



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham July 31, 2020

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



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Friends of The Good Shepherd,

On Sunday we will hear the story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fish in Matthew's Gospel. On the surface we hear a story where thousands are fed with just five loaves and two fish, reminding us that God provides for us and that we should trust in Jesus. These are indeed important truths for us to live by. But this is also a story about the role of the disciples to "feed" God's people; to feed them spiritually and to heal their brokenness. The disciples don't think they have enough to give, but it turns out they do have enough when they align themselves with Jesus.

How many times have you faced difficulty and struggles in life and thought that you didn't have enough? How many times have you looked out at the brokenness of the world around you and thought you didn't have enough to change things and to make a difference?

You can make a difference, especially when you choose to align yourself with Jesus and his Way. You can love, show compassion, be kind and caring. You can do your part to change the world into the image of the Kingdom of God.

Let's stay focused on Jesus today and be careful to avoid the distractions which would draw us away from him.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

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

Our church Vestry is projecting a church income shortfall this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will not be receiving rental income from the groups who use our building and our fundraising plans are questionable due to the need for physical distancing and not being able to gather in large groups. These circumstances make for a challenging budget situation. We are forced to be creative and do fundraising in a different fashion. With this in mind, the Vestry is planning a summer "Fairless Fair" fundraiser. You should have received a letter and flyer in the mail explaining our summer "Fairless Fair" fundraiser and asking for your financial donations, along with a return envelope. If you did not receive one, please call the church office (508-295-2840) and let us know your mailing address and one will be sent to you. Please give as generously as possible to help us lessen our projected budget shortfall. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Make checks payable to "Church of the Good Shepherd" with the notation: "Fairless Fair." Please send your donations by August 15. 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. *There will be no Midweek Prayer and Bible Study on August 6.*

Congratulations Pat Probert

Pat Probert, who is the coordinator of our Good Shepherd Food Pantry and Shepherd's Table Thursday meals, has received the Salute to Front-Line Heroes award from Southcoast YMCA. Her loving, compassionate, and dedicated leadership has enabled Good Shepherd and its many volunteers to help feed the hungry in our greater Wareham community. Even with the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have not missed a week in feeding the hungry. Pat's leadership has made this possible. Thank you Pat and congratulations!

Online Worship Continues

At the recommendation of our Bishops, we will continue worshiping online until further notice. For now, 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. Perhaps this is one of those "silver linings."

Pastor Dan Will Be on Vacation

I will be taking a week of vacation time the week of August 3-11. I will not be sending out my "Mid-week Thoughts" that week. There will be no Facebook Live Service on August 9, but a Sunday Service will be emailed to parishioners on the parish email list.

No Facebook Live Service on August 9

On Sunday August 9 Pastor Dan and the Music ministry will be taking a Sunday off. A Service for Sunday August 9 will be emailed to parishioners on the parish email list which will include prayers, readings, music and a video linked sermon.

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 August 4. 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