



# Along The Way

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

**November 13, 2024**

Reflections

*From the  
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

On Sunday, we will hear the following verses from the Gospel of Jesus according to Mark.

*"Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines."*

These are not exactly the most positive verses of scripture. They are pretty dark and scary. They come at the end of Mark's gospel and are not so much a vision of the future, as they are a reflection of the present for the community Mark is writing to. The community Mark is writing to, some 40 years after the death of Jesus, is already undergoing great hardship and suffering. And Jesus is saying to Mark's community, through the evangelist Mark, that he never promised that it would be easy.

I see these verses as the recognition that difficult times are a part of life. Being a follower of Jesus will not keep hardship and suffering away. But following the Way of Jesus and living in a church community of love and compassion, will help us to weather the storms of life and give us the strength and courage we need to be agents of God's healing and renewing light in the world around us.

Yes, life can be difficult, perhaps you are feeling that life is difficult for you at this moment. Let us remember that we belong to God, that we follow the Way of Love and compassion that Jesus showed us. We are not alone. We have God, we have Jesus, and we have one another.

*God, help us through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
to continue to love as Jesus loved.*

Peace,

**Pastor Dan**

# LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

8 AM	10 AM
<p><u>READERS:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> HERB WILLIAMS</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> NATECIA ALFONSO</p>	<p><u>READERS:</u> RICHELLIS JEANNYMAN</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> DAN ANNA &amp; BECKY HANSEN</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](#)

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

[Parish Website](#)

## A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This coming Sunday, November 10, you are asked to **return your Pledge Forms** to the church if you did not already do so. We will have the opportunity after the offering is brought to the altar to place our pledge forms in the pledge basket in front of the lectern. All parishioners are asked to return a pledge form. If you are unable to make a pledge this year due to your financial position, please indicate that on the pledge form and return it. This way we will not reach out to you again asking for your pledge.
2. This coming Sunday is a **Sunday School** Sunday. More information can be found below.
3. The Good and Green Team will be **collecting used sneakers and redeemable bottles and cans** this coming Sunday. More information can be found below.
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](#)

# Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

---

## 2025 Stewardship Pledge Drive

Our Good Shepherd 2025 Stewardship Pledge Drive has begun. Thank you to those who have returned your pledge forms this past week. If you have not yet done so, please return your completed pledge forms to the church on Sunday November 17 and place them in the pledge basket in the front of the church. If you will not be in church, please mail in your completed pledge form to the church. Extra pledge packets are available in the back of the church and on our [church website](#). Thank you!

## Good & Green Team Collections

This Sunday, being the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, is **Good and Green Sunday**. Please remember to bring in your cans and bottles (please rinse them out first, Vivi and Joe will thank you!) and your sneakers. You will also be able to enjoy the **Good and Green Team** Coffee Hour with good and sustainable food to taste and share. These fundraising efforts help us fund our sustainable initiatives like reusable plates, bowls and utensils, water for our water cooler, the “No-tree” coffee cups we use at coffee hour and much more. We couldn’t do it without you! Thank you for your support.

## Discretionary Fund Donations

Please consider donating to the Good Shepherd Discretionary Fund. It is from the discretionary fund that Pastor Dan assists those in need. You may make contributions to the discretionary fund at any time during the month by placing them in the offering box at the entrance to the church in an envelope marked discretionary fund (there are some in the back of the church) or by mailing them to the parish office. Checks should be made out to “Church of the Good Shepherd – Clergy Discretionary Fund.” Thank you to those who have made contributions in the past!

## The Next Vestry Meeting

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on Thursday, November 14, beginning at 6:00pm. If you would like to submit possible agenda items for consideration, you can do so through Becky Hansen (Senior Warden) or Pastor Dan by November 7.

## Children’s Sunday Service – November 24

Our next Children’s Sunday Service will be held on Sunday, November 24 during our 10am Service. This Service will focus on the children of our Good Shepherd community. The prayers, music, readings, and the sermon will speak to the children. All are invited to participate in these children focused Eucharistic Services. There will be no age restriction. Everyone can benefit from these Services. Let us gather in support of our young families and their children.

## Annual Good Shepherd Guild Christmas Fair

On Saturday, December 7 from 9am-2pm, the Good Shepherd Guild is holding its annual Christmas Fair. We have been working on crafts, but we need your help with some of our other offerings. Used Christmas items (good time to clean out), new and used jewelry (jewelry donations to be dropped off at least one week prior to fair), new and gently used scarves, new and like new gift items for all ages of children and adults for the Children’s Shopping Room. Start collecting these items at home and bring them to the Church at least a week before the Fair so that we can sort and organize. We will also offer a variety of Crafts and Gift Baskets made and put together by the Good Shepherd Guild. All parishioners will receive a letter with all the details, raffle tickets and additional requests for the Baked Goods Table. Your baked goods should be brought to church on Friday (December 6) from 11am till 4pm. Your help, especially your attendance and letting people know about the Fair, is greatly appreciated. We are in need of anyone who could stand in for just an hour or so to provide a break for those working the tables. See you at the Christmas Fair!

## Christmas Gift Cards for Children of Families in Need

Please consider donating a Christmas gift card to help children of local families in need. A gift card of any amount will help. The most helpful gift cards are from Target and Walmart. Gift cards can be placed in the gift card basket in the back of the church or mailed to the church *through December 8*. Thank you!

### **Parish Thanksgiving Service**

There will be a Parish Thanksgiving Service on **Wednesday, November 27 at 7pm**. All are welcome to gather and together give thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us, including our parish family. Thanksgiving Day can be very busy with many details to attend to; the Parish Thanksgiving Service is a good way to make sure that thanking God is part of our Thanksgiving celebration. The Thanksgiving Eve Service will also be available online through Facebook Live, and the recorded Service will be made available following the live Service.

### **The Good Shepherd's Table Thanksgiving Day Meal**

On Thanksgiving Day (November 28) there will once again be a Thanksgiving meal served in the Church Hall at 1pm, preceded by a prayer service in the church at 12:30. All are welcome to share in this meal, which is open to the public. Please help us let others know about this opportunity, especially those who may be alone for Thanksgiving.

### **Church Service Booklet Ads Fundraiser**

One of the main fundraisers of our church is the ad section of our Sunday Service booklets. Businesses take out ads each year, which helps them and us at the same time. Please help us raise funds for our church by giving an area business the opportunity to advertise in our Sunday Service booklets. Church ads fundraiser packets can be found in the back of the church, which will guide you on how to invite businesses to advertise with us. Ads should be returned to the church by November 24. Thank you!

### **Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Ministry**

It's time once again for the "Operation Christmas Child" shoe box ministry. This is a *global* ministry where boxes filled with toys and useful items are sent to children across the world, along with messages of God's (and *our!*) love for them. Shoe boxes and information are available at the back of the church near the entrance. Filled shoe boxes can be dropped off at the church through Sunday November 24. Please include a \$10 check for shipping, made out to "Samaritan's Purse". You can also pay the shipping with a credit card online (see link below). Contact Jeane Wallace if you have questions: [jmarg2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarg2000@yahoo.com) or 508-291-2095. For more information about Operation Christmas Child, and guidelines for packing a shoe box visit: <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

### **The Good Shepherd Food Pantry to Close**

Tuesday, December 3 from 3-6pm, The Good Shepherd Food Pantry will be open for the last time. This decision was made due to the opening of the new Damiens Food Pantry facility earlier this year. About 80% of those who used to come to our Good Shepherd Pantry now go to Damien's. For more information about the closing of our food pantry, please refer to the letter Pastor Dan emailed parishioners on November 4. Until then, we are still looking for donations of 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.

### **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.

### **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. ***There will not be a mid-week Service on Wednesday, November 27.***

### **Good & Green Team Meetings**

Our monthly meetings now take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 9am in the Good Shepherd Meeting Room. 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.

### **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