



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham December 17, 2025

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

Our time of Advent preparation is coming to a close, but it's never too late to open our hearts to receive the gift of God's transforming love. God wants to make us whole and fill us with the peace that only God can provide, but we must trust God and let God into our lives. Is there something in your life that is getting in the way? Ask God to help you to let go and to let God in.

In this season of Advent waiting, let us recommit ourselves to walking in the light of the Lord. Let us choose the way of Jesus. Let us live as children of the light, who trust in God's love and guidance.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE DECEMBER 21, 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> JO-ANN FINN CECILY KOST <u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> CHUCK & DONNA TOLLEY <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> RICH ELLIS <u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> NO NURSERY <u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)</u> GOOD & GREEN TEAM

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

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MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
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A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This evening, December 17 beginning at 6pm, is the annual *Homeless Persons Memorial Service* held at Good Shepherd. Look below for more information.
2. Thank you to all those who have submitted their *2026 Pledge Sheets*. If you have not already done so, please either place them in one of the church offertory boxes and mail them to the church office. Look below for more information.
3. Look below for the *schedule of our Christmas Services*.
4. Remember, *if you are not feeling well*, please do not participate in the Christmas Services in-person. You can participate in the 8pm Christmas Eve Service on Facebook Live or use the Service link I will email those on our church email distribution list, following the 8pm Service (between 9:30 and 10pm). Illness is not something we want to give as a gift for Christmas.
5. 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

Homeless Persons Memorial Day Service

On Wednesday, December 17, beginning at 6:00pm, there will be a Memorial Service held at Good Shepherd for the unhoused members of our greater Wareham community and beyond who died this past year. This Memorial Service is purposefully held when the nights are longest, reminding us of the hardship of winter for those who are unhoused. All are welcome to participate in this Service as we recognize those who died and commend them to God. The Service will take about 30 minutes.

Annual Meeting Reports

This is a reminder to all church ministry/committee leaders that your annual meeting reports are due by January 11. Please send them electronically to Cathi Maurice (goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com). It is important that these reports be received by January 11, so the annual meeting journal can be produced and given out the Sunday before the annual meeting. Our Office Manager is with us a limited number of hours, so please make sure the reports are submitted on time. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 1. The annual meeting will also be held on Zoom. Thank you! **Pastor Dan**

Our Christmas Services

Our Worship Services in celebration of Christmas will be held on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm (Family Service) and 8pm (Traditional Candlelight Service – with prelude music beginning at 7:30), and at 10AM on Christmas Day (Traditional Service). The 8pm Service will also be on Facebook Live (beginning at 7:30), and a link to the recorded 8pm Christmas Eve Service will be emailed to those on our church email list following the 8pm Service. ***If you are not feeling well, please stay home and participate through our 8pm Facebook Live Service or through our recorded 8pm Service (a link will be sent to those on our email list after the 8pm Service, by approximately 9:30pm, which you can watch at any time thereafter).***

Christmas Offering

Please consider giving a Christmas gift to The Church of the Good Shepherd this year in the way of an extra financial contribution. This time of year, we give gifts to those we love, please consider giving a gift to yourself and others through a contribution to your Good Shepherd faith community. You can do this by placing a contribution in your Christmas envelope (or another envelope marked “Christmas Offering”) and placing it in the church offertory box on Christmas Eve/Day or the Sunday before or after Christmas, or by mailing it to the parish office. Thank you!

Bring Someone to a Christmas Service

Do you have loved ones visiting with you on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? Are there people you know who don't have a church affiliation or have been estranged from their present church? Are there people you know who will be alone on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? If so, I encourage you to invite them to join you for one of our Christmas Worship Services. They promise to be beautiful celebrations of the birth of our Savior and would be a wonderful time to experience our faith community “in all its glory.” Someone out there may be waiting for your invitation! **Pastor Dan**

Discretionary Fund Donations

Good Shepherd has a Pastor's Discretionary Fund. It is from the Discretionary Fund that Pastor Dan is able to assist those in need. There are envelopes at the entrances of the church for you to use to make donations to the Discretionary Fund. Place your donations in one of these envelopes and place the envelope in one of the offertory boxes in the church, or you can mail the donation to the church office with a note that the donation is for the Discretionary Fund. Thank you to those who have contributed to the Discretionary Fund over the years. Those who have benefited from your donations are always very grateful.

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, jars of jelly, and juice**. 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!

Please Help Good Shepherd's Table Serve Our Neighbors

Every Thursday for the past 25 years, Good Shepherd's Table has served a community meal (4:30pm). We need help with the tasks needed to make this happen and so we have created a monthly sign-up sheet for the tasks each week. No job takes longer than 45 minutes and you can help set up, plate food, serve food, or clean the dining room after the meal. We especially need help cleaning the dining room after the meal. For more details and to sign up, please reach out to Deacon Hilary. You can choose any week you are available. Thank you in advance for your help!

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. In January and February, due to the MLK holiday and school vacation week, Sunday School will be held on the first two Sundays of the month. The Sunday School is located in the church meeting room, in the office area. All Sunday School volunteers undergo CORI background checks and receive 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). ***There will not be Sunday School on December 21. The next Sunday School Sundays will be January 4 & 11.***

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 December 21 & 28.***

Please Stay Home When You're Not Feeling Well

This is a reminder that if you have or may have covid, the flu, 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. Please stay home, rest, and participate online.

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!

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 December 24.***

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.