



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham August 14, 2020



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

Friends of The Good Shepherd,

Who is welcome into your life? Who are the ones that you choose to associate and becomes friends with? How do you go about making that decision? Each of us makes that decision every day. We choose who we will let into our lives and who we will keep distant. In and of itself, making such decisions are not a bad thing. We can choose to keep distant those whose have been a physical, psychological and emotional danger to us. For example, if someone has been abusive to us we might well choose to keep them at a distance.

Yet, as Christians we are called to be welcoming of all peoples in our lives. This can appear to be a contradiction to what I said above, but I don't think so. We are called to be welcoming of all peoples, regardless of their being different from us. Although there are individuals who we may have to keep at a distance for reasons mentioned above, we are not to exclude groupings of people based simply on their differences.

In the gospel story on Sunday, we will hear of Jesus healing the daughter of a person that the social customs of his time would have deemed unworthy. She is a gentile and not a Jew. She is not part of Jesus' family or clan. She would have been considered an "other." Yet, Jesus heals her anyway. He does so because of her faith. It is her faith that makes this healing relationship possible. She is not excluded because of her "otherness."

Let's be careful not to judge people simply because of their differences. Let's choose to be messengers of God's love to all those we encounter each day. And let's welcome into our lives all those who desire to live in God's love, those who live their faith through acts of love and kindness.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

1. The Vestry has begun a Summer "Fairless Fair" fundraiser, to help us with a projected income shortfall this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please help as you are able. See below for more details about this fundraiser.

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

Our Summer Fairless Fair Fundraiser

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Summer Fairless Fair fundraiser. As of August 9, we have received \$5,300, which is almost half of our projected loss of income due to the pandemic. If you have not already contributed, please do so as you are able. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Make checks payable to "Church of the Good Shepherd" with the notation: "Fairless Fair." Thank you.

Good Shepherd Music Ministry Concert

On Saturday, August 29, our Good Shepherd Music Ministry Team will be holding a Facebook Live concert from 7-8pm. The concert will feature various songs they have performed on our Facebook Live services over the past 5 months. The concert will be recorded and made available to you following the live event. Mark your calendars.

Mid-Week Prayer and Bible Study

On Thursdays from 11am until Noon there is an opportunity to pray mid-day prayers together and look at the Gospel passage for the following Sunday, using the Zoom platform. This opportunity will continue through the end of August. You do not have to participate in all the sessions. Let Pastor Dan know if you would like to participate, and he will put you on the list to receive the Zoom link each week.

Online Worship Continues

At the recommendation of our Bishops, we will continue worshipping online until further notice. We will continue our 10am Sunday Facebook Live Services, and we will continue to send a link of the recorded Service in those on our parish email list. Please let others know about our Facebook Live Services. During the COVID-19 health crisis our worshipping community has grown. There are several who do not live in the Wareham area who have been able to join us. Please continue to let others know about our Facebook Live Services.

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 and our funds are running low. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some of our budgeted sources of revenue will not be realized this year including some planned fundraising events and most of the rental fees from outside groups that use our church building.

Sunday Flower Donations

Please consider donating for Sunday Flowers in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for blessing in your life. You may do so **by sending a message to Pastor Dan that includes the Sunday you wish to donate towards the purchase of flowers and the intention for the flowers**. The amount we are charged by the florist for the two arrangements of flowers is \$35. Please make a check out to The Church of the Good Shepherd, with a notation of "Altar Flowers" and mail it to the church. If you are unable to pay the \$35 offering, please give as much as you are able. Your thanksgiving/memorial will be included in the Sunday Prayers of the People.

Good Shepherd's Table

We are continuing our ministry to feed the hungry through Shepherd's Table by providing takeout meals from 4-5pm 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 September 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 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 meetings being held in the church building. This includes support group meetings as well as church meetings. The only things happening in the building are the Facebook Live Services on Sunday mornings, Good Shepherd's Table Take-out meals on Thursdays, and the Food Pantry on the first Tuesday of the month.

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) 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 and Pastor Dan's daily "Thought for Today."



August 2020

