

A decorative graphic featuring a central photograph of a pink church building with a steeple, surrounded by several autumn leaves in shades of orange, red, and yellow. On either side of the church photo, there is a white rectangular box with a black border containing the word "Give" on the left and "Thanks" on the right, both in a red, cursive-style font.

*Give*

*Thanks*

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF**  
**The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**November 20, 2024**

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](http://www.goodshepherdwv.org)

**A letter from the Rev. Katie Beth Miksa**

Greetings to all of you at the Pink Church. I am so excited to join you on Sunday, December 1st. Not only will it be my first day as your rector, but it is also the beginning of Advent, the first season in our new liturgical year. What a great time to start our relationship together! Advent is a season of hoping and dreaming. It is one of joyous expectation. I cannot think of a better moment to be together than celebrating the coming of Christ.

One thing you might like to know about me is that I love teaching about our liturgical seasons. I also love referencing books, movies, music, art, and other things from culture in my sermons and formation series. God is present everywhere, and if we develop our senses enough, we can start to discover God's presence in places we never expected. In that vein, I am thrilled to announce I will be leading a formation series during the 9:15-10am time slot on Sundays during Advent, beginning Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. It will be loosely based off Rev. Heidi Haverkamp's book *Advent in Narnia*, which I recommend to you if you are the sort who likes short daily reflections during Advent. It intersperses brief passages of scripture with quotes from C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Please note, you will not need Haverkamp's book, nor to have read or seen *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, to enjoy this formation series. I will note that the 1988 BBC film version of the book is available for free on YouTube in case you are interested.

When I was a child, my family would drive from Monroe, Louisiana to Bay City, Michigan at least annually so that my brother and I could visit my father's parents. We were fortunate to have a small tv that could plug into the cigarette lighter and play VHS tapes. My mom had found a VHS of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (the 1988 BBC version) at a Sam's along the way, and it suddenly became a fan favorite in our car. I am certain my brother and I watched it at least one hundred times over the years, as it was on constant repeat during those 16+ hour drives. In adult life, the whole series has provided a vehicle to talk about various parts of our faith, much as C.S. Lewis intended. I am also a big fan of the *Lord of the Rings*, and many other fantasy novels. But I love historical fiction and biographies, too. Reading, in general, has been a large part of my family for generations. My maternal grandfather owned a bookstore. We also played a lot of card games and board games, traditions I have carried on. I love learning new things. If you are excited about something, please be sure to share it with me. I promise to ask a million questions about what it is, how it works, and together think about how it might be a part of your ministry in this space.

In addition to worship and the aforementioned formation series, the church is organizing some open house opportunities to provide the space for you to get to know me in a small group setting. These will take place over the course of several weeks, so stay tuned for more information. I am praying for you as we await our time together, and may we have a blessed Advent.

Katie Beth+

## Welcome Katie Beth

Please plan to be at church on Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:15 AM as we welcome our new Rector, the Rev. Katie Beth Miksa. The service will be followed by lunch so that we have a bit more time to greet Katie Beth and join in celebrating her arrival and the beginning of her ministry with us.

## Thanksgiving Offering

The Vestry has chosen to support Hunters Helping the Hungry with this year's Thanksgiving offering. This is a program that pays to have donated deer processed into ground meat for distribution by food pantries. Hunters have a way to donate deer they do not need for their own use and the hungry are fed. You may donate using your Thanksgiving envelope, a Hunters envelope in the Welcome Center or by check to Good Shepherd with Hunters in the memo line.

## Shepherd's Closet Rummage

There is one more sale this year on Dev. 6 and 7. We would love to have more household items, especially pots and pans, winter clothing and Christmas decorations, dishes, linens, etc. There will not be a sale in January or February, so this is the best time to donate cold weather clothing, warm blankets, etc.



## Bible Study



Wednesday Bible Study groups led by David Cooper meets most Wednesdays. The groups meet in the late afternoon/early evening. There are two sessions. The group meeting from 4:15 – 5:15 PM is studying the Letter to the Romans. The group meeting from 5:15 - 6:15 PM has finished Ruth and is now studying 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel. Both groups welcome new attendees. Let David know you will be there so he can let you into the building (304-494-8790).

## Stewardship Update

Thanks to all 37 individuals and families who have declared their commitment to walk in love as Christ loved us by pledging for the coming year. We are making wonderful progress in our Walk in Love campaign with 37 pledges received as of this writing.



Highlights of our progress - and your commitment - include 4 new pledges, 23 with

increased amounts pledged and none with decreases. We are very grateful to the leadership of the Vestry, all of whom have pledged and many of whom have increased their pledge.

If you have not turned in a pledge card yet, please do so soon. The church treasurer is already trying to put together a preliminary budget and he would prefer to have solid figures rather than make guesstimates.

## Altar Flowers:

The only remaining date in 2024 is Dec. 29. You can have a small vase of flowers placed in the Columbarium on any Sunday. Please contact the office to choose your date and to indicate if the flowers are in memory of someone or to honor a special person or event.



## GS Youth and Young Adult Fundraiser



The Good Shepherd Youth and Young Adult group will be having a Christmas Craft and Bake Sale on Sunday morning, December 8th. Craft items and baked goods will be sold between the 8:00 and 10:15 services and after the 10:15 service. Some craft items that will be available for purchase are: various sized Christmas gift bags, seasonal wind spinners, Christmas clay ornaments and Christmas ball ornaments.

Some of the baked good items are Ginger's pecan tartlets, corn bread, Toll House cookies, Bob's brownies, banana bread, Christmas cookie bars, pepperoni rolls and more. We will accept cash and checks (made out to Good Shepherd with Youth in the memo line). At last year's bake sale, the congregation was so generous and we were greatly appreciative. We thought we'd expand our bake sale and add crafts this year. We hope to see you there and thank you for supporting our kids and young people.

Carolynne Cooper

## Adopted Families



The application period ended after a 2<sup>nd</sup> extension that saw several more families realizing that they were going to need help providing Christmas gifts for their kids. Our experience is that many families in need struggle day-to-day and don't realize that they need to apply for help like this ahead of time. So it is fortunate that we were able to extend the application period a bit. We are serving 42 families with about 110 children.

If you would like to make a donation of items, we are sure to need rolls of gift wrap and hats and gloves for men and women. All donations need to be new/unused items. To make a financial donation, send us a check with *Adopted Families* in the memo line. We also are collecting items for toiletry bags for each family – a list of needed items and collection bags are outside the office. Please return the filled bags as soon as possible, definitely before Thanksgiving.

## Found on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=united%20thank%20offering>

United Thank Offering suggests that we start a new family tradition with Thanksgiving thank-you cards! Find the printable file here: <https://loom.ly/oD2eRN0> or just come up with your own. What a great way to express our appreciation of the special people in our lives.



## Advent Preparations:

We are all eagerly waiting to welcome our new rector on December 1<sup>st</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Advent. As Katie Beth says in her letter above, Advent is a time of hoping and dreaming, but it is easy to get caught up in the busyness of the holidays and not take the time to hope and dream. A custom Advent calendar is on the last page of this issue of the Staff. for you to print out. I hope that it will serve as a reminder to take time for the simple joys that enable you to thoughtfully and joyfully prepare for the coming of the Christ child.

Linda

## Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve



## Intercessory Prayers

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

### *Parish Prayer List*

The People of Israel and Gaza  
The People of Ukraine  
Peggy Roberts - healing  
Mary Gevas – healing  
Diane Cottrill – healing  
Jone Johnson – healing/strength  
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing

Marcia Doyle – healing  
Amanda Morris – healing  
Peter Gevas – healing  
Heyward Roberts – healing  
Ann Stevens– healing  
John Stevens – healing  
David Cottrill - healing

Eric Dailey – healing  
Jay Lathrop – healing  
Dee Milhoan – healing/strength  
Shauna Hyde – healing  
Vickie Dilley –healing/strength  
Chris Heckman – healing






*Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces*  
Sterling Slusher, Joe Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

*Those needing healing from cancer*

Glen Kirk	Marlene Cox	David Nevins	Julia Lee
Judy McCoy	David White	Alana Dailey	Chris Angotti
Doris Lowe	Ellis Corra	Gary Greer	Wendy Meredith
Hal Foss	Charles Sterchak		



**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 each week. 
- ♥ **Little Free Library** – Filling the church neighborhood with books to read. Your donations are always welcome or help yourself to a book if you spot a good one – they are there for anyone and everyone. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be this Sunday, November 24. Come help set-up and cook beginning at 1 PM or come help serve and clean-up at 5:15 PM. We begin serving at 5:30 and continue until 6/6:15 or earlier if we run out of food. We are usually out of the building by 7 or 7:15.
- ♥ **Food Pantry** – If you would like to help handing out the bags, the current need is someone on Tuesday morning. We also need substitute helpers when someone is out of town or ill. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or just as needed. 



**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 of our congregation.

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. If you need pastoral care outside office hours, contact Larry James, or Linda Crocker (see the end of the Staff for our contact information). 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.





## Contact Information:

Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator 304-428-1525, ext. 1 [gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com](mailto:gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com)  
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries 304-428-1525, ext. 5 [LLBC100@msn.com](mailto:LLBC100@msn.com)  
Larry James, Senior Warden 304-482-9661 [blesense@suddenlink.net](mailto:blesense@suddenlink.net)

One Call system 1-877-698-3261 This is the number to call if you need a message from the church repeated.

## Calendar Dates

Nov. 24 – The Rev. Jordan Trumble will preside at both services. Last Sunday  
Supper at 5:30 PM

Nov. 28 – Thanksgiving Day (office closed at noon Nov. 27, re-opening Mon. Dec. 2)

Dec. 1 – Advent 1 and Welcome the Rev. Katie Beth Miksa (one service followed by lunch)

Dec. 8, 15, 22 – Advent study between services

Dec. 8 – Youth and Young Adult Bake and Craft Sale

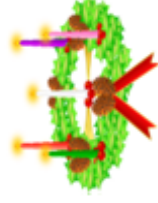
Dec. 9, 10, 11 – Adopted Families Christmas Distribution Days




















Dec. 22 – Christmas Pageant – details to follow





# Good Shepherd Advent/Christmas Calendar 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Dec. 1</b> Make or find your Advent Wreath and light the 1st candle tonight	<b>2</b> Choose a new dimmer-time grace to use during Advent	<b>3</b> Make ornaments from old Christmas cards. (just google it)	<b>4</b>  Send Christmas cards to faraway friends	<b>5</b> Write a Christmas greeting and send it to LLbc100@msn.com	<b>6</b> <b>St Nicholas Day</b> Read a Christmas story	<b>7</b> Count your blessings while listening to Christmas carols
<b>8</b> Light 2 candles on your Advent Wreath Advent Study @ 9:15 AM Youth Bake & Craft Sale	<b>9</b> Give thanks for our Adopted Families volunteers 	<b>10</b> Say a prayer for our Adopted Families 	<b>11</b> Invite someone to go on a winter walk 	<b>12</b>  Make cookies today for a neighbor	<b>13</b> Practice singing Christmas carols 	<b>14</b> Pray for family and friends as you wrap gifts 
<b>15</b> Light 3 candles on your Advent Wreath 	<b>16</b> Make some hot chocolate and share it with someone special 	<b>17</b> Spend 17 minutes just relaxing in front of your tree 	<b>18</b> Call the office and offer to help hand out food sometime during the next 2 weeks	<b>19</b> Donate individual size food items to our Food Pantry for the homeless 	<b>20</b> Watch a Christmas movie 	<b>21</b> Plan time to relax with friends 
<b>22</b> Christmas Pageant today and Caroling tonight to the homebound 	<b>23</b> Read Luke 2: 1-20 and set up your Christmas crèche 	<b>24</b> <b>Come to our Christmas Eve Service</b> 	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas</b> <i>Pray for those alone at Christmas</i>	<b>26</b> Thank God for everyone who sent you a Christmas card or gift	<b>27</b> Enjoy the wonder of a starry night 	<b>28</b> Put peanut butter on pine cones and hang them for the birds 
<b>29</b> Come help prepare or serve the Last Sunday Supper 	<b>30</b> Write "I love you" notes for your family and put them under their pillows	<b>31</b> Pray for all those who have lost loved ones in 2024	<b>Jan 1 2025</b> <b>Happy New Year!</b> Praise God for blessing you with another year	<b>Jan 2</b> Cut out some lacy snowflakes for your windows 	<b>Jan 4</b> Sing The 12 Days of Christmas one more time	<b>Jan 5</b> Epiphany is tomorrow 