



MESSENGER – February 2021

A word from our pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

With the arrival of February comes preparation for the season of Lent. Now is the time when we begin wondering what habits to give up, what practices to take on, and how to engage overall with the traditional disciplines of this season: prayer, fasting, and giving.

At Good Shepherd, our preparation for Lent is rooted in the scriptural texts that guide us through these forty days. This year, the stories of the Old Testament reveal how God's promises have formed us as God's people, while the stories of the gospel show how Jesus is the fulfillment of those promises, especially through our relationships as members of one Church. Our theme for Lent 2021 is: **"Formed by Promise, Called to Community."**

This Lent, as for Advent and Holy Week 2020, we are preparing Lent Kits for you and your family! There will be two types of kits: one for households, one for children. (You only need to pick up one household kit for your family, but each child should get their own children's kit.) The household kits will include our GSLC Lenten Devotional, written by members of our congregation, along with other tools meant to help keep Lent holy at home. The children's kits are full of weekly craft projects to help children engage with the weekly worship texts and include some other ideas for observing Lent as a family, too.

On Saturday, February 6, we will begin our Lenten preparations with an inter-generational gathering. Weather permitting, we will meet outdoors to burn last year's palms, and then work together to assemble the Lent kits. All are invited to join the gathering and stay to help! The kits will be available for pickup soon thereafter. Keep your eye on the weekly news and your ears open to announcements at the end of worship to learn more about when and how to pick them up.

Lent begins on February 17th, Ash Wednesday. Good Shepherd is offering two worship services that day: drive-in worship at 12 noon, and a digital service at 7pm. You may be wondering how we'll do the imposition of ashes this year: the Lent kits will include a small amount of ash as well as instructions on how to impose them on yourself and your household. It is a COVIDtide adjustment we have made in an effort to keep everyone safe and healthy.

In years past, we have hosted special midweek worship throughout Lent. This year, we invite you to gather with us as part of Calumet nation for their midweek prayer service. Calumet celebrates Holden Evening prayer every Wednesday at 7:30pm on their Facebook page.

We also usually offer a learning series throughout Lent. This year, the RIC Committee is leading a weekly discussion group as we read through, Ijeoma Oluo's ***So You Want to Talk About Race***. All are invited to join! We will read a couple of chapters a week, but we know life gets busy, so you're welcome to join us even if you fell off the reading wagon. What we really want is some good conversation on antiracism, so if you are interested in that, please join us on Zoom, Wednesdays at 8pm!

In the midst of all these preparations, we hope you find quiet space to enter into this holy season. We are praying for a meaningful Lent for Good Shepherd and each of you.

Walking with you,

Pastors Jeff and Larson

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Westborough, MA

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17th, 2021

WORSHIP SERVICES

Drive-in service:

12 noon

Parking lot of 183 W. Main St.

Check in at the front vestibule
then tune your radio to 1620AM

Digital Service:

7pm

On our Facebook page:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
of Westborough, MA

Congregation Meeting
to be held
Sunday, February 7, 2021

Dear Siblings in Christ:

Please join us for our Congregation Meeting on February 7, 2021. This meeting will be held virtually over the Zoom application. Also, if you prefer, you may participate by phone audio only. You can find instructions to access this on the back of this invitation.

The following topics are planned for discussion:

- 2020 Annual Reports – Recaps from Pastors and Staff
- Year-end Financial Update
- Progress against 2020 Congregation Goals
- 2021 Congregation Goals

We look forward to seeing you at this annual meeting to review 2020 and share plans for 2021. Your thoughts, feelings and needs are important to us and this is an ideal opportunity for us, as a congregation, to share these with each other. See you there as we continue to “grow, nurture and make disciples in Christ.”

Randy Koopman



Congregation Council President
On behalf of your Church Council

Meeting Access Information

Topic: Congregation Meeting
Date & Time: February 7, 2021 at 12:00 PM

To access the meeting by computer or tablet:

1. Go to the Zoom home screen (www.zoom.us)
2. Click **Join A Meeting** in the upper right corner.
3. Where prompted enter Meeting ID: 854 4686 5362
4. Click **Join**.
5. Dialog box will appear: click **Open Zoom Meetings**.
6. Dialog box will appear: enter the Passcode: **968954**
7. **Click Join Meeting**

To access the meeting by phone:

1. Dial 1-301-715-8592
2. Enter the meeting ID and passcode when prompted:
 - a. Meeting ID: 854 4686 5362#
 - b. Enter # for participant id (there is none for this call which is why you will enter #)
 - c. Passcode: **968954#**

On the phone #6 mutes and #6 unmutes

COUNCIL NOTES

This month's Council Notes are the minutes from the Council Retreat held on January 16th via Zoom.

Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2021 Council Retreat

- **Opening Devotions by pastors**

- Included a conversation about the “star word” each of us received for this year.
- Dana Gillin- Receive (last year)
- Deb Casey- Sharing
- Sarah McRae- Illuminate
- Bob Frederico- Leadership
- Randy Koopman- Presence
- Pastor Jeff- Perceptive
- Pastor Larson- Leadership
- Discussion- stars shine in dark times; we shared Bible stories of dark times; noted that 2020 is a dark time and we are coming out of it with a sense of appreciation and gratefulness

- **Election of 2021 Officers (President, Treasurer, Secretary)**

- President- Randy
- Secretary- Dana
- Treasurer- Deb
- Bob made a motion to approve the slate of officers. This was seconded by Pastor Larson and unanimously approved by vote.

- **Approve Dec. 2020 Council minutes**

- Pastor Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. This was seconded by Dana and approved via vote.

- **Slack Review / Tutorial**

- **Schedule for 2021 Council meetings**

- Council meetings will be held the second Thursday of every month at 6:30-9:00 pm

- **Finance Review - Full Year 2020, 2021 Budget**

- We ended 2020 with a surplus of \$103,189, partially due to PPP Loan of \$72,617 and partially due to expense savings by our staff.
- Deb made a motion to make a tithe offering based on the surplus excluding the PPP Loan savings, with the potential for additional tithe later in 2021 when the PPP Loan is resolved. This was seconded by Dana and approved via unanimous vote.
- Deb made a motion to contribute \$1000 each to ELCA World Hunger, Worcester County Food Bank, and Camp Calumet (with designation for camperships). This was seconded by Pastor Jeff and passed via unanimous vote.
- Pastor Jeff made a motion to create a designated “2020 surplus” account for the remaining \$100,189.48, with a decision to be made later in 2021 as to how to use the surplus. This was seconded by Pastor Larson and passed via unanimous vote.

- Pastor Larson and Pastor Jeff made their 2021 housing elections, as follows:
 - Pastor Larson- \$18,000
 - Pastor Jeff- \$0
- **Recording of installation of council for future online service**
 - Zoom recording done of the Installation of Council for 2021
- **2020 Congregation Goals Review**
 - Our 2020 Goals were as follows:
 - Strengthening personal connections
 - Keeping our mission statement in front of us
 - Cultivating active listening and transparent communication and decision making
 - Discussion around successes and areas for improvement with our goals.
 - Successes included Called to Care Ministry, mask making ministry, creativity in light of the pandemic, and the work of the re-opening committee.
 - Areas for improvement included communication around interim Christian education director and the need for continued active listening and transparent communication.
- **2021 Congregation Goals - what is God calling us to in this year?**
 1. We will continue to explore creative ways to form and strengthen personal connections within our congregation.
 2. Grounded in our mission statement (“Growing, nurturing, and making disciples in Christ”), we will discern and shape our transition into post-COVID ministry.
 3. We will cultivate active listening and transparent communications and decision-making.
- **Personnel Discussion -- Executive Session**
- **Size of Council --** We will revisit this issue after the pandemic.
- **February Congregation Meeting Agenda Planning:** Feb. 7, 2021, noon over Zoom, link to be sent in invitation letter
 - share annual reports including financials by Deb and reflections by pastors
 - review of 2020 goals
 - share 2021 goals
 - vote to accept Annual Report
- **GSLC COVID-19 Staff Policy --** reviewed and Pastor Jeff made a motion to accept the GSLC COVID-19 Staff Policy. Pastor Larson seconded, and it passed unanimously.
This policy is available upon request.

Pr. Larson closed us in prayer.

Next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 11 at 6:30.

Meeting concluded at 2:55.

2021 Council Members

council@goodshepherdcares.org



Randy Koopman
President



Deb Casey
Treasurer



Dana Gillin
Secretary



Sarah McRae



Bob Frederico



Pastor Larson



Pastor Jeff

Council meets at 6:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month.
Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.
Email us to receive the Zoom link!

DID YOU KNOW?

YOU CAN SUPPORT Good Shepherd's ministries while doing your regular shopping on Amazon. Shop at Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) and designate Good Shepherd as your charity of choice, and we receive a small donation with every purchase you make.



GIVING IS SIMPLER through Simply Giving. We did not even make up that slogan—it's just true! Simply Giving is an automatic giving program that makes scheduled withdrawals for you. This means you do not have to remember your envelopes every week, and it means that the church can count on your donation even when you are traveling, out of town, or stuck at home thanks to a global pandemic. You can adjust your giving anytime throughout the year. Visit our website or email our financial secretary Stan directly to get set up: finsec@goodshepherdcares.org.



OUR PARISH SECRETARY, Caryn, is a Notary Public. She provides her services at no cost to the congregants of Good Shepherd. Call or email her to request an appointment at office@goodshepherdcares.org.

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

Date	Readings
February 7, 2021 5 th Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 40:21-3, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 & Mark 1:29-39
February 14, 2021 Transfiguration Sunday	2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 & Mark 9:2-9
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Isaiah 58:1-12 (alternate), Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10 & Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February 21, 2021 1 st Sunday in Lent	Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22 & Mark 1:9-15
February 28, 2021 2 nd Sunday in Lent	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25 & Mark 8:31-38

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MARCH MESSENGER

The deadline is Monday, February 22, 2021

Please email your articles to Caryn Francese in the office at office@goodshepherdcares.org

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Starting on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent one of our hymns each week will be a short, simple melody that we repeat to invoke a more contemplative time in our service. Singing a short, simple melody, that is easily memorized, gives the great opportunity to focus our mind on something other than the words of a hymn that has multiple verses. Life is full of so many distractions and anxieties, I hope singing these short songs and refrains gives you a moment to meditate on those simple phrases and serves to help focus and facilitate prayer, as well as a time to reflect on what this journey through Lent means to you. ~Kirby Stalley, Director of Music (kirby.stalley@goodshepherdcares.org)

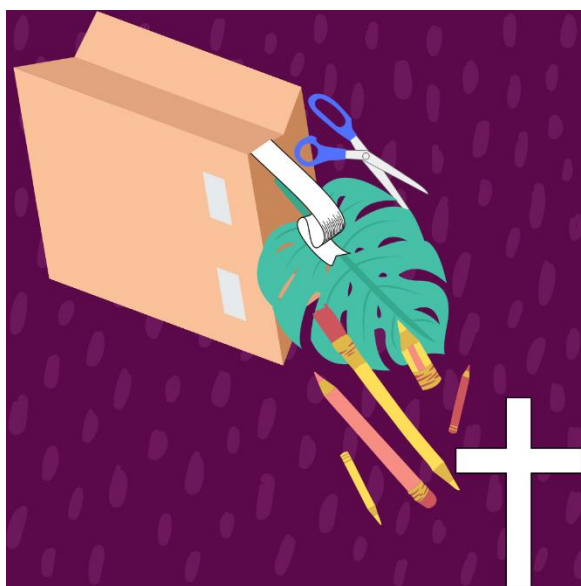
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

keeping learners in the loop

Intergenerational Gathering on Saturday, February 6th

You're invited to a special intergenerational gathering to kickoff the Lenten season! On Saturday, February 6, at 9 am we will gather in Good Shepherd's parking lot to burn last year's palm branches and make ashes for Ash Wednesday. This gathering will include a time for prayer and an activity for children and adults. We will then assemble household and children's Lent kits. All are welcome to join the gathering and stay to help!

Lent Learning Offering: Lent Kits



As we continue to be separated for the season of Lent, we recognize that God's promises remain in the face of our disappointments, anxieties, and questions. The pandemic has made it clear that faith extends beyond the church building. To help cultivate our faith at home, we have created Lent kits for children, ages Pre-K through 6th grade, as well as household kits for kids (and adults!) ages 7th grade and up. Like the Advent kits, children's kits include material for five crafts – one for each Sunday in Lent – along with special Holy Week crafts, coloring pages, and musical activities. **You can pick up your kits on Saturday, February 6th, or anytime thereafter in**

the western vestibule of Good Shepherd's building. Please pick up one kit per child.

FEBRUARY ADULT FORUM: ANIMATE: BIBLE

Ongoing in February, we continue our seven-week series on the Bible using the Animate: Bible course, described below.

Animate: Bible

Designed to reinvigorate and deepen understanding of the Bible



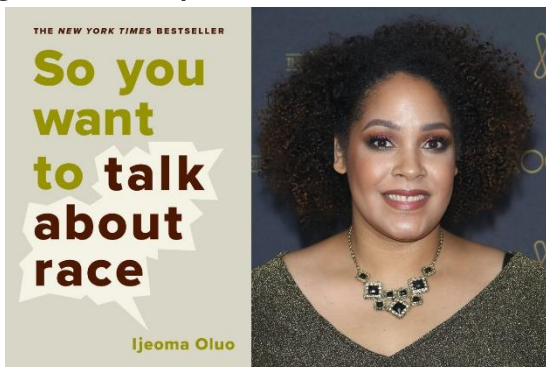
Animate: Bible is an adult faith formation series that explores seven big conversations about the Bible, including the canon, history, testaments, Gospels, genre, interpretation, and grace. Animate Bible uses dynamic videos from seven Christian thought leaders in addition to a creative Bible Journal to help Animate participants delve deeper and reflect on session content. The Journal provides thought-provoking ideas, beautiful illustrations, and space to write, sketch, and reflect on how they think about the Bible.

- 2/7/21 No Adult Forum – Congregation Meeting
- 2/14/21 Genre: Rhythm of the Text - Jose Morales
- 2/21/21 Interpretation: Scripture Reads Us - Will Willimon
- 2/28/21 Grace: Love Is the Bottom Line - Jay Bakker

Zoom Adult Forum Classes on Animate: Bible at 11:15 a.m.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST

Are you interested in learning more about anti-racism? Want to find out what you can do about it? Or are you just trying to figure out why racism has become such a big topic?



Join the RIC Committee as we host a weekly book club starting Wednesdays, via Zoom, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

We'll be reading and discussing the book, ***So You Want to Talk About Race*** by Ijeoma Oluo.

Look for details in upcoming Weekly News. Hope you can join us!



Ernie Zimmermann, RIC Committee



Pastoral Counseling Centers of Massachusetts
7 Church Street
Westborough, MA 01581
508-366-4000

December 30, 2020

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
183 West Main Street
Westborough, MA 01581

On behalf of the Pastoral Counseling Centers of MA and the many folk it benefits, we give heartfelt thanks for your donation of \$500.00 this month. As a non-profit center, we could not operate without contributions such as yours giving critical assistance to the folks who come here for counseling.

Our therapists continue to offer pastoral counseling services to all people, regardless of religious affiliation or financial means. Drawing on the rich traditions of both psychology and spirituality, we respect every person's journey as he or she faces difficult life experiences.

The center exists because many people are in need of it and it exists also because many others are called to help provide for its operation. Thank you for caring to be part of the providing of this center. It is appreciated by many!

Sincerely,

Mary Taber
Executive Director

*Thank you so so much.
We really appreciate your
continuous and caring support!*

TRANSITIONS

Mark and Diane Booher offer a few words of thanks and explanation as they return to worship at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Newton, MA.

I am thankful for the enduring welcome by the Rissmillers and the Olsons beginning with our first visit to Good Shepherd 28 years ago and continuing faithfully forward.

I am thankful for the excellent Christian Education Program and how it helped train our son, Jeremy, in the Christian faith. Through that program, we came to know and become friends with the Gillam and Rich families.

I am thankful for the Adult Forum program. Through it, I learned, grew, and shared with other participants. Jochen and I developed a friendship that has gone beyond just working together as co-leaders.

However, over the years Good Shepherd changed as it grew from a neighborhood church to a much larger regional church with a more transient congregation. Now at Good Shepherd, Sundays have become remarkably busy at church; often people juggle competing demands on their time, much like our secular lives. While the services are richer and varied, I am distracted from worship by the need to concentrate on which words to use this week. I feel a pressure to finish the services on time and in an expedient manner.

We find peace and ease of focus in the worship at St. Mary's, a church where Diane's family has worshipped for over three generations. We were married there 42 years ago and kept an active though distant presence, even while we lived in Texas.

We are not moving or changing our contact information. We plan to still be involved in interfaith events in Westborough and attend Good Shepherd on occasion and for special events. We wish Good Shepherd well, and hope it continues to fulfill the mission Christ appears to be calling it.

~Mark Booher

Many of you do not know me, and few know me well. This tells you something about my 28 years of worship at Good Shepherd. There are some wonderful things I know about you and I share them here to encourage your lay ministries.

I will always be grateful for the solid education you offered our now-adult son; Suzanne Gillam, Ned and Celeste Rich, and countless others of you had a lasting impact on his faith formation. The Olsons, the Rissmillers, the Salfelds and the Blacks welcomed us into their homes and their lives, their caring generosity shines among my memories. People, not programs, carried Christ's love for me.

Post-pandemic, should you ever wish to accompany us to worship at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, there's full communion, interesting history, and fine music there, too! The congregation is smaller, and worship is simpler than Good Shepherd with fellowship time following the service. I will keep reading the *Living Lutheran*, and we will still be your Westborough neighbors.

~Diane Booher



GOOD SHEPHERD AT-A-GLANCE

183 W. Main Street † Westborough, MA 01581 † 508.366.7095
www.goodshepherdcares.org † prayercircle@goodshepherdcares.org

STAFF DIRECTORY

508.366.7095 Tel. • 508.796.2611 Fax

Visit our website to access our calendar, find past sermons and worship services, make a donation or adjust your giving, and more.

www.goodshepherdcares.org

Name **Ext.** **All emails end in @goodshepherdcares.org**

The Rev. Jeffrey Goodrich 104 [pastorjeff@](mailto:pastorjeff@goodshepherdcares.org)

The Rev. Victoria Larson 103 [pastorlarson@](mailto:pastorlarson@goodshepherdcares.org)

Samantha Menapace, Director of Christian Education 107 [samantha.menapace@](mailto:samantha.menapace@goodshepherdcares.org)

Kirby Stalley, Director of Music 106 [kirby.stalley@](mailto:kirby.stalley@goodshepherdcares.org)

Yeon Soh, Organist 109 [yeon.soh@](mailto:yeon.soh@goodshepherdcares.org)

Stan Corbett, Financial Secretary [finsec@](mailto:finsec@goodshepherdcares.org)

Caryn Francese, Parish Secretary 101 [office@](mailto:office@goodshepherdcares.org)

Steve Brevik, Sexton 108 [Sbrevik10@](mailto:Sbrevik10@goodshepherdcares.org)



ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

(September through May)

Day	Learning	Time(s)	Contact
Sundays	Adult Forums	11:15 am on ZOOM	samantha.menapace@goodshepherdcares.org
Mondays	Bible Study	9 ³⁰ am	Joan Olson jeolson423@icloud.com
Fridays	Friday Group	9 ³⁰ am	Kay Devaprasad kanaga.devaprasad@gmail.com

See Calendar for more information, such as location.

Feel free to contact the office at 508.366.7095 with questions or email office@goodshepherdcares.org

Co-Pastors

Pr. Jeffrey Goodrich

1329 Main Street,
Concord, MA 01742
Cell: 508-808-1795

Pr. Victoria Larson

46 Summer Street, #2
Westborough, MA 01581
Cell: 302-897-4167

Can we pray for you?

If you or someone you know would like to be remembered in our community's weekly prayers, please call the church office or email prayercircle@goodshepherdcares.org

Find us on Social Media

Facebook:
"Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Westborough, Massachusetts"

Instagram:
[@gslcwestboro](https://www.instagram.com/gslcwestboro)



Good Shepherd is a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation; we welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

During the pandemic, we offer digital services every Sunday. You can find them on our Facebook page and our YouTube channel—just search for "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Westborough."