

Observing



a Holy Lent

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
March 26, 2025

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

From the Rector:

On the Fifth Sunday in Lent, the sequence hymn, the one leading up to the Gospel, will be a hymn written by contemporary hymn writer Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Carolyn has authored over 400 hymns, generally setting them to familiar tunes, and her work has been featured all over the world. More about Carolyn and her hymns can be found at <https://www.carolynshymns.com/biography.html>.



Katie Beth+

Lent Study continues

This year's Lent study is using the book *The Last Week* by Borg and Crossan but having the book is optional.

The upcoming Lent Adult Formation Schedule

March 30 @ 9:15am: Chapter 4 (Wednesday of Holy Week)

April 6 @ 9:15am: Chapter 5 Thursday (Maundy Thursday)

April 13 @ 9:15am: Chapter 6 Friday (Good Friday)

April 19 @ 10:15am (this is a Saturday): Chapter 7 Saturday (Holy Saturday)

April 27 @ 9:15am: Chapter 8 (Easter Sunday)

May 4 @ 9:15am: (Conclusions – Shifts into the life of the early church)

The group meets in the Junior High Room – it isn't too late to start attending.

Capital Campaign – WORSHIP, SERVE, PROCLAIM!

A mailing has gone out to give you more information on the Capital Campaign and how you can contribute to its success. If you have not received a letter or you have any questions, please contact the office and someone from the Capital Campaign Committee will respond.

We hope to have your pledge cards or one-time donations back in time for our Ingathering on Sunday May 4. Of course, sooner is better (if that is possible for you) since we are making plans for work to begin later this spring. Thank you to those who have already responded so generously.

As the projects get underway, we will also let you know when there are other ways to help. We will have to protect the interior of the church before the roof work begins and move items from the kitchen and bell tower to be able to do those projects. Stay tuned! Meanwhile, please pray for a successful outcome.

Shepherd's Closet Rummage



The next sale is coming up soon – Friday and Saturday April 4 & 5. If you have donations you can arrange to drop them off during office hours, M-TH, 9-12, 1:30-4. If you have a lot, call the office and someone will meet you in the parking lot next to the Rummage Room. Household items always sell well, and we are also looking for spring clothing and Easter items for this sale. If you would like to help or have questions about donations, call Deb's cell (1-518-637-1734).

Donating? Please do but....

Our Parish Administrator gets a bit *tied up in knots* when she gets checks that need to be deposited into multiple accounts. Please write a separate check for each purpose – your pledge, flowers, food pantry, capital campaign, etc. Otherwise, she deposits the total in one bank account and then must transfer part of it to another account. This creates more work and an opportunity for errors, so more time is spent double-checking. It may also raise a red flag to the auditors. Thanks for your help and understanding.

Easter Flowers

We are now accepting donations for Easter Flowers for any amount that you wish to give. You may use your 'Easter Flowers' envelope or just write a check with Easter Flowers in the memo line. We will also need information on the dedication of your flowers – in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for someone or something.

We will be having an assortment of spring flowers for Easter rather than all lilies (Katie Beth has allergies), but we expect to still have an abundant display to celebrate this festive day.



Safe Church Training - Friday, April 11, 2025, 9:30am - 3:30pm Lunch included

Plan now to join the Vestry for Safe Church Training offered in person right here at Good Shepherd. This training is mandatory for vestry members, staff, and volunteers working with any vulnerable population (children, the homeless, etc.).

The training is also offered online but it will go faster, and it will be more fun doing it together. If you are already involved or plan to help with Reading Camp, the youth group, passing out bags to the homeless, helping visit the homebound or maybe some ministry we haven't even thought of yet, please sign up. Training is good for 3 years. If you completed the training in the last 3 years, please send your documentation to Ginger so we can bring our files up to date.

Sign up by emailing csaxe@wvdiocese.org

Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study groups led by David Cooper meet most Wednesdays. There are two sessions. The group meeting from 4:15 – 5:15 PM is studying the Letter to the Romans. The group meeting from 5:15 - 6:15 PM is studying 1st Kings. Both groups welcome new attendees. Let David know you will be there so he can let you into the building (304-494-8790).



Quiet Day at Trinity

Susan Walsh, ECW President at Trinity, invites everyone (men and women) to a Quiet Day on Saturday April 5th from 9 AM – Noon. No need to reserve a spot – you are welcome to just show up.



Reception of Holy Orders

The Right Rev. Matthew D. Cowden,
Bishop of West Virginia
will receive

James Offenberger,

having been ordained in a Church in the Historic Succession,
as a Priest in

The Episcopal Church
on

Monday, March Thirty-first
Two Thousand and Twenty-five

at

Six in the evening

at

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
903 Charles Street
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Your prayers and presence are requested

The collection will go to Jim’s Discretionary Fund

Celebration in the Great Hall following the service

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:



Good Shepherd Parish Prayer List

The People of Israel and Gaza
Marcia Doyle – healing
Mary Gevas – healing
The People of Ukraine
Peggy Roberts - healing
Fire Victims and Firefighters
Ann Stevens– healing

Jone Johnson – healing/strength
David Cottrill - healing
Dee Milhoan – strength
Peter Gevas – healing
Diane Cottrill – healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing
Kenny Wagner - healing

Bob Landenfeld – healing/strength
Heyward Roberts - healing
Charles Sterchak - healing
Amanda Morris – healing
Vickie Dilley – healing/strength
Jennifer Sheets – recovery from
heart surgery

Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Sterling Slusher, Joe Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer

Glen Kirk
Julia Lee
Marlene Cox
Ellis Corra

Judy McCoy
Alana Dailey
David White
Chris Angotti

Doris Lowe
Gary Greer
Hal Foss

Wendy Meridith
John Stevens

Deaths

David Nevins

Found on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/DailyOffice>)

Mission of St. Clare: Daily Prayer and Meditation

For Tuesday March 25: Annunciation of the Lord

“Persist in your holy purpose, even if you fail a thousand times a day.”

Louis De Blois, *Spiritual Mirror*

I was ten years old when Mary Lou Retton won gold at the Summer Olympics and changed the sport of gymnastics forever. Until that moment, I had never been interested in anything remotely athletic, but, like millions of other little girls, I caught gymnastics fever. For two years, I took gymnastic lessons, spending countless hours in our front yard practicing handstands, backbends, cartwheels and round-offs. Up, over, down. Up, over, down. I practiced and practiced until it became obvious that I would never make it past a front walkover. Flipping and swinging over vaults and bars took physical strength and courage I would never possess.

Those years weren't a waste despite my failed attempt at Olympic gold. I learned something in that time that has never left me. I learned what it felt like to have purpose and drive. I learned what the fruits of practice, intentionality and deep commitment tasted like. I learned how good it felt to grow in skill and ability. These lessons have served me well as a mother, farmer, writer, camp director and preacher, to name a few of my holy purposes.

Lent is a season when we are given the opportunity to practice the spiritual discipline of listening to God's call on our lives, to fast from the things that distract us, and instead to hone in on who and what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do and become in the common everydayness of our lives. It is a season of responding as we remember Mary's words to the angel Gabriel on this feast day of the Annunciation: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." We follow this response with intentionality, practicing over and over the cartwheels and handstands of that call, falling down, getting up and trying again.

For Reflection

What might you need to fast from to hear God's holy purpose in your life?

Episcopal Relief and Development/Lent Reflections



PETERKIN 2025
CAMP DATES




Counselor Training: June 6 - 14
Junior Camp: June 15 - 21
Intermediate Camp: June 22 - 28
Alpha Camp: June 29 - July 2
Staff Break: July 3 - 5
Senior Camp: July 6 - 12
MAD Camp: July 13 - 19
Family Camp: July 20 - 26

HARBEST

LUKE 10:2

The poster features a dark green background with faint leaf patterns. The text is in various colors: green, orange, and purple. The logo 'HARBEST' is stylized with icons: a wheat stalk for 'H', an avocado for 'A', a slice of orange for 'R', a hand holding a leaf for 'V', an apple for 'E', a bunch of grapes for 'S', and a cross for 'T'. The Bible verse 'LUKE 10:2' is written vertically on the right side.

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. Your donations are always welcome or help yourself to a book if you spot a good one – they are there for anyone and everyone. 
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be this Sunday, March 30. 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** – If you would like to help handing out food bags to the unhoused or preparing food for our housed clients in the pantry, the current need is someone on Tuesday morning. We also need substitute helpers when someone is out of town or ill. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or just as needed. 



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 Toni DeVore or Linda Crocker (see below for our contact information). Katie Beth now has a dedicated phone number for pastoral care emergencies for members of the congregation to use. If you would like to have that number, please call the office to obtain it. It will not be printed anywhere so that when Katie Beth gets a call, she knows it is from one of us and not from a non-member. 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. 

Calendar Dates

- March 30 – One service at 10:15 – Drama Production
- March 31 – Reception of Jim Offenberger as Episcopal church priest at 6 PM
- April 13 – Palm Sunday (one service at 10:15)
- April 17 – Maundy Thursday: Service at 7:00 PM (Watch Vigil begins at 9 PM)
- April 18 – Good Friday: Stations of the Cross at Noon, Service at 7:00 PM
- April 19 – Holy Saturday: Lent course at 10:15, Decorating at 11 AM, Joint Easter Vigil at Trinity at 7:30 PM
- April 20 - Easter Sunday: one service at 10:15 AM followed by Easter Egg Hunt



Our Youth and Young Adults find lots of ways to have fun at Sky Zone

