



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham August 28, 2020

Reflections



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Friends of The Good Shepherd,

As I watch the news and talk to people, it is so very apparent that much of the world in which we live is infected with fear, anger, and hostility. Darkness is settling over our world, our country, our communities. our minds and our hearts. What does truth mean anymore, when lies and deception are coming from some of our leaders on a daily basis? What does justice mean when it is withheld from so many because of the color of their skin, because of who they are or how they worship? Too many among us are willing to blindly follow leaders who prey on our fears, and promise to protect us; not out of concern for us, but for their own self-interest.

And then there is the question, who are we as Christians? How are we called to be and to act in this world? Are we called to simply be silent and pray for change? Are we called to simply get along with others, even when we perceive the works of darkness are on the move? Are we called to retreat from the world and reduce our discipleship to prayer, study, and worship?

These are all difficult questions, but they are also important questions for us to consider. They are also questions that our ancestors in the faith had to answer. This is reflected in the scripture passages we will hear from on Sunday. In the Gospel of Matthew we will hear Jesus say to his disciples (and to us); "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Jesus is telling his disciples that those who chose to live the Way of Love and compassion will face opposition and even rejection because of it; for the forces of darkness are strong, determined and will not go quietly. In the Letter of Paul to the Romans we will hear Paul urge the early Christian community (and us also) to "let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good," and "do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Paul is teaching the Christian community to resist and overcome the evil that we encounter in this world, and to do so with the goodness and love of God as our motivation, our guide and our strength.

Yes, the forces of darkness appear to have won the day. It appears that there is no hope. It appears that God has retreated. But the truth is that God is here, the light of God's love is still burning brightly. We Christians, who have the courage to follow The Way of Jesus and reflect the light of God's love into the world, joining with others who choose light over darkness, can make a difference in our world. We can change things for the better. We can restore the meaning of truth and justice. We can restore hope for a better world. But it will not be easy. Jesus warned us that the way of Love can be a difficult road. We will face opposition, perhaps even from unexpected people and places. It will require determination and courage. It will require that we allow God's goodness and love to be our guide and our strength.

And remember this, the forces of darkness have always been around, even our ancestors in the faith had to face them. Hold fast to your hope in God's love, to The Way of Jesus. We will get through this time if we recognize the forces of darkness for what they are and we resist and work to overcome them, with God's help.

Also, we don't do this alone, we do it together as fellow disciples of Jesus. Together, with God's help, the light of God's love will prevail.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

1. Tomorrow evening, August 29, is the Good Shepherd **Music Ministry Concert**. The concert will begin at 7:00pm and will last about an hour or so. The concert will be held on Facebook Live, and the link to the recorded concert will be emailed to those on the parish email list at the conclusion of the live concert. Look for it at about 8:15. Thank you Jeane, Jon and Leslie! Thank you Katie for operating the camera!
2. Limited **in-person Sunday Services** will begin soon. See below for more details.
3. 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 updates about this fundraiser.
4. 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

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.

Limited In-Person Worship Set to Begin Soon

Beginning Sunday, September 13, Good Shepherd will begin a limited in-person Worship Service on Sunday mornings beginning at 8am. The Service will last approximately 30 minutes, and for the time being will not include music or communion. Our main Sunday Service will continue to be the 10am Facebook Live Service, which will remain online only. Attendance at the 8am in-person Service will be by reservation only so we can control the number of people who attend the Service (limited to 24). To request a reservation, please email Pastor Dan (pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com), and he will confirm your reservation for a specific date. Walk-ins will not be permitted. More details concerning the guidelines for the in-person 8am Sunday Service can be found on the Good Shepherd website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org). Please review the guidelines for the in-person Service before requesting a reservation. The 8am Service will continue unless there is a rise in COVID-19 cases in our greater Wareham area and in our State.

Online Worship Continues

Every Sunday we have our 10am Sunday Facebook Live Services. This is our main Sunday Service, and participation is only online at this time. At the conclusion of the live Service, a link of the recorded Service is emailed to those on our parish email list. Please continue to let others know about our Facebook Live Services.

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

Our Summer Fairless Fair Fundraiser

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Summer Fairless Fair fundraiser. As of August 23, we have received \$6,165, 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.

"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.

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.

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."



September 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
		3-5 PM Food Pantry		4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
The 18th Sunday after Pentecost <hr/> 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live				4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals 6 PM Vestry Meeting		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
The 19th Sunday after Pentecost <hr/> 8 AM In-Person Service By Reservation Only 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live				4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
The 20th Sunday after Pentecost <hr/> 8 AM In-Person Service By Reservation Only 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live				4-5 PM Good Shepherd's Table Take-out Meals		
27	28	29	30			
The 21st Sunday after Pentecost <hr/> 8 AM In-Person Service By Reservation Only 10 AM Sunday Service - Facebook Live						