



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham February 26, 2024

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

Have you ever experienced a sacred moment, when time seemed to have stood still, and you felt you were in the presence of God? An experience in which your full attention was given to someone or something; like a musical or theatrical performance of some kind, a privileged conversation, an experience in nature, a time in worship or prayer? In these experiences we might realize that God is present, that the Spirit of God surrounds us and fills us. These moments are rare, but when they happen, they can fill us with joy, wonder, love, and peace.

Although we may not have these experiences of the sacred very often, I believe God is always trying to make a connection with us. The potential for such experiences is always there, but we miss them far more often than we catch them. Why? Because we are too busy or distracted.

This coming Sunday, we will hear a story in which the disciples encountered the sacred, as they experienced the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain. This experience filled them with great joy and wonder. It was a gift to them, to help them on their journey of faith and discipleship.

Experiences of the sacred are a gift to us as well. They cannot be created, but we can be prepared to receive them when they come, by paying attention and living in the present.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

MARCH 2, 2025

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> JAN BARTON JUDY GOVONI</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> DAN ANNA & BECKY HANSEN</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> DALE WINTERS</p> <p><u>NURSERY:</u> ELIZABETH MANDELL & ANDREA LAMONTAGNE</p>

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS](#)
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MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES](#)
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[!\[\]\(3211b5d1d968fc1665909b34f9f16010_img.jpg\) Parish Website](#)

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which is March 5 this year. Our Ash Wednesday Services will be held at Noon & 7pm. The 7pm Service will also be held on Facebook Live. Look below for more information.

2. Those who signed up for the five-week Lenten Spiritual Renewal Sessions should have received an email from Pastor Dan about your group assignments and other information about the sessions. If you signed up and did not receive an email from Pastor Dan, please let him know.

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

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 8pm). 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.

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 gift 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*

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

On the first Sunday of the month we recognize, with a special blessing at our Sunday Services, those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries during that month. On Sunday, March 2, we will celebrate with those who have March birthdays and anniversaries.

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.

The Next Vestry Meeting

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on Thursday, March 13, beginning at 6:00pm. If you would like to submit possible agenda items for consideration, you can do so through Joella Cruz (Senior Warden) or Pastor Dan by March 6.

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).

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.