



# Along The Way

## The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham

**October 16, 2024**

Reflections

*From the  
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

Are you tired of hearing campaign ads? They are usually negative and often based on fear, which can raise our anxiety level. Some even hold up as values things that are not Christian values. In the coming days, we are encouraged to vote to elect people to serve in National, State, and local public offices. It is important that we choose our elected officials very carefully. Truthful information about the candidates is sometimes hard to come by, but we must do our best to learn about what is true about each candidate.

We have a lot to think about before we cast our ballots in the coming days. Are you taking your votes seriously? I encourage you to consider these questions when making your choices:

1. What are you looking for in the candidates?
  2. What qualities are you looking for?
  3. What values do they live by?
  4. What are the policy positions that they support and what do you think about their policy positions?
- What do you think Jesus would think about their policy positions?

As Christians, the values of Jesus must be our values. We must work to build up the Kingdom of God, which Jesus announced and lived out; a Kingdom in which love, compassion, kindness, mercy, and equity are a priority. To build such a Kingdom, to live as Jesus lived, and to love as Jesus loved, we need competent leaders who will help us become more loving, compassionate, kind, merciful, and equitable.

This isn't always easy to do when we are bombarded by attack ads, half-truths, and outright lies. As best as you can, learn the truth about the positions of each candidate, but be careful about the sources of information you find or are sent to you. Pray about your decision. Consider how each candidate could help us build the Kingdom of God that Jesus announced. Then vote.

And remember, the day after the election, no matter who wins, the sun will rise in the east and the earth will continue on its journey around the sun. We may be disappointed, or we may celebrate. But regardless of the outcome, God will not abandon us. Together, with God's help, we will continue our work of building the Kingdom of God, loving as Jesus taught us to love. No one can stop us from following the true Way of Jesus, the Way of Love.

Peace,

***Pastor Dan***

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 20, 2024

8 AM	10 AM
<p><u>READERS:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> HERB WILLIAMS</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> JOELLA CRUZ</p>	<p><u>READERS:</u> BECKY RYDER JUDY ELLIS</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> JUDY GOVON &amp; RICHEL BALANCA</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> SHERYL FACCHETTI</p> <p><u>NURSERY:</u> JESSI MERRICK &amp; KERRI GALLAGHER</p>

### WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS  
CLICK HERE](#)

### MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES  
CLICK HERE](#)

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### A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. Thursday evening, October 17 from 6-8pm, there will be a Good Shepherd *Year of Renewal session* held in the church hall. See below for more information.
2. On Saturday, October 19, our next Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, *Bishop-Elect Julia Whitworth, will be consecrated* as Bishop. See below for more information about viewing the Livestream of the Consecration Service.
3. This coming Sunday, October 20, is a *Sunday School Sunday*, and the *Sunday Nursery* will be open. See below for more information.
4. If you have parish information to pass on to the Good Shepherd community in our weekly newsletter ("Along The Way"), please submit the information to our office manager Cathi Maurice or to Pastor Dan.

[CLICK HERE FOR PARISH CALENDAR](#)



This Sunday is **Good & Green Sunday!** Please remember to bring in your cans, bottles and sneakers so we can continue our fundraising efforts for our sustainable initiatives.

**THERE IS NO GOOD & GREEN TEAM MEETING THIS SUNDAY!** Some of us met last Sunday with our counterparts at St. Mary's Barnstable and learned about new ideas we can do to follow the path to Creation Justice. More about that in coming weeks. As an example of what we have learned, Scooter Holcombe put together these ideas of how to observe a safe and sustainable Halloween for our furry friends pets/animals. More info on sustainable Halloween efforts are on our bulletin boards and our web page.

Tips for keeping Halloween safe for our furry friends:

Make sure candy wrappers are disposed of properly. They not only trash the neighborhood but may be ingested by wildlife.

1. Pick up any candy that may be dropped. Our furry friends don't need the extra sugar and some ingredients may be toxic to animals. Remember, things like chocolate and raisins are not only toxic to our dog pets but also to wild dogs like coyotes, foxes, etc.
2. Enjoy your Halloween decorations safely. Make sure that deer antlers and small necks and limbs are not in danger of getting tangled in strands of lights or decorations like spiderwebs etc.
3. Be kind to our nocturnal friends and turn off bright or noisy decorations when you go to bed to preserve the night quiet and darkness that they are used to.
4. Think globally as well as locally. Palm oil is a common ingredient in many products including candies and chocolates. It's grown in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It's production has some benefits environmentally compared to other oils but increased demand is leading to production processes that promote deforestation and loss of critical habitat for endangered species. Some companies are now committed to using palm oil that is grown using more sustainable practices. You can find a 2020 sustainable palm oil/orangutan-friendly Halloween guide at this website [https://orangutan.com/sustainable-palm-oil-orangutan-friendly-halloween-guide/#:~:text=\(sustainable%20palm%20oil\)%3A%20Almond,n%20Creme%2C%20Rolos%2C%20Twizzlers.&text=Mars%2C%20Inc.,Musketees%2C%20Milky%20Way%2C%20Dove](https://orangutan.com/sustainable-palm-oil-orangutan-friendly-halloween-guide/#:~:text=(sustainable%20palm%20oil)%3A%20Almond,n%20Creme%2C%20Rolos%2C%20Twizzlers.&text=Mars%2C%20Inc.,Musketees%2C%20Milky%20Way%2C%20Dove). And don't worry, it includes well-known companies like Hershey, Mars, and Nestle.
5. What should you do with pumpkins after the season? You may want to share them with your wildlife friends but if you do, use best practices and make sure they are free of mold, paint and wax, cut into small pieces and in places that you want the animals to be. If the pumpkin is on the front step, the critters will be there as well. But pumpkins are not hedgehog friendly. While hedgehogs apparently really like pumpkin, too much can easily lead to nutritional imbalance. If you're not sure that you want to risk sharing this tasty treat, composting or donating to a local zoo or wildlife shelter are good alternative ideas.

# Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

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## **The Consecration of Bishop Julia Whitworth**

The Consecration Service of our new bishop Julia Whitworth will be held this coming Saturday, October 19. The processions will begin at 10:30am and the Service will begin at 11:00am. It is estimated that the Service will take about 2.5 hours. The Livestream link information of the Consecration processions and Service can be found on the Diocese of Massachusetts website, under the Consecration page [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org).

## **Year of Renewal Part II Session – October 17**

**Part I:** During Part I of our Year of Renewal (which took place in the Spring) we focused on the importance of Good Shepherd in our lives, who we are as a community, and the many ministries of Good Shepherd that have been important to us.

**Part II:** Our Year of Renewal will continue with a gathering on Thursday evening, October 17, from 6-8pm in the Church Hall. In Part II we will focus on how we welcome visitors and guests to our Good Shepherd community. We will look at our own experiences of being welcomed at Good Shepherd and develop a more intentional plan of welcome.

## **Children Invited to Wear Halloween Costumes to Church**

Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to church on Sunday, October 27. The preference is for fun type costumes over horror costumes. If you are not sure about the appropriateness of the costume reach out to Pastor Dan.

## **Be Aware of Scammers**

Be aware of scammers who send emails or texts to church members in the name of their pastors (the fake emails are very close to the pastor's authentic email address), asking them to send gifts cards electronically to support those in need during a crisis. Please do not do so. I would never ask you to send electronic gift cards. If you are not certain about an email or text, please call me or email me (using my correct email) directly with your questions.

*Pastor Dan*

## **2025 Pledge Drive: In Support of the Mission of Good Shepherd**

During the Fall of each year, we hear about the importance of stewardship in our lives of faith, and in the mission of the Church, as we prepare to make our annual parish financial pledges for the following year. On Sunday October 27, pledge packets will be distributed to parishioners at the Sunday Services. More information about the pledge drive will be made available at that time. Meanwhile, please begin to consider the ways God has blessed you in your life, especially through the Good Shepherd faith community, as you prayerfully consider your financial pledge for 2025. Thank you for your ongoing financial support in 2024. Your contributions keep our faith community alive and active in the lives of many people, both within and outside of our Good Shepherd community.

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

As a way of reaching out to those who are ill or struggling in some way, parishioners have knitted shawls to be given to those who can benefit from receiving these gifts of warmth and comfort. Pastor Dan blesses each shawl before it is given. He prays that "this mantle be a safe haven...a sacred place of security and well-being...sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones." Please contact Judy Ellis (Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator) or Pastor Dan if you would like a shawl for yourself or someone else. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, and join our knitting team, please be in touch with Judy Ellis (508-295-5318). There is a very basic pattern that makes a beautiful, lacey shawl. It can also be modified to make a man's lap robe. All patterns, of course, are welcomed. If needed, yarn will be provided. If you would like to support the prayer shawl ministry but do not knit or crochet, ask Judy about a way you can help.

### **Helping Communities Suffering From the Recent Hurricane**

Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) is working with church and local partners to provide help to those affected by the recent hurricane. Your swift response and compassionate gift to the Episcopal Relief & Development Disaster Fund will provide supplies to help the people in these communities make a full and sustained recovery. Visit [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org) to make a contribution today.

### **Please Stay Home When You're Not Feeling Well**

This is a reminder that if you have covid or another contagious illness, please do not come to the church. Basically, if you are not feeling well, please stay home. It is important that you stay home and rest, and it is important that we be vigilant in order not to spread viruses with one another. Remember, the 10am Sunday Service is offered on Facebook Live every Sunday, and the link to the recorded Service is sent to those on our church email list following the live Service. Stay home, rest, and participate online.

### **The Good Shepherd Guild Craft Nights**

Every Monday evening the Good Shepherd Guild holds "Craft Night" in the Church Hall, which begins at 6pm. The crafts are later sold at the Guild Christmas Craft Fair in December. All are welcome to join in support of this fundraiser for the church, and to enjoy one another's company in the process. No experience is needed (really), just a willingness to help. We hope to see you there.

### **Sunday School**

Sunday School is held during the first half of our 10am Sunday Service on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. The Sunday School is located in the church meeting room, in the office area. All Sunday School volunteers have undergone CORI background checks and received training, including the Safe Church training required by the Episcopal Church for all those who work with children. Please contact Pastor Dan for more information. The registration form can be downloaded from our Good Shepherd website ([www.goodshepherdwareham.org](http://www.goodshepherdwareham.org)).

### **The Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery**

The Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery (for children through kindergarten age) is open during our 10am Sunday Services. Children are most welcome in the church, but the nursery will be available for them as well. Children can arrive at the nursery beginning at 9:50am and the nursery will close 10 minutes after the conclusion of the 10am Service. The Sunday Nursery is located on the third floor of the church, which can be accessed at the top of the church office stairwell in the back of the church building, through the door (marked Sunday Nursery). All nursery volunteers have undergone CORI background checks and received training, including the Safe Church training required by the Episcopal Church for all those who work with children. If you have questions about the nursery or would like to volunteer, please contact the church office (508-295-2840). The registration form can be downloaded from our Good Shepherd website ([www.goodshepherdwareham.org](http://www.goodshepherdwareham.org)).

### **Mid-Week Eucharist**

On Wednesdays at Noon, there is a celebration of the Eucharist in the church, which is open to all. This is an opportunity to gather for prayer and reflection; and be reminded of God's presence between Sundays. For those on your lunch break, the celebration of the mid-week Eucharist is approximately 20 minutes.

### **Good & Green Team**

Every month, on the 3rd Sunday, the Good and Green Team collects 5 cent redeemable cans and bottles along with sneakers to raise money for sustainable efforts in our parish. You can bring them in and leave them in the Parish Hall before, between and after our Sunday services. Thank you! Our monthly meetings take place on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 9am in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! For more information on who we are and some "green" tips, visit the Good Shepherd web site: <https://goodshepherdwareham.org/green-team/>

### **WCTV Sunday Service Coverage**

WCTV, the Wareham local access channel, will now be broadcasting recordings of our Sunday Services. The recorded Services will air a week later. WCTV can be found on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 30. This is a good way to share Jesus' message of love and compassion with our Wareham community, and also let people know about our Good Shepherd community.

### **Prayer Request Book**

In the back of the church on Sunday mornings, there is a Prayer Request Book. As you come into the church each Sunday, you are welcome to record in the Prayer Request Book the names of those who need prayers. During the prayers of the people, we pray for "all those whose names have been recorded in the Prayer Request Book."

### **Sunday Coffee Hour**

Every Sunday, following the 10am Sunday Service, coffee hour is held in the Church Hall. Coffee hour is an opportunity for us to further get to know one another and share our lives with one another. The wearing of a facemask is welcome, for those who choose to wear one. Like all other indoor church functions, if you are not feeling well, please do not participate at coffee hour.

### **Good Shepherd Table**

Good Shepherd's Table serves a free in-person meal, which is open to the public, every Thursday at 4:30pm. Take-out meals are available from 4:30-4:45pm for those who choose not to eat indoors with others. Like all other indoor church functions, if you are not feeling well, please do not participate in the Good Shepherd Table indoor dining.

### **Food Pantry Schedule**

The Food Pantry is open on the First Tuesday of the month from 3-6pm. People can pick up food from the Food Pantry one time per month.

### **Good Shepherd Food Pantry Wish List**

We are looking specifically for cereal, toilet paper (4 packs), and individually packaged paper towels. Donations to the Food Pantry can be dropped off on Thursday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 or can be left in the back of the church on Sunday mornings.

### **Pastoral Care**

If you would like yourself or someone else placed on the Good Shepherd prayer list, please contact me (Pastor Dan). The Good Shepherd prayer group prays daily for those on the prayer list. If you need or would like a pastoral visit from the priest, please let me know. My contact information can be found below and is also on the back of the weekly Sunday Service Booklet. The only way I know that you need a pastoral visit is if you let me know. You might want to keep my contact information (cell # 603-953-3659 for emergencies) somewhere handy, so you know where to find it if the need arises. Pastor Dan

### **Contacting Pastor Dan**

You can contact me by email ([pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com)), by calling the church number (508-295-2840) and leaving a message, or if it is an urgent matter by calling me through my cell phone (603-953-3659). Pastor Dan

### **Please "Like" us on Facebook**

Please like us on Facebook ("Church of the Good Shepherd Wareham") so we can get the word out about what is happening in our parish community, especially about our Facebook Live Services.