



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham August 21, 2020

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



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,

On Sunday, we will hear the following passage from the Paul's letter to the Romans:

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Paul is writing to the Christian Church in Rome, reminding them of who they are and who they are called to be as followers of Jesus. They needed to be reminded, just as we need to be reminded, that the way Jesus has shown us is the only way to true and lasting peace. We need to be aware that the world around us often has values that are not compatible with the values of the Kingdom of God. We need to stay focused on the will of God, which Jesus has witnessed for us. We need to stay focused on what God finds good, acceptable and perfect. Don't conform your life to the world, conform your life to the will of God. And what is the will of God? That we witness God's love, mercy, kindness, compassion, truth and justice; just as Jesus did.

There are many around us who embrace that which is contrary to the will of God, many who try to entice us to follow them on the path that leads us away from the will of God. There are many who would try to convince us that the ways of darkness are okay; that God's way of love, mercy, kindness, compassion, truth and justice do not always apply.

Let's stay focused Christians. Stay focused on Jesus and The Way he has shown us. Recognize the distractions of the world around you for what they are. Keep God's will at the center of your life. Participate in the Sunday Service every week. Pray every day. Do acts of love and kindness every day. Associate most closely with those who are also striving to do the same. And remember, we are not alone in this; we have God and we have one another.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

1. Thank you to all who have contributed to our Summer "Fairless Fair" fundraiser, to help us with a projected income shortfall this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have not already done so, 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 16, we have received \$6,000, which is about 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.

"Forward Day by Day" Booklets

The "Forward Day by Day" daily devotional booklets for August - October 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.

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 worshiping 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 worshiping 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 meeting 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

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 <u>The 9th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live	3	4 3-5 PM Food Pantry	5	6 4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals	7	8
9 <u>The 10th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live	10	11	12 6:30PM-8PM Understanding the Roots of Racism	13 11AM-NOON Mid-Week Prayer and Bible Study 4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals 6 PM Vestry Meeting	14	15
16 <u>The 11th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live	17	18	19	20 11AM-NOON Mid-Week Prayer and Bible Study 4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals	21	22
23 <u>The 12th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live	24	25	26 6:30PM-8PM Understanding the Roots of Racism	27 11AM-NOON Mid-Week Prayer and Bible Study 4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals	28	29 7PM Good Shepherd Music Ministry Concert on Facebook Live