



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham September 16, 2026

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

We often hear that God's love is unconditional. What does this mean exactly, because we also hear that God will judge us one day. If this is true, then what does it mean to be judged? Which is true? Can God love us unconditionally and also judge us?

I believe that God does love us unconditionally. God is love. Love flows from God, and from this love comes all of creation. From this love comes healing and transformation of ourselves and of the world around us. God cannot stop loving, since the nature of God is love.

The variable in God's love is not God, the variable is us. God loves and invites us to join God in this love. God invites us to accept this love and share this love. The more we do this, the more that peace is able to dwell in our hearts, minds, and spirits. But we don't have to accept God's love and the way of love it calls us to; we can reject the Way of love. Yet, even if we reject the Way of Love, God will not stop loving us.

So, will God judge us? Will we one day have to account for the gift of God's love in our lives? I'm not sure about that. But I have known that a life without love, without loving, is a torturous life. Not brought on by God, but brought on by our own decisions. In other words, I believe there are consequences for our rejection of the Way of love, but it is not from God.

God's love is unconditional. God is always loving, no matter what we do. Let us live in God's love, as Jesus has shown us, and know God's peace.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE September 20, 2026	
8 AM	10 AM
No 8am Service Bishop's Visitation	READERS: SCOOTER HOLCOMBE S.G. PRESTON HOSPITALITY: DAN ANNA & BECKY HANSEN EUCCHARISTIC: DALE WINTERS COFFEE HOUR HOST(S): BRUNCH NURSERY: NO NURSERY SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
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1. This coming Sunday, September 20, ***Bishop Ian Douglas will be visiting*** with our Good Shepherd community. There will be one Service that day, which will be held at 10am. There will not be an 8am Service on September 20. Following the Service there will be a brunch held in the Church Hall. If you have not signed up for the brunch, please call the church and leave a message if you plan to participate. Please indicate what main dish or side dish you plan to bring for the brunch. Look below for more information.
2. This coming Sunday, the loose plate offering is designated to support ***theological formation for those pursuing ordination*** in our diocese. All offering not otherwise designated will go to support those pursuing ordination. Thank you.
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

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and Reception

On Sunday, September 20 during the 10am Service, ten members of our Good Shepherd community will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or will be Received into the Communion of the Episcopal Church (they have already been Confirmed in another Christian Church tradition). *Those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation: Jo-Ellen Thompson and Wayne Wolcott. Those being Received into the Communion of the Episcopal Church: Elaine Graybill, Danielle Lopes, Eric Lopes, Janice Reed, Aaron Souza, John Souza Jr., Marlene Souza, and Kerri Gallagher Thibedeau.*

Bishop's Visitation with Our Good Shepherd Community

Please save the Date of Sunday, September 20, which is the date that Bishop Ian Douglas, an Assisting Bishop of our Diocese, will be visiting with our Good Shepherd community. There will be one Service that day, which will be held at 10am. Following the Service there will be a brunch held in the Church Hall. After the brunch Bishop Ian will meet with the Vestry in our Good Shepherd meeting room. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to be with our Assisting Bishop and recognize the greater Episcopal Community to which we belong. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate.

No 8am Service on September 20

Due to the parish visitation of Bishop Ian Douglas, there will be no 8am Service on Sunday September 20. There will be just one Service that Sunday. which will be held at 10am.

Sunday Brunch Sign-Up List

There will be a brunch with Bishop Ian held after the 10am Service on September 20. All are asked to bring a "brunch" item to share. Coffee, juice, and dessert will be provided. Please bring a main course or side dish to share. There is a sign-up poster in the church. Please sign up if you are planning to participate. You may also call the church (508-295-2840) by Wednesday, September 16, and let us know if you plan to attend the brunch. If no one is available to receive your phone call, please leave your name, the number in your party, and if you will be bringing a main dish or side dish for the brunch. Breakfast or lunch items are welcome.

Bishop's Discretionary Fund Offering

On Sunday, September 20, the loose plate offering is designated to support theological formation for those pursuing ordination in our diocese. Please consider making a contribution in support of those pursuing ordination in our diocese. Thank you!

Purchase Flowers in September 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 September, 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 September, this is a way for you to help us feed the hungry as well.

Wareham Media (WM) Sunday Service Coverage

Wareham Media, the Wareham local access channel, broadcasts recordings of our Sunday Services. The recorded Services air during the week after the Sunday Service. 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. You can also find our Services beginning the Tuesday after the Sunday Service on the [Wareham Media YouTube channel](#).

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 Service on September 30.***

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 September, due to Labor Day Holiday and the Bishop's Visitation, Sunday School will be held on September 13 & 27. 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 Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery

Beginning September 13, the Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery (for children through kindergarten age) will be reopen 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 September 20, due to the Bishop's Visitation.***

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.

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 wall behind the coffee hour food table.

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.

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 2026.

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!

Are You Receiving Our Weekly Newsletter?

Good Shepherd now publishes a weekly electronic newsletter called "Along The Way". The newsletter is published mid-week. If you would like to receive a copy of the electronic newsletter, please email the parish office with your name and email address (goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com), or you can go to our church website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org) and subscribe to our email list which is on the home page.

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.”

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

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[Good & Green Team Facebook page](#)



[Good & Green Team web page](#)