



# Along The Way

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

Reflections



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Good Shepherd Friends,

Lenten can be a time of reflection and self-examination. It can be a time to examine how we are living our lives and the changes we need to make in order for our lives to be more in line with the Way of Jesus. But we need to be careful when we look back at the mistakes we have made in life. I imagine that most of us are not very patient with ourselves when it comes to our mistakes. Do you ruminate over what you have said or done, even weeks later? Do you focus mostly on your failures and shortcomings?

It is good to be humble and to realize the mistake we have made. This allows us to make corrections and to seek forgiveness when we have hurt others. But it is unhealthy and unhelpful to dwell on our mistakes. When mistakes are made, we can learn from them, seek forgiveness if needed, then we need to let them go. Holding onto them only serves to drag us down and keep us from the work God is calling us to do, the work of the Kingdom of God.

Remember, you are a beloved child of God, who is called to follow the Way of Jesus and to make Jesus' way known to others through your words and your actions. This is your identity, not your mistakes.

Peace,

**Pastor Dan**

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

MARCH 23, 2025

8 AM	10 AM
<p><b><u>READERS:</u></b> JANET DRUM</p> <p><b><u>HOSPITALITY:</u></b> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><b><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u></b> JOELLA CRUZ</p>	<p><b><u>READERS:</u></b> SHERYL FACCHETTI CECILY KOST</p> <p><b><u>HOSPITALITY:</u></b> CHUCK &amp; DONNA TOLLEY</p> <p><b><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u></b> ELAINE GRAYBILL</p> <p><b><u>NURSERY:</u></b> JESSI MERRICK &amp; KERRI GALLAGHER</p>

### WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS  
CLICK HERE](#)

### MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES  
CLICK HERE](#)

[f ollow us on Facebook](#)

[🔗 arish Website](#)

### A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. If you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of **Easter Flowers**, please make them by Palm Sunday, April 13. Look below for more information.
2. The 2025 annual **Bishop's Appeal** is happening through the end of March. Look below for more information.
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

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## **Easter Flower and Decoration Donations**

Donations to the Easter Flower and Decoration Fund can be made in memory of a deceased loved one or in thanksgiving for blessings in your life. Donation envelopes/forms are available in the back of the church sanctuary and on our [church website](#). Your donations will help us to decorate the church for the celebration Easter. The names of those in whose name donations are made will appear in the Easter Service Booklets.

**Please return the form and your donation by Palm Sunday (April 13).** Thank you!

## **Children's Sunday Service – March 30**

Our next Children's Sunday Service will be held on Sunday, March 30 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.

## **Thank You for Your Continued Financial Support**

Thank you to all who are financially supporting Good Shepherd this year, especially those who made pledges for 2025. Our budget operates on a week-to-week basis, so thank you for keeping your pledge payments up to date. If you are behind on your pledge payments, please work to catch them up as you are able. If you are away for an extended amount of time, please consider mailing in your pledge payments. Again, thank you all for your financial support of the mission and ministries of the Church of the Good Shepherd!

## **Why Does the Church Look So Different During Lent?**

You may be wondering why so many things in the church are covered with purple cloth, why the large Paschal (Easter) Candle has been removed, and why the church is so simply decorated during Lent. These are visual reminders that we are in the Season of Lent. It is important that we not only "know" that it is Lent, but that we also experience and "feel" it. By simplifying our environment, we send subliminal messages to our hearts and minds that we are in the season of prayer and reflection; during which we are invited to focus our lives more deeply in God's Spirit and to reflect on what we are doing with the gift of our lives. In Lent we are encouraged to deepen our commitment to following The Way that leads to the fullness of life, as Jesus has shown us.

## **Why the Pile of Rocks in the Church?**

The pile of rocks at the entrance to the altar area of the church serves as a symbol of the burdens/anxieties/fears which distract us and keep us from living fully as God intends for us to live. Beginning the first Sunday of Lent, you are invited to write your life's burdens/anxieties/fears on the purple pieces of paper found at the back and front entrances to the church and place the folded paper onto or between the rocks. This is a way of giving them to God and trusting that God is helping us. On Good Friday the cross will be placed into the rock pile, symbolizing the transformative power of God's Love; that with God's help, our burdens/anxieties/fears can give way to new life. On Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter Season, the rock pile will be replaced by the baptismal font and the Easter Candle, symbolic of our new life in Christ.

## **The 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal**

As a diocesan community, we have been asked to support the 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal. In this year's Appeal, Bishop Julia Whitworth highlights three areas of our life together: Strategic Assistant Pastors, Collaborative Ministries, and Equipping Churches for Growth: "Each of us, in this generation, is called to give to the witness of the Church in our own time, both locally in our worshipping communities and collectively in our diocese to strengthen and expand the work to which God calls us." *The Rt. Rev. Julia E.*

*Whitworth* **CLICK HERE** for more information. Please make your donations, as you are able, by March 31. You may donate directly to the Bishop's Appeal through the link above, or by placing your donations (checks made out to "Bishop's Annual Appeal") in an envelope marked Bishop's Appeal and placing the envelope in the offertory box in the church. Thank you.

### **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 Wednesday Eucharist on March 26.***

### **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](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)). ***Because there will be a Children's Service on March 30, the Sunday Nursery will not be open on March 30.***

### **Good & Green Team: Meetings & Collection**

Our monthly meetings take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

### **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***

### **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.

### **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

### **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.

### **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.