

Come, Ye Thankful



People, Come!

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
November 16, 2022

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:

It is good for us to practice gratitude in all seasons, not just the season of Thanksgiving. Every now and then, I see yet another study on the impact of personal gratitude in one's life. Those who tend to be grateful are happier, healthier, live longer, and are generous themselves. Their gratitude can become contagious and spread to those closest to them—family, friends, and co-workers. In a society in which so many people are driven by insecurity to have more and more, or by consumerism to obtain the next new or greatest thing, people who practice gratitude are like speed bumps. They can slow that impulse down within themselves—and perhaps in others, to be grateful for what they have.

As Christians, we are aware that all good things come from God, even if they are gifts given to us by others or if we have earned them ourselves. God has given us to one another, and we have been healthy enough to work. We can be grateful for the gifts we don't possess but enjoy—a stunning sunrise, or a chirpy mockingbird, or a view of the Ohio River coming around a bend. Whenever I experience such things, I am overwhelmed with gratitude to God.

Those Christians who founded this great country were grateful to God above all things. This is beautifully expressed in George Washington's declaration creating Thanksgiving Day, which I've included in its entirety below.

Thanksgiving Proclamation

[New York, 3 October 1789]

By the President of the United States of America. a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor—and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks—for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation—for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war—for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed—for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted—for the

civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions—to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually—to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord—To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New-York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

Go: Washington

I hope you will share this with your families at the dinner table on Thanksgiving Day, to encourage the younger generations not to take for granted the liberty, peace, and prosperity we enjoy, and to recognize the true source.

Annual Meeting Election Results

Elected to 3 year Vestry terms:

Bob Crocker
April Kessell
Marsha Senchyshak

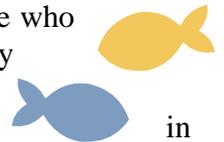
Elected as representatives to 2023 Diocesan Convention:

Toni DeVore, Sally Harris, Karen Miller
Alternates are Linda Crocker, Hal Foss, Senior Warden in that order

Mother Marjorie thanked those going off the Vestry for their service: Hal Foss, Cathy Freed, and Buck Harris

More Than Enough

You should have received your pledge materials in the mail last week. We are grateful to those who have already returned their pledge cards and hope that the rest of you continue to prayerfully consider how God has blessed you with ‘more than enough’. Please decide how you can share your financial blessings with others through the church. We ask that pledge cards be returned in time for our Ingathering next Sunday, November 20th.



Good News

More Than Enough could also describe some of our recent experiences:

- Thanks to your generosity we have raised \$842.17 for UTO (the United Thank Offering). A check for that amount will be delivered to our diocesan UTO chairperson at Diocesan Convention this weekend.
- A customer at Aldi’s noticed Bob Crocker buying 36 loaves of bread for our food pantry homeless clients a few days ago. “What on earth are you going to do with all that bread?” he asked. Bob explained that he was from Good Shepherd, the Pink Church, and that the bread was for 25 or more bags of food that we were handing out to homeless clients every day. While the customer had “never heard of it (Good Shepherd)”, he thought for a second and as Bob prepared to pay, the customer said, “I’ve got this” and paid for all our bread with his order. Bob thanked him profusely.
- The Plum Street Piggly Wiggly is selling \$5 bags of food to be donated to our food pantry for their holiday season *20 Days of Giving* running until Nov. 23rd. As of last weekend they had already sold \$4500 worth. WOW! We are so grateful for our local store’s continuing support.
- Almost every day we receive more donations for our Rummage Room. Peter reports that they are running out of space. Keep the winter clothing and Christmas stuff coming, but please hold warm weather clothing donations until 2023.



Bread AND Wine

Bishop Cowden has decided that we can resume offering wine during the Eucharist; we began last Sunday. Mother Marjorie would like to find some more people to serve as chalice servers. We do not currently have enough people to fill the schedule if we offer both the chalice and the intinction cup. We are currently placing the intinction cup to one side of Mother Marjorie for those who prefer to intinct (dip their wafer) and the chalice with the chalice server on her other side for those who choose to sip from the common cup. Please let Mother Marjorie know if you are willing to be trained to serve. Normally you would be scheduled about once per month.



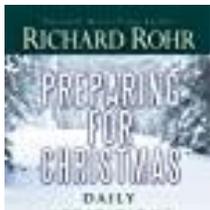
Shepherd's Closet Rummage

The November sale raised \$529. Deb and her team are now preparing for a sale on December 2-3 followed 10 days later by the rummage portion of our Adopted Families program. Please plan to donate gently used warm clothing, bedding, and housewares as well as decorations for Christmas no later than the Monday after Thanksgiving – sooner will be even more helpful. Call or text Deb Hepburn-McKinney if you have questions about donations or if you can help prepare for sales. 518-637-1734 (cell). If you have kids or grandkids, we would love to have clothing they have outgrown for the sale and for when our Adopted Families have a chance to shop for free. The team will take a winter break, skipping sales in January and February.



Looking ahead to Advent:

Book Group Advent Study:



Group members have chosen their next selection: *Preparing for Christmas, Daily Meditations for Advent* by Richard Rohr. The book can be ordered from Amazon. On Nov. 27 we will have an introduction to the book and then read and discuss a week's worth of meditations Dec. 4, 11, 18th and finish up January 8th. Anyone is welcome to join, either in person at church or via Zoom at 9 AM on those Sundays. Contact Linda Crocker if you need the Zoom link or need help ordering the book.

SoulFeast: How We Wait, an Advent Quiet time

As we enter the rush into Christmas, it is easy to forget to prepare one's Spirit. Using poetry, spiritual practices, some conversation, and quiet time, we are invited into the deeper meaning of the Season. Sandscrest Retreat & Conference Center and Lawrencefield Parish Church invite you to set aside time to explore how we may choose to wait for Christ's coming amongst us with a variety of centering practices, scripture, light, rest and guided meditation and prayer.



There are two distinct opportunities:

Online on Tuesdays November 29, December 6 and December 13 from 7-8:15 PM on Zoom. For this option, one packet of materials will be mailed prior to the first session, please include your snail mail address when registering.

In-person, the workshop will be held on Saturday, December 3 from 10am to 3pm at Sandscrest Retreat & Conference Center, Wheeling. A simple lunch is included (please let us know about any food allergies). A minimum of six is required. Lunch cost TBD.

The Rev Nancy Woodworth-Hill, Lawrencefield's Rector and Spiritual Director for Sandscrest, will facilitate both programs with an emphasis on making space for the individual to rest and renew, and allow the mystery of the incarnation to be born again within us.

Please register by November 20 by emailing Nancy at clergy.lawrencefield@gmail.com. You may also leave a phone message at 304-277-2353.

Thanksgiving Offering

For the past several years we have supported the WV Division of Natural Resources program *Hunters Helping the Hungry*. The donations we receive in your Thanksgiving offering envelope, a Hunters Helping the Hungry envelope (available in the Welcome Center) or a check with "Hunters" in the memo line are gathered together and sent in to help pay for processing harvested deer. The ground venison is distributed for free to pantries throughout the state. This is a great way for hunters and non-hunters alike to share God's bounty with the hungry people in our communities.



Adopted Families Christmas Program



We have accepted 56 families for help this year. Our volunteers are already shopping for the gifts and other items; we welcome donations of money to buy the gifts or donations of needed items. If you want to donate items, please call the office to find out what we need. We always need warm winter gloves, especially L-XL for adults and we also need rolls of Christmas gift wrap. Bags for toiletry items to be filled for each family are available outside the office. Please get your donations to us by November 28th so we have time to fill in any gaps. Donated *used* items: toys, clothing, Christmas decorations, etc will go to the Rummage Room where families can 'shop' for additional items on the day we distribute their bag(s) of new items.

If you are interested in helping in any way, contact John or Carol Lathrop (304-863-3531).

Extra help needed Thanksgiving Week



Life goes on, even during the holidays. We want to be able to continue to serve our neighbors and the homeless but also be able to spend time with our families. If you can help hand out food for 2-3 hours on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, November 21, 22, or 23, please call Linda or Ginger to get on the schedule. We also have a food delivery from Mountaineer Food Bank that Wednesday morning and can use help then too. Finally, the November Last Sunday Supper is the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend. Come work off your Thanksgiving meal and leftovers by setting up tables, cooking or serving.

Found on Facebook ([facebook.com/MindfulChristianity](https://www.facebook.com/MindfulChristianity))



Important Upcoming Calendar Dates:

November 18-19 – 2022 Diocesan Convention in Huntington
November 20 – Pledge Card Ingathering
November 24 – Thanksgiving – (office closed)
November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent
December 2-3 – Rummage Sale
December 12-14 – Adopted Families Christmas

Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

♥ 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 Mother Marjorie, Linda, or David Cooper at home (see the end of the Staff for our contact information). Additionally, the Stephen Ministers have been connecting with shut-ins and other parishioners. They are able to offer a visit and/or home communion to those who can't come to church. This is to supplement visits from Mother Marjorie.



♥ 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

The People of Ukraine	Hazel Ginther - healing	Kim Forrester – tests
Danny Satow – healing	Sally Morgan – healing	Peter Gevas – healing
Sally Davis – healing	Jordan Tingler – healing	Mary Gevas – healing
Jone Johnson – healing/strength	Chris Heckman – MS	Don Stanley – healing
David Cottrill - healing	Carol Lathrop – healing	Ann Stevens – healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	Vickie Dilley – healing/strength	Carl Slusher – healing
Will Haynes – healing	Amanda Morris – facing surgery	Dan Wilson – guidance
Diane Cottrill – healing	Cathy Freed – healing	Chris Mace – healing
Jackie Purkey – healing from stroke	Jessica James – healing	

Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Nathan Jones, Sterling Slusher, Joe Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

Glen Kirk	Buddy Lee	Michelle Frye	Lisa Tanner	Keith
Vicky Wilson	Rod Layfield	Tina Westfall	David White	Chloe Blatt
Matthew Jacobs	Ray Kidder	John Sartor	J. D. Williamson	Jean Singer
Kathy Castevetere	Mitchell Lowe	Phyllis Williams	Colette Pawlik	Paul Rutledge
Judy McCoy	Cleve Wigal	Steve Wilson		



Deaths

Ashlena King, mother of Finnley Kessell
Hazen Jeffrey, uncle of the Semones

♥ **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.



Outreach Programs

♥ **Adopted Families** –Providing ‘Christmas’ to children and their families (see article above)

♥ **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.



♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – Our next meal will be November 27, Thanksgiving weekend, so we will definitely need your help.

Set-up and cooking tasks begin at 1 P.M. and servers need to arrive by 5:15. Please come help if you can. Numbers are slowly rising. The meal is important to those in the church neighborhood who cannot travel to meals being offered further away.

♥ **Food Pantry** – over 500 family units in October, most of those were bags for the homeless!
Please pray that our recent grant applications are successful.



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 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:

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



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

David Cooper, Senior Warden 304-295-8734

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