



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham March 17, 2021



The Rev. Daniel Bernier
Church of the Good Shepherd
74 High Street/PO Box 719
Wareham, MA 02571
pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com
508-295-2840

Good Shepherd Friends,

Happy Saint Patrick's Day to those of you who are celebrating St. Patrick's Day, Irish or not. Those who are celebrating Saint Patrick's Day, please be safe and responsible in your celebrations.

You have probably been wondering when our Good Shepherd community will be able to worship in-person once again. It has been a year since the start of the pandemic and we are all itching to be together as community. More and more people have received one of the vaccines and are becoming fully vaccinated. The number of cases of COVID-19 are continuing to decrease, and the economy is starting to move towards normalcy, though we still have a ways to go. Next week (March 22) Massachusetts will move to the next phase of its re-opening plan. So when will Good Shepherd start a re-opening plan?

Our bishops have asked that the Episcopal churches of our diocese hold off just a little longer before starting a re-opening plan. They would like for there to be a period of four weeks after the start of the next phase of the Massachusetts re-opening plan, to see what affect it has on the pandemic. If things are not changed, than churches can begin a re-opening plan. The date they have given us to begin a re-opening plan, given there are no changes in the pandemic, is April 19.

The Good Shepherd re-opening plan, which is being developed, will be announced in the coming weeks. Our re-opening process will be a gradual one, beginning in May. The plan will be contingent on the situation of the pandemic continuing to improve. Meanwhile, let's continue to wear masks and maintain social distancing in public, and let's get the vaccine when it is our turn. If we stay patient and do our part, we will soon begin the process of gathering together to worship and to be with one another in-person.

As to our online Sunday Service, we will continue to offer an online Sunday Service option even after the pandemic. This will allow those who have joined our worshiping community from afar to continue to participate in our Sunday Services. It will also be an option for those are not able to participate in-person on any given Sunday to still participate on-line.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

A Lenten Prayer for a United Family of God

Dear God,

In our efforts to dismantle all that divides us from one another, we understand that we struggle not merely against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities – those institutions and systems that perpetuate the lie that some members of the human family are inferior and others superior.

Create in us a new mind and a new heart that will enable us to see brothers and sisters in the faces of those divided by racial, ethnic, economic, religious, and sexual categories.

Give us the grace and strength to rid ourselves of the stereotypes that oppress some of us while providing entitlements to others.

Help us to create a church and a nation that embraces the hopes and fears of oppressed people where we live, as well as those around the world.

Heal your family God, and make us one with you, in union with our brother Jesus, and empowered by your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

- 1. Easter Flower and Decoration donation forms** can be found on the Good Shepherd website (<https://goodshepherdwareham.org>) or by clicking on the "Easter Flowers Donation Form" link/button below. More information about donating towards the Easter flowers can be found below in the announcements section.
 - 2. Holy Week Services Schedule:** Maudy Thursday 7pm (April 1), Good Friday 7pm (April 2). The Holy Week Services will be held on Facebook Live, and the recorded Services will be sent to those on our church email list.
 - 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.
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Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

Vestry Meeting

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place on Thursday, March 18, beginning at 6:00PM. Anyone who would like to submit possible agenda items for consideration can do so through Pastor Dan or through our Senior Warden Chuck McCullough by March 11 (one week before the meeting).

Easter Flower and Decoration Donations

Donations to the Church Flower Fund, on the occasion of Easter, can be made in memory of a deceased loved one or in thanksgiving for blessings in your life. Please consider making a donation by mailing them to the church (PO Box 719, Wareham, MA 02571), along with the names of the deceased loved ones you would like remembered or the intention for which you are grateful. [Easter Flower](#)

donation forms can be found by clicking on the "Easter Flowers Donation Form" link/button above. Your donations will help us to decorate the church for the celebration of Easter. The names of those in whose names donations are made, will appear in the Easter Service Guide. ***Please mail in your donations and your intentions to the church so they arrive by March 21.***

Discretionary Fund Donations

Sunday, March 21, is the third Sunday of the month. Although donations can be made at any time during the month, on the third Sunday of the month parishioners are invited to contribute to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, as they are able. It is from the discretionary fund that Pastor Dan assists those in need. You may make contributions to the discretionary fund by mailing them to the parish office (Rev. Dan Bernier, Church of the Good Shepherd, PO Box 719, Wareham MA 02571). Please consider contributing to the discretionary fund. Checks should be made out to "Church of the Good Shepherd – Clergy Discretionary Fund." Thank you to those who have made contributions in the past!

Palm Sunday Service – March 28

As is our custom at Good Shepherd, on Palm Sunday (March 28) we will focus our attention on the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and we will not read the Passion Story. The Passion Story will be read on Good Friday. Our Palm Sunday Service will be held on Facebook Live beginning at 10am. The recorded Service will be emailed to those on our parish email distribution list by 11am.

Maundy Thursday 7pm Service

On Maundy Thursday (April 1) we remember and celebrate Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples, which has become our Sunday Eucharist. Jesus paused from the meal and began to wash the feet of His disciples. He then commanded them to follow His example of humble service. Our Maundy Thursday Service will be held on Facebook Live beginning at 7pm. The recorded Service will be emailed to those on our parish email distribution list by 8pm.

Good Friday 7pm Service

On Good Friday (April 2) we call to mind Jesus' love for us, and his willingness to die in obedience to that love. 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. Our Good Friday Service will be held on Facebook Live beginning at 7pm. The recorded Service will be emailed to those on our parish email distribution list by 8pm.

Good Friday Offering

On Good Friday it is customary for the churches of the Episcopal Church to take up an offering in support of the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. 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. Please mail donations to the church office (PO Box 719, Wareham, MA 02571). One Church check will then be sent in the name of our Good Shepherd community. Thank you!

Invite Someone to Attend Our Easter Service

Please consider inviting people you know to participate in our Easter Sunday Service (April 4). There are many family, friends, and neighbors who will not be participating in a church Service on Easter. Some may not currently belong to a church, but perhaps would like to know of a welcoming and love-centered community such as our Good Shepherd community. Let's make sure that everyone who wants to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus has a chance to participate in an Easter Service. Our Easter Sunday Service will be held on Facebook Live beginning at 10am. The recorded Service will be emailed to those on our parish email distribution list around 11am..

Good Shepherd Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is open on the first Tuesday of the month from 3-5 pm. The Food Pantry will next be open on April 6. Food donation to the Food Pantry can be dropped off on Thursday afternoons from 2:00-4:00. ***We are looking specifically for cereal and for toilet paper, bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorants.***

Good Shepherd's Table and Food Pantry Fundraiser

Good Shepherd's Table and Food Pantry has been selected to be a part of the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program, created to help fight the hunger crisis across the communities we serve. From **February 26th through the month of March**, each time a \$9.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with a red circle sticker is purchased at the Stop & Shop located in Wareham, \$1 will be donated to Good Shepherd's Table and Food Pantry. This is a way for Stop & Shop to raise awareness in the local community, fight hunger and raise donations for our Food ministries. Supporters can buy flower bouquets throughout the month. The more bouquets sold, the more donations raised and the more people in need we can feed! Please help spread the news to your friends and family. Call, send emails, and post on social media. Again, the dates in which Good Shepherd's Table and Food Pantry benefit are from February 26th through the month of March. To learn more about this program, please visit stopandshop.bloomin4good.com.

Pledges and Other Contributions

Thank you to those who have been mailing in pledge payments and donations to the church. It is very much needed and appreciated, as our bills still need to be paid. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are missing some of our past sources of revenue.

Good Shepherd's Table

We are continuing our ministry to feed the hungry through Shepherd's Table by providing takeout meals from 3:30-4:30pm on Thursdays.

No Meetings in the Church Building

Until further notice there are no meeting being held in the church building. This includes support group meetings as well as church meetings.

Parish Office

The parish office is not open for drop-in parish business. If you need to contact the church (or Cathi Maurice our church office manager), please either call (508-295-2840) or email (goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com) the church.

Contacting Pastor Dan

Though I am at the church a few times during the week, I am working mostly from home. 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 texting or calling me through my cell phone (603-953-3659).

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..



March 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2 3-5 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Lenten Spiritual Renewal Session	3	4 4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals 6:30 PM Liberating Ourselves From Racism Session	5	6
7 <u>The 3rd Sunday in Lent</u> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live	8	9 6:30 PM Lenten Spiritual Renewal Session	10	11 4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals 6:30 PM Liberating Ourselves From Racism Session	12	13
14 <u>The 4th Sunday in Lent</u> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live	15	16 6:30 PM Lenten Spiritual Renewal Session	17	18 4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals 6 PM Vestry Meeting	19	20
21 <u>The 5th Sunday in Lent</u> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live	22	23 6:30 PM Lenten Spiritual Renewal Session	24	25 4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals	26	27
28 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live	29	30	31			