



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
March 24, 2021

MISSION STATEMENT: Good Shepherd is growing in: Faith and knowledge of God, ministry in our neighborhood, love for one another and support for those seeking Christ.

*Please check out the **church calendar** available on our website.*

www.goodshepherdwv.org

From the Rector:

This Sunday is Palm Sunday and we will be holding our 2nd in-person 10:15 a.m. service! Things are looking better, much better than a year ago. We can be so grateful for the miracle of these COVID vaccines being safely developed in less than a year. What a year it has been. This time last year I blessed the palm branches in front of the camera, then we asked people to come to church during the days afterwards to pick them up. The only two people who attended the Holy Week services last year were me and our organist Sean Parsons!

This Palm Sunday we will gather outside (or in the Great Hall if it's raining) for the Blessing of the Palms and the Palm Procession into the church. We are still required by the bishop to wear masks correctly, meaning over the nose and mouth—not hanging on an ear or chin, and keep family units 6 feet from one another. If we cannot all abide by these restrictions, we may not be allowed to continue to worship in-person. So we are asking everyone to please be patient and follow the guidelines faithfully.

All Holy Week services (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m., Good Friday at 3:00 p.m.) and the Easter services will be in-person. The 10:15 Sunday services, Maundy Thursday, and the Good Friday Liturgy will also be live-streamed on the church's Facebook page. The C-notes and our new Handbell Choir will provide some special music for each of these services.

Many of us have been hoping and praying for a resurrection of our life together. God has blessed us through this time and the Holy Spirit has been vibrant among us.

This past year many of our members and the staff have worked so hard to keep all our parishioners feeling connected to one another. We have made hundreds of phone calls, I have made many, many carefully planned visits, we dropped off numerous meals to families and individuals needing our help, and flowers to provide a little cheer to others.

Carolynne Cooper, Kelly Senchyshak, Courtney Heasley, and I have collected the kids together for Youth Sunday (which we were able to pull off safely) and for Holy Hikes. This Saturday the Acolytes will gather for re-training and in-person Sunday school will soon return. Carolynne has been 'Zooming' with the kids for Sunday School every Sunday since we discovered how to do it!

Meanwhile the Shepherd's Closet volunteers have continued receiving, sorting, cleaning, and preparing items for the rummage sales, which have never ceased. We found a way to safely offer the Christmas Adopted Family ministry to many needy families. The food pantry and the donut ministry have continued. The Vestry and other vital ministries have been functioning via Zoom.

David Johnson and the work crew have developed our virtual ministry for Sunday services. Soon we will have 2 fully-trained teams to produce them. The response to this new ministry has been robust and consistent, so we will continue to offer it.

With the presence of the Holy Spirit and the many blessings of God, all of this energy has been successful in helping us feel connected to one another in love.

The last piece of the puzzle in our resurrection is coming together in-person without any restrictions, offering the cup as well as the host, the congregation singing heartily, passing the Peace, enjoying time with one another again at coffee hour, and fellowship meals and activities.

We may begin to get a little excited about these developments, but we must be cautious not to go too quickly here. So I am pleading for everyone to remain cautious and follow the bishop's guidelines. Yes, we are filled with the longing to return to what we had before, but in order for that to happen well, we must remain patient. God bless you all, and I look forward to seeing you in church on Sunday!

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday (March 28):	8 AM and 10:15 AM, both in person; 10:15 also streamed on Facebook
Maundy Thursday (April 1):	7 PM in person and streamed on Facebook
Watch Vigil (April 1/2):	9 PM Thursday – 3 PM Friday (see below)
Good Friday (April 2):	3 PM in person and streamed on Facebook
Easter Sunday (April 4):	8 AM and 10:15 AM, both in person; 10:15 also streamed on Facebook

Watch Vigil



Our annual **Watch Vigil** will begin Maundy Thursday (April 1) at 9 PM and continue until 3 PM on Good Friday, April 2. The altar will have been stripped and the reserve sacrament moved to the side altar surrounded by candles. **Please sign up for an hour (or 2)** to sit, pray, light a candle and meditate on what our Lord endured in his final hours.

We will have the sign-up chart available through this Sunday March 28 if you attend a service. Otherwise call the office (during office hours) no later than Monday March 29 to choose a time.

“Could you not watch one hour?” Mark 14: 37b

Shepherd's Closet Rummage News:

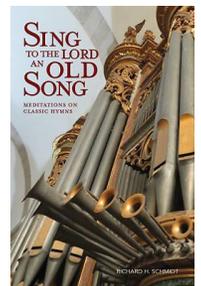


The April sale will be delayed a week to avoid Easter weekend, so it will be Friday and Saturday April 9 & 10. We are switching to spring/summer clothing so as you do your spring cleaning remember to save us your gently used clothing, linens and household items. The last day for donations for this sale is Thursday April 1. **We still need lots of children's clothing – please spread the word.**

We also especially need **more help** with sorting items or helping at the sale since a couple of our usual workers are not available and Deb is recuperating from surgery. Call Deb to arrange to help: 518-637-1734.

Book Group

The group began discussing *Sing to the Lord an Old Song* – meditations on classic hymns, by Richard H Schmidt last Sunday. Each meditation begins with the lyrics, something about the author or the hymn's background, then Schmidt's thoughts/meditations on the words of each stanza, followed by a concluding prayer. Music for most of the hymns is included in the appendix. The book is available on Amazon as a paperback or kindle version; it is also available from Forward Movement, Cokesbury and others. Please order your own book and then join the book group via Zoom (see below) to discuss it on Sundays at 9:15 AM, finishing before 10. If you love traditional hymns (and miss singing them), you will enjoy this book. We will be discussing Hymns 5-8 on Palm Sunday, March 28, have a break for Easter and then do hymns 9-12 for April 11th.



Wine and Chat



Our next Wine and Chat Zoom evening will be at 6 PM on April 11. We've moved it for April since the 1st Sunday is Easter. This is a fun way to catch up with church members you haven't been able to see recently. Please plan to join us. An email with the Zoom details will be sent out on Thursday April 8th.

Neighborhood Meeting

We had a great turnout for our first Neighborhood meeting on March 22nd. Twenty-two people attended including representatives of Jefferson Elementary, Circles, The Boys and Girls Club, Neighborhood Watch, local residents, landlords and business owners as well as Good Shepherd members and District IV City Councilor Wendy Tuck. After some introductions people enthusiastically talked about their ideas for the neighborhood at their tables and then shared their ideas with the whole group. Clean-up efforts, home repairs, gardening, safety, community spirit and activities, sources of funding and involvement opportunities for kids, families and the homeless were all suggested.



The first activity will be a neighborhood clean-up day (see below) In addition to general sidewalk/street clean-up we are going to ask residents to let us know if they need clean-up help with their yards and if so, we will do what we can with the workers we have.

The next meeting will be Monday April 19 at 7 PM in the Great Hall. We plan to alternate daytime and evening meetings to give a wider group of people a chance to attend. If you want to contact Wendy directly with any suggestions her number is 304-482-4330.

Neighborhood Clean-Up Day – Saturday April 17

The spring neighborhood clean-up is scheduled to begin at 9 AM on April 17. This is a great way to work with church members, our neighbors, and the wider community to spruce up the church grounds and the blocks surrounding the church. There will be more details in the next Staff but please reserve the date on your calendar now. If you can't do outside work, we would also love to have some help preparing and serving a simple lunch.



Easter Offering

This year's Easter collection will be donated to the Mid-Ohio Valley Fellowship Home (MOVFH). Their residential facilities (houses for both men and women) are located at the corner of George and Charles, just down the street from Good Shepherd. MOVFH is celebrating 50 years of helping people transition from addiction recovery to sober living. We host their annual sober New Year's Eve party and recently have helped some of their residents through our Adopted Families Christmas program. Let's show our continuing support for their work with generous contributions. Use your Easter envelope or just put Easter in the memo line of your check.



Easter Flowers

If you would like to give a lily in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving, please send your donation in using your Easter Flower envelope or just sending a check (separate from your pledge) with Easter Flowers in the memo line, along with the dedication (in memory of our parents...., in honor of, etc). The deadline for us to have your information for the Easter bulletin is March 29. There is no required set amount. In addition to lilies we will also use donations to purchase flowers for the Flowering of the Cross.



Altar Flowers after Easter

We have open Sundays from April 11 through the end of May. Please call Ginger and let her know if you would like to honor or remember a loved one or special occasion this spring. One vase is \$33.50 or two vases are \$67.

Vases and Food Containers

Thank you to everyone who sent in flower vases and food containers. We appreciate your help but now we have an abundance! You are all so generous! We will let you know if we run low again but for now we have plenty and are running out of places to store them.

Little Free Library

We continue to welcome your donations of used books for adults and kids of all ages and interests. Fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks, gardening, self-help, suspense, sci-fi, best-sellers, mysteries, nature – they are all popular. Right now, we have a good supply of board books for little kids but could really use books for beginner and intermediate readers.



Online Worship Question

As we resume in-person worship and continue online as well, we are producing a greater variety of worship bulletins. The office staff wonders how many of you are using the worship bulletin provided weekly on the church's website. Now that the hymns and Mission Prayer are included in the live stream, do you just use your prayer book or know the service by heart? Let us know by calling 304-428-1525, ext 12 or email llbc100@msn.com. We want to make sure we are meeting everyone's needs but also don't want to do things that are not necessary.

Regular Zoom and Facebook Opportunities

Zoom is more enjoyable if you use a device with a camera in it. Zoom allows you to see the other people participating in the meeting and talk to them. If you need help, please call the office ahead of time so we can help you get set up.



Zoom Weekly:

Bible Study Wednesdays at 3:00 PM

Vestry-prayer/study time (open to all, contact Mother Marjorie to join) Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Book Group Sundays at 9:15 AM

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5840613000?pwd=TUMrSSSt1RIRLYWdZYjY5eTlxUFd5UT09>

Meeting ID: 584 061 3000

Password: bookgroup

Zoom Monthly:

Wine and Chat 1st Sunday each month 6:00 PM (expect email link previous Thursday)

Weekly Worship Livestreamed on Facebook:

You do not need to have Facebook to see our services on Facebook. Go to our website goodshepherdwv.org and click on the link to the service.

Sunday Worship every Sunday at 10:15 AM and Evening Prayer every Wednesday at 4:00 PM

Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

Someone is in the office **Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** You must wear a mask when visiting the office. If you arrive here without one, just let us know when you buzz to come in and we will give you one. If you need us outside office hours, contact Mother Marjorie, Linda, or Larry at home (see the end of the Staff for our contact information). We continue to pray for you, your families and friends, and for Good Shepherd.

♥ Intercessory Prayers

During your prayer time at home please use the lists below to remember those who have asked for our prayers:



Parish Prayer List

Luke Davis – healing
Darlene Slusher - healing
Amber Semones – tests
Ann Stevens – healing

Susie Schram – healing
Buddy Lee – surgery healing
Peggy Hendricks –healing
Mary Gevas – healing

Beyonce Pierce – torn ACL
Carl Slusher - healing
Alicia Mace – problem pregnancy
Jone Johnson – healing and strength

Paul W. - healing	Diane Cottrill – healing	Dean Parsons - healing and strength
Peter Gevas – healing	Gene Allander – healing	Vickie Dilley - healing and strength
Carol Lathrop – healing	Jeff Eason – continued healing	Linda Simpson –healing
Frank Bono – continued healing	Joe Pawlik – healing	Mac Moore – facing heart surgery
Deb Hepburn-McKinney –healing	Bob Fielder – healing hand	Peggy Richards – heart surgery recovery
Melanie Parrish – surgery recovery	Tanner Marlow – healing	Rick Kapron – facing hip surgery
Rosie Jorgenson - healing		

We also pray for all our community’s medical workers, first responders, grocery and drug store workers, shelter and pantry workers, delivery workers, correctional officers and all others in harm’s way while making sure our community continues to function and meet our needs as we await a safe, effective COVID vaccine.



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Donovan Burns, Nathan Jones, Hannah Slusher, Noah Estes, Sterling Slusher

Those needing healing from cancer

Glen Kirk	John Rager	Deb Tuttle	Hazen	Lisa Tanner
Vicky Wilson	Larry Seevers	Krista Wolfer	Rain	David White
Matthew Jacobs	Ray Kidder	Helena Shaffer	Tessa	Floyd Anderson
Leonard Gerber	Stan Moore			

Deaths

Tammy Reynolds Kelley

♥ **Prayer Chain**

We have a group of people who pray for those having emergency situations – surgery, accidents, or other crises. Linda Crocker makes the calls using the One Call system when she is notified of an immediate need. If you want to be added to the prayer chain let Linda know (304-210-5591). **God hears all our prayers** – you don’t need a special gift to pray for healing and comfort for those in distress. All prayer chain calls remain confidential.



Outreach Programs

♥ **Food Pantry** - Numbers have been fluctuating in response to pandemic relief, the weather and school schedules. We do see lots of homeless people as well as local residents. Thank you to everyone who has made a special donation to keep us funded and thank you to all our volunteers.



♥ **Donuts** - We continue to make them available to our neighbors and the homeless. Thank you to McHappy’s and to Jim and Bob who make sure the day-old donuts are picked up each week. In preparing the outreach section of the annual Parochial Report we found that we are providing somewhere around 5000 bags of donuts a year! That is helping a lot of hungry people.



♥ **Last Sunday Supper** - Still working on a plan to re-open

♥ **Reading Camp**

Tentatively scheduled for the week of August 2nd. Contact Linda if you can help. We will need people to lead small groups of kids through simple reading reinforcement activities as well as people to help with meals and snacks, decorating, and afternoon activities.

♥ **Open Sky**

Date change: Open Sky has decided to come for one longer stay June 23- July 2.

Inreach Opportunities

We show our care for other members as we listen to each other, spend time together, share a (virtual) hug during the exchange of the peace, help in times of need and celebrate special moments.

Those who can't be here in person are also valued members of our congregation.

Currently in a hospital, rehab or care facility and appreciating a card:

Gene Allander: Select Specialty Hospital, 2000 Tamarack Rd. Newark, OH 43055

Dennis Armstrong: Ohio Valley Healthcare, Room 309, 222 Nicolette Rd, Parkersburg, WV 26104

Bob Flinn: Wyngate Senior Living, 1 Wyngate Way, Parkersburg, WV 26105

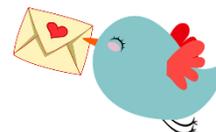
Deb Tuttle: Arcadia Valley Nursing Home, 25675 Main St. Coolville, OH 45723

At home:

Michael James: 235 S. Campus Drive, Apt. 209, Parkersburg, WV 26105

Recently Moved:

Anne Davies: Room 223, Shurmer Place, 18821 Shurmer Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136



Important Upcoming Calendar Dates:

March 28 – Palm Sunday

April 1 – Maundy Thursday and beginning of Watch Vigil

April 2 – Good Friday and end of Watch Vigil

April 4 – Easter Sunday

April 9-10 – Rummage Sale

April 11 – Wine and Chat at 6 PM

April 17 – Neighborhood Clean-Up – 9 AM

April 19 – Neighborhood Meeting – 7 PM

Support Good Shepherd When You Shop!

Amazon Smile: Go to smile.amazon.com and register your support for The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd. Return there to shop (at the same prices as the normal site) and a percentage of your spending comes back to the church.



Kroger Rewards:



This is a lucrative source of funds for our food pantry (usually over \$200 each quarter). It costs you nothing except a few minutes to register your Kroger Rewards card. You will still earn your own fuel rewards. Please call 1-800-576-4377, choose option 8, then on the next menu choose option 3. Tell the customer service rep you want to support us through Kroger Community Rewards. Give the number off your Kroger Rewards card, your name, and Good Shepherd's organization number PN457. You can shop anywhere in Kroger's mid-Atlantic region, including Parkersburg, Belpre, and Marietta.

Contact Information:

The Rev. Marjorie Bevans, Rector 304-679-7381

reverendsbevans@gmail.com

Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator 304-428-1525, ext. 10

gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com

Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries 304-210-5591

LLBC100@msn.com

Larry James, Senior Warden 304-482-9661

blesense@suddenlink.net