



# Along The Way

## The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham November 13, 2020

Reflections



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### Friends of The Good Shepherd,

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, it is a good time for us to consider how we plan to celebrate The holidays. Leslie, Katie and I usually head to New Hampshire to celebrate the holidays with our extended families. That will not be happening this year. We will stay home to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year. It is unfortunate that we will not be with our extended family, but the decision was not difficult to make. We want to make sure our family members are safe and that we are not responsible for the possibility, no matter how slight, that we might spread the COVID-19 virus to one another.

I pray that you also will choose not gather with your extended families for the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays. It is best and most responsible to keep our gatherings small. This does mean sacrifices on our parts, but it is what love and compassion in action looks like.

### Be Safe & Be Well

#### A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. Our 2021 Good Shepherd **Stewardship Pledge Drive** has begun. If you have not already done so, please return your pledge form to the church as soon as possible. See below for details.
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

## Discretionary Fund Donations

Sunday, November 15, 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!

## Parish Thanksgiving Eve Service

There will be a Thanksgiving Facebook Live Service on **Wednesday, November 25 beginning at 7pm**. Let us gather together to give thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us, including our parish family. Thanksgiving Day can be very busy with many details to attend to; the Parish Thanksgiving Service is a good way to make sure that thanking God is part of our Thanksgiving celebration. A link to the recorded Thanksgiving Service will be sent to those on the parish email list following the live service.

## Bible Study – An Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew

On Wednesday Evening, December 2 from 6:30-8:00, Pastor Dan will be leading a Zoom Bible Study which will introduce the Gospel of Mark. The Gospel of Mark will be the Gospel we will hear from for most Sundays in 2021. In this bible study we will grow in our understanding of the background and context of Mark's Gospel; as well as highlight the themes of Mark's Gospel. Please let Pastor Dan know that you will be participating by emailing him ([pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com)). Participants will be sent a Zoom link.

## The Good Shepherd Scholarship for High School Graduates

At our September meeting, the Vestry voted for Patrick Andrews to receive a \$250 Good Shepherd Scholarship, in thanksgiving for his involvement in our Good Shepherd community and its ministries. Thanks Patrick, and congratulations! We wish you the best as you continue your educational and life pursuits.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

As a way of reaching out to those who are ill or struggling in some way, parishioners have knitted shawls to be given to those who can benefit from receiving these gifts of warmth and comfort. Pastor Dan blesses each shawl 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 Shawl Ministry Coordinator) or Pastor Dan if you would like a shawl 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 a beautiful, lacey shawl. It can also be modified to make a man's lap robe. All patterns, of course, are welcomed.

## Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Ministry

It's time once again for the "Operation Christmas Child" shoe box ministry. This is a *global* ministry where boxes filled with toys and useful items are sent to children across the world, along with messages of God's (and *our!*) love for them. **Please read the instructions carefully** at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>. **Contact Jeane Wallace at [jmarg2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarg2000@yahoo.com) if you would like to participate**, and we can arrange a time to drop your shoebox off at the church. Last date to drop off shoe boxes will be Saturday November 21st.

## Our 2021 Pledge Update

Thank you to all who turned in their 2021 pledge forms! Your continued spirit of generosity is very much appreciated. **So far we have received 41 pledges, totaling \$77,000.** Last year's pledges totaled \$106,000. For those who have not already done so, please return your pledge forms to the church as soon as possible so we can finalize our 2021 church budget. Pledge documents are available on our parish website ([www.goodshepherdwareham.org](http://www.goodshepherdwareham.org)). Thank you for your commitment to the mission and ministries of our parish! The Church of the Good Shepherd makes a difference in so many people's lives, and your financial commitment helps make that possible.

## "Forward Day by Day" Booklets for November - January

The "Forward Day by Day" daily devotional booklets for November - January are available at the church. If you would like a copy, please let Pastor Dan know and one will be mailed to you. There are a limited number, which will be mailed on a first come first served basis.

### **Liberating Ourselves From Racism**

The Liberating Ourselves From Racism program has begun at Good Shepherd. We have 15 people from our Good Shepherd community participating in the program. Let us all continue to pray for our brothers and sisters who suffer from racism every day. Together, let us work to liberate ourselves and the world around us from the evils of racism. Our next session are November 19 and 24.

### **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](mailto:goodshepherdwareham@gmail.com)) the church. If you need to contact Pastor Dan, the best way to reach him is to email him ([pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com)) or if it is an urgent matter to text or call him (603-953-3659).

### **Pledges and Other Contributions**

Thank you to those who have been mailing in pledge payments and donations to the church. It is very much appreciated, as our bills still need to be paid. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some of our budgeted sources of revenue will not be realized this year.

### **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.

### **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 December 1. Food donation to the Food Pantry can be dropped off on Thursday afternoons from 2:00-5:00. We are looking specifically for cereal and for liquid hand soap, liquid dish soap and laundry detergent (which can be found at the dollar store). Please only shop for the pantry while you are shopping for yourself. Don't make an extra trip to the store.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com)) or by calling the church number (508-295-2840). I am monitoring the church phone, but email is the quickest way to contact me. You can also use my cell phone, especially with urgent matters.

### **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.



# November 2020

| Sun.  | Mon.      | Tue.  | Wed.  | Thu.   | Fri.      | Sat.      |
|---|-----------|---|---|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>1</b><br><b>All Saints</b><br><hr/> <b>10 AM</b><br>Sunday Service -<br>Facebook Live                                      | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br><b>3-5 PM</b><br>Food Pantry                                      | <b>4</b><br><b>7 PM</b><br>All Souls<br>Remembrance<br>Service held on<br>Facebook Live | <b>5</b><br><b>4-5 PM</b><br>Good Shepherd's<br>Table Take-out<br>Meals  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b><br><b>The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after<br/>Pentecost</b><br><hr/> <b>10 AM</b><br>Sunday Service -<br>Facebook Live  | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br><b>4-5 PM</b><br>Good Shepherd's<br>Table Take-out<br>Meals<br><b>6:30 PM</b><br>Liberating<br>Ourselves From<br>Racism Session | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b><br><b>The 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after<br/>Pentecost</b><br><hr/> <b>10 AM</b><br>Sunday Service -<br>Facebook Live | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b><br><b>4-5 PM</b><br>Good Shepherd's<br>Table Take-out<br>Meals<br><b>6:30 PM</b><br>Liberating<br>Ourselves From<br>Racism Session | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22</b><br><b>The Last Sunday after<br/>Pentecost</b><br><hr/> <b>10 AM</b><br>Sunday Service -<br>Facebook Live            | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b><br>Liberating<br>Ourselves From<br>Racism Session | <b>25</b><br><b>7 PM</b><br>Thanksgiving<br>Service held on<br>Facebook Live            | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> |
| <b>29</b><br><b>The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b><br><hr/> <b>10 AM</b><br>Sunday Service -<br>Facebook Live            | <b>30</b> |   |   | <b>4-5 PM</b><br>Good Shepherd's<br>Table Take-out<br>Meals  |           |           |