



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

July 22, 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

Greetings all, this is the first of many “tidbits from London” to come. Not every edition of the Shepherd’s Staff will feature “tidbits from London”, as that would become repetitive, but your Learning from London team knows you are eager to hear some of our take-home thoughts. Brian recalls this sage quote from Vicar Polly of Trinity & St. Augustine Church, Leytonstone, “You Americans are all about the transaction, what is needed is relationship.” Translated - Americans love to quantify things: how many people are in church, how many neighbors did we serve food to, etc. But what is more important than quantity is relationship. Do we know what is troubling our neighbors in this community? Is it hunger? Our meal programs were set up when there were few meals in the city. Now there are meals every day of the week, multiple times a day, and sometimes multiple options. There are food banks at most churches and non-profits in our neighborhood. Are we still meeting the deepest need? Could we still meet these needs AND possibly consider others?

These are the kinds of questions on which we are reflecting. Our food bank is open more hours than many other sites and provides more variety that others just can’t sustain. This is what makes ours so needed and popular. Currently, there is no other meal served at the time we do our Last Sunday Supper, so it is also needed. But what else are our neighbors telling us? Have we asked? We are working on having more interaction with folks when they come in.

We have also obtained copies of the Parkersburg Engagement Project to look at the needs our neighbors shared on this city-wide survey. So, for now, this is where we are starting. You can help by coming in and offering to chat with folks while they are waiting to be served. You don’t have to sign up, just drop in as able. Let’s begin to develop relationships and discover needs together.

Katie Beth+



Summer Adult Education – 2nd meeting tonight

If you missed the first installment of our potluck discussion about The Two Popes, do not worry! You are welcome to join us at our second installment. There is no reading necessary. We meet tonight, July 22, at 6 pm and again Aug. 12 at 6 pm. Bring a dish to share and know we will wrap up no later than 8 pm.

Attention: Scholarship opportunity for current or entering college students due July 31



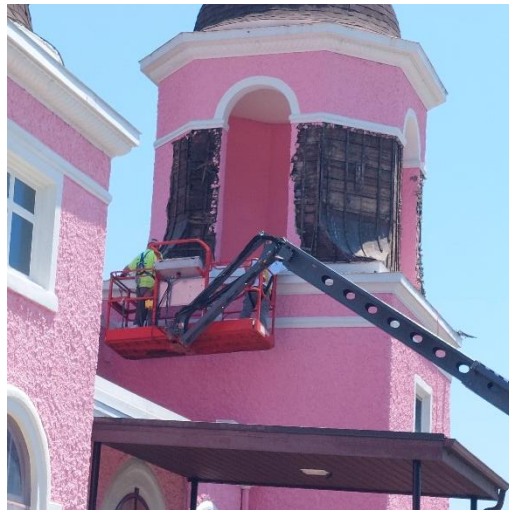
The Fred L. Davis, Jr. Scholarship is intended to be awarded annually to a recipient or recipients who exhibit good character, scholarly aptitude, Christian faith, and a community mindedness who are attending a West Virginia institution of higher education. **The application is available through the church office.** It calls for a 300-1000 word personal statement and two letters of recommendation. This scholarship is given in loving memory of

Fred L. Davis, Jr. who was a respected Parkersburg attorney and who was actively involved in his church and multiple community positions before his untimely passing in 1990. His loving wife, Sally R. Davis, passed in 2024. His three adult children Debbie (Davis) Wright, John R. Davis, and Fred “Rick” Davis III share in his legacy both in their community involvement and through the administration of this scholarship.

Bell Tower

Phoenix Associates has begun work on the bell tower, the **Proclaim** part of last year’s Capital Campaign. In the photo below you can see them removing the sections of stucco that need to be replaced. After the new stucco is applied, it will have to cure for a month before it can be painted.

Meanwhile, the Thursday Work continues to prepare the bell to be re-hung.



Open Sky

Open Sky had a wonderful week at The Escape, meeting upstairs with younger children each morning and with teens in the late afternoon in the main floor space. They had their usual parade through the neighborhood each morning to round up kids and transport them to The Escape and were back after 2 to walk kids home. While we missed having them here, we are thankful for their continuing ministry to the children in our community. We hope to find ways to continue to collaborate with Open Sky and The Escape in the future.

Altar Flowers

Several dates are available between now and the end of the year for your donation(s) in memory of loved ones or to honor special occasions. They are Aug. 16, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, 18, 25, November 8, 15, 22 and Dec. 29. The cost is \$40/vase. Please help us keep fresh flowers on the altar as we enjoy worshipping together. Call the office to reserve your date.



Books for the Little Free Library



We are in good shape for kids for quite a while - thank you! We also have an abundance of religious/spiritual books including the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, so we don't need more of those right now. We still could use more cookbooks, DIY books and other interesting non-fiction.

Shepherd's Closet Rummage

The June sale raised over \$500 and the July sale raised \$378. The next sale is August 7 and 8. We appreciate your donations, but we **Do Not Need** any more shoes or clothing except for blue jeans this month. We do welcome more donations of household items.



UTO (United Thank Offering)

UTO invites individuals to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. Your discipline might include dropping a coin in a UTO box every time you are grateful for something.

Little blue boxes are available in the Welcome Center for your use. We will collect them in September. You can read more about UTO here: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/>

Found on Facebook – interesting ideas for your contemplation

From CrossPointNow



A Christian's Guide to Spending the Summer Well

- **Stay close to Jesus:** Summer changes our rhythm but don't let it pull you away from God without even noticing. What if this became a season where your faith quietly deepens instead?
- **Receive rest as a gift:** Rest isn't distraction from God – it's a gift from Him. Slow down, breathe, and allow rest to re-center your heart on what matters most.
- **Slow down and be present:** There is something powerful about unhurried moments. Sometimes God speaks to us most clearly not in the rush, but in the quiet.
- **Make room for meaningful moments:** Not every moment has to be productive to be meaningful. A conversation, a laugh, or a simple act of care can matter more than you realize.
- **Invite God into every day:** Take the trip. Sit by the water. Enjoy the summer fully – and invite God into it. Talk with Him, thank Him, and notice His presence in ordinary moments.
- **Love the people around you well:** Summer often creates more room for the people around us. Be intentional with your family, your neighbors, and the conversations God places in front of you.
- **Stay open to what God wants to do:** God often works through small, faithful moments more than dramatic ones. Stay available – this summer may be more significant than you expect.



Rental space available. Any ideas?

We are still looking for one or more tenants now that Head Start has left. We can be flexible about which spaces a future tenant could use. If you know of any businesses or non-profits 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 the church directly so we can provide further details.

Prayers of the People

After experiencing some heartfelt prayers from some of our members, we have decided to offer this opportunity once a month from June through the end of the church year (November). **If you would like to write some prayers to be used during the service on the 2nd Sunday of the month, please let Linda know so she can put you on the schedule.** You can read your own prayers during the service, or they can be read by one of our intercessors if you prefer.

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 3:30 p.m. (summer hours). 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

Victims of war and violence	Mary Gevas – healing	Marlene Smith- healing
Gene Allander – healing	Diane Cottrill – healing	Peter Gevas – healing
Ann Stevens– healing	John Curry – healing	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Amanda Morris – healing	Larry Landrith – healing	Buck Harris – strength/healing
Marcia Doyle – healing	Jared Stephens – healing	Deb Hepburn-McKinney – 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
Faith Beha	Mirtala Smith	Everett Gilmore	Charles Sterchak	Brenda Pugh
Ellen Faymon	Ben Buskirk			



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, July 26. **Some of our regular cooks and servers will be on vacation so if you are in town please come to help.** 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** – If you can help hand out food bags to the unhoused or assemble 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. 

Coming Up:

July 22 – Potluck Supper and part 2 of *The Two Popes*

July 26 – Last Sunday Supper

August 12 – 3rd and last session of *The Two Popes*



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 or text 304-210-5591
Toni DeVore, Senior Warden	304-991-2259	drtd51@gmail.com

Online Giving

Support Good Shepherd via online giving. Scan the QR code below with your smart phone or go to the Give section of our website and click on the GIVE button.

Of course, you can continue to give by check or cash.

We expect this online option to be especially useful for visitors and occasional donors as well as our members.

Let us know how it works for you or if you have any issues.

Scan Me!

