



# Grace Episcopal Church

111 Church Street  
P. O. Box 123  
Yorktown, Virginia 23690  
(757) 898-3261  
[www.GraceChurchYorktown.org](http://www.GraceChurchYorktown.org)

The Rev. Seldon M. Walker

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October 11, 2020

Dear Grace Church Family,

As I sit down to write this letter, the one thing that keeps filling my mind and spirit alike is the fact that I cannot begin to imagine how you must be feeling. Not only have your lives changed in extraordinary ways due to the global pandemic, but you've also been dealing with so much transition as a church family, and that must be exhausting to say the least. For this reason among so many more, please let me, like Karen, take the time to say 'Thank You.' Thank you for keeping the faith; thank you for continuing to support Grace both financially and through your many ministries; and most especially, thank you for the love and support that you have given to me, the new guy, thus far. It means more than you know.

As many of you have probably figured out by now, I am a big fan of Presiding Bishop Curry and the many lessons that he has to teach. In his newest book entitled *Love is the Way* Bishop Curry had this to say about community:

*God may be the source of love, but people are often the vessels. Once you understand that, you also start to understand that connecting the Holy Spirit isn't about what we say in our house of worship on a Sunday. It's not even whether we're in church on a Sunday. It's the community of love we create for ourselves and for others. When that happens, God's there. That's God showing up. We're resting in God's hands.*

Grace Church is the kind of community that Bishop Curry speaks of. The one where regardless of whether we can physically meet in your buildings or not, God shows up in our midst because we have chosen to rest in God's hands. And part of the reason that God shows up is because we have worked hard to create a beautiful community of love, not just for ourselves, but for others as well. In my short tenure with you I've seen this hold true time and time again. What is more, I knew this about Grace even before the Spirit guided me to put my name in as a candidate to be your rector. People outside of our church walls speak highly of the place that rests on the Peninsula because of our love and because of our commitment to create community for others. Let's keep on being this kind of community. It is who we are. It is who we are called to keep on being. But to do so takes work, and it takes all of us.

Again, and as Bishop Curry reminds us:

*Resting in God's hands, building a community of love, is more than going to a house of worship, or any place community gathers. To journey to "resting" is actually active - you have to be willing to ask for help, and to receive it when it is offered. Not an easy feat. But it's a lot easier to do when your community shares a desire to live in the spirit of agape.*

Being the community that we are, continuing on our journey, growing what we have become into something even bigger and better than what we already are, this takes action: resting in God's love takes action. Part of this action comes in the form of time and talent which are things that this

community offers of itself over and over again and well beyond expectation. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your continual offerings of these things. Alongside time and talent however, we must remember that giving of our resources is also part of the action that it takes to continue on our journey of 'resting.'

Equally important, is having the willingness to ask for help. And so now I ask you, Grace Church, for your help. Whether you are new to the church, or a member of 50+ years; whether you have pledged before, or have only put some money in the offering plate as you have been able; I ask you during this season of giving and gratitude, to prayerfully consider making a financial contribution in the form of a pledge or a planned gift to Grace so that our community can continue on its journey of resting in God's love. If you are new to the idea of pledging and have questions, give me a call, let's have a chat! If you are a veteran giver, thank you for your continued and ongoing support! The point is that as we all give what we can with our time and talent, let us also consider taking action and giving what we can with our financial resources, knowing that we give with gratitude for the many blessings that God has provided in our lives and will continue to provide as we walk together in love.

We may not fully understand the path that lies ahead. And we know that continuing to be the community that we are - continuing to rest in God's love - will not always be easy. But I know that this community shares that fiery desire to live in the spirit of agape, and because of that, God will be with us. God will show up.

May God continue to show up in your lives with each waking moment, and may this season of giving and gratitude provide for you the blessed opportunity to reflect on the agape love of God, the opportunity to take action, and the opportunity to imagine the possibilities for our journey together as we continue to rest in the loving hands of God almighty.

With Gratitude and in the agape Love of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Seldon M. Walker" with a small cross-like mark at the end of the line.

Rev. Seldon M. Walker+  
Rector, Grace Church Yorktown