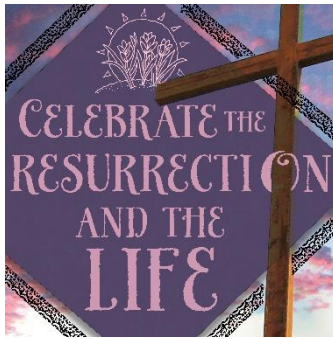


Holy Week....



Easter Sunday!

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
April 1, 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

Two earthquakes: did you know there were two earthquakes in Matthew's telling of the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection? This past week, we heard in Matthew's passion narrative (27:50-54) "And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the **earthquake** and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!' At the Easter Vigil we will hear again from Matthew (28: 1-7), "After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent **earthquake**, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you.'"

What might be the significance of two earthquakes? Recently, I heard Ms. Xenia Smykova, the Pastoral Intern at Trinity Church, mention the metaphor of a tsunami. In a tsunami, an earthquake displaces a volume of water sending it up over the shore, setting of a vacuum oscillation, that then makes it recede far into the ocean. People will often see the seabed exposed and go looking for shells, not realizing that a second larger wave is coming. That second wave will often swallow the entire shoreline and even head into buildings. In the first earthquake at the time of Jesus' death, stones were rolled away and many were already raised from the dead. No doubt, this was a scary time, causing many to investigate more deeply or conversely run away. It was, in a way, a precursor of the greater gift of resurrection that was coming. Jesus' death sent shock waves into the past, raising the dead, but his rising from his own tomb sent even greater waves, both to those who had already died, and to all of us of future generations. It's a tsunami that is still happening – but one that swallows us up in life, rather than destruction. I cannot imagine what it might be like if one could safely surf on a tsunami wave, but that feels, for me, like the joy of Easter: being lifted up high above the earth with the immense force of power rolling beneath one and bearing us up. May you feel the shock of Christ's power this day and always.

Katie Beth+

Good Friday Offering

Each year the Episcopal Church has a special Good Friday collection to support the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East and its partners working in Jesus' homeland and nearby areas. This year it is even more important to offer hope, encouragement and financial support to those who are working in the midst of all the turmoil. You may give by using your Good Friday envelope, writing a check with Good Friday in the memo line or placing cash in the offering plate at the front of church.

You can read more about this important work here: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/good-friday-offering/>



Easter Offering

This year's Easter collection will be split between the Open Sky Arts Collective and Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD).

Open Sky brings a team to Parkersburg each summer to provide a week-long Vacation Bible School for neighborhood children. Our donations will help with their expenses for food, art supplies, Bibles, etc.



ERD works with locally-based organizations in the US and around the world to bring about lasting change in the areas of justice, poverty, disasters and climate change. You may contribute by using your Easter envelope or giving a check with Easter in the memo line.

Shepherd's Closet Rummage

Thank you for your donations. Deb and her team have been preparing for the first sale of 2026. We will avoid Easter weekend and have it the 2nd weekend in April – Friday and Saturday April 10 and 11. For the rest of the year a sale will usually be held the 1st weekend of the month. Please come and find some summer clothes or a treasure for your home. Hold future donations until mid-April.



Juliets



Some women at Trinity Episcopal Church have formed a new group and are inviting our ladies to join them. Juliets are **Just Us Ladies Interested in Eating Together**. They plan to meet for dinner monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 6 PM at various local restaurants. The first dinner will be Tuesday April 7th at George's Place Bar and Grille, 414 Grand Park Dr., Parkersburg. Call Susan Walsh (304-266-7300) if you plan to go so she can save a seat for you.

Looking for a Home – meow!

Could you find a spot in your heart for Cathy Freed's cat Charlie? Cathy has moved into assisted living in TN and she is not allowed to have her cat with her. Charlie is about 5 years old, neutered, up to date on vet visits and shots, has had his nails trimmed, and is very sociable and sweet. Sally Harris (304-481-8633) would be happy to arrange a meeting and/or deliver Charlie to your home.



Any ideas? New renter needed

Unfortunately the state Head Start management has decided not to renew the lease for our classroom and office space. There are plans to build a facility to combine all the sites into one central location. Our local people are very happy here, but it was not their decision. Their lease ends on June 30.

If you know of a non-profit that would be a good fit for us, both in terms of mission and space needed, please pass your suggestion to a staff or vestry member or ask the agency/program to contact us directly.

Books for children

We still welcome more gently used children's books for our Little Free Library. Babies, toddlers, beginning readers, growing readers, teens, we need them all. Kid's magazines are good too. Thanks for your help.



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.

Appreciating a card or note:

Peggy Roberts (in assisted living) Brookdale Chapel Hill, 2220 Farmington Dr., Apt. F2, Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Cathy Freed (in assisted living) c/o Ryan Freed, 200 W. Red Bud Road, Knoxville, TN 37920

♥ 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 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.



Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

Intercessory Prayers:

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

Good Shepherd Parish Prayer List

War in the Middle East	Marcia Doyle – healing	Mary Gevas – healing
The People of Israel and Gaza	Vickie Fielder – healing	Bob Fielder - healing
The People of Ukraine	Susan Allander – healing	Julie Stover - healing
Victims of gun violence	Nicole Combs - healing	Peter Gevas – healing
Buck Harris – strength/healing	Ann Stevens– healing	Dee Milhoan – healing
Amanda Morris – healing	Margy Yokum – healing	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Gene Allander – healing	Peggy Roberts – healing	Crystal Proper – healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	Diane Cottrill – healing	



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Sterling Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

John Stevens	Alana Dailey	Gary Greer	Lois Switzer	Marlene Smith
Faith Beha	Mirtala Smith	Everett Gilmore	Charles Sterchak	Wilbur Lemmon
Ellen Faymon				

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. We especially need kids' books (see above).



♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be Sunday, April 26. Come help set-up and cook at 1 PM or come 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** – If you would like to help handing out food bags to the unhoused or preparing food orders in the pantry for our housed clients, the current need is someone on 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.



♥ **Reading Camp – 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 READ!** Time to start planning this year’s one- week space-themed camp for struggling elementary-age students. Contact Linda to help.

Coming Up:

Watch Vigil – April 2-3

Each year we team up to keep watch at the side altar from 9 PM Maundy Thursday until noon on Good Friday in one-hour shifts. Our goal is to have at least one person here for each hour. A sign-up board is available in the Welcome Center. This is a special time to sit in silence and candlelight, praying and reflecting on the sacrifice our Lord made for each of us.



April 2 – Maundy Thursday service at 7 PM and Watch Vigil begins at 9 PM

April 3 – Good Friday – Watch Vigil ends at noon, Stations of the Cross at noon, and an evening Good Friday service at 7 PM

April 4 – Easter Vigil with Trinity at 7:30 PM here at Good Shepherd

April 5 – Easter Sunday – Service at 10:15 AM followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Where in the world is Katie Beth?

April marks the beginning of the **Where in the world is Katie Beth?** game. Through the next few months, Katie Beth will be away for at least one Sunday per month. She will often be doing diocesan work, with a little bit of vacation thrown in for good measure. She wanted to give you ample notice, so you are prepared, but also to let you know who you can be excited to see in the pulpit in her absence.



On April 19th, Katie Beth will be at Peterkin leading the diocesan women's retreat. Information (and sign up for the retreat) can be found on the Peterkin website: <https://www.peterkin.org/events/womens-retreat-2026>. Meanwhile, here at Good Shepherd, we are excited to welcome **The Rev. Lou Hays** back for that Sunday to lead us all in worship. We know many of you will be happy to see him and share with him the great works of our church, all that has happened since he departed. Please mark your calendars for this important Sunday.

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.

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
Toni DeVore, Senior Warden	304-991-2259	drtd51@gmail.com

Have you seen our new sign?

Thanks to Amber and Ashley Semones for arranging for the sign fabrication and to Dave Johnson and his collaborators for the design.

