



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham September 23, 2026

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

How much time do you spend worrying? We worry about the past, which we cannot change, and we worry about the future which will likely not happen as we imagine it. We worry as if our worrying will somehow change the past or the future. I think we all know that worrying will not change things and is useless, yet we worry anyway.

It is so much better when we put the past in God's hands and ask God to heal us of our pain and anxiousness associated with past events. We cannot go back and change what happened, but with God's healing help we can move forward and live without being tethered to the past.

It is so much better when we put the future in God's hands and ask God to free us from anxiety and fear associated with our perceived future. The future we fear might happen is often not as we imagined it anyway

It is so much better not to live in the past or the future, but rather live in the present. It is in the present that God's love can be found. It is in the present that we encounter the people God has placed in our lives so that we can experience God's love in one another. It is in the present that we can experience beauty and wonder in all creation; where we can feel the warmth of the sun and a cool gentle breeze. Life lived in the present is so much more gratifying.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE September 20, 2026	
8 AM	10 AM
READERS: CHUCK MCCULLOUGH HOSPITALITY: MIKE ALFONSO EUCCHARISTIC: MICHELLE MURRAY	READERS: JUDY GOVONI JAN BARTON HOSPITALITY: CHUCK & DONNA TOLLEY EUCCHARISTIC: SHERYL FACCHETTI COFFEE HOUR HOST(S): FRAN & RICHIE BALANCA NURSERY: MICHELL MURRAY & KERRI GALLAGHER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS: DALE WINTERS & S.G. PRESTON

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
CLICK HERE](#)

1. This coming Sunday, September 27, is a Sunday School Sunday. Sunday School begins at 9:45. The Sunday Nursery will also be open and begins at 9:45.

2. 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.

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

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

[CLICK HERE FOR PARISH CALENDAR](#)

Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

Received the Sacrament of Confirmation and Reception

On Sunday, September 20, ten members of our Good Shepherd community received the Sacrament of Confirmation or were Received into the Communion of the Episcopal Church (they had already been Confirmed in another Christian Church tradition). *Those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation: Jo-Ellen Thompson and Wayne Wolcott. Those who were 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.* Congratulations!



The Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 4, there will be a Blessing of the Animals at Good Shepherd. The blessing will take place on the church lawn, next to the paved parking lot, beginning at Noon. All are invited to bring their animal companions to the church for the blessing (*for safety purposes, please have your pet leashed or in a carrier*). If they are not able to be present due to their shy or aggressive personalities, please feel free to bring a picture of them for the blessing. Children of all ages are welcome to bring stuffed animal friends for a blessing as well. All are welcome, church members and non-church members alike, to this celebration of our beloved animal companions. This is a free event. In the event of inclement weather, the blessing will take place in the Good Shepherd Church Hall.

We Are Looking for Sunday Nursery Volunteers

We are looking for 2 new Sunday Nursery (10am Service) volunteers. Volunteers will serve approximately every 4-6 weeks. This is mostly play time for the children, with a short time to tell and discuss a story. All nursery volunteers must undergo a background check and complete Safe Church Training. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Pastor Dan. 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 next Sunday School Sundays will be September 27 and October 4 & 18.***

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 October 11 (holiday weekend) and will not be open on October 25 (Children's Service Sunday).***

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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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](#)