

Looking Forward



with Joy & Faith

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd
September 11, 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: A Joyful Morning at Good Shepherd!

This past Sunday was truly a joyful morning at Good Shepherd. It was everything a joyful and Spirit-filled worship should be: lots of people (over 70) including lots of children and youth, great music from a great choir and great musicians, laughing and crying, remembering the past, rooted in the present, and looking forward to the future. We celebrated grandparents, grandchildren, the memory of Mary Lou Hague and, of course, the Holy Eucharist. And then there was that great time of food, fun and fellowship at the potluck lunch. It doesn't get much better than that!

But it will get even better! The energy and enthusiasm we are witnessing will only increase once a settled Rector is called and arrives. That's the true joyful morning at Good Shepherd, full of opportunities and new beginnings. A new Rector will bring new energy, vitality and joy to the parish. When exactly this will happen is not yet known. But you deserve the very best and I don't think God will let you down. Thanks be to God for all that God is doing at Good Shepherd!

Thank you WTAP

If you missed it, WTAP did a great job of covering Sunday's special service. Watch it here:

<https://www.wtap.com/video/2024/09/09/good-shepherd-church-honors-grandparents-victims-911/>

The Choir is Back!

Choir rehearsals began last Wednesday. The augmented choir and guest instrumentalists made Sunday's Grandparents' Day service extra special – we hope some of our guests will become regular choir members. Everyone who loves to sing is welcome to join - men and women – all ages and abilities. Rehearsals are every Wednesday beginning at 5:30 PM



Read Aloud WV

Change the lives of children in our community by motivating them to read for fun. How? By becoming a Volunteer Classroom Reader! It is easy and rewarding. After a 1-hour training session available on ZOOM, you choose an elementary school and are connected with a classroom. You can choose when and how often to read: once a month, once a week, before holidays, etc. Reading sessions are usually about 20 minutes long. In consultation with the classroom teacher, you read an age-appropriate book that you like – maybe even a beloved book from your childhood. The goal of the local chapter is to have volunteer readers in all Wood County elementary schools.



Learn more at readaloudwv.org or sign up for one of the next Zoom sessions (Tues. Sept 17 or Tuesday Sept. 24 at 12:30 pm) at readaloudwv.org/calendar. For more information contact Read Aloud WV 304-345-5212

Bible Study



Wednesday Night Bible Study led by David Cooper meets most Wednesdays. There are two sessions. The group meeting from 5-6 PM is studying the Book of Judges. The group meeting from 7-8 PM is continuing a study of Hebrews. Both groups welcome new attendees. Let David know you will be there so he can let you into the building (304-494-8790).

Shepherd's Closet Rummage

The September sale raised \$381. The team welcomes donations of household items, fall décor, and household linens as well as your cold weather clothing for the October sale. Call the office to arrange a time when someone will be available to accept your donation.



Columbarium

It is time for you to make another visit to our columbarium. The work to add two more sets of niches is finished. Many, many thanks to Dave Johnson for using his carpentry skills to build, assemble, and stain the cases and install the niches. The columbarium also includes seating and a book of remembrance with information on each person interred. It is a beautiful, peaceful place for contemplation and prayer.

If you intend to be cremated and want to reserve a niche, please contact Ginger in the office for information on the cost and the necessary paperwork.



Youth and Young Adult Outing

On Saturday, September 7th, nine of Good Shepherd's Youth and Young Adult Group, upon the invitation of Gardiner and Chia Chia Smith, visited their farm. It was a beautiful, gorgeous day and our generous hosts were so kind to feed and entertain us. We had a scrumptious lunch of grilled hotdogs (on homemade buns), salads, mac and cheese and cheesecake or ice cream sandwiches for dessert. Then we were off to the lake for fishing, boating, or resting and digesting lakeside. Thank you so much Gardiner and Chia Chia for hosting and driving and thank you Linda Crocker for chaperoning.



At the Lake:



Boating:



At lunch from the top, clockwise: Demetrie, Anthony, Katie, Aubrey, Brooklyn, Courtney, Jordan, Gardiner, Yazmin and Eva. Not pictured: Miss Carolynne, Linda and our hostess Chia Chia

More photos:



Brooklyn and Aubrey



Jordan and Courtney



Linda and Eva

Sandscrest Silent Retreat Opportunity – registration due by Friday!



Listening to the God Within ~ a silent retreat
Sandscrest Conference Center • Wheeling
Thursday evening, September 26, to Saturday afternoon, September 28
Sponsored by the Commission on Spirituality of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

In the space of silence, people come to know more closely the God that dwells within them. This is an opportunity to intentionally draw closer to our God, by spending time in God’s presence and in God’s creation without the distractions of day to day life.

If you’re new to silent retreats, don’t worry, we won’t leave you wandering around with nothing to do. There’s plenty to meditate on.

Silence

Sandscrest Conference Center is often called a ‘thin spot’ – a place where the air is thin, making it easier to find God. The main building is a lovely 1852 mansion and it is surrounded by 285 acres of fields and woods. There are an abundance of trails, rocking chairs, a sun room and cozy niches in the main house, and a chapel. We will also offer a labyrinth, mandalas for coloring and some short prayers and quotes for meditation.

Worship

We invite you to worship in varied ways, morning, noon and night. Experience a candlelight Taize service, a Celtic morning worship, a worship hike. A drumming circle around the fire pit on Friday evening, led by Fritzann Isenhardt, can also be a form a worship.

Spiritual Direction

The Very Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill, PhD is the Rector of Lawrencefield Parish Church in Wheeling. She is also a certified spiritual director/ companion in private practice. While engaged in silent retreats it is not unusual for “junk” (often in the form of memories, awareness of life-denying patterns, or a feeling) to arise. Nancy will be available to sit with individuals who wish to be accompanied through exploring these and similar issues on Friday of the retreat.

Together

Even though you are silent, you will experience the unity of oneness with the spirit and with others. We will enter into silence after activities on the first evening and break the silence for a meal together Saturday before leaving.

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Registration Form Due by September 13, 2024. Registration is Limited.

Name _____

Address _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Physical limitations: _____

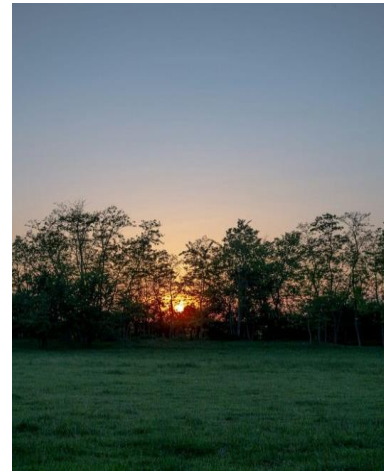
Cost is \$180, which covers all meals and accommodations. Make checks payable to the Episcopal Diocese of WV, and mail to PO Box 5400, Charleston, WV 25361.

You can also sign up on the Diocesan website or Facebook page. For questions or if the registration fee is burdensome to you, text or call Sister Nancy Martin, 304.860.9446.

Found on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=celtic%20prayer>

Celtic Prayer from 1000 A.D.

You are the peace of all things calm
You are the place to hide from harm
You are the light that shines in dark
You are the heart's eternal spark
You are the door that's open wide
You are the guest who waits inside
You are the stranger at the door
You are the calling of the poor
You are the light, the truth, the way
You are my Saviour this very day."



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	Marcia Doyle – healing	Eric Dailey – healing
The People of Ukraine	Peggy Roberts - healing	Peter Gevas – healing
Larry Hand—healing	Mary Gevas – healing	Heyward Roberts – healing
Becky Winans –healing	Dee Milhoan – healing	Shauna Hyde - healing
Jone Johnson – healing/strength	Diane Cottrill – healing	Ann Stevens– healing
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing	David Cottrill - healing	Chris Heckman – healing
Patsy Mace - healing	Vickie Dilley –healing/strength	
Audrey Kate York – 2 nd degree burns on legs		



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces
Sterling Slusher, Joe Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

Those needing healing from cancer




Glen Kirk	John Stevens	David Nevins	Julia Lee
Judy McCoy	David White	Alana Dailey	Chris Angotti
Doris Lowe	Ellis Corra	Gary Greer	Wendy Meredith



Death

Hazel Ginther

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 September 29. 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 the bags, the current 'holes' are Monday and Thursday afternoon and Tuesday morning. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or just as needed. We still need used plastic grocery bags for packing. 

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, some 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.



Altar Flowers:

Open dates for the rest of 2024 are September 29 (1 vase), Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24. Please contact 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.



Contact Information:

The Rev. Lou Hays	304-428-1525, ext. 4	louisbhays@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
Larry James, Senior Warden	304-482-9661	blesense@suddenlink.net



SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

WHAT IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH?

A month where people all over America stand together with Feeding America and the nationwide network of food banks to fight hunger. It's a month to spread the word and take action on the hunger crisis, and dedicate ourselves to a solution.

Join Mountaineer Food Bank for the month of September by participating in our H.A.M activities. Watch for and print out our HAM Action calendar and join in on the daily activities listed, donate to MFB programs and encourage your family and friends to participate as well!

Lets build awareness around the issue of hunger in West Virginia and ensure nobody in our great state goes to bed hungry, today...or tomorrow!



You can read more or donate to Mountaineer Food Bank online at

www.mountaineerfoodbank.org

or donate by check directly to Good Shepherd with Food Pantry in the memo line.