

**Observing**



**a Holy Lent**

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF  
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd  
March 12, 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](http://www.goodshepherdwv.org)

**From the Rector:**

So what is Lent?

Shrove Tuesday, which we celebrated the day prior to Ash Wednesday, is named after the past tense of the verb *to shrive* which means to offer confession and repentance. In the early days of the church, Christians would spend the shricing days, the days leading up to Lent, finishing their meat and dairy products as well as confessing and repenting of their sins. They did this to prepare for Lent, a season of fasting and prayer in which one reorients one's focus to one's relationship with God. In contemporary times, Lent consists of the period of 40 days running from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, excluding Sundays. Individuals may still fast, giving up food items or habits, or they may prayerfully take on new practices meant to grow their relationship with God.

Lent itself comes from the verb from the Old English *lencten* which indicates a *lengthening* of the season, e.g. *spring*. Perhaps you might think of the hymn *Now the green blade rises* when you think of Lent. The words of this hymn summarize perfectly the aims of Lent. The period of fasting and praying and turning toward God is not unlike the shedding of the shell of seeds planted in the springtime so that new life might arise from what has been buried. My prayer for you this season is that whatever you feel called to shed, may it turn into a great harvest in your life of faith.

Katie Beth+

**Lent Study continues**

This year's Lent study is using the book *The Last Week* by Borg and Crossan. You might plan to borrow it from the library or purchase a copy.

The upcoming Lent Adult Formation Schedule

March 16 @ 9:15am: Chapter 2 (Monday of Holy Week)

March 23 @ 9:15am: Chapter 3 (Tuesday of Holy Week)

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 is going out this week to give you more information on the Capital Campaign and how you can contribute to its success. If 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. Work is planned to begin later this spring.

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.

## Global Missionary Festival and Expo

Wood County Christian School is hosting this event Saturday March 28 from 5-8 PM in their gymnasium in Williamstown. A variety of local churches will share info about their international ministries and missions with exhibits, music and food booths. There will be a keynote speaker at 6 PM sharing information on work in Russia and Ukraine. While this isn't a focus of ministry at Good Shepherd, it is a chance to support and encourage other Christians as we all work to make the world a better place for all.

## Easter Flowers

We are now accepting donations for Easter Flowers. 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.

Due to Katie Beth's allergy to lilies, we will be having an assortment of spring flowers for Easter rather than all lilies, but we expect to still have an abundant display to celebrate this festive day.



## Shepherd's Closet Rummage



We just had our 1<sup>st</sup> sale of the year and raised \$405 to go towards our Adopted Families Christmas ministry. Thank you to Deb and all the volunteers. If you have more 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 will be looking for spring clothing and Easter items for the April sale. If you would like to help or have questions about donations, call Deb's cell (1-518-637-1734).

## Programs from the Diocese:

**Come & See:** Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7:00pm-8:00pm unless otherwise noted.

The Diocese has a new monthly Zoom series: "**Come & See.**" Each month (with summer break), people from around the diocese will gather on Zoom for a presentation and conversation about different ministries or topics. Learn about what's happening all over the diocese! Each session will feature a different ministry leader and opportunity.

- **March 18: Evangelism**, including our recently awarded Episcopal Evangelism Grant, with the Rev. Canon Jordan Trumble
- **April 8** (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday): **College Ministry**, with the Ven. David Johnston, Archdeacon for Young Adult & Campus Ministries
- **May 20: Disaster Relief**, with the Ven. Josh Saxe, Archdeacon for Community Resilience & Disaster Response Ministries



## Join the Zoom meeting

Go to zoom.com, choose 'Join a meeting', and enter the information below  
Meeting ID: 849 9043 5566 Passcode: 138068

## Forgiveness: What it is and What it isn't

The Rev Dr. Nancy Woodworth-Hill, Rector of Lawrencefield Parish Church in Wheeling, is offering her ten-part online series of videos entitled *Forgiveness: What it Is and What It Isn't, and How to Do It* during Lent and the Easter season. The series began streaming on March 11, with a new program appearing weekly.

In her work both as a rector and as a spiritual director, Nancy recognized forgiveness is often misunderstood. It is not a gift given to another; it is an act where we release ourselves from the bonds of the past. While forgiveness may lead to reconciliation, reconciliation is distinct from forgiveness. This series offers a look at forgiveness from several different perspectives such as compassion, resentment and grief, and ends with different processes through which we may find the ability to forgive, freeing ourselves and moving forward into the future.

The series will air as part of Nancy's *A Prayerful Pause*, a weekly program on prayer and spiritual practices found on [Lawrencefield Church's Facebook page](#), [YouTube channel](#), and on [Sandscrest Retreat Center's Facebook page](#).

## Blood Drive

Trinity, our sister parish, is organizing a blood drive to help the Red Cross replenish their supplies. A combined total of at least 30 donors need to sign up for them to go ahead. If you are willing to donate, please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Center. If you are not sure if you meet donation requirements, please visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/how-to-donate/eligibility-requirements.html>

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel. Both groups welcome new attendees. Let David know you will be there so he can let you into the building (304-494-8790).



**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

LUKE 10:2 —

**H A R V E S T**

**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  
*Clergy: Cassock, Surplice, and Red Stoles*

**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  
Stan Perry – healing

Diane Cottrill – healing  
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing  
Heyward Roberts - healing  
Charles Sterchak - healing  
Amanda Morris – healing  
Vickie Dilley – healing/strength

*Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces*

Sterling Slusher, Joee 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  
David Nevins

Hal Foss  
Wendy Meridith  
John Stevens

## 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 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 hosed 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 6PM
- April 13 – Palm Sunday (one service at 10:15)
- April 17 – Maundy Thursday
- April 18 – Good Friday
- April 19 – Holy Saturday
- April 20 - Easter Sunday (one service at 10:15)



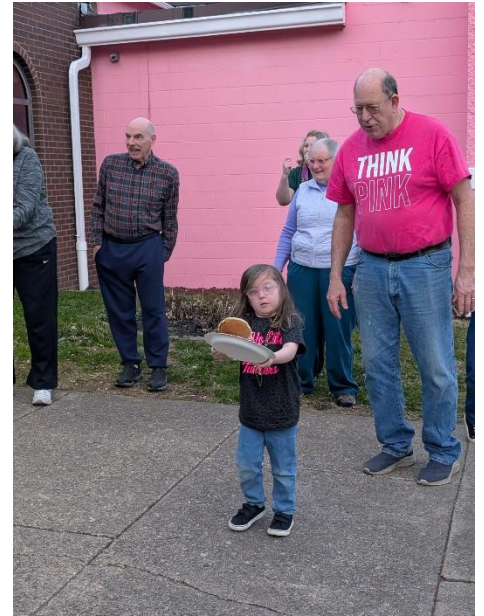


## Contact Information:

The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa 304-428-1525, ext. 4 [rector.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com](mailto:rector.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com)  
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator 304-428-1525, ext. 1 [gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com](mailto:gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com)  
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries 304-428-1525, ext. 5 [LLBC100@msn.com](mailto:LLBC100@msn.com)  
Toni DeVore, Senior Warden 304-991-2259 [drtd51@gmail.com](mailto:drtd51@gmail.com)

One Call system 1-877-698-3261 This is the number to call if you need a message from the church repeated.

## Pancake Supper Fun – Shrove Tuesday, March 4th



## Burning last year's palms, Pancake Racers, and a Pancake Eater

