



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham February 11, 2026

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

Jesus called his disciples to a higher righteousness. He doesn't want us to simply be as loving, as merciful and as just as the world around us, which is often lacking. He calls us to be as loving, as merciful and as just as he was. He expects that his disciples will stand out in a crowd. He wants the light of God's love to shine brightly through the words and actions of our lives so that the kingdom of God can be revealed. In other words, Jesus doesn't want half-hearted Christians. He challenges us to be fully committed to living The Way of Love. How have you been responding to your call to discipleship lately? How have you responded today? Has the Way of Love guided your words and your actions today?

When we do give our whole heart to discipleship, not only is the world around us brighter, but our own lives grow brighter as well. So, let's remember to be kind, loving, compassionate, merciful and just each day. Let's allow the light of God's love to shine brightly through our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 15, 2026	
8 AM	10 AM
<u>READERS:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH <u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> MIKE ALFONSO <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> JOELLA CRUZ	<u>READERS:</u> RICH ELLIS JEAN NYMAN <u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> CHUCK & DONNA TOLLEY <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> DALE WINTERS <u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> NO NURSERY <u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)</u> THE GOOD & GREEN TEAM <u>SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS</u> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
CLICK HERE](#)

[!\[\]\(339a16584d5da0f0a3ca4e9ec17bf6a1_img.jpg\) **Follow us on Facebook**](#)

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

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This coming Sunday, from 9-9:40, will be the rescheduled opportunity to gather in the Church Hall to begin a conversation about *our call to follow the Way of Jesus at this time in our country*. How are you feeling? What are you/we called to do? This gathering is not about partisan politics; it is a discipleship gathering. We are first and foremost disciples of Jesus and the Way of Love. This is the start of a conversation, and we will allow the Holy Spirit to guide us.
2. The *Good and Green Team* will be meeting from 8:45-9:00 in the church meeting room on Sunday morning. This will allow Good and Green Team members to participate in the conversation about our call to follow the Way of Jesus at this time in our country, which will begin at 9:00.
3. Our *Lenten Spiritual Renewal Sessions* will begin the week of March 1. Look Below for more information.
4. 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](#)



February is the month of LOVE!

Love your planet and love your body

Once again, this Sunday is “**Good & Green Sunday!**” Thank you in advance for your donations of cans, bottles, sneakers and funds to support our sustainable initiatives. You can use the **PayPal link** on our church web site to donate funds, just designate Good and Green and we can put your donation to good use. **Our Good & Green Team is meeting this Sunday at 8:45 for a short meeting before Pastor Dan’s gathering at 9 AM.** We will be offering our usual yummy and healthy goodies for coffee hour too.

The health of our world and our environment also means caring for our own health. Plastics and the proliferation of micro-plastics in our water and food is harmful to our earth and our bodies. In February, we will be concentrating on how to love ourselves, each other and our world by cutting down on our purchase and use of single-use plastics to keep them out of the waste streams.

What You Can Do: The best way to keep plastic out of the ocean is to avoid creating it in the first place. While one person can’t solve the plastic pollution crisis alone, changing our habits together does make a difference. Here are some ways to keep your plastic waste out of waterways and oceans:

Say no to single-use plastics when you can. The Oceanic Society suggests carrying reusable items like grocery bags, produce bags, water bottles, utensils, coffee cups, and straws.

Recycle the right way. Many curbside recycling programs get plastics mixed with non-recyclable items, which end up in landfills. Check your local recycling rules to make sure you’re doing it right, since guidelines can be very different depending on where you live. If you’re not sure, it’s better to leave it out than to recycle something that doesn’t belong.

Pick products with less packaging. When you shop, look for items with little or no plastic, or with biodegradable packaging. Many companies now offer concentrated formulas, refills, and package-free options to help cut down on packaging waste.

Watch out for microplastics. Synthetic clothes release tiny fibers every time you wash them, and about 9% of ocean microplastics come from these fibers. Try wearing natural-fiber clothing, washing synthetic items less often, using a washing machine filter, or washing clothes in the National Resources Defense Council-endorsed Guppyfriend bag to catch the fibers.

Choose companies that work to reduce plastic. Support businesses that use recycled materials, offer refills, and take responsibility for their packaging from start to finish. What you buy shows companies that you want more sustainable options.

Thank you for your support and everything you do to protect God’s good and green creation.

Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

Following the Way of Jesus at This Time in Our Country- Scheduled for Sunday

Last Sunday this gathering was postponed due to the winter storm and cold. This coming Sunday, from 9-9:40, will be the rescheduled an opportunity to gather in the Church Hall to begin a conversation about our call to follow the Way of Jesus at this time in our country. How are you feeling? What are you/we called to do? This gathering is not about partisan politics; it is a discipleship gathering. We are first and foremost disciples of Jesus and the Way of Love. This is the start of a conversation, and we will allow the Holy Spirit to guide us moving forward.

Ash Wednesday Services – February 18

Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent, which is a time of prayer, study, and reflection; to realign our lives with the Way of Jesus, the Way of Love. The Eucharistic Services for Ash Wednesday, February 18, will begin at Noon and 7pm. The 7pm Service will also be held on Facebook Live (a link to the service will be sent out after the Live Service, by approximately 8pm). Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in the Ash Wednesday Service, which is an opportunity at the beginning of Lent to step out of the routines of our lives and acknowledge our need to re-center ourselves in the loving and merciful presence of God. Ashes will be distributed at both Services.

Lenten Spiritual Renewal Sessions

You are invited to participate in Good Shepherd's annual Lenten Spiritual Renewal Sessions (LSRS). This year we will reflect on the Parables of Jesus. We will learn about the teaching tool that parables are and why Jesus chose to use parables. We will examine four of Jesus' parables, each of which gives us a window into Jesus' message and movement concerning the Kingdom of God. We will put the parables into their historical context and consider what they might mean for us today. There is no book or fee required for these sessions. More information about the sessions will be sent to those who sign-up to participate. These sessions will be offered in a small group format, beginning the week of March 1. There will be three groups, each group will meet for 4 weeks (a total of four sessions), and each session will last an hour and a half. There are both in-person and online options. Please fill out the bottom portion of the LSRS information/registration flyer, which can be found in the church and on our church website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org). Please return the form to the church (there is a LSRS return box in the back of the church) or directly to Pastor Dan (pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com) by **February 22**. Each group will consist of up to 10 participants. On the form, please mark each of the sessions that you can be available to participate in. Pastor Dan will be in touch with participants on Sunday afternoon, February 22, to confirm which session you will participate in.

The Next Vestry Meeting

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

Newly Installed AED at Good Shepherd

There is now an AED installed in the Good Shepherd Church Hall. An AED is an emergency defibrillator to be used if a person's heart has stopped. It is automated and gives verbal step-by-step instruction for those who are using it. The AED is located on the same wall as the air conditioner. ***On Sunday, February 22 beginning at 9am, the Red Cross will give us a 40-minute introduction about using the AED.*** The session will take place in the Church Hall. All are encouraged to participate. The session is designed to take away the mystery of using the AED. Again, the AED device is automated and gives verbal step-by-step instruction for those who are using it. Thank you, Deacon Hilary, for securing the donation of the AED.

Would you like to be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church?

Confirmation is the liturgical rite in which a person stands before the Bishop and renews their commitment to follow the Way of Jesus, by renewing their Baptismal Covenant. Today, the Sacrament of Confirmation usually occurs when a person is at least 16 years of age. If you have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, I would

like to encourage you to consider it. I believe that Confirmation is an important sacrament, especially considering that most of us were Baptized at a very young age and were not able to pledge our commitment to follow the Way of Jesus through the Baptismal Covenant. In Confirmation we make the decision for ourselves. We stand before the Bishop and before the Church and say Yes to God and Yes to following the Way of Jesus. If you did receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, but not in the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Church still recognizes your Confirmation. But I would like to encourage you to consider being formally ***Received*** into the Communion of the Episcopal Church. At the Confirmation Service, those who were Confirmed in a non-Episcopal church have the opportunity to acknowledge their desire to follow Jesus by way of the communion of the Episcopal Church. Like those being Confirmed, those being Received renew their commitment to follow the Way of Jesus, by renewing their Baptismal Covenant. ***Please see Pastor Dan if you are interested in either receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation or being Received into the communion of the Episcopal Church.***

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.

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 February, due to 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 March 1 & 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 found in the church and can be downloaded from our Good Shepherd website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org). *The Sunday Nursery will be closed on February 15 due to the holiday weekend and school vacation week.*

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.



[Good & Green Team Facebook page](#)



[Good & Green Team web page](#)