



# Along The Way

## The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham April 1, 2026

Reflections

*From the  
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

Our journey through Lent is coming to a close. What has been your focus during the Season of Lent? Has it been to be more prayerful, more God centered, more Jesus centered? Has it been to re-prioritize your life according to the Way of Love that Jesus has shown us? I hope you have had some success in whatever you have focused on for Lent.

Now we focus on three of the holiest days on the Church calendar: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday (look below for more information about these Services). Let us all focus on the love that these three days represent for us. Each Holy Week Service is a gift, an opportunity to draw closer to God and Jesus. Come to the Services and receive God's healing power. Come and find comfort and know of God's tremendous love. Come and be with your Good Shepherd community as together we give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus' life and love. All are invited and encouraged to come.

God Blessings to you in this Holy Week,

**Pastor Dan**

# LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

APRIL 5, 2026

8 AM	10 AM
<p><b><u>READERS:</u></b> JOELLA CRUZ</p> <p><b><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u></b> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><b><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u></b> CHERYL DENTON</p>	<p><b><u>READERS:</u></b> JO-ANN FINN CECILY KOST</p> <p><b><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u></b> DAN ANNA &amp; BECKY HANSEN</p> <p><b><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u></b> DALE WINTERS</p> <p><b><u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u></b> NO NURSERY</p> <p><b><u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)</u></b> DAN ANNA &amp; BECKY HANSEN KERRI GALLAGHER THIBEDEAU</p> <p><b><u>SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS</u></b> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>

## WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS  
CLICK HERE](#)

## MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES  
CLICK HERE](#)

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## A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. This week is *Holy Week*. There are special Services this week as we journey with Jesus during the last week of his earthly life. You are encouraged to participate in these Services. Look below for more information.

*Maundy Thursday (4/2): 7pm - the last supper of Jesus, the first Eucharist, the Commandment to Love*

*Good Friday (4/3): 7pm remembering the passion of Jesus & his sacrificial love*

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

2. On *Good Friday* there will be a donation basket at the door for the *churches of Jerusalem and the Middle East*. Checks should be made out to "The Church of the Good Shepherd." The church will send a single check. Look below for more information.

3. There will be an *Easter Egg hunt* for our children after the 10am Service.

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](#)

FROM YOUR "GREEN"

Deacon Greene



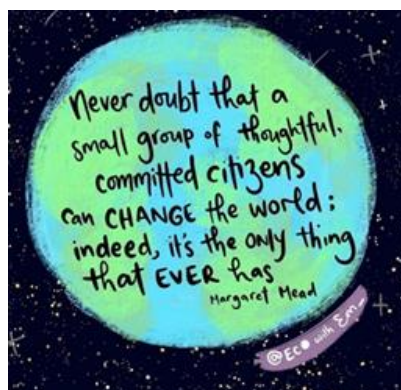
**From your Good & Green Team, April 2026.**

Welcome to another "Earth Month" celebrating God's good & green creation all month (and all year) long! Once again, we are introducing our [annual pledge form](#) plus some other new ideas for Earth Month. Our children will bring in our **Good & Green banner** to hang in our sacristy on **Sunday, April 12** and will learn about **Earth Day** in their Sunday School lesson.

Something new we are doing this year is to have an **Earth Month Movie Night!** On **Wednesday, April 15 at 6 PM**, the team will host an evening of short documentary features, starting with the original "**The Story of Stuff**" and some other movies from this organization: "**The Story of Bottled Water**" and "**The Plastic Bag Diet.**" The movies are honest about the crisis we face along with some good news stories of how to make changes. Coffee, tea, water, popcorn and desserts will be served as we gather to watch in our upstairs meeting room. Please join us (and tell your friends!)

Another new initiative comes from team member **Kelly Churbuck**, who has engaged the **Wareham Schools Beyond School Time** program to host a **sneaker drive** all month long. Kelly has created a flyer and dropped off donation bins to the schools and hopes to collect a bunch of sneakers to help raise money for the schools while keeping old sneakers out of the waste stream.

More to come this month, please keep on eye on our bulletin boards downstairs, our web page on the Good Shepherd web site and our Good & Green Team Facebook page. Thank you for your support and care for God's good world.



# Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

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## 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.

*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)*

## 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 worshipping 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.

### **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>

### **The Next Vestry Meeting**

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on Thursday, April 9, 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 April 2.

### **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, April 5, we will celebrate with those who have April birthdays and anniversaries.

### **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](http://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](http://www.goodshepherdwareham.org)). *The Sunday Nursery will not be open on April 5 (Easter Sunday) and April 19 (School Vacation week).*

### **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](mailto: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](#)