



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham May 28, 2024

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

In the Gospel passage we will hear on Sunday, Jesus prays to God that we might "be one." What does he mean by that? What does it mean to be one? Does it mean that we must be the same? I don't think so. Why would Jesus want us to be the same when God created us to be different. I believe that our diversity is God's gift to us. What would a world be like if we were all the same. With diversity comes beauty and insight and wonder.

When Jesus prayed that we might be one, I believe he was praying for unity in what is most important to God and to Jesus. I believe he wanted for us to be united in God's love. He wanted us to be united in the Way of Love.

The world would be a much better place if we could embrace our diversity and see it as a gift to be welcomed and focus our energy on being united in the Way of Love.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE JUNE 1, 2025	
8 AM	10 AM
<u>READERS:</u> JANET DRUM <u>HOSPITALITY MINISTER:</u> MIKE ALFONSO <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> MICHELLE MURRAY	<u>READERS:</u> JAN BARTON JUDY GOVONI <u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> PAT PROBERT & SCOOTER HOLCOMBE <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> JUDY ELLIS <u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> JESSI MERRICK & KERRI GALLAGHER <u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)</u> SCOOTER HOLCOMBE & KAREN CLARK

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
CLICK HERE](#)

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[!\[\]\(a870788d6ed9b8fd294b7654a8c8526b_img.jpg\) Parish Website](#)

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This coming Sunday, June 1, is the first Sunday of the month. At both Services we will celebrate with a prayer and blessing those who have birthdays and anniversaries in the month of June.
2. This coming Sunday, June 1, is a Sunday School Sunday. The final day of Sunday School until September will be on June 15.
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

The Next Vestry Meeting

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

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, June 1, we will celebrate with those who have June birthdays and anniversaries.

The 2025 Race Amity Day Celebration

Race Amity celebrates and promotes friendship between people of different races. Acknowledging and promoting racial harmony is vital for building trust and dismantling the legacies of discrimination. This year's Race Amity celebration in our area is being held on Sunday June 8 (the second Sunday in June) from 11:30am-1:00pm, at Buzzards Bay Park on Main Street, Buzzards Bay (at the pavilion across from the train station). Bourn-Wareham Race Amity is happy to announce that the guest speaker this year is Wareham native Dr. Vanessa Britto, Associate Vice President for Campus Life, Executive Director of Student Health and Wellness, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University. Click [HERE](#) to view a documentary film (16 minutes) about the Race Amity Movement. I encourage you to watch it to get more information about Race Amity, and I hope you will join me in participating in the Race Amity celebration on June 8. *Pastor Dan*

Food Pantry Wish List

Church of the Good Shepherd is partnering with Damien's Place Food Pantry by provided needed items for those using the pantry. These items are difficult for Damien's to purchase from the Greater Boston Food Bank. Damien's is looking specifically for cereal and jars of jelly. Donations can be left in the baskets in the back of the church on Sunday mornings or dropped off at the Church Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm. Thank you!

A Wareham Walks for the Homeless Thank You

Sunday, May 18, was the 3rd annual Wareham Walks for the Homeless fundraiser in support of the works of Turning Point. There were approximately **75 walkers**, 55 had sponsor sheets. Of the 55 walkers with sponsor sheet, 15 of them were from our Good Shepherd community. So far, we have raised **\$11,080**, which is fantastic. The proceeds from the walk will benefit Turning Point and its work in support of the homeless and the near homeless in our greater Wareham community. Thank you to all who participated in the Walk as walkers, sponsors, and volunteers!

Exchanging the Sign of Peace During Sunday Services

The sign of peace is symbolic of our need to be reconciled with one another before we receive communion. The sign of peace is not meant to be a time to exchange greetings and catch up with everyone present in the church that day. We can do this at coffee hour. At the sign of peace, we turn to those seated around us (not the whole church) and symbolically exchange a sign of our desire to be at peace with them and with others. That sign of peace can be a verbal "peace be with you" with a handshake, if both persons are okay with the physical contact, or it can simply be a verbal exchange. If you are not okay with a handshake you can fold your hands in front of you and simply say "peace be with you." Please be respectful of those who, for whatever reason, do not want to shake hands with you. And please, do not use a hug as a sign of peace. This may seem strange for me to say to a community that speaks of God's love every week, but hugs can be uncomfortable and even intimidating to some, especially visitors and guests. If we choose to hug some but not others, it can have the appearance that some are more included in our community than others. And it is hard to turn down a hug when someone reaches out their arms, without possibly offending them. You are welcome to greet your friends with a hug before or after the Service, but please refrain from doing so when our community is symbolically exchanging a sign of peace.

The Good Shepherd Guild Craft Nights

Every Monday evening the Good Shepherd Guild holds “Craft Night” in the Church Hall, which begins at 6pm. The crafts are later sold at the Guild Christmas Craft Fair in December. All are welcome to join in support of this fundraiser for the church, and to enjoy one another’s company in the process. No experience is needed (really), just a willingness to help. We hope to see you there.

The Wareham Recycling Center – Volunteers Needed

The Wareham Recycling Center is seeking volunteers to help organize their Book Shed and Swap Shed. Duties would include greeting donors and receiving items for the sheds, alphabetizing books, cleaning and organizing, and interacting with the public.

The Center is open Wednesdays 1-3 and Saturdays 9-12. Volunteers could work one day or both...or it would be a perfect “job sharing” opportunity. Benefits: you get first pick of some great “stuff”, and you'll work with some awesome volunteers while helping to save the planet! If interested, reach out to Amanda Cobb at warehamrecycling@gmail.com.

Purchase Flowers in May and Help Us Feed the Hungry

Our Good Shepherd’s Table Thursday meals has once again been selected to benefit from Stop & Shop’s Bloomin’ 4 Good Program, created to fight hunger across the communities they serve. For the month of May, a bouquet in the sleeve marked “Bloomin’ 4 Good” from the Stop & Shop at Wareham will brighten a home or make someone’s day while also directing a donation to Good Shepherd’s Table. So, if you’re looking to buy flowers in May, this is a way to help us feed the hungry as well.

Sunday Flower Donations

Please consider donating for the purchase of altar flowers for our Sunday Services in memory of deceased loved ones or in thanksgiving of blessings in your life. More information about how this works can be found in the “Sunday Flower Donations” envelopes which are located in the back of the church, and on our “Church of the Good Shepherd Wareham” website. Please check the Sunday Flowers board in the back of the church, or call the parish office (508-295-2840), to determine which upcoming Sundays are available in 2024.

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.

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.

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 final Sunday School until September will be held on June 15.*

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 May 25 (Memorial Day weekend). The final Sunday Nursery until September will be on June 15.*

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

Wareham Media (WM) Sunday Service Coverage

Wareham Media, the Wareham local access channel, will now be broadcasting recordings of our Sunday Services. The recorded Services will air a week later. WM 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.