



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham April 8, 2026

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

Happy Easter!

The Church season of Easter lasts for seven weeks, ending on Pentecost Sunday (which is May 24 this year). During the season of Easter, we focus on the presence of Jesus in our lives and our call to continue Jesus' mission of love in this world.

This coming Sunday we will read a passage from the Gospel of John about Jesus appearing to his disciples after his death. It is a story about the importance of community, of gathering to remember Jesus. It is a reminder of how important our Good Shepherd community is to us on our life journey. Our Sunday gatherings are the times in which we connect with God and one another and recommit our lives to Jesus' mission of love. Without our Sunday gatherings we can so easily lose focus on Jesus and the way of living that he has shown us.

I hope to see you on Sunday!

Easter Blessings,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

APRIL 12, 2026

8 AM	10 AM
<p><u>READERS:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> MIKE ALFOSNO</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> JOELLA CRUZ</p>	<p><u>READERS:</u> SCOOTER HOLCOMBE S.G. PRESTON</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> CHUCK & DONNA TOLLEY</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> SHERYL FACCHETTI</p> <p><u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> ELIZABETH MANDELL & ANDREA LAMONTAGNE</p> <p><u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)</u> JAN BARTON</p> <p><u>SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS</u> VIVI MARTY PAQUIN & KAREN RECUPERO</p>

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
CLICK HERE](#)

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[e arish Website](#)

1. This coming Sunday is a *Sunday School* Sunday, and the Sunday Nursery will be open. Look below for more information.

2. This coming Sunday we will begin recruiting walkers for the annual *Walk for the Homeless* fundraiser in support of Turning Point - Wareham, which works with the homeless and near homeless people in our area.

3. 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

Good & Green Team Plastic Easter Eggs Collection

As a part of our Good & Green Team's **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle** initiatives, we will be collecting empty plastic Easter eggs (when the children are done enjoying them) so we can reuse them and re-fill them next year. We will have a collection bin in the back of the church through April 26. Thank you for caring for God's creation.

Easter Flower Donations - Thank You

Thank you to all who made donations, which allowed us to purchase flowers and prepare the church for the celebration of Easter. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

An Easter Thank You

Thanks to all those who helped to make our Lenten, Holy Week and Easter celebrations so meaningful. Thank you to the liturgical ministers. Thank you Maurice Parkonen for the beautiful Palm Sunday palm arrangements and for helping prepare the church for the Easter Services. Thank you to our music ministry team: Jeane Wallace, Jon Andrews and Leslie Bernier; for sharing your gifts of music so generously and beautifully with us. Thank you Choir for the beautiful anthem on Easter Sunday. And thank you Patrick Andrews and Joe Wallace for your Easter Sunday instrumental accompaniment. Easter Blessings to all! **Pastor Dan**

Earth Month Movie Night!

On Wednesday, April 15 at 6 PM, the Good & Green 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!). RSVP to Deacon Hilary @ (508) 737-4542 by April 13.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE MOVIE NIGHT FLYER

"Wareham Walks for the Homeless" Fundraiser

Please save the date of Sunday, May 18. On Sunday, May 18, the Wareham Area Clergy Association is sponsoring its 3rd annual 5-mile walk in support of Turning Point (<https://turningpointwareham.org>) and its work to assist the homeless and near homeless of our area. The walk is called "Wareham Walks for the Homeless," and begins at 1:00pm. The 5-mile Walk will start and end at Good Shepherd. Please consider supporting this fundraiser by becoming a walker or by donating to those who will be walking. Walker sponsor forms are available in the church and on our Good Shepherd website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org). For more information, you can reach out to Deacon Hilary, Pastor Dan, or Scooter Holcombe.

New Church Custodian

Dale Winters is our new church custodian. She will be working 7 hours a week keeping our building clean. As is the case for all our church staff, I will be her work supervisor. Welcome to the position Dale.

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.

A Cursillo Weekend Invitation: Exploring a Deeper Relationship with Jesus

The Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo community is hosting a weekend retreat called Cursillo from May 28-31, 2026. A Cursillo is an adult retreat weekend that begins on Thursday evening and runs through Sunday afternoon. It is held at the LaSalette Center in Attleboro MA. Participants are invited to deepen their faith journey through a series of talks from lay people and spiritual advisers, sharing, beautiful music and worship experiences throughout the weekend. The weekend is open to both women and men, transportation to and from Attleboro and all meals are included. There is a fee for the weekend however scholarships are available. If you would like more information please speak to Dale Winters, Scooter Holcolombe, Kathy Doyle, Donna Tolley 508-292-3786 or at dtolley714@gmail.com or Chuck Tolley at 774-313-6281 or at cntolley@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. **There will not be a mid-week Service on 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 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), 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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