



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham April 2, 2024

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

We are quickly moving through the season of Lent, which is our time to renew our faith and recenter our lives in God and the Way of Jesus. How are you doing with that? Have you been recentering your life? Did you start but were distracted and haven't followed through?

We basically have two more weeks of Lent. Let us keep focused with ***prayer*** each day (5-10 minutes, at the start of the day is often best), with ***fasting*** from that which is unhealthy for you and not of God (especially the noise and interruptions of news feeds throughout our day), and with ***alms giving*** which means paying attention to the needs of others.

Lent will soon be over and we will be celebrating the gift of new life on Easter Sunday. That new life will mean a lot more to us if we have done some work strengthening our spiritual lives. I encourage you to stay focused on God and the Way of Jesus for the next couple weeks. It can make a real positive difference in your life.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE APRIL 6, 2025	
8 AM	10 AM
<u>READERS:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH <u>HOSPITALITY:</u> MIKE ALFONSO <u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> MICHELLE MURRAY	<u>READERS:</u> JO-ANN FINN CECILY KOST <u>HOSPITALITY:</u> JUDY GOVONI & RICHIE BALANCA <u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> MAURICE PARKONEN <u>NURSERY:</u> S.G. PRESTON & KERRI GALLAGHER

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
CLICK HERE](#)

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A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This coming Sunday, April 6, is a *Sunday School* Sunday. Look below for more information.
2. This coming Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be a prayer and blessing at both Services for all those who are celebrating their *birthdays and anniversaries* in the month of April. 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](#)



Reduce and Reuse Tips for April, “Earth Month”

The **Good & Green Team** is offering some tips for how we can care for God’s Good Creation by reducing our consumption of products, especially single-use plastics like water bottles and plastic bags.

Each week in our newsletter we will be offering ideas for all of us to consider and maybe adapt to our lifestyle. This week’s tip is from an article in the New York Times by Jancee Dunn titled *“How to stop buying stuff you don’t need”*

Make purchasing less convenient

Shopping has become a “frictionless experience,” allowing you to buy things at a touch of a button. So, creating friction will help you buy less. One way to do this is to delete your credit card information from your accounts on online shops so that it takes longer to make a purchase. “Having to get up, get your wallet, dislodge your credit card, and tap the number in is enough time to take a breath and think: ‘Do I really need this? What the heck am I going to do with this?’” And block any emails, texts or push notifications from retailers. “You’re not Banana Republic’s emergency contact, so why are you allowing them to message you at all hours of the day?”

Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

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, April 6, we will celebrate with those who have April birthdays and anniversaries.

The Next Vestry Meeting

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on Thursday, April 10, 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 April 3.

Palm Sunday Focus

Palm Sunday is on April 13. As is our custom at Good Shepherd, on Palm Sunday we focus our attention on the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and we do not read the Passion Story. The Passion Story will be read in parts on Good Friday.

Passion Story Readers Needed

The Passion Story will be read in parts on Good Friday, April 18. If you would like to participate in the reading of the Passion Story, there will be a sign-up list on Palm Sunday, April 13.

Donations For Our Good Shepherd Easter Egg Hunt

In a few short weeks, we will be celebrating Easter. Many of us likely remember the joyful day as children because we got to have an Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to help us make that possible for our children, please consider filling a dozen plastic Easter eggs with individually wrapped candy or stickers. The plastic easter eggs can be found in the back of the church in zip-lock bags, please return them to the church in the zip-

lock bags so we can reuse the bags next year. A basket will be placed at the Church's back entrance to collect the eggs and we need to have them by Palm Sunday, April 13 (we will also accept monetary donations to help purchase extra eggs and candy). The Easter egg hunt will begin after the 10:00 Service on Easter Sunday. Thanking you in advance for any assistance in helping make the Easter Egg Hunt a success!

Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter egg hunt following the 10am Service on Easter Sunday, April 20, on the Church's front lawn. Children should bring their own basket or pail for collecting eggs. We will begin with a hunt for children ages 1-5 and follow with a hunt for the older children. If the weather does not permit us to be outside, fear not, we will have an Easter egg hunt inside. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Mandell.

Invite Someone to Church for Easter

Please consider inviting, and even bringing, someone to church for one of our Easter Services. There are many family members, friends, and neighbors who will not be worshipping in a church on Easter. For some, their absence from church is not by decision, but because they have no church to go to, and they will not be asked to participate in an Easter Service. Please reach out to the people you know and invite them to participate in one of our Easter Services, even offer to pick them up or meet them at the door of the church. Let's make sure no one who wants to come to church to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus is home alone on Easter Sunday!

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

We would like to invite every household to host coffee hour, which follows our 10am Sunday Service. You can host by yourselves or join with another household. Coffee hour hosts are asked to bring a quart size carton of half-n-half, a half-gallon carton of juice, and some snacks to feed 6-8 children and about 30 adults (for example: cake, pastry, cookies, brownies, cheese and crackers, fruit, cut up veggies, etc.). Hosts arrive at the church by 9:15 to set up for coffee hour. Judy Govoni will be there to assist you. Hosts are also asked to clean up after coffee hour. The idea is that each household would host coffee hour about every three or four months. The sign-up list can be found on the food table during coffee hour.

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!

Holy Week Services

You are invited to come and journey with Jesus during Holy Week this year. Come just as you are and allow God to give you the new life God has in store for you. Come, be fed by Jesus at the table of the last supper and satisfy the hunger of your spirit. Come, experience the power of God's love and renew your commitment to follow Jesus. Come and renew your life, your faith, and your spirit.

Palm Sunday (4/13): 8am & 10am Palm Sunday Services

Maundy Thursday (4/17): 7pm Eucharistic Service

Good Friday (4/18): 7pm Passion Service with Communion

Easter Sunday (4/20): 8am & 10am Easter Services (music at both Services)

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 Service on Wednesday, April 16 (Holy Week).***

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). *(There will be no Sunday School on April 20 (Easter Sunday)).*

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 not be open on April 13 (Palm Sunday) and April 20 (Easter Sunday).*

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! *For the month of April, the Good & Green Team meeting and redeemable bottles and cans collection will be held on April 27.*

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), 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.