDonald House and the historic Jewish synagogue, Temple Society of Concord.

Grace is not just home to itinerant visitors; it is also a neighborhood church, widely drawing from the surrounding residential areas of the city, the suburbs, and rural communities. Located across the street from the church is McCarthy Manor, an apartment tower for seniors, many of whom walk to Grace to attend Sunday services and Wednesday night suppers.

Grace Church is fortunate to be located on Syracuse University's Connective Corridor. The Corridor is both a physical pathway with free bus rides, dedicated bike lanes, and pedestrian-friendly amenities. The Connective Corridor provides new opportunities for Grace to open its doors and celebrate what we have to offer.

Our location also provides a great opportunity for inter-religious collaboration; within a short few blocks, our neighbors include Syracuse University's Hendricks Chapel, Temple Society of Concord, the Islamic Society of Central New York, University United Methodist Church, and Park Central Presbyterian Church.



Finally, our location offers us the opportunity to live out Grace's mission of social justice. The hospitals and universities have absorbed much of the traditional residential neighborhood to the west and south of the church. The residential areas that remain to the east include areas of both affluence and abject poverty. Grace sits at the nexus of this challenging but also promising community.



WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM

Grace Church was established in 1871 and early on became a beacon of social activism and justice. The parish raised up the first Native American deacon in the Episcopal Church, who was eventually elevated to sainthood in 1985 by the national church. In the 1890s Grace was instrumental in establishing the Episcopal mission of St. Philip's, the first to serve the African American community. In 1957, in an effort to desegregate local Episcopal churches, St. Philip's was closed and many of its members joined Grace, creating one of the first integrated parishes in the United States. In 1974, Betty Bone Scheiss, a parishioner, was one of the first women ordained to the priesthood. She later served as associate rector of Grace.

Over the years Grace has been widely involved in a variety of mission work, including establishing Syracuse's first food

pantry, housing one of the first HeadStart programs, and providing a training site for Vista and Peace Corps volunteers. In the 1980s Grace began to develop a relationship with Syracuse University through a chaplaincy, which has attracted students to participate in the life of the church.

From the 1990s until the mid 2000s, Grace experienced declining membership and deepening financial struggles. Thanks to a dedicated group of parishioners and financial support from the Diocese of Central New York, the church strengthened its mission and ministries. Under the tenure of the Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows and the Rev. Johanna Marcure, Grace has continued to maintain its financial independence and to be a strong witness to Christ in the greater Syracuse community.

WHO WE ARE TODAY

Today we are a healthy and energetic parish, prudent in the use of church resources, and supported by strong lay leadership and participation. Thanks to grant funding, insurance and successful capital campaigns, we have done extensive renovations to our sanctuary, parish hall and parking lot.

Grace continues its rich tradition of social activism and mission in the greater community, which is reflected in our numerous ministries, including our food pantry, Grace Project for incarcerated youth, Wednesday night community suppers, advocacy for the elimination of solitary confinement for youth in the Justice Center, Gay Pride Parade participation, and anti-racism events.



Goals

OUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

- Preserve our diverse congregation and expand our membership by reaching out to residents in our surrounding neighborhood and the greater Syracuse area.
- Grow our financial resources and create ways to increase stewardship and maximize use of facilities to maintain our ability to do great things with limited resources.
- Enhance our outreach mission projects to better serve our community.
- Improve and maintain our excellent pastoral care and Christian Formation programs to provide us with the spiritual support and tools we need to better serve one another as well as those in our community.

FRIENDSHIP & SERVICE



Samuel Kuffuor-Afriyie, Syracuse University organ scholar

OUR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Liturgical Flavor

Our liturgy blends the traditional use of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and 1982 Hymnal with contemporary prayer and music. We regularly supplement with musical materials from *Lift Every Voice and Sing* and *Wonder, Love and Praise*. Musical settings for the liturgy change over the course of the year. Worship is comfortable and dynamic, especially during the passing of the peace before the Eucharist, at which time members greet one another and gather in a large circle around the altar. Both children and adults serve as acolytes and lay readers, reflecting and celebrating our diversity.

Music

Music is led by a Syracuse University organ scholar. The informal choir of six to eight people meets on Sundays, leads hymn singing, and prepares special music for Christmas and Easter. We welcome guest musicians and vocalists.

Fellowship

Several parishioners prepare Wednesday night **suppers** for parishioners and church neighbors. Fellowship events include coffee hour after Sunday service, Sunday evening **book club**, the newly formed **women's group** and special **get togethers** attended by both parishioners and friends of the congregation.

Lay Ministry

Grace has a dedicated, active group of lay ministers who visit parishioners who are ill, shut-in, and/or hospitalized. Teams of two go out after Sunday worship to pray, share the Eucharist and catch-up with those unable to attend service. The lay ministers help maintain the relationship and connection between the “shut-ins” and the parish community.

Food Outreach

Grace Church runs the oldest **food pantry** in Syracuse. Last year, we served 22,995 meals to 1,211 households, a 20 percent increase. Parishioners support the pantry with donations on monthly Fill the Pantry Sundays and for special meals, such as providing Thanksgiving turkeys. We receive the bulk of our food from the Food Bank and Interreligious Food Consortium. Food pantry volunteers make referrals to social service agencies and offer clothing, household items, and school supplies to our clients. As part of our food justice ministry, we partner with **Matthew 25 Farm** to provide fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Grace Project

The goals of this ministry are to seek restorative justice in our community for **at-risk high school youth** with whom Grace's parishioners work to re-envision their future and transform their lives. Parishioners meet weekly with incarcerated young people. We were instrumental in the effort to stop solitary confinement for incarcerated youth.

Community Connections

Parishioners are involved in non-profit social justice organizations such as 100 Black Men, Matthew 25 Farm, the Alliance for Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) and the Eastern Farm Workers Association. We are home to the Syracuse Community Choir, Civic Morning Musicals, and six addiction recovery groups.

Christian Formation

“The Ark,” a Christian formation program for children, is led by Syracuse University students and takes place during Sunday morning service. The rector, parishioners and friends of Grace Church lead adult study groups after Sunday morning service.

OUR FACILITIES

Grace Church and parish hall were constructed in 1876 and 1916, respectively. A large, shaded garden occupies the north side of the property and the west side is an income-producing parking lot. The buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

Significant recent rehabilitation and repair include slate roofs and the organ. In 2011 renovation of the sanctuary was completed, including a new sound system, energy efficient lighting and new boilers for the entire complex. This work was made possible by two capital campaigns, generous individual donations, parish fundraisers, and grant writing. Tower and rose window interior lighting were funded through Syracuse University's Connective Corridor. The parking lot has permeable paving, thanks to Onondaga County's Save the Rain program.

In 2013, a fire in the parish hall's kitchen led to another major renovation. Thankfully, the recently renovated church sanctuary was undamaged, except for minor smoke damage. Extensive renovations, made possible through insurance and contributions, included the all new, expanded kitchen, new offices and meeting rooms, and the addition of two elevator lifts.

In 2018, Grace expects to complete exterior masonry repairs to the tower and parish hall, made possible by a \$274,000 state grant.

Use of the parish hall, church, and parking lot by outside individuals and organizations is a source of both income and outreach for Grace.



The Grace Church rectory is part of the Berkeley Park Historic District in the University neighborhood of Syracuse. Built in the 1916, it is a 4-bedroom house with a 2-car garage and is less than a mile from the church.



It is in walking distance of Syracuse University and Edward Smith K-8 public school. Recent upgrades to the home include new central air conditioning, an energy efficient water heater, and a new driveway and sidewalk. In 2018, the front and side porches will be repaired and the house will be painted.

Finances

OUR FINANCES

The operating budget over the last three years has been approximately \$150,000. Almost 80 percent of Grace's income is derived from pledges, with another 10 percent from the use of the church's buildings and grounds, with the final 10 percent from other, non-pledge income. On the expenses side, almost 50 percent goes toward salaries and benefits, approximately 25 percent to buildings and grounds, 13 percent to ministries, and the remaining goes toward general administration and the Diocesan Assessment.

In 2017, Grace launched the Grace 2020 capital campaign. The campaign has raised approximately \$115,000, which we are using in part as a match for a \$270,000 grant from New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation for repairs to the church tower and the exterior masonry on the parish hall. Capital campaign funds will also go toward repairs and upgrades to the rectory.

We are always looking for creative new ways to both open our doors to the community and create new sources of income in support of the church and its ministries. Our historic, but newly renovated, building is one of our greatest assets, offering fully accessible office spaces, a large parish hall, and a modern,

fully equipped commercial kitchen that are available for short and long-term lease. Our parking lot is rented during the week to monthly parking pass holders and for event use during Syracuse University major sporting events.



We are a national shrine of Saint O-kuh-ha-tah, who was baptized and ordained at Grace. This pair of windows, designed by his great-granddaughter, were installed and dedicated in 2005.

MILESTONES

- 1868: The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York is organized.
- 1870: Bishop Frederic D. Huntington sees the need for a parish that would serve the area.
- 1871: Grace Church is founded by the Rev. Thomas Edward Patterson. A small wood frame chapel is built.
- 1876: The present Grace Church is built.
- 1878: David Pendleton Oakerhater, a Cheyenne warrior and political prisoner, is baptized at Grace Church.
- 1881: David Pendleton Oakerhater is ordained a deacon at Grace Church.
- 1890s: Grace's rector takes the lead in establishing St. Philip's Mission, a church for African-American Episcopalians in Syracuse.
- 1922: The newly built St. Philip's Church, Grace's sister church, opens to serve the African-American Episcopal community.
- 1957: In an effort to integrate churches, St. Philip's is closed. Grace Church welcomes members of the St. Philip's and becomes one of the first fully integrated Episcopal churches in the United States.
- 1960s: Grace Church leads the city's churches in its commitment to civil rights. During this period, Grace Church elects the first Central New York woman to serve on the vestry, the first African-American woman to serve as warden in the diocese, and the first female delegate to attend the Diocesan Convention.
- 1962: Grace Church hosts Teach One in Syracuse. "Each One, Teach One" evolves into Literacy Volunteers.
- 1963-1965: CORE (Congress for Racial Equality) holds meetings in Grace Church. Church receives bomb threat as a result.
- 1964: Grace Church hosts one of the first HeadStart programs.
- 1966-1967: Vista Volunteers and Peace Corp recruits are trained at Grace Church and build a carpentry workshop in the church basement for youth programs.
- 1971: The communion table is placed in the center of the nave. Designed by church architect, Casetti, the central placement strengthens the sense of communal worship and fellowship.
- 1974: Betty Bone Scheiss of Grace Church is one of eleven women ordained in Philadelphia, three years prior to Episcopal General Convention's recognition of women priests. She is appointed Associate Rector of Grace Church.



- 1976: Grace Church is added to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1982: Grace Church opens Syracuse's first food pantry.
- 1985: David Pendleton Oakerhater is elevated to sainthood by the Episcopal Church.
- 1992: Grace Church is designated a national shrine for Saint David Pendleton Oakerhater (O-kuh-ha-tah), the first Native American saint in the Episcopal Church.
- 1995: Grace Church begins hosting a county-wide annual event in honor of World AIDS Day.
- 2000: Syracuse University Chaplaincy is established by the Diocese of Central New York (ends in 2011). Previous rectors of Grace had unofficially maintained a relationship with SU.
- 2001: (Sept 19): Grace hosts A Gathering Together for Peace, an ecumenical event held in the wake of the World Trade Center disaster. Religious leaders from the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities speak and hold meditations.
- 2004: Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows is hired as Episcopal chaplain at SU and part-time rector of Grace Church.
- 2005: A pair of stained glass windows of St. David Pendleton Oakerhater (O-kuh-ha-tah) are installed and dedicated. His descendants are honored guests.
- 2007: In honor of the 50th anniversary of the merging of St. Philip's Church and Grace Church, a year-long community-wide program on "Race and Reconciliation" takes place, bringing in nationally recognized speakers.
- 2008: Renovation of the sanctuary begins thanks to funds raised by a major capital campaign.
- 2009: Grace receives the Congregational Vitality Award from the national Episcopal Church Foundation.
- 2011: Grace receives the Congregational Vitality Award from the national Episcopal Church Foundation.
- 2012: The Rev. Johanna Marcure is installed as rector.
- 2013: A fire in the kitchen leads to a major restoration. The Grace Project is established.
- 2015: Grace Church is selected for National Geographic's "Looking for Lincoln's Legacy."
- 2016: The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop, is preacher and celebrant.
- 2017: Under Grace Church's leadership, local and state activists force the end of solitary confinement of teenaged youth in Onondaga County jails.
- 2018: Search for a new rector.



Reprinted from
**NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC**

Photograph by Eugene Richards

Lincoln's funeral train made a brief stop in Syracuse, New York, on April 26, 1865. Today black and white parishioners worship together at Grace Church, one of the city's first congregations to become integrated in the 1950s.



THE RECTOR WE SEEK

Grace Church is seeking a rector who:

- is strong in pastoral care, attends to the needs of the parishioners and is a mentor to the lay ministry.
- has the ability to balance caring for the church flock with bringing awareness of the needs of the larger world.
- is committed to maintaining the multiethnic, socioeconomically diverse character of our church and continuing our long tradition of welcoming the LGBTQ community.
- is interested in reestablishing our connection with Syracuse University.
- is committed to positive social changes.
- is compassionate, understanding and kind.

Interested candidates are invited to send a letter of interest, resume and OTM (Office of Transitional Ministries) portfolio to the Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, Episcopal Diocese of Central New York, Carriesb@cnyepiscopal.org



GRACE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
819 MADISON STREET
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK
13210

315.478.0901
www.gracesyracuse.org