



**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF**  
**The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**February 18, 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](http://www.goodshepherdwv.org)

**From the Rector**

An Invitation to a Holy Lent

For those of you familiar with the Ash Wednesday service found in our Book of Common Prayer, you will note that every year, we receive an Invitation to a Holy Lent (p. 264). It explains the history of this period of penitence and fasting as one of preparation for the remembrance of our Lord's passion and resurrection, but also as one that was inseparable from pardoning, absolution, and restoration to community. It is a whole lot of words to say: this is when we meditate on the things that separate us from God and community, so that we might better appreciate being restored through the gift offered to us in Jesus.

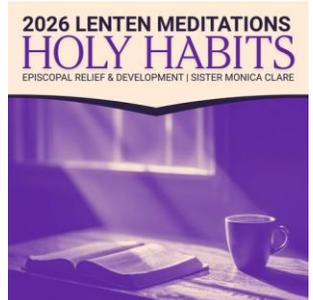
Lent calls us to be more attentive to ourselves, the Word of God, and the world around us. Barbara Brown Taylor, Episcopal priest and seminary professor, wrote a book called *An Altar in the World* which explores exactly this attentiveness. It challenges readers to find in-breakings of the Eternal in everyday activities like walking and working. It aims to help us to realize that ordinary physical acts can become paths to not only experiencing the divine but opportunities to be Jesus for one another. Our everyday habits might easily become habits for the Holy. And in living this way, our entire posture might become one of gratitude, just as Jesus showed constant gratitude to the Father.

We will be offering a Lenten potluck this year starting Wed. Feb. 25 and concluding Wed. March 25 focusing on themes presented in this book. This is not a book study, so there is no expectation for you to purchase or read the book. I will be using it as a launching pad for our own explorations into attentiveness of our everyday activities. We will gather, offer a short prayer, break bread, enter a period of teaching, with possible break-out groups depending on the day, and come back together to pray and compline. The potluck will begin promptly at 6pm, with prayer and cleanup ending no later than 8pm.

For those looking for a daily meditation that is in a similar vein, Episcopal Relief and Development has partnered with Sr. Monica Clare, Sister Superior of the Community of St. John the Baptist, to do a "Holy Habits" daily meditation series throughout Lent. There are multiple ways to receive and interact with the materials. . You can find a short video about the series and more information here:

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/>.

Sr. Monica Clare is a habit wearing Episcopal nun (yes, we have those) and has become somewhat famous on social media. So the series title is a pun celebrating both the clothing of her order and of course the patterns which rule our lives. Hopefully that gives you a taste of the humility and humor one might find in her reflections.



For more information on Lenten studies in general, or the potluck in particular, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

*Katie Beth+*

### Shepherd's Closet Rummage

Deb is recovering nicely from her surgery and appreciates your prayer support. Deb says she is ready to accept donations of household items (especially bedding) and small furniture. She asks that you still hold your clothing until March.



### Souper Bowl Sunday – Feb. 8

We received 199 lb. of food on Souper Bowl Sunday, plus 12 in later donations plus 160 collected at Trinity = 371 lb. of food in total. It was reported that some of you forgot your food at home – we will still take it! We also received \$155 so we can buy even more food.

**Thank you!**



### More on Lent

Thank you to everyone who helped with the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** last night.

Today is **Ash Wednesday** with services at noon and 7 p.m. Come prepare yourself for a meaningful Lent.

### Prayers of the People in Lent

Thank you to those who have offered to write a version for one of the Sundays in Lent. We still would like one person to do prayers for March 22. They will not be printed in the bulletin (just the response) but if you hear a set you like, let us know and we can provide a copy. If you appreciate these prayers as alternatives to those in the prayer book, we may do this again later in the year.



### Easter Flowers

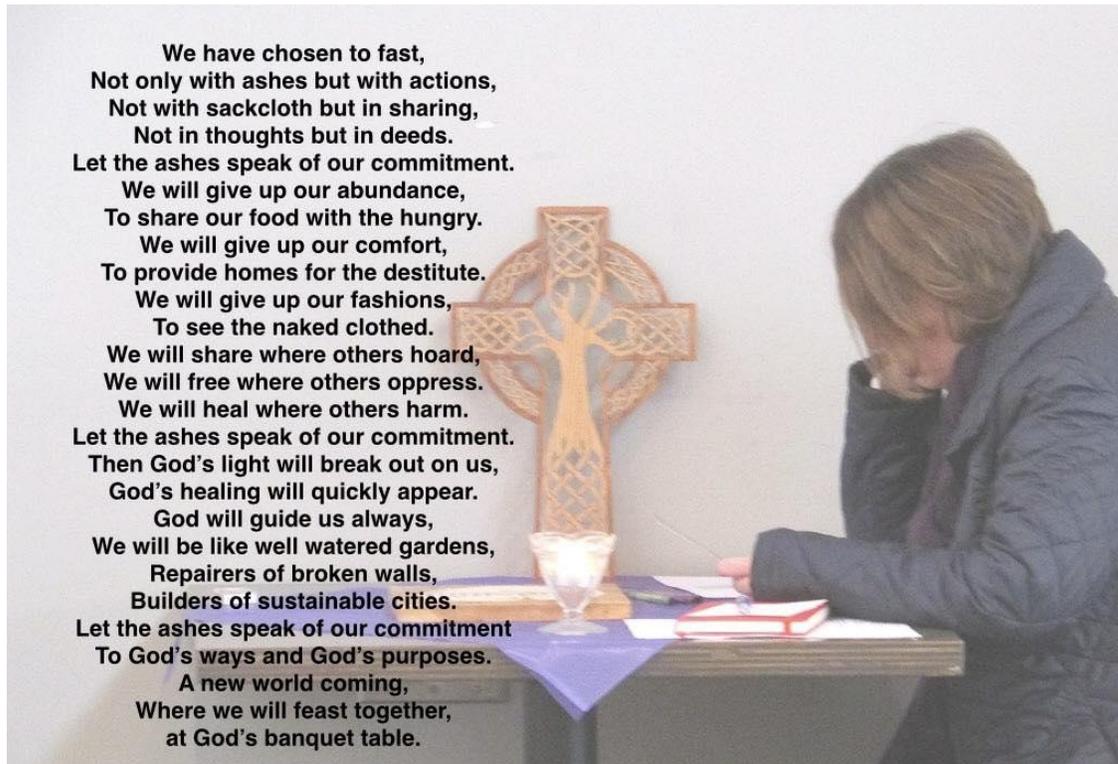
We welcome your donations to provide flowers for the church for Easter. If you have pledge envelopes you can use the Easter Flowers envelope. Otherwise, you can give a check with Easter Flowers in the memo line. Please include a note with information on the dedication that you would like to have in the Easter bulletin such as "In thanksgiving for..." or "In memory of .....". There is no minimum donation required.



**Found on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AppalachiaMinistry>**

As spring arrives, individuals all over the world are getting ready for Lent, a period of spiritual reflection, repentance, and anticipation of Easter.

May your Lenten season be filled with blessings. Prayer by Christine Sine



### **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.

### **Welcoming a note or call**

Ledra Tanner: 1-740-856-5995      4022 Shervin Way, Converse, TX 78109

### ♥ **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.



### **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.

## 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

The People of Israel and Gaza	Marcia Doyle – healing	Mary Gevas – 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
Vickie Dilley – healing/strength	Gene Allander – healing	Peggy Roberts - healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	Crystal Proper – healing	

### *Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces*

Sterling Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

### *Those needing healing from cancer*

Hal Foss	John Stevens	Alana Dailey	Gary Greer	Lois Switzer
Faith Beha	Mirtala Smith	Everett Gilmore	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 daily. 
- ♥ **Little Free Library** – Filling the church neighborhood with books to read. Your donations are always welcome. We especially need kids' books. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be Sunday, February 22. 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 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 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:

February 18 – Ash Wednesday. Services at Noon and 7 PM

Feb. 22 – Last Sunday Supper

Feb. 25 – Lenten Potluck, study and worship (and continuing on Wednesdays through March 25)

### Contact Information:

The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa	304-428-1525, ext. 4	<a href="mailto:rector.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com">rector.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com</a>
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator	304-428-1525, ext. 1	<a href="mailto:gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com">gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com</a>
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries	304-428-1525, ext. 5	<a href="mailto:LLBC100@msn.com">LLBC100@msn.com</a>
Toni DeVore, Senior Warden	304-991-2259	<a href="mailto:drtd51@gmail.com">drtd51@gmail.com</a>

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER  
Fun for Everyone



Burning of the Palms



Go! Brian! Go!



Arianna, the baton twirler, hikes her pancake into the air. (It's that little brown blob center top.)