



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham September 24, 2025

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

What are your greatest hopes and dreams for yourself? What do you long for in your life? What is most important to you? I don't imagine that what is most important to you is wealth or possessions or politics. These can never really satisfy our deepest hungers. Yet, if we are not careful, these things can begin to control our lives.

I believe that what is most important is to love and to be loved. What is most important is our loving relationships. How blessed we are to have people who we love and who love us. I don't imagine that at the end of our lives we will want to be surrounded by our money or earthly possessions, I imagine we will want to be surrounded by our loved ones.

Who are the people who are most important to you? How much time recently have you devoted to them? Relationships grow stronger when we nurture them with our time, with our being truly present to one another, and relationships fade when they are neglected.

In these times of great distraction, with so many wanting to capture your mind and heart, I encourage you to focus on those who are most important to you. Let them know, through your words and through your presence, that you care about them and that you love them. There is nothing more important than that.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 28, 2025	
8 AM	10 AM
<u>READERS:</u> JANET DRUM <u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> KAREN CLARK <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> NATECIA ALFONSO	<u>READERS:</u> JUDY ELLIS CECILY KOST <u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> DAN ANNA & BECKY HANSEN <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> RICH ELLIS <u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> ALLY PRESTON & JOELLA CRUZ <u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)</u> THE PRESTONS & FRAN & RICHIE

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
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MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
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A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. If you would like to participate in the *Book Study* being led by Pastor Dan, please sign up by October 5. Look below for more information.

2. October 5 is the *Blessing of the Animals* Service at Noon. 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

Fall Book Study

You are invited to participate in a five-week Book Study of Adam Hamilton's book entitled "Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times." I believe most of us would agree that fear, anxiety, and worry permeate our lives today. This book is Hamilton's response. Drawing on recent research, inspiring real-life examples, and fresh biblical insight, Hamilton uses a mixture of facts and faith to help readers understand and counter fears related to such outsize perils as death and illness, as well as the everyday anxieties all of us encounter. Hamilton shows how we can develop sustaining spiritual practices and embrace Jesus' words: "Do not be afraid." The book study is being offered via Zoom on Tuesdays (October 14 – November 11) from 6:00-7:30pm. It is also being held in-person on Wednesdays (October 15 – November 12) from 6:00 – 7:30pm. Please let me know that you are interested in participating in the book study by signing up in the back of the church or by emailing me (pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com) by **October 5**. Please indicate if you plan to participate in the Tuesday Zoom sessions or the Wednesday in-person sessions. The book can be ordered from any bookseller. If you would like me to purchase one for you, please let me know. If you cannot pay for the book, scholarship money is available. Once you sign up, I will be in touch with you concerning details of the book study. For now, please do not start reading the book until the page assignments have been sent to you.

Pastor Dan

The Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 5, there will be a Blessing of the Animals at Good Shepherd. The blessing will take place on the church lawn, next to the paved parking lot, beginning at Noon. All are invited to bring their animal companions to the church for the blessing (*for safety purposes, please have your pet leashed or in a carrier*). If they are not able to be present due to their shy or aggressive personalities, please feel free to bring a picture of them for the blessing. Children of all ages are welcome to bring stuffed animal friends for a blessing as well. All are welcome, church members and non-church members alike, to this celebration of our beloved animal companions. This is a free event. In the event of inclement weather, the blessing will take place in the Good Shepherd Church Hall.

Sunday School

The Good Shepherd Sunday School is held during the first half of our 10am Sunday Service, usually 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 found in the church and can be downloaded from our Good Shepherd website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org). ***The next Sunday School Sundays: October 5 & 19.***

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 found in the church and can be downloaded from our Good Shepherd website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org). ***The Sunday Nursery will not be open on October 12 due to it being a holiday weekend, and October 26 due to there being a Children's Service that day.***

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!

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

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. Every household is invited 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 and more information can be found on the food table during coffee hour.

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!

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.

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 October 1 & 8.***

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."

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.