



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham January 7, 2026

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

On Sunday, January 11, we will commemorate the baptism of Jesus, which marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist was a purification ritual that John performed to mark a time of re-dedication of one's life to God. For those who were baptized it was a new beginning. For Jesus it was a confirmation of who he was and what he was called to do with his life.

Baptism in the church also marks a new beginning in our lives. This is especially made clear in the baptism of adults, who are taking on a new identity in Christ and beginning a new life following The Way of Jesus. It also means leaving behind one's former life that is not compatible with the Gospel of Jesus.

As we commemorate Jesus' baptism, let us be reminded of the life we live in Christ. Let us be reminded that we belong to God's family and are called every day to dedicate our lives to following The Way of Jesus. Also, let us reflect on the aspects of our lives that are not aligned with The Way of Jesus, and make the necessary change. To help us to do this, we will renew our baptismal vows during both Services on Sunday.

See you Sunday.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE JANUARY 11, 2025	
8 AM	10 AM
<p><u>READERS:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> MIKE ALFONSO</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> JOELLA CRUZ</p>	<p><u>READERS:</u> JUDY GOVONI JAN BARTON</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> CHUCK & DONNA TOLLEY</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> KATHY DOYLE</p> <p><u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> DAN ANNA & BECKY HANSEN</p> <p><u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)</u> LINDA MATONDI & KERRI GALLAGHER THIBEDAU</p> <p><u>SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS</u> VIVI MARTY-PAQUIN KARIN RECUPERO</p>

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
CLICK HERE](#)

1. This coming Sunday, at the 10:00 Service, there will be *Sunday School*. Look below for more information.

2. 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.

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Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

The Next Vestry Meeting

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on Thursday, January 8, 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 January 1.

2026 Good Shepherd Picture Directory

We are updating our Good Shepherd picture directory. This is an opportunity for those not currently in our picture directory to be added, and for those in the current 2025 Picture Directory to update their contact information and submit a new picture. Those in the 2025 picture directory will be sent an email from our Good Shepherd office manager (Cathi Maurice) asking you to verify your contact information. Please do so promptly. Those not in the current picture directory will be contacted asking for information and for a picture of themselves for the 2026 Good Shepherd picture directory. The picture directory is a great way to get to know the names of other members of our church. Please submit your pictures electronically emailing them to Cathi, our office manager goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com.

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.

Annual Meeting

The Church of the Good Shepherd Annual Meeting will be held in the church on Sunday, February 1, following the 10am Service. There will be no 8am Service on February 1, as we come together to worship as one community. The annual meeting is a very important gathering for our church, and all members of the church are encouraged to attend. Leadership elections will take place as well as a presentation and discussion on the vision of the church as we move through 2026 and beyond. The Annual Meeting Journal, containing our financial and ministerial reports for the past year (2025) and our church budget for 2026, will be available in the church and on our Good Shepherd Wareham website by the last Sunday of January. The annual meeting also will be held on Zoom. A Zoom Link for the annual meeting will be sent to all parishioners a few days before the annual meeting.

Only One Sunday Service on February 1

On Annual Meeting Sunday, February 1, there will be only one church Service, which will begin at 10:00am. There will not be an 8am Service on February 1. Please make a note of this change. Approximately 20 minutes following the 10am Service, the Parish Annual Meeting will be held in the church, followed by coffee hour in the church hall.

Outgoing Church Leaders – Thank You

We give thanks to the following members of the vestry, whose time on the vestry will come to an end at our annual meeting on February 1. Thank you, Jan Barton, Kelly Churbuck, and Sean Preston (each served a three-year term).

2026 Annual Meeting - Leadership Nominations

The Vestry nominating committee is nominating the following parishioners to serve on the Vestry. The election for these positions will be held at our February 1 Annual Meeting and will take effect immediately.

Senior Warden – Joella Cruz

Junior Warden – Karen Clark

Treasurer – Becky Hansen

Clerk of the Vestry – Rich Ellis

To serve 3-year Vestry terms: Chuck Tolley, Elaine Graybill, and Ally Preston

The following two members have been nominated to serve a one-year term as Good Shepherd's Delegates to Diocesan Convention, and serve as the Good Shepherd Representatives to the Cape & Islands Deanery Assembly

(effective February 1): Joella Cruz & Kathy Doyle.

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 2025.

Prayer Blanket Ministry

As a way of reaching out to those who are ill or struggling in some way, parishioners have knitted blankets to be given to those who can benefit from receiving these gifts of warmth and comfort. Pastor Dan blesses each blanket 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 Blanket Ministry Coordinator) or Pastor Dan if you would like a prayer blanket 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 beautiful prayer blankets. 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.

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.

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). *The next Sunday School Sundays will be January 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 be closed on January 18, due to it being a holiday weekend.*

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!

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, broadcasts recordings of our Sunday Services. The recorded Services 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.