



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham April 14, 2021



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Good Shepherd Friends,

There are many gospel passages which speak of the disciples encountering the presence of the Risen Lord. Each of these stories has something to teach us about what it means to encounter the presence of the Risen Lord. These encounters are not with the physical body of Jesus; evident in the disciples not recognizing Jesus, that he passes through locked doors, and suddenly appears and disappears. The disciples felt his presence at different times and knew in their minds and hearts that he was with them. They felt his love. They experienced shalom (a restoration of wholeness), which he was so much about in his mission of love.

The presence of the Risen Lord, is also available to us. We may experience it in different ways, such as: during a worship Service, while at prayer, during a bible study, in a conversation with a friend, or while being out in nature. The Risen Lord will always be with us as a faith community and as individuals, supporting us and empowering us to continue the mission of love that he began.

How has the Risen Lord been present to you today? Look for his presence as you go through your day. Look for signs of his love. He is always with us. We just have to pay attention.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. On Sunday, April 18, **Bishop Gayle Harris will be making a visitation** to Good Shepherd. See below for more information about her visit.
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.

Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

Church Reopening Plan

The process for us to gradually reopen our church to in-person worship has been temporarily delayed due to the current “high risk” (red) category of Wareham and many other communities in southeast Massachusetts. We will reinitiate the reopening process once the case numbers begin to decrease, hopefully soon. Safety will always be a priority in our re-opening process. We are almost there, but not quite yet. Please continue to be patient and stay vigilant in preventing the spread of the virus. Please continue to wear face masks, maintain social distancing, not gather in large numbers, and get the vaccine when you are eligible. **Peace, Pastor Dan**

Welcome Bishop Gayle Harris

On Sunday, April 18, we will welcome Bishop Gayle Harris who will be making a visit to Good Shepherd. One of our Bishops generally visits each parish in the course of about 3 years. The visit will consist of Bishop Gayle presiding over and preaching at our 10am Facebook Live Sunday Service. Following the Service (beginning at 11:30) Bishop Gayle will meet with church members for a virtual “Coffee Hour” through the Zoom online platform (all are invited and encourage to participate); at the end of the coffee hour, Vestry members will stay on the Zoom session and meet with Bishop Gayle. **The Zoom Link will be sent to you the day before (April 17)** the Bishop’s visit. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful opportunity to be with one of our Bishops!

Discretionary Fund Donations

Sunday, April 18, 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!

Sunday Flower Donations

Altar flowers are purchased for the church monthly, for the first Sunday of the month, and remain in the church for the month (we keep the in a refrigerator during the week). **The new cost to the church (charged by the new florist) for altar flowers is now \$70 for the two arrangements.** You can pay the whole amount and your exclusive intention will be remembered during the Sunday Services for the first two weeks of the month, or you can share the cost (\$35 from each donor) and the intentions of both donors will be remembered during the Sunday Services for the first two weeks of the month. The [Sunday Flower Donation Forms](#) can be found on the Good Shepherd Website. Please call the parish office to reserve the month you wish to donate flowers. Your check for \$35 or \$70 should be made out to “Church of the Good Shepherd.” Mail the Sunday Flower Donation Form (found on the church website) with your check to: The Church of the Good Shepherd, P.O. Box 719, Wareham, MA. 02571. *The months of March, April, and December are not available; due to it being Lent (no flowers), Easter (we already have Easter flowers), and Advent/Christmas (no flowers & Christmas flowers).*

Pastor Dan Will Be on Vacation

I will be taking some vacation time the week of April 19–27. There will be no Facebook Live Service on April 25. If you have some church related business which cannot wait until my return, please contact Chuck McCullough (our Senior Warden) and he will assist you. **Pastor Dan**

There Will Be No Facebook Live Service on April 25

Pastor Dan and the music ministry team will be taking a rest on Sunday, April 25, so there will be no Facebook Live Service on that Sunday. Facebook Live Services will continue on May 2.

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 May 4. 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 (full size), toothpaste, and dishwashing liquid.***

No Walk for Hunger

There will not be a Walk for Hunger held in Wareham this year due to the pandemic. Normally the Walk for Hunger, which raises money for Project Bread and local feeding programs (like the Good Shepherd Food Pantry), is held on the first Sunday of May. You are welcome to make a donation to Project Bread directly this year, in support of their efforts to feed the hungry in Massachusetts.

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.

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.



April 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
				4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service	7 PM Good Friday Service	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<u>Easter Sunday</u> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live		3-5 PM Food Pantry		4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals 6 PM Vestry Meeting		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<u>The 2nd Sunday of Easter</u> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live				4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<u>The 3rd Sunday of Easter</u> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live Bishop's Visitation				4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
<u>The 4th Sunday of Easter</u> No Services Today				4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals		