



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham December 3, 2024

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

This past Sunday, we began the season of Advent, which was the first Sunday of the church liturgical calendar. Advent is a time for new beginnings. The Church year begins with four Sundays to reflect on our need for a savior, for one who can save us from that which has taken hold of us, who can save us from ourselves. In these four Sundays we reflect on the importance of Jesus in our lives, for without him we can so easily lose our way and our focus on what is most important in life.

Have you lost your way or lost your focus on the important things in life this past year? During Advent, I invite all of you to focus on Jesus and the Way of Love which he has invited us to follow. Ask God to help you to not be distracted by things that are less important, things that don't enhance your life. The more we can focus on the things that are most important, especially love, the more love will come into our lives. And the more love centered we are, the more we can appreciate the gift of love that Christmas represents.

To assist you on your journey through the Advent Season, Deacon Hilary has once again purchased daily Advent reflection booklets (thank you Deacon Hilary), they are now available in the Church. I pray that you will have a blessed Advent Season.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 8, 2024

8 AM	10 AM
<p><u>READERS:</u> JOELLA CRUZ</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> NATECIA ALFONSO</p>	<p><u>READERS:</u> JUDY ELLIS BECKY RYDER</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> CHUCK & DONNA TOLLEY</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> MAURICE PARKONEN</p> <p><u>NURSERY:</u> ELIZABETH MANDELL & ANDREA LAMONTAGNE</p>

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

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MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES](#)
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A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This coming Saturday is the *Good Shepherd Guild Christmas Fair* from 9am-2pm. Please plan to come and let others know about the Christmas Fair. If you are dropping off items for the Christmas Fair, please do so on Friday from 10:30am-5pm.

2. This is a reminder to please return your *2025 pledge form* to the church, if you have not already done so. 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. You may place your pledge form in the offertory box on Sunday or mail it to the church.

3. 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 Update

Thank you to those of you who have returned your 2025 pledge forms. As of December 1, we have received **57 pledges totaling \$115,100**. If you have not yet done so, please return your completed pledge forms to the church as soon as possible by placing them in the offering box in the church or by mailing them to the church. Extra pledge packets are available in the back of the church and on our [church website](#). Thank you!

Christmas Flower and Decoration Donations

Donations to the Church Flower Fund, on the occasion of Christmas, can be made in memory of a deceased loved one or in thanksgiving for blessings in your life. Donation forms are available at the entrances of the church and on our church website. Your donations will help us to decorate the church for the celebration of God's abiding presence in our lives. The names of those in whose name donations are made will appear in the Christmas Service Booklets. ***Please return the form and your donation to the church by Sunday, December 15.*** Thank you!

The Next Vestry Meeting

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on Thursday, December 12, 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 December 5.

Our Christmas Services

Our Worship Services in celebration of Christmas will be held on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm (Family Service with children's participation in the telling of the Christmas Story) and 8pm (Traditional Candlelight Service – with prelude music beginning at 7:40), and at 10am on Christmas Day (Traditional Service). The 8pm Service will also be on Facebook Live (beginning at 7:40pm), and a link to the recorded 8pm Christmas Eve Service will be emailed to those on our church email list following the 8pm Service.

Prayers for Healing – Sunday, December 15

As part of our Sunday Services on December 15, there will be an opportunity for you to receive prayers for healing. These prayers for healing will be available after the sermon. Along with the healing prayers, a blessing with blessed oil will be given. All are invited to come forward to receive healing prayers, since we are all in need of various kinds of healing in our lives.

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!

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!

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, December 11 and 25.***

The Good Shepherd Food Pantry Has Closed

The Good Shepherd Food Pantry has closed. The decision to close the Food Pantry 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.

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 1st and 3rd 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).

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). ***The Sunday Nursery will be closed on December 29.***

Good & Green Team: Meetings & Collection

Our monthly meetings take place on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 9-9:45am in the Church 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/>. Every 3rd Sunday of the month, the Good and Green Team collects 5 cent redeemable cans and bottles, and used sneakers; which help us raise money for sustainable efforts in our church. You can bring them in and leave them in the Church Hall before, between and after our Sunday Services. Thank you!

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), 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

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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.