



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

January 20, 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 past Saturday most of the vestry attended an in-person day-long retreat for the first time since the pandemic began last year. We met in the church, wore masks, and kept socially distant from one another. It was just a nice feeling to be in the church and together again.

We felt we had to begin this new year with such a retreat. All of us have been longing to be in our church and to be together physically in some way. It was a productive day. We discussed some of our challenges and set a path for 2021. Our focus for everything we do this year connects it to "Sharing the Gospel and bringing people to Christ." Several new initiatives are already underway. You'll be hearing more about them elsewhere in this and upcoming newsletters, and on our website and Facebook page.

I am hoping and praying that as the COVID vaccinations are given to more and more people, that some of the restrictions on gathering will be lifted by the Bishop. Until that time we do have ongoing virtual ministries involving small groups of parishioners and non-parishioners.

The Facebook livestreaming of our 10:15 service is improving each Sunday as we learn from experience in doing it. Our goal is 'perfection'. The equipment is performing just as designed. We have more people being trained to use it too. We hope to have perhaps 2 teams who would each serve at least twice a month in this new ministry. We envision this ministry continuing even after we are able to return to in-person worship. There are many who have been enjoying these services who live out of town or are homebound.

If you are really just missing being in our church, and many have expressed that they are, we believe it is safe for you to drop by anytime during office hours if you want to pray in that special 'Holy space'. If you call ahead of time, we could turn up the heat so it would be a little more comfortable for you. Just remember to wear a mask when you come in the office entrance. If you come with members of your household only, it would be safe to take your masks off in the church. Some of our parishioners have already been visiting the past couple of months and have found it very comforting.

Annual Meeting – January 24

Our Annual Budget Meeting will be this coming Sunday, January 24, at 11:30 AM. It will be a Zoom meeting only. A copy of the Narrative Budget is included with this issue of the Staff so you can look it over before the meeting. The Narrative Budget takes our proposed annual budget and combines those figures with our estimated designated donations (such as donations to the food pantry, Adopted Families, altar flowers). Those amounts are then spread over various categories in pie charts to show where our funds come from and how they are used to fund our ministries.



We will send a link via email later this week so you can access the meeting. If you can't attend the meeting and have questions or comments, please call the office.

WINE and CHAT with your Good Shepherd family and friends.

On January 31st at 6:00 pm we will be trying a Wine and Chat Zoom party! We all miss our Good Shepherd family so we thought this might be a way to connect.

If you want to participate, please send your current email address to church, care of Ginger or Linda. Your name and email will be added to a list so when the Zoom meeting is set up we can send you a link to click on to join us.

Toast the New Year with your beverage of choice and enjoy each other's company in a safe way!
Hope to see you all!

Any questions? Call Cathy Freed, Carole Martucci or Sally Harris



Shepherd's Closet Rummage News:



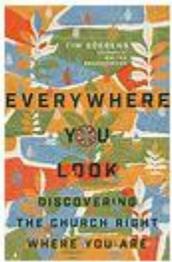
The rummage team is already busy preparing for the next sale on February 5 and 6. If you have any donations please bring them in by January 28th. Winter clothing, linens (especially blankets, comforters, sheets), and household items are all welcome. We can always use more help with sorting or helping at the sale. Call Deb (518-637-1734).

Souper Bowl Sunday February 7

Every year we have a non-perishable food collection for our food pantry on Super Bowl Sunday. Since we expect that we still won't be meeting together for worship we will have a buggy for your donations parked in the hall outside the office February 1-4. The office is open 9-noon and 1-4 Monday – Thursday so shop the sales and bring in your donation one of those days so Mo. Marjorie can bless our collection (and our food ministry) on the 7th.



Book Group

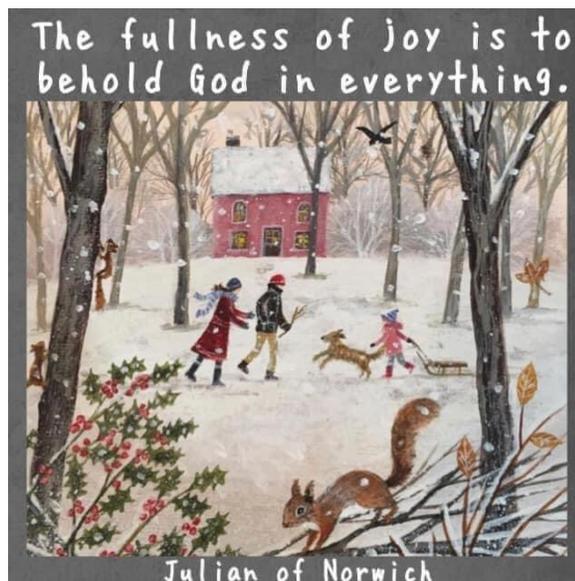


The Book Group is reading *Everywhere You Look: Discovering the Church Right Where You Are* by Tim Soerens. We are already enjoying the insights and it may help us envision Good Shepherd's future, especially in a post-COVID world. The group currently meets via Zoom at 9:15 AM on Sunday morning, finishing before 10 (in time for the 10:15 church service). The book is available in paperback from various online retailers including Target and Amazon. There is also a Kindle version. Contact Linda Crocker if you need any help getting your copy.

Maybe this is the time for YOU to try out the Book Group. We always have lively discussions based on whatever we are reading, trying to apply what we read to our daily lives as Christians.

To participate in the discussion email Bob Crocker (crocker100@live.com) and he will send you a Zoom invitation.

Found on Facebook



From a painting by Lucy Grossmith

Altar Flowers



We have one open date for altar flowers before Lent begins. That date is Jan. 31. After Lent we have several dates open (no flowers in Lent or Advent). Please call Ginger in the office (Monday-Thursday, 9:30 – 12, 1:00-4) to choose a date and give her the name(s) of those you would like to remember or honor. The flowers currently cost \$33.50 for one vase or \$67 for both vases.



Staying Connected

Someone is in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Due to the governor's order 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 are praying for you, your families and friends, and for Good Shepherd.

♥ 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). All prayer chain calls remain confidential.



♥ 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

Karen Miller –healing	Amanda Morris – healing	Kevin Bianchi – healing (stroke)
Frank Bono - healing from surgery	Jeff Eason - healing	Deb Hepburn-McKinney - strength/healing
Mary Gevas - healing	Peter Gevas - healing	Nicole Vanfossen – COVID19 - healing
Carol Lathrop - healing	Ann Stevens - healing	Linda Simpson – knee replacement
Jessica Allander – broken ankle	Gene Allander - healing	Mac Moore - facing heart surgery
Vickie Dilley - healing & strength	Paul W. – healing	Gary Underwood - COVID-19
Alisha - problem pregnancy	Diane Cottrill – healing	Dean Parsons—strength & healing
Jone Johnson - healing of eye	Trembly Family - safety	The Rev. Canon Mark Seitz - healing

Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Hannah Slusher	Noah Estes	Sterling Slusher	Donovan Burns
Lauren Fielder	Dayne Hess	John R Davis Jr	Jed Harris



Those needing healing from cancer

Glen Kirk	Sharon Burnside	David Friend	Vicky Wilson	Samantha
Dylan Burton	Patty	Steve Meadows	Dale Haught	Ed Davis
Joe Moore	Lisa Tanner	Dennis Cox	Billie	Daisy McBride
George	Rain	Keith	Tessa	Larry Seevers
Tammy Reynolds	Hazen	Linda Bavousett	Deb Tuttle	Judy Conkle
Matthew Jacobs	Ray Kidder	Jim Sheets	Mary Withum	Floyd Anderson
John Rager	Helena Shaffer	Leonard Gerber	Jarrett Nay	Mary Hursey
Krista Wolfer				

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.



Outreach Programs

♥ Food Pantry

Numbers continue to increase. We 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.



♥ Last Sunday Supper, Reading Camp, Open Sky

Let's pray that enough people are vaccinated, and COVID-19 is in retreat, so we can resume these programs later in 2021.

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: Belpre Landing, 1915 Hill St. Belpre, OH 45714

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



Important Upcoming Calendar Dates:

January 24 - Annual Congregational Budget Meeting via Zoom

January 31 – Wine and Chat on Zoom at 6:00 PM

February 7 – Souper Bowl Sunday

February 17 – Ash Wednesday

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 on the Kroger site. You will still earn your own fuel rewards. Please sign up at www.kroger.com/communityrewards or ask and we'll help you. Good Shepherd is 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

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

Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries 304-210-5591

Larry James, Senior Warden 304-482-9661

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