



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

October 14, 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

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Sometimes our seasons are short term: we agree to be the classroom parent for our child in school or to fill in volunteering for someone who is out of the country. Other times, our seasons can be quite long: being caregiver for a family member or our tenure at our place of work. In the case of Hal Foss, his season as our treasurer has spanned nearly a quarter of a century.

When asked about his time as treasurer, he mentioned that his season was not without financial challenges for our church. Together with vestry and clergy leadership, Good Shepherd has weathered many a moment in the wilderness. Under his tenure, we have completed numerous successful capital campaigns, supported clergy sabbaticals, and instituted outside financial reviews. He said he saw his ministry as treasurer as taking the ideas of the church and figuring out how to best organize the financing to support the plan.

Known both for his sharp business acumen and his earnest desire to keep Good Shepherd on sound footing, Hal had a voice in vestry that inherently commanded attention. We will miss his insights and his very clear love for his church.

He mentioned today that he will have to start sorting what to do in this second phase of retirement. We think it might involve cooking, since we gifted him some new ceramic pans – or maybe a few more meals out at I Don't Care, one of his favorite restaurants. And hopefully, we will see him involved in the life of Good Shepherd, in new and different ways.

So thank you, Hal, for your 24 years of service as our treasurer. We are better off for having had your leadership.

Katie Beth+

Pink Church T-shirts

The Think Pink t-shirts have arrived. Come by the office for yours or pick it up on Sunday. We also ordered some extras so if you still want one, call the office and we will save one of the extras for you.

See our acolytes and chaperones in DC in their new shirts on the last page.

Temporary Job Opening

Gabe, our sexton, will be on a planned extended trip with friends from December 6 through mid-January. We would like to hire a college student (or two working together) to cover his duties while he is away. This is a great opportunity for college students to earn some money while they are on break. For one student this would be for 18 hours per week spread over 3 or 4 days at \$16/hour. If 2 students want to share the job, we would pay them each \$10/hour for a reduced number of hours to be mutually agreed upon. The duties include cleaning the restrooms, mopping and/or vacuuming, dusting, removing trash, etc. Spread the word and have anyone interested contact the church office.



Annual Pledges

We mailed a letter Monday to all our members with information about stewardship for 2027. If you haven't received one by the end of the week, please let us know.



Gather Gladly is this year's theme, appropriate in so many ways. We gather for worship, we gather for fellowship, we gather to serve, we gather resources to share, we gather to receive comfort and support, and we gather to receive God's grace for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for Good Shepherd. We hope that you will spend the next couple of weeks considering the resources you have gathered and how you can share them with others through our ministries at Good Shepherd.

Our pledge ingathering will be Sunday November 8. Please return your pledge card at that service or earlier by bringing it or mailing it to the office.

Adult Forum with Potluck Meal and Hymn Sing - Oct. 21 and Nov. 4

You have two chances to enjoy a delicious Good Shepherd potluck meal and some favorite hymns as we transition from early fall towards Advent. Learn a bit about the development of hymns and enjoy singing several. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center for you to list some of your favorite hymns. Both nights the meal will begin at 6 and we will be out of the building by 8 PM.



Movie Night – October 27

Come for a family-friendly movie (and popcorn) with your Good Shepherd family and neighbors. The movie begins just after 6 PM and will be followed by a short time for reflection/discussion. We will be on our way home by 8 PM.



Adopted Families - Shoppers Wanted

Applications for our Christmas program providing gifts for area families with children are coming in. Each application asks the parents or guardians to suggest gifts for each child. We need savvy shoppers to look for these items locally or online (hopefully when they are on sale), purchase them, and deliver them to the church along with the receipts so we can reimburse you. We will be spending about \$80 on gifts per child, with each child hopefully getting a 'big' gift and a 2nd less expensive gift. Shoppers buy gifts for all the children in a family. The children range in age from newborn through 18 with some families having one child and others having several. You can choose how many families to shop for or start with one and then ask for more if you can. Contact the office for more information or to volunteer.

Save the Date!

Plan to attend an Advent Open House at Katie Beth's home in Williamstown on Friday December 11, 3 - 7 PM

Bell Tower

We need a couple of weeks without rain to get the next steps of this project done. We are almost ready for new stucco. Pray for beautiful dry autumn weather.

Found on Facebook - a variety of articles for your reflection – one each issue

<https://www.facebook.com/notthatkindofchristian>

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

— Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

The first day of fall reminds us that beauty often begins with a willingness to release what once defined us. It's the quiet courage of creation itself — the way the earth exhales summer, the way the trees surrender what they can no longer hold, the way the air shifts almost imperceptibly and yet everything feels changed. “Autumn, the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful.” — Heather Stillufsen. Her words arrive like a soft truth spoken into the soul, reminding us that transformation is rarely loud; it is often a gentle turning.

Jesus gestures toward creation as a living teacher, urging us to consider the lilies, how they neither strive nor cling, yet are clothed in splendor beyond human effort – Matthew 6:28–29. In this way, the Gospel invites us into a vision of God who is not distant from the turning of the seasons but intimately present within them — a God who permeates every leaf, every breeze, every quiet shift in the air. Yet this same God also transcends creation, holding all things in a vastness that cannot be contained by the world God lovingly inhabits. Richard Rohr often speaks of this mystery, saying, “God is both within us and beyond us.” It is a reminder that the One who breathes through autumn's first prayer is also the One who holds the entire arc of our becoming. To trust the rhythm of fall is to trust a God who is both immanent and infinite, both the whisper in the leaves and the Love that exceeds them.

And for our siblings in the Southern Hemisphere, where spring is beginning to rise, the invitation is no less profound. While one half of the world is learning the beauty of release, the other is learning the beauty of emergence. Both movements — letting go and rising anew — reveal the same divine heartbeat. Creation is always teaching us, no matter the season we inhabit.

Autumn's first breath is a reminder that transformation rarely begins with fanfare. It begins with a soft loosening, a willingness to let the old fall away so the soul can reveal its truest colors. And perhaps this is the hidden Gospel of fall — that becoming is not a single moment but a sacred unfolding, and that every leaf drifting toward the earth is preaching a sermon about renewal.

Which part of our spirit is turning toward its next season?



Altar Flowers

Just a couple of 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 Oct. 25, and November 15. The cost is \$40/vase. Call the office to reserve your date and give us the information we should include in the bulletin.



Shepherd's Closet Rummage



The October sale raised \$407. The next sale will be November 6 and 7. Donations are welcome. If you can come in to help Deb make the switch to cold weather clothing, please give her a call to arrange a time. Her cell # is 518-637-1734.

Books for the Little Free Library

A big Thank You to Trinity Church for giving us boxes and boxes of books left from their annual book sale. Books for kids, teens, adults, cooks, crafters, Christmas lovers, mystery lovers. So many books to choose from.



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 4:30 p.m. (these are our normal hours as of September 1st). 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

Mary Gevas – healing	Kim Forrester – healing	Ian Israelsen – healing/strength
Gene Allander – healing	Diane Cottrill – healing	Marcia Doyle – healing
Peter Gevas – healing	John Curry – healing	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Ann Stevens – healing	Amanda Morris – healing	Buck Harris – strength/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	Mirtala Smith	Faith Beha	Everett Gilmore
Charles Sterchak	Ellen Faymon	Ben Buskirk	Courtney Rodriguez
Jeff Alkire	Kira Mace		



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, October 25. 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** –Can you help hand out food bags to the unhoused or assemble food orders in the pantry for our housed clients? The current need is volunteers on Monday morning, 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:

Now thru Nov. 3rd - Adopted Families Applications –
October 19 – Community Meeting about SNAP and Medicaid
October 21 – Gather Gladly Potluck and Hymn Sing
October 27 – Movie Night
October 31 – Change your clocks
November 1 – All Saints Day
November 4 – Potluck and Hymn Sing – take 2
November 8 – Pledge Ingathering



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

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.

Support our Ministries



