



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
April 10, 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

Reflections by the Rev. Lou Hays: What to Expect at Envisioning Our Future

Sunday is the big day! Together you will be envisioning the future of the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd. I know there's some curiosity about how the morning will work, so I'm hoping this will shed some light on the matter.

We will begin at 9 o'clock in the Great Hall where everything will take place. After some light refreshments, our service will begin with the liturgy of the Word. Perhaps most importantly, our work will be done in the context of Holy Eucharist. We will literally be wrapped in the Holy Spirit. The Gospel will remind us that Christ is alive, working with you and through you. After I read the Gospel, the primary response, in lieu of a normal sermon, will be the work that you will do together.

Most of you will be seated at tables for six people. For this one Sunday, I will ask that spouses, partners or other family members not sit together. The first step will involve breaking into groups of two. Everyone will have a handout that will have several questions. The groups of two will interview each other, writing down notes on each answer. After the interviews have been completed, the group of six will come together to share the highlights of the interviews, after designating one of the group to summarize the highlights of the conversation on newsprint. After the groups have finished their conversation. I will go to each table and ask for a verbal report of the highlights so the entire room will have a good sense of everyone's comments.

This part of the event will result in a collective response to the issues of the core values of Good Shepherd and your hopes and dreams for your future. After all tables have been heard, I will then ask the groups to reconvene and discuss this question: now that you have heard the core values of the parish and your hopes and dreams for its future, what do you believe are the necessary characteristics of the person God is calling to be your new Rector? Again, the highlights of the conversation will be recorded on newsprint, and I will go around the room and ask for a verbal report from each table.

As you can see, this is very much a group process, beginning with groups of two, then expanding to groups of six, and finally to everyone in the room. Unlike a survey, which involves individuals working in isolation, this process involves everyone.

When we are finished with the group event, we will continue with the liturgy of the Cup. At the end of the service, we will be treated to a wonderful catered lunch and the newsprint will be displayed for everyone to see. And you can enjoy knowing that you have contributed mightily to the future of Good Shepherd

Adult Forum (with the Interim Rector) Returns

We are resurrecting the Adult Forum during this season of Resurrection! We will meet between services, starting around 9 o'clock and ending around 9:45, in the Junior High room. Lou will have a variety of topics and will consider suggestions from the attendees. One popular topic has always been Stump the Rector! We will begin on Sunday April 21 and continue through the month of May, unless by popular demand we end sooner.

Shepherd's Closet Rummage

The April sale was another success, raising over \$500. As you do some spring cleaning, bring your donations for the May sale, especially clothing items for warm weather, no later than Monday April 29. All proceeds support the Adopted Families Christmas program.



A Webinar Opportunity from TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) Attracting and Retaining Younger Members



According to the 2023 GivingUSA Report, **46% of Millennials report going to church frequently or weekly, and 30% report attending services online regularly.** This is an enormous change from ten years ago when this generation coined the term "None" when asked about religious affiliation. **Millennials are the most church generation in the United States,** eclipsing Gen-X and Baby Boomers.

Is this true in your congregation? If it's not, then please join us for this free webinar to learn more about how to attract and retain young members. **Saturday, April 13 9:00 - 10:30 AM Pacific**
(Noon to 1:30 PM in WV)

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/attracting-and-retaining-younger-members-tickets-829026238797>

Altar Flowers:

We have many open dates in the months ahead. Right now, we would like to fill April and May: April 21 and 28 and May 12 and 26. 2 vases cost \$100 or just donate for one vase for \$50. Flowers for the Columbarium are \$20. Please contact Ginger in 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.



Easter Offering

Wow!!! Thanks to everyone who gave so generously to the Easter Offering. We have collected \$1952 to be split between Open Sky and The Absalom Jones Fund that supports Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

**Open Sky @
Good Shepherd**



ABSALOM JONES FUND

Peterkin 2024:

Peterkin, our Diocesan Camp in the hills near Romney, is under new direction and looking forward to welcoming people from all over the diocese and beyond.

Is this the year your child, grandchild or neighbor's child will accept an invitation to attend Peterkin? Will they encounter Jesus in a special moment on Prayer Hill or in Strider Chapel? Will they form bonds with other young Christians as they eat, play and explore together? Will they enjoy the recent refurbishments to the buildings and pool? Will they return with wonderful memories to share?

Below is a list of the different camps offered this summer. Both Good Shepherd and the diocese have scholarships available to cover all or part of the cost and a way to make sure transportation isn't a barrier to camp attendance. Call the office to let us know what we can do to help your young person take advantage of this great opportunity.

Peterkin Camps 2024 <https://www.peterkin.org/>

June 9-15: Counselor Training

June 16-22: Senior Camp (entering 10th grade-graduated high school seniors)

June 23-29: Junior Camp (entering 4th-6th grades)

June 30-July 3: Alpha Camp (young children and their grownups)

July 7-13: Intermediate Camp (entering 7th-9th grades)

July 14-20: Music, Art, Drama Camp (entering 4th-12th grades)

July 21-27 Family Camp (families of all ages and sizes)



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	Sally Davis – healing	Colleen Parsons – strength-
The People of Ukraine	Carolyn Beach – healing	healing
Dee Milhoan – healing	Mary Gevas – healing	Ginger Smith – healing
Marcia Doyle – healing	Larry Hand- healing	Eric Dailey - healing
Peggy Roberts - healing	David Cottrill – healing	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Peter Gevas – healing	Diane Cottrill – healing	Chris Heckman – healing
Becky Winans – healing	Ann Stevens– healing	Vickie Dilley – healing/strength
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	Nancy Summerville - healing	Jean Barbara Snyder - 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	Steve Wilson	Jean Singer	Sherry Shepler
Judy McCoy	Paul Rutledge	Tabitha Arceneaux	Tammy Marks
David White	Alana Dailey	Doris Lowe	John Stevens



Death
Zelda Briggs

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. We have plenty of books right now but with room for more books for kids. Your donations are always welcome or help yourself to a book if you spot a good one – they are there for us too. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be April 28. 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** –We continue to hope for more help handing out the bags. The current 'holes' are Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. We also occasionally need help when our regular volunteers are not available. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or bi-weekly or just as needed. 
- ♥ **Reading Camp?** Call Linda today if you want to help make sure we can have this opportunity to directly impact some of the children in our area. It is a great way to help them develop a love of reading and the skills for success in reading and in school in general.

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 The Rev. Lou Hays, Larry James, or Linda Crocker (see the end of the Staff for our contact information). Lou will be available on most Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and at other times for emergency needs. 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.



Important Upcoming Calendar Dates:



April 14 – 9 AM – *Envisioning Our Future* followed by lunch
April 28 – Last Sunday Supper
May 3 and 4 - Rummage Sale

1st Quarter Giving Statements

All regular givers, by check or pledge envelope, have a statement waiting for them. They are available in the office or on Sunday morning.

Contact Information:

The Rev. Lou Hays	304-428-1525, ext. 11	louisbhays@gmail.com
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator	304-428-1525, ext. 10	gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries	304-210-5591	LLBC100@msn.com
Larry James, Senior Warden	304-482-9661	blesense@suddenlink.net

Found on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=psalm%208%20eclipse>

Photo courtesy of NASA



Psalm 8, vs 1, 3-4

"Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth...
When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?"

Psalm 19:1

"The heavens declare the glory of God,
The skies proclaim the work of his hands."