



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

October 28, 2026

Our mission: To **Worship** God, to **Serve** our neighbors, to **Proclaim** the Good News

*Please check out the **church calendar** available on our website: www.goodshepherdwv.org*

From the Rector

All who hunger gather gladly...

There are so many things to love about fall: the temperature, the colors in nature, the special foods, the sense that some of the U.S.'s most enjoyable holidays are coming in rapid succession. For farming communities, it is still harvest time. Fall is non-stop gathering of produce to sell, consume, or save for the future. Harvest festivals bring neighbors together in gratitude for crops well reaped. A similar sense of thankfulness hangs in the air at Good Shepherd.

While we continue our ministries of food and clothing for our neighbors, we have also had an eye to the future. Forward thinking members recognized that changes in SNAP and Medicaid may affect those whom we have been walking alongside for years. And they acted to pull together a community meeting. Other members are looking at the lack of affordable housing across Parkersburg and wondering how Good Shepherd might play a role. Scotty, along with our principal vocalists and guest musicians, has ideas on how to continue to grow our worship with joy and gratitude. There are exciting things being both reaped and sown in the Pink Church.

The Episcopal Parish Network recently reminded us that words like "stewardship" and "pledge" are often misunderstood in contemporary society. "Stewardship" means the care we take in nurturing things we love. It has both tangible and intangible elements. We take care of our church through our words, actions, and gifts. Every year we ask folks to "pledge" a percent of their time and financial resources so that we can know how best to sow our resources for the next year. A better phrase for this might be "giving estimate." We understand that there are so many unknowns in the future that your giving estimate today may not be the exact gifts you give in the end, and that is ok. Just like a farmer cannot know for sure how much crop they will reap, but trusts that it will all work out in the end, we trust the Holy Spirit to keep guiding Good Shepherd in its works. Whatever gifts you can bring, expertly estimated or just a plain old guess, we are grateful you continue to gather with us. We hope you share in our gladness, always.

Katie Beth+

Pink Church T-shirts

The Think Pink t-shirts have arrived. Please come by the office to get yours. We also ordered some extras so if you still want one, call the office and we will save one of the extras for you.

Temporary Job Opening

Gabe, our sexton, will be on a planned extended trip with friends from December 6 through mid-January. We would like to hire a college student (or two working together) to cover his duties while he is away. This is a great opportunity for college students to earn some money while they are on break. For one student this would be for 18 hours per week spread over 3 or 4 days at \$16/hour. If 2 students want to share the job, we would pay them each \$10/hour for a reduced number of hours to be mutually agreed upon. The duties include cleaning the restrooms, mopping and/or vacuuming, dusting, removing trash, etc. Spread the word and have anyone interested contact the church office.



Adult Forum with Potluck Meal and Hymn Sing - Nov. 4

Those here for our 1st event Oct. 21 enjoyed a delicious Good Shepherd potluck meal, sang several favorite hymns, and learned a bit about the development of hymns. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center for you to list some of your favorite hymns we can sing on Nov. 4. The meal will begin at 6 and we will be out of the building by 8 PM



Annual Church Budget preparations

Every year at this time we ask the people in charge of spending our money to estimate how much they think they will need in the church budget for the coming year. How much do we think we will spend on repairs and maintenance? How much on utilities? How much for copying expenses? How much for communion wafers? How much for our music program? You get the idea.

We also ask our members to estimate what they will give to the church in the year ahead. We call it a pledge. That may sound like a promise or contract to you, but we consider it to be your best guess as to what you will give. Maybe you will get an unexpected raise or an inheritance and will decide to give more. Maybe you will have unanticipated expenses and will have to give less. We just want your *giving estimate* so we can prepare the income side of the budget as well as the expense side. We will be thrilled if total giving is above what was estimated and we will also understand that circumstances can prevent giving as much as planned.

Gather Gladly is this year's theme, appropriate in so many ways. We gather for worship, we gather for fellowship, we gather to serve, we gather resources to share, we gather to receive comfort and support, and we gather to receive God's grace for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for Good Shepherd. We hope that you will spend some time considering the resources you have gathered and how you can share them with others through our ministries at Good Shepherd. Our pledge (giving estimate) ingathering will be Sunday November 8. Please return your pledge card at that service, or earlier by bringing it or mailing it to the office.

Adopted Families:

Shoppers Still Wanted

Applications for our Christmas program providing gifts for area families with children are coming in. Each application asks the parents or guardians to suggest gifts for each child. We need savvy shoppers to look for these items locally or online (hopefully when they are on sale), purchase them, and deliver them to the church along with the receipts so we can reimburse you. We will be spending about \$80 on gifts per child, with each child hopefully getting a 'big' gift and a 2nd less expensive gift. Shoppers buy gifts for all the children in a family. The children range in age from newborn through 18 with some families having one child and others having several. You can choose how many families to shop for or start with one and then ask for more if you can. Contact the office for more information or to volunteer.

Other Ways to Help

Since our shoppers buy specific gifts for each child, we do not collect toys/gifts. However, we do welcome donations of toiletries (the list of needs will be available soon), hats and gloves for all ages but especially gloves in men's sizes, rolled Christmas gift wrap, and coloring books for kids and teens. Since we have to buy the gifts, food for food baskets and other items, financial donations are also an option. You can give cash, by check or online – just make sure we know that your donation is for Adopted Families.

Save the Date!

Plan to attend an Advent Open House at Katie Beth's home in Williamstown on Friday December 11, 3 - 7 PM

Bell Tower

We are ready for new stucco. Pray for beautiful dry autumn weather to continue so the crew can finish stucco work at the mall and move on to our job.

Free Christmas Concert

Rockland Fellowship GMC church of Belpre is sponsoring Chosen Road's Appalachian Christmas at the historic Smoot Theatre on Friday December 18 at 7 PM. Admission is free, but you must have a ticket which is available at www.smoottheatre.com.

There will be a collection to support an organization that works to prevent child sex-trafficking.

Found on Facebook - a variety of articles for your reflection – one each issue

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=all%20saints%20prayer>

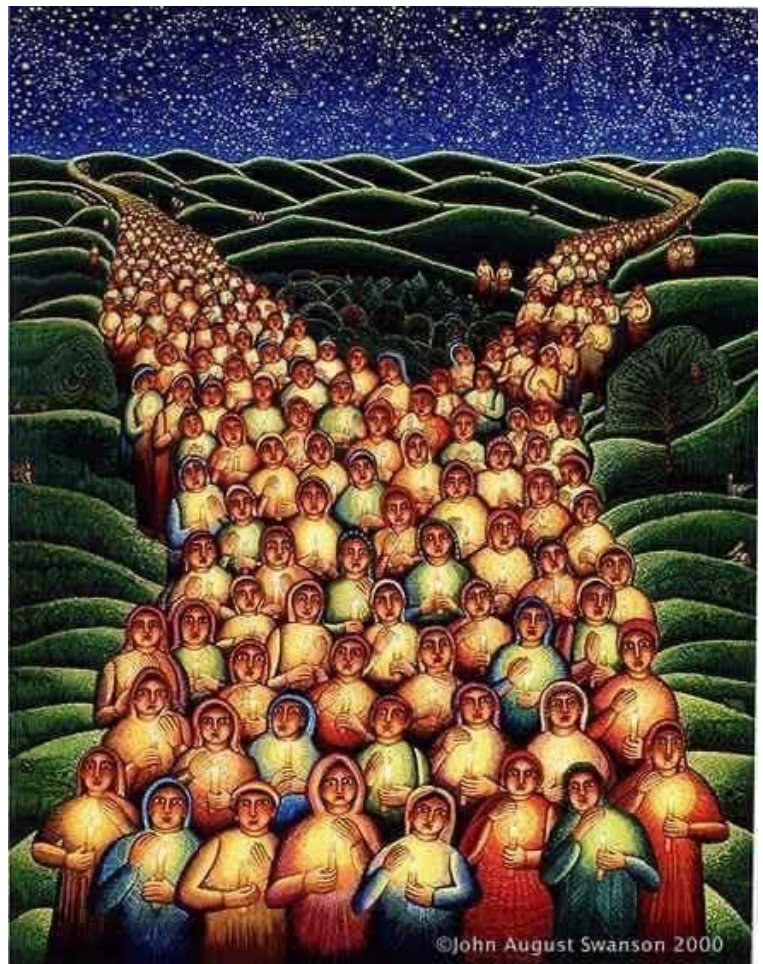
A prayer for All Saints' Day:

Eternal God, not bound by time,
we give you heartfelt thanks for all the saints
who have gone before us,
who work beside us,
who live beyond us.

Open us to their presence among us:
the words of prophets on our lips,
the blood of martyrs
coursing through our veins,
the visions of mystics before our eyes,
the love of those who embraced poverty
innervating our muscles
to acts of compassion.

May we be so caught up in their Alleluia,
our lives vibrating, like theirs,
with the pulse of eternity,
until the very foundations of this old world
begin to rumble
and give way to your new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

[adapted by John Alexander White from a prayer by
Jan Richardson in "The Painted Prayerbook"]



All Saints at Good Shepherd

We sort of combine All Saints and All Souls. You are encouraged to bring a photo of a loved one you would like to honor/remember to put on the side altar for Sunday's service. You can bring it tomorrow (Thursday) or to church with you on Sunday morning. Just get here before the service starts! That shouldn't be too hard this week since we get an extra hour of sleep as the clocks change.



As the Saints, go marching in, oh as the saints go marching in....



Altar Flowers

The only date left in 2026 is November 15. The cost is \$40/vase. Call the office to reserve your date and give us the information we should include in the bulletin.



Shepherd's Closet Rummage



The October sale raised \$407. The next sale will be November 6 and 7. Donations are welcome as they prepare for cooler weather and the holidays. If you can come in to help Deb price and sort, please give her a call to arrange a time. Her cell # is 518-637-1734.

Books for the Little Free Library

A big Thank You to Trinity Church for giving us boxes and boxes of books left from their annual book sale. Books for kids, teens, adults, cooks, crafters, Christmas lovers, mystery lovers. So many books to choose from.



Inreach Opportunities

We show our care for other members as we listen to each other, spend time together, support each other in our church ministries, share a hug during the peace, help in times of need and celebrate special moments. Those who can't be here in person are also valued members. If you or a loved one would like a card, a visit, a meal, or a home communion, please call the office and we will connect you with someone who would love to be asked to help.

♥ Pastoral Care

Someone is in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (these are our normal hours as of September 1st). If you need pastoral care outside office hours, contact Toni DeVore or Linda Crocker (see below). Additionally, the Eucharistic Visitors can offer a visit and/or home communion to those who can't come to church – just ask!

♥ 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 by a church member 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.



♥ Intercessory Prayers:

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

Good Shepherd Parish Prayer List

Mary Gevas – healing	Kim Forrester – healing	Ian Israelsen – healing/strength
Gene Allander – healing	Diane Cottrill – healing	Marcia Doyle – healing
Peter Gevas – healing	John Curry – healing	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Ann Stevens– healing	Amanda Morris – healing	Buck Harris – strength/healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing		Sophie Sun - healing



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Donovan Burns, Sterling Slusher, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

John Stevens	Alana Dailey	Gary Greer	Lois Switzer
Rudi Miksa	Mirtala Smith	Faith Beha	Everett Gilmore
Charles Sterchak	Ellen Faymon	Ben Buskirk	Courtney Rodriguez
Jeff Alkire	Kira Mace		



Outreach Programs

- ♥ **Donuts** - We make day-old donuts available to our neighbors and the homeless. Thank you to McHappy's and to those who make sure the donuts are picked up daily. 
- ♥ **Little Free Library** – Filling the church neighborhood with books to read. Your donations are always welcome. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be Sunday, November 29. Set-up and cook at 1 PM or help serve and clean-up at 5:15 PM. We begin serving at 5:30 and continue until about 6 (or earlier if we run out of food). We are usually out of the building by 7 or 7:15.
- ♥ **Food Pantry** –Can you help hand out food bags to the unhoused or assemble food orders in the pantry for our housed clients? The current need is volunteers on Monday morning, Monday afternoon, and Thursday morning. We also need subs occasionally. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or just as needed. Also, **we need your used bags**, doubled if possible. 

Coming Up:

Now thru Nov. 3rd - Adopted Families Applications –
October 31 – Change your clocks
November 1 – All Saints Day
November 4 – Potluck and Hymn Sing – take 2
November 8 – Pledge Ingathering



Contact Information:

The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa	304-428-1525, ext. 4	rector.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator	304-428-1525, ext. 1	gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries	304-428-1525, ext. 5	LLBC100@msn.com or text 304-210-5591
Toni DeVore, Senior Warden	304-991-2259	drtd51@gmail.com

One Call system 1-877-698-3261

This is the way we notify our members of important announcements.
Caller ID will say that the call is from Good Shepherd, but it is really from One Call.
Call the number above if you need a message from the church repeated.
If you are not receiving messages, contact Linda to be added to our call list.

Support our Ministries

