



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham February 19, 2024

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? What does it mean to be faithful to God and to Jesus? Is it simply going to church on Sundays? Is it simply reading the Bible? Is it simply to pray every day, asking God to intervene in such a way as to benefit ourselves and to benefit some others who are important to us? I don't think so. Worshiping God and Jesus, reading the Bible, and praying are not enough. To be a follower of Jesus, to be faithful to God and to Jesus we must follow the teachings of Jesus, we must live as Jesus lived.

Too many who call themselves Christians, do not faithfully follow his teachings or live the way he lived. Too many are unapologetically disobedient to the commandment of love. Below is the passage from Luke's Gospel, that we will hear on Sunday. It is one of many such passages in the Gospels, which show that it is not easy to follow Jesus. It is much easier to simply go to church, read the Bible and pray every day, but these alone do not constitute faithfulness to God and to Jesus. This is what Jesus had to say about faithfulness in the Gospel passage for this coming Sunday.

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:27-38)

If we want to be faithful to God and to Jesus, if we want our country to be more "Christian," this is what it means to be more in line with the teachings of Jesus and the way he has shown us. When we do otherwise, we are being unfaithful.

We have a lot of work to do. Let us keep striving to be faithful to God and Jesus. Let us stand firm in our desire to follow Jesus, to obey his commandment of love. Let us partner with Jesus in building the Kingdom of God, and not one else's. And let us do so together, empowered by the Spirit of God.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

8 AM	10 AM
<p><u>READERS:</u> JANET DRUM</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> MICHELLE MURRAY</p>	<p><u>READERS:</u> RICH ELLIS JEAN NYMAN</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> PAT PROBERT & SCOOTER HOLCOMBE</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> MAURICE PARKONEN</p> <p><u>NURSERY:</u> DAN ANNA & BECKY HANSEN</p>

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
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A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. It is now time to sign up for the 2025 Lenten Spiritual Renewal Sessions. More information can be found below. The Lenten Spiritual Renewal Flyer can be found on our Good Shepherd Wareham [Website](#) and in the church. Please fill out the bottom portion of the flyer and return it to Pastor Dan by February 26 if you wish to participate.

2. 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

Lenten Spiritual Renewal Sessions

You are invited to participate in Good Shepherd's annual Lenten Spiritual Renewal sessions (LSRS). This year we will read and discuss the Marcus Borg book entitled "Convictions." In this book, Borg writes provocatively and compellingly on the beliefs that can deeply ground us and guide us, such as: *God is real and a mystery; salvation is more about this life than an afterlife; the Bible can be true without being literally true; Jesus's death on the cross matters—but not because he paid for our sins; God is passionate about justice and the poor; and to love God is to love like God.* We will discuss this book and our own faith beliefs as they have evolved during our lifetimes. These sessions will be offered in a small group format, beginning the week of March 9. There will be three groups, each group will meet for 5 weeks (a total of five sessions), and each session will last an hour and a half. There are both in-person and online options. Please fill out the bottom portion of the LSRS information/registration flyer, which can be found in the church and on our church [website](#). Please return the form by February 26 to the church (placing it in the LSRS return box) or directly to Pastor Dan by email (pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com).

Ash Wednesday Services – March 5

Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent, which is a time of prayer, study, and reflection; to realign our lives with the Way of Jesus, the Way of Love. The Eucharistic Services for Ash Wednesday, March 5, will begin at Noon and 7pm. The 7pm Service will also be held on Facebook Live (a link to the service will be sent out after the Live Service, by approximately 7:45). Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in the Ash Wednesday Service, which is an opportunity at the beginning of Lent to step out of the routines of our lives and acknowledge our need to re-center ourselves in the loving and merciful presence of God. Ashes will be distributed at both Services.

Pastor Dan Will Be Away

I will be on vacation from February 17-25. The Reverend Sue Lederhouse will be presiding at the Sunday Services on February 23. I will be back in my office on February 26. If you have some church-related business which cannot wait until my return, please contact our Senior Warden Joella Cruz. Her contact information can be found in the church picture directory and on the back of the Sunday Service booklets. **Pastor Dan**

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 be no Mid-week Eucharist on Wednesday, February 19.***

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**

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 generally held during the first half of our 10am Sunday Service on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. For the months of February, the Sunday School will be held on the 1st and 2nd Sunday due to the holiday this 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).

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!

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.

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

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.