



Along The Way

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

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

In the Gospel passage we will read on Sunday, Jesus encounters a blind man and in this encounter the man is made able to see. This person who lived in darkness now lives in the light, literally and figuratively. This was made possible through the light of God's love in Jesus. Jesus had a way of sharing the light of God's love and transforming lives in the process.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to see Jesus in our daily life; to experience his love, compassion, and kindness. Wouldn't it be wonderful to experience the peace that would come from seeing Jesus and knowing that he is with us. Let this be our prayer today.....

Jesus, open the eyes of my heart and help me to see you in every act of love, compassion, and kindness that I experience today. Open the eyes of my heart and help me to see you in every act of generosity, in every expression of forgiveness, and whenever my spirit is lifted in my encounter with a loved one or even a stranger today. And open the eyes of my heart and help me to see that I too am called to be your loving presence for others this day. Amen

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

MARCH 15, 2026

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> SHERYL FACCHETTI TBD</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> CHUCK & DONNA TOLLEY</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> ELAINE GRAYBILL</p> <p><u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> DAN ANNA & BECKY HANSEN</p> <p><u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)</u> THE GOOD AND GREEN TEAM</p> <p><u>SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS</u> VIVI MARTY PAQUIN & KARIN RECUPERO</p>

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
CLICK HERE](#)

1. This coming Sunday, March 15, is a Sunday School Sunday. 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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[Parish Website](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR PARISH CALENDAR](#)



From the Good & Green Team- Spring into Sustainability!

Greetings from your Good & Green Team! We are glad the snow seems to be leaving and springtime is coming...so it is time to spring into action to help preserve God's good and green creation. We will host coffee hour this Sunday and will collect cans, bottles and sneakers to fund our sustainable efforts. If you would like to make a donation on-line to the Good & Green Team, use the Good Shepherd PayPal site: [Good Shepherd PayPal](#) and put Good & Green Team in the notes for your donation.

Our team has been busy over the winter and for the past many months, we have been working with Amanda Cobb of the Wareham Recycling Center on a citizens petition for reducing the use of single-use plastic bags in Wareham retailers. Our article, which has Jo-Ann Finn as the lead petitioner, is now on the warrant for the **April 27 Town Meeting**: <https://www.wareham.gov/351/Town-Meeting-Information> our **article is #18** on the warrant. Please read and review and feel free to reach out with any questions. We hope that we can have a good showing of Good Shepherd Wareham residents at the meeting so we can get this important petition passed. Jan Barton has also been involved with this effort, so many thanks to both Jan and Jo-Ann for their help. We **can** make an impact and your vote is always important!

The information we are sharing this month reminds us of the importance of sustainable gardening and how easy it is to be more caring in our efforts. With grocery prices rising as always, growing some of our own food is very appealing. Here are a few tips for making your garden more sustainable:

- Ditch the chemicals
- Shrink your lawn
- Plant native
- Don't forget about container gardening

For more details visit these sites: <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/gardening/a64477779/sustainable-gardening-trend/>

<https://www.vegogarden.com/blogs/academy/10-sustainable-spring-gardening-tips?>

Thank you for your support of our efforts and Happy Spring!

Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thank You Dave Lunetta - Our Former Building Custodian

Due to health issues, Dave Lunetta, who has been our building custodian for the last 14 plus years, is no longer working for us. Dave had done a very good job of keeping our building clean. He took care of the building as he would his own home. His health issues over the past couple of years, especially recently, has made it difficult for him to do his job. I let Dave know how much we have appreciated his work and for the care he has shown for our church building and grounds. *Pastor Dan*

We Are Looking for a New Building Custodian

We are looking for a new building custodian. If you know someone who might be interested, please let Pastor Dan know. The position is part time, about 6-8 hours per week. A job description is available for those who are interested.

Children's Sunday Service – March 22

Our Next Children's Sunday Service will be held on Sunday, March 22 during our 10am Service. This Service will focus on the children of our Good Shepherd community. The prayers, music, readings, and the sermon will speak to the children. All are invited to participate in these children focused Eucharistic Services. There will be no age restriction. Everyone can benefit from these Services. Let us gather in support of our young families and their children.

The Next Vestry Meeting

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

Easter Flower and Decoration Donations

Donations to the Easter Flower and Decoration Fund can be made in memory of a deceased loved one or in thanksgiving for blessings in your life. Donation envelopes/forms are available in the back of the church sanctuary and on our church website. Your donations will help us to decorate the church for the celebration Easter. The names of those in whose name donations are made will appear in the Easter Service Booklets. **Please return the form and your donation by Palm Sunday (March 29).** Thank you!

Donations For Our Good Shepherd Easter Egg Hunt

In a few weeks, we will be celebrating Easter. Many of us likely remember the joyful day as children because we got to have an Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to help us make that possible for our children, please consider filling a dozen plastic Easter eggs with individually wrapped candy or stickers. The plastic easter eggs can be found in the back of the church in zip-lock bags, please return them to the church in the zip-lock bags so we can reuse the bags next year. There is a bin at the Church's back entrance to collect the eggs. **We need to have them by Palm Sunday, March 29.** The Easter egg hunt will begin after the 10:00 Service on Easter Sunday. Thanking you in advance for any assistance in helping make the Easter Egg Hunt a success!

Holy Week Services

You are invited to come and journey with Jesus during Holy Week this year. Come just as you are and allow God to give you the new life God has in store for you. Come, be fed by Jesus at the table of the last supper and satisfy the hunger of your spirit. Come, experience the power of God's love and renew your commitment to follow Jesus. Come and renew your life, your faith, and your spirit.

Palm Sunday (3/29): 8am & 10am Palm Sunday Services

Maundy Thursday (4/2): 7pm Eucharistic Service

Good Friday (4/3): 7pm Passion Service with Communion

Easter Sunday (4/5): 8am & 10am Easter Services (music at both Services)

Purchase Flowers in March and Help Us Feed the Hungry

Our Good Shepherd's Table Thursday meals has once again been selected to benefit from Stop & Shop's Bloomin' 4 Good Program, created to fight hunger across the communities they serve. For the month of March, a bouquet in the sleeve marked "Bloomin' 4 Good" from the Stop & Shop at Wareham will brighten a home or make someone's day while also directing a portion of the sale to Good Shepherd's Table. So, if you're looking to buy flowers in March, this is a way to help us feed the hungry as well.

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 April 1, 22, & 29.***

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 April, due to Easter Sunday and school vacation week, Sunday School will only be held on April 12. 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 downloaded from our Good Shepherd website

(www.goodshepherdwareham.org). *The next Sunday School Sundays will be March 15 and April 12.*

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 downloaded from our Good Shepherd website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org). *The Sunday Nursery will not be open on March 22 (Children's Service that day), March 29 (Palm Sunday), and April 5 (Easter Sunday).*

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 2026. 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](#)