



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham December 3, 2025

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

I hope you are well and aware of the loving and peaceful presence of God in your life.

This past Sunday we heard from the prophet Isaiah "come, let us walk in the light of the Lord." Isaiah was calling on God's people to choose to live in the ways of God and not to be influenced by fear. The ways of God bring light into our lives and fear brings darkness.

How much influence does fear have on your life? How many of your actions and decisions are based on fear? How much of your mental, emotional and even physical energy is given over to fear? Fear has a way of diminishing or even extinguishing the light of God's love from our lives. Remember that the light of God's love is more powerful than any darkness; and with God by our side, fear has no power over us.

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 3, 2025 | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 AM | 10 AM |
| <p><u>READERS:</u> JOELLA CRUZ</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> CHERYL DENTON</p> | <p><u>READERS:</u> JUDY ELLIS BECKY RYDER</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> PAT PROBERT & SCOOTER HOLCOMBE</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> ELAINE GRAYBILL</p> <p><u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> KERRI GALLAGHER & MICHELLE MURRAY</p> <p><u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)</u> THE GUILD</p> |

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
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MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
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A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. Saturday, December 6 is the *Good Shepherd Guild Christmas Fair* from 9-2. Please plan to drop in to shop, and please let your friends and family know about it. Baked items and used Christmas decorations can be dropped off after 10am on Friday. Look below for more information.
2. This coming Sunday there will be *prayers for healing* at both Services. Look below for more information.
3. This coming Sunday is a **Sunday School Sunday**. Look below for more information.
4. Donations of *Christmas Gift Cards* for local children of families in need can be dropped off at the church through **December 7**. Look below for more information.
5. 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.
6. 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

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, December 7, we will celebrate with those who have December 7 birthdays and anniversaries.

Christmas Gift Cards for Children of Families in Need

Please consider donating a Christmas gift card to help children of local families in need. A gift card of any amount will help. The most helpful gift cards are from Target and Walmart. Gift cards can be placed in the gift card basket in the back of the church or mailed to the church **through December 7**. Thank you!

Christmas Flower and Decoration Donations

Donations to the Church Flower Fund, on the occasion of Christmas, can be made in memory of a deceased loved one(s) or in thanksgiving for blessings in your life. Donation envelopes/forms are available at the entrances of the church and on our church website. Your donations will help us to decorate the church for the celebration of God's abiding presence in our lives. The names of those in whose name donations are made will appear in the Christmas Service Booklets. ***Please return the form and your donation to the church by Sunday, December 14.*** Thank you!

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 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. Pastors from Wareham area churches will be participating in the Service. At the Service, there will be an opportunity to donate sleeping bags (cold weather rated) and tents (four-person size preferred), or to make a financial gift so these items can be purchased and given to our unhoused community members who need them.

The Guild Christmas Fair Information and Requests

The Guild Christmas Fair is being held on Saturday, December 6, from 9am– 2pm. We encourage all parishioners to come and shop the day of the Fair. We could still use a few volunteers to help out that day, even if just for a short while, to relieve workers who would also like to enjoy shopping at the fair. As our raffle letter stated, please return your raffle tickets to the Church no later than early Saturday morning. We have more tickets if you need them! We would also appreciate more of the following:

- Baked goods and/or frozen entrees (NOTE: every item must be prepackaged and marked with contents (including nuts, gluten-free, etc.)
- Used Christmas Items (in working condition)
- New and (gently) used Jewelry, Scarves and Hats

Please deliver these items early Friday morning (after 10am) for pricing and display. Thank you for pitching in to make this a fun and profitable fair for our church! ***The Good Shepherd Guild***

A Guild Christmas Fair Baked Goods Request

The Good Shepherd Guild is looking for homemade baked goods donations. All baked goods need to be individually wrapped and labeled, including a note regarding potential allergen information, (e.g. "contains nuts", "gluten free", "dairy free"). Please deliver baked goods on Friday from 10:30am – 4pm, if possible, and no later than early Saturday morning. The Good Shepherd Guild appreciates your help to make this another fun and profitable fair.

Our Christmas Services

Our Worship Services in celebration of Christmas will be held on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm (Family Service with children's participation in the telling of the Christmas Story) and 8pm (Traditional Candlelight Service – with prelude music beginning at 7:40), and at 10am on Christmas Day (Traditional Service). The 8pm Service will also be on Facebook Live (beginning at 7:40pm), and a link to the recorded 8pm Christmas Eve Service will be emailed to those on our church email list following the 8pm Service.

Prayers for Healing – Sunday, December 7

As part of our Sunday Services on December 7, there will be an opportunity for you to receive prayers for healing. These prayers for healing will be available after the sermon. Along with the healing prayers, a blessing with blessed oil will be given. All are invited to come forward to receive healing prayers, since we are all in need of various kinds of healing in our lives.

2026 Stewardship Pledge Drive

Our Good Shepherd 2026 Stewardship Pledge Drive has begun. Thank you to those who have returned your pledge forms. If you have not yet done so, please return your completed pledge forms to the church and place them in one of the offering boxes. If you will not be in church, please mail in your completed pledge form to the church. Extra pledge packets are available in the back of the church and on our **church website**. Thank you!

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. 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 Sunday is December 7. There will not be Sunday School on December 21.**

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 10 & 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