



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham April 29, 2026



Good Shepherd Friends,

Is being a Christian the only way to get to heaven? If one belongs to another faith tradition or has no faith tradition, are they excluded from heaven? Some Christians would say yes to these questions. Some Christians believe that salvation comes only to those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They believe that no matter how nice and kind you are you cannot get to heaven without being a faithful Christian. Some take it even further and believe that if you are not from their church tradition within Christianity you also cannot get to heaven.

Those who would deny heaven for all those who are not Christian often site this verse from the Gospel of John, which we will hear on Sunday, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" At first glance this seems to say that only Christians can be saved, but this verse is so much richer and more meaningful than it appears to be. "The way, the truth and the life" is love, which comes from God. Jesus is saying that those who follow the Way of Love, which comes from God, shall be saved. Thus, all who live in God's love and share God's love for all people, shall experience salvation. As Christians, we follow Jesus who shows us how to live in the love of God, but it is possible that those who are not Christian can also live in the love of God and thus experience salvation.

This understanding is consistent with the teaching of Jesus, who reached out to those considered by society as being outside the possibility of salvation. Jesus was inclusive and welcoming of all. It would be out of character for him to exclude anyone because they were not in his religious group. All were welcomed by Jesus. All were loved by him. And those who follow the way of love will experience salvation.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

MAY 3, 2026

8 AM	10 AM
<p><u>READERS:</u> JOELLA CRUZ</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> CHERYL DENTON</p>	<p><u>READERS:</u> RICH ELLIS JEAN NYMAN</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY MINISTERS:</u> DAN ANNA & BECKY HANSEN</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:</u> ELAINE GRAYBILL</p> <p><u>NURSERY MINISTERS:</u> KERRI GALLAGHER & MICHELLE MURRAY</p> <p><u>COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)</u> THE WINTERS'</p> <p><u>SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS</u> DALE WINTERS & S.G. PRESTON</p>

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
CLICK HERE](#)

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[!\[\]\(3211b5d1d968fc1665909b34f9f16010_img.jpg\) **arish Website**](#)

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. At both Services this coming Sunday (May 3), we will recognize with the prayer and a blessing those who are celebrating their *birthdays or anniversaries* in the month of May. Look below for more information.
2. This coming Sunday (May 3) is a *Sunday School* Sunday. Look below for more information.
3. We have begun recruiting walkers and sponsors 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. Look below for more information about how you could help with this important fundraiser.
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

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, May 3, we will celebrate with those who have May birthdays and anniversaries.

The Next Vestry Meeting

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on Thursday, May 14, 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 May 7.

“Wareham Walks for the Homeless” Fundraiser

Please save the date of Sunday, May 17. On Sunday, May 17, the Wareham Area Clergy Association is sponsoring its 3rd annual 5-mile walk in support of Turning Point-Wareham (<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.

Rescheduled AED Orientation Session

On Sunday, May 10 beginning at 9am, there will be a 30-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.

Pastor Dan Will Be Away

I will be take time off from April 22-May 1. The Reverend Sue Lederhouse will be presiding at the Sunday Services on April 26. I will be back to the church on May 2. If you have a pastoral issue which cannot wait until my return, please contact Deacon Hilary. If you have some church-related business which cannot wait until my return, please contact our Senior Warden Joella Cruz. Their contact information can be found in the church picture directory. *Pastor Dan*

Donations From Our Online Community

Thank you to those from our online Sunday worship community who have made regular donations to support the ministries of Good Shepherd. It is very much appreciated. If you have never donated or have not donated recently, please consider doing so as you are able. Your donations help us to continue our mission to spread the good news of God’s Love and compassion. Thank you!

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 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 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).

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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