



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham March 25, 2026

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday, which begins Holy Week. Holy Week is the most sacred week for us Christians. During Holy Week we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), when people spread their cloaks and palm branches on the road before Jesus and hailed him to be their savior. During Holy Week we remember Jesus and his disciples gathered in the upper room for what would be his last supper (Maundy Thursday), and his commandment to "love one another as I have loved you." During Holy Week we remember Jesus' ultimate sacrifice (Good Friday), that he gave his life completely that we might know just how much God loves us. During Holy Week we remember the empty tomb (Easter Sunday), that Christ is Risen and will always be with us.

I invite each of you to observe a prayerful Holy Week, and to come to the Holy Week Services. Come and be present in the crowd as Jesus rides into Jerusalem as our Lord and Savior. Come and be present in the upper room as Jesus commands us to love as he has loved and then feeds us with his very presence in the Eucharist. Come and be present at the foot of the cross and give thanks for the gift of a love so great. Come and be present at the empty tomb and be reminded that God's love cannot be silenced, as we celebrate the new life we have in the Risen Christ.

I hope to see you on Sunday, as our journey through Holy Week begins!

Blessings in this Holy Week,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

MARCH 29, 2026

8 AM	10 AM
<p><u>READERS:</u> JANET DRUM</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> RICH SOUZA</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> NATECIA ALFONSO</p>	<p><u>READERS:</u> RICH ELLIS JEAN NYMAN</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> PAT PROBERT & SCOOTER HOLCOMBE</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> JUDY ELLIS</p> <p><u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> NO NURSERY</p> <p><u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)</u> THE GOOD SHEPHERD GUILD</p> <p><u>SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS</u> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
CLICK HERE](#)

[!\[\]\(3211b5d1d968fc1665909b34f9f16010_img.jpg\) ollow us on Facebook](#)

[!\[\]\(6059a5aa8b4ca7bb793408023d6c6e42_img.jpg\) arish Website](#)

1. This coming Sunday, March 29, is Palm Sunday.

2. On Sunday, March 29, there will be a sign-up sheet for those interested in taking part in the *reading of the Passion Story on Good Friday*, which will be read in parts. Look below for more information.

3. Please return *Easter Flower donation envelopes* and *filled Easter Eggs* by this coming Sunday (March 29). 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](#)

Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

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)

Palm Sunday Focus

Palm Sunday is on March 29. As is our custom at Good Shepherd, on Palm Sunday we focus our attention on the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and we do not read the Passion Story. The Passion Story will be read in parts on Good Friday.

Passion Story Readers Needed

The Passion Story will be read in parts on Good Friday, April 3. If you would like to participate in the reading of the Passion Story, there will be a sign-up list on Palm Sunday, March 29.

Invite Someone to Church for Easter

Please consider inviting, and even bringing, someone to church for one of our Easter Services. There are many family members, friends, and neighbors who will not be worshiping in a church on Easter. For some, their absence from church is not by decision, but because they have no church to go to, and they will not be asked to participate in an Easter Service. Please reach out to the people you know and invite them to participate in one of our Easter Services, even offer to pick them up or meet them at the door of the church. Let's make sure no one who wants to come to church to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus is home alone on Easter Sunday!

Easter Offering

Please consider giving an Easter financial gift to The Church of the Good Shepherd by way of an extra financial contribution. It is a way for us to give thanks for the gift of Good Shepherd and all its ministries. You can do this by placing a contribution in your Easter envelope (or another envelope marked "Easter Offering") and placing it in the church offertory box on Easter Sunday or the Sunday before or after Easter, or by mailing it to the parish office. Thank you!

Maundy Thursday 7pm Service

On Maundy Thursday we remember and celebrate Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples, which has become our Sunday Eucharist. At this sacred meal, Jesus instructed his disciples to remember how God has brought salvation to the lives of God's people through Jesus' life and ministry. It was at this meal (in John's Gospel) that Jesus commands his disciples (and us) to love one another as he has loved us. The focus of this Service on the gift of the eucharist in our lives, and that we are called to remember Jesus as witnesses of God's love, mercy, and compassion. *This Service will also be on Facebook Live.*

Good Friday 7pm Services

On Good Friday we call to mind Jesus' love for us, and his willingness to die in obedience to that love. At 7pm there will be a Good Friday Passion Service, at which we will read the passion account from Matthew's Gospel (read in parts). This Service will include communion. We are reminded of our call to follow Jesus in humble service and ministry, that the Cross is a symbol of the ultimate love of our God, and of our call to continue Jesus' mission of love. The focus of these Good Friday Services is on the sacrificial love of Jesus, for which we give thanks. *This Service will also be on Facebook Live.*

Good Friday Offering

At the Good Friday Services, there will be collection baskets at the entrances of the church in support of the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This is especially important at this time because the Episcopal churches in the Middle East also serve those who are suffering the effects of war and violence. Please consider supporting these ministries. If you wish to support these ministries by check, please make out the check to "Church of the Good Shepherd" with a notation that it is for the Good Friday Offering. One check will then be sent in the name of the parish. Thank you!

Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter egg hunt following the 10am Service on Easter Sunday, April 5, on the Church's front lawn. Children should bring their own basket or pail for collecting eggs. We will begin with a hunt for children ages 1-5 and follow with a hunt for the older children. If the weather does not permit us to be outside, fear not, we will have an Easter egg hunt inside.

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

Please return the filled Easter Eggs to the church **by Palm Sunday, March 29**. There is a bin at the Church's back entrance to collect the eggs. The Easter egg hunt will begin after the 10:00 Service on Easter Sunday. Thanking you for your assistance in helping make the Easter Egg Hunt a success!

Reducing Single Use Plastic Bags in Wareham

The Good and Green Team was part of the team of folks who put together the Citizen Petition Article (Town Meeting on April 27) concerning reducing the single use plastic bags in the Town of Wareham. On March 17th, Amanda Cobb from the Wareham Recycling Center joined Jo-Ann Finn, the lead petitioner for the article, and Deacon Hilary in presenting the article to the Select Board, who needs to vote on the article before Town Meeting. Amanda brought a great visual, a huge bag of plastic bags that she said is just one of about 6 bags they collect every week in the 5 hours they are open, showing the proliferation of these bags that can be so damaging to our environment. Their presentation was received well, and we hope for a positive vote from the Select Board and the residents of Wareham at Town Meeting. This is a link to the online article about the Plastic Bag ban in Wareham Week. <https://wareham.theweektoday.com/article/no-more-paper-or-plastic/156581>

We Are Looking for a New Building Custodian

We are looking for a new building custodian to clean the church building every week. 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.

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 not be a mid-week Service on April 1, April 22, and April 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.

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 April 12 and May 3 & 17.***

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).***

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.



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[Good & Green Team web page](#)