



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (USA)

Making space for faith

From the Pastor's Pen

Ordinary Time

As I write this, it's the end of August. We've blessed backpacks and prayed for children heading back to school for this New Year. You know: the year that begins in late August or September, the Academic Year. The span that churches tend to call that the Program Year. Sunday, Sept. 16 will be the beginning of our Program Year for 2018-19—that's when the adult Sunday School program will begin and we'll settle in to the "regular" way of doing things.

But truly, in the church calendar, the year starts with Advent—four Sundays before Christmas. Then there's Christmastide, when we switch from Advent's blue decorations to white and gold, followed by a few weeks of Epiphany (green) and then Lent (purple) and Eastertide (white and gold again), followed by one Sunday of Pentecost—red! But Pentecost tends to fall around the end of May, which means we've got half a year before the year begins again in Advent.

I usually refer to this time in the church calendar as the Long Green, but the official name is Ordinary Time. Ordinary here doesn't mean "usual" or "average"; it means "not seasonal." During Ordinary Time we don't celebrate particular times in Jesus' life, as we do from Advent to Easter. Instead, we celebrate the mystery of Christ in all its aspects, and the readings during these months tend to help us understand how we are to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives.

Our lives tend to have periods of Ordinary Time as well. There are the Big Event times: weddings, births, graduations, deaths, illnesses, amazing vacations, new jobs ... But most of our lives are spent in Ordinary Time. We live in the same house, we have the same job; our children and grandchildren are incrementally older; our health is about the same, and we spent a week at Rehoboth Beach just like every other year.

I remember one year saying to my dad, "I'd give anything for a nothing-to-report-in-the-Christmas-letter year." In the two previous years I'd lived through my husband's psychiatric illness and back surgery, the birth of a daughter, and a divorce. It felt like I was yearning for dullness, but I think, looking back, that what I was craving was Ordinary Time.

Ordinary Time. When we get to practice being part of a family in ways that help each other out.

Ordinary Time. When our work doesn't change much, but we take satisfaction in knowing that we're doing a good job in it.

Ordinary Time. When we read and pray about Jesus healing a blind man, and we take the time to wonder about our own blindness and ask God to reveal new truths to us.

Ordinary Time. When we keep plugging at a spiritual discipline even though it hasn't turned us into Super Christians but has made little differences here and there.

Ordinary Time. When we wake up each morning and say *thank you* to God big things and little things. Air conditioning and ice cream cones, hugs and butterflies and neighbors we've known forever.

Ordinary Time. When the interim pastor is still in place and we don't know how much longer she'll be with us and we're kind of ready to get started with someone new.

We're in the Ordinary Time segment of the transition between pastors. I've been at Good Shepherd for over a year, so we've been through all the church's Big Events together. We've done our ministry assessment and elected a PNC. And now we wait.

But let's not think of this waiting time as wasted time. Let's think of it instead as Ordinary Time. Time to grow in God's love, to take the time to be grateful, to notice the wondrous and amazing in the world around us. Time to ask God for help in getting past annoying practices and dangerous habits of mind. Time to grow in God's love and the love of our neighbors. Time to be, a little more fully, the people God has called us to be.

Happy Ordinary Time, Good Shepherdites!





Worship Volunteer Opportunities

One of the most amazing things about this congregation is all our dedicated volunteers, who step up eagerly to help with *many* responsibilities in the church, including responsibilities for worship itself. If you think you might enjoy doing something in worship that you've not done before, we'd love to have you!

If you're interested, please sign up on the "Sign-Up for Worship Opportunities" sheet in the hallway or contact Rev. Gay (RevJeanne@holy411.org or 419-707-1562).

Readers help lead worship by reading prayers and scriptures, as assigned. The frequency depends on the number of readers we have—at this point each one reads once every eight weeks.

Children's Time volunteers lead a short (three-minute) lesson for children each week. Often these volunteers consult with Rev. Gay so that their message meshes with the theme of the day.

Ushers welcome people as they enter the church, giving each one a bulletin. Additionally they hand out the membership books, count the number of people in worship, collect the offering, and tidy the sanctuary after worship.

Communion Preparation involves setting up the trays of bread and juice, as well as the bread and cup used by the pastor. These teams make sure that the appropriate number of people are prepared to serve communion that day as well. Currently we have five communion prep teams, for the approximately 26 Sundays a year when we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Communion Servers are those who help Rev. Gay serve communion, either at front or in the pews. At this point the Communion Prep teams are responsible for the Communion Servers, so having a list of people who'd like to do this would be helpful.

Flowers. When congregation members ask for flowers in the sanctuary, someone must call in the order to our florist, and someone must pick the flowers up. This could be a single person or a team.

Our **Tellers** are responsible for **Counting the Offering** each week after service, in teams of two. Currently

Women's Association

September 2018 Activities Dates:

Thursday, September 13 10:00 AM:

Circle Bible Study - Lesson 1: God with Us Wherever We Are

All women of the church, please join us as we start our new Bible Study. Our guidebooks are free and will be distributed at our first lesson. Even if you cannot attend every lesson, we would love to have you join us for fellowship, learning, and growing in our faith together. (Bring lunch.)



love
your

Thursday, September 27 10:00 AM (4th Thursday Program)

Food Pantry Shopping Spree at the Dollar Store.

We will meet at church first and stop at Dunkin Donut after. Money provided.

Learn more about this fun time together at the Bible Study or ask Jane Workman.



DEACONS - Small Deeds Done are better than great deeds planned. Peter Marshall

"Good Shepherd" you are the best! Our Christmas in July Pillow Drive, was a super success. We collected and donated 60 plus new pillows to Harford Family House. Thank you for the "small deeds done" for the less fortunate.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 Labor Day weekend - NO COFFEE HOUR

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018 - CHURCH PICNIC



Our picnic will be held on premise again this year. The deacons will provide the hot dogs, rolls, and condiments, and water. A sign-up sheet will be on the board. Please sign up to bring a covered dish of your choice or drinks. In addition, volunteers will be needed to set up tents, tables and chairs, on Saturday, September 8, 2018. Updates will be provided. If you have any questions, please see any deacon.



HOSPITALITY/COFFEE HOUR

If you missed Clay's announcement in church, he has tweaked the number of teams to better address the 5th Sunday's and evenly distribute the responsibilities. Pot Luck Sunday, will only be on a month that has a 5th Sunday. This only happens a few times within the calendar year. The revised teams are posted on the bulletin board. If you are NOT on a team and wish to be included, please see Clay Maas. If you have any questions, once again, Clay is your man.



VOLUNTEERS

Deacons are searching for a person or persons who may have interest in ordering and picking up flowers, for Sunday worship. If you have interest, see Chris Bohns or Rev. Jeanne for details.

FOOD PANTRY

1st Sunday of the month is still the designated Sunday for donations...however, we collect everyday! Hygiene products, and paper products are always a good idea. The consumer cannot purchase items such as, soap, toothpaste, paper towels, toilet paper, etc., with their food cards.

REDNER RECEIPTS are another way to donate to the pantry. If you are not sure how this happens, see Jeanette Petnic.



NEW COFFEE HOUR

- 1st Sunday** Delores Barr
Lamie Chiongola
Winsome Lacombe
Gary & Jane Workman
Ellie Pfoutz
- 2nd Sunday** Mary Kaye Kent
Becky McKemy
Jessica Nguyen
Jim & Hazel Morgan
Clay & Vickie Maas
- 3rd Sunday** Norma Webster
Donna & Bud Baranowski
Ruth Wagener

- 4th Sunday** Jerry & Elaine Tich
Wayne & Joan Douglas
Sarah Weich
Barry & Valerie Davis
Edie & Dave Burns

**5th Sun-
POT
- ALL** day
LUCK



GSPC WOMEN'S CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, September 13, 2018

10:00 – 11:30

Upper Room

GOD'S PROMISE: I AM WITH YOU

In nine lessons, this study traces God's recurring promise of presence from Genesis through the Gospels—from the beginning to the end of the age. God's "I am with you" promise is spoken in varied circumstances and to many different people throughout scripture. Some instances may be quite familiar, while others might surprise you. Throughout this study, participants will reflect on how the promise of God's presence speaks beyond the pages of the Bible, to their own circumstances. Individually and as a community, we will be encouraged to both see and seek God's presence with us in the extraordinary and the ordinary experiences of our lives. The study will confirm that God has, indeed, made and kept that very promise, again and again.

BIBLE STUDY-LESSON 1 – GOD WITH US WHEREVER WE ARE

SCRIPTURE: *Genesis 26:1-6; 28:10-22*

KEY IDEA: God's promise to be with us allows us to consider the surprising and powerful intimacy of God's willingness to be with us in all our circumstances.



SHEPHERD'S KIDS 2018-2019

5:30pm-7:00pm



September 12 & 19
October 10 & 17
November 14 & 21
December 12 & 19
January 9 & 16
February 13 & 20
March 13 & 20
April 10 & 17
May 8 & 15

Adult Christian Education Set to Begin

The Parables: We've read them often, heard them taught from time to time in our studies, and listened to them preached from the pulpit. Could there really be more to Jesus' parables than what we think we know already?



We will begin the 2018 Sunday School year with a study of twelve of Jesus' better known parables but from a different viewpoint, using the late J. Ellsworth Kalas's *Parables from the Back Side*. We will come away with new twists on old favorites—perhaps from the point of view of minor characters or unsympathetic ones. Previously we had a tendency to look at the parables with a tunnel vision, concentrating on certain main characters or situations only. You might just be amazed at what is behind the curtain according to Kalas. Our study will include a video presentation with the author, key scripture readings and a group discussion.

We are set to begin our brand new series on September 16th at 9:30 a.m. (ending at 10:20 a.m.) We will meet in the back of the sanctuary, with Pastor Jeanne, Kathy Young, Delores & Bob Barr sharing the leadership roles this year. You are cordially invited to join us because there is always a place for you!



Happy & Happy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dorothy & Bob Burns
September 14, 1974

Jeanette & Jim Petnic
September 22, 1956



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4 Katy Brown-Pollard
6 Marcia Goldberg
9 Susan Luu
10 Hazel Morgan
11 Zach Hale
19 Michael Elonge

Prayer List

PLEASE SUBMIT NAMES FOR THE PRAY LIST TO THE OFFICE OR KATHY YOUNG.



Schedules

Ushers:	Tellers:	Lay Readers:	Children's Time:
Sept. 2 Petnic, Workman	Bohns, Kent	Maas C.	PreVatte
Sept. 9 Tich, McKemy, Morgan	Starke, Webster	Burns E.	Wronowski, G.
Sept. 16 Douglas, Webster, Starke	Pfoutz	Thompson	Wronowski, A.
Sept.23 Maas, Wronowski	PreVatte, Workman	Barr	Gay
Sept. 30	Maas, Baranowski		Bohns

Session Highlights—Summer 2018

After taking an August break, Session will meet on Thursday, September 6 at 7PM. You are invited to attend meetings, just let the Pastor know you want to attend.

Elders leaving Session at the end of August are Lynn Villa, Jerry Tich and Ellie Pfoutz. We thank them for their leadership and devotion to Good Shepherd.

Elders serving on session are Soung Hee Baranowski, Mike Bohns, Valerie Davis, Vickie Maas, Farrell Maddox, Hazel Morgan, Cindy PreVatte, Gail Wronowski and Gary Workman.



SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday, 2 Worship 11:00
NO Coffee

Monday, 3 Labor Day, Office, Day Care Closed

Tuesday, 4 Harford County Schools Begin
 Pre-School & Pre-K Classes Begin

Wednesday, 5 Deacons 6:30
 Choir 7:30

Thursday, 6 Session 7:00

Saturday, 8 Picnic Set-up

Sunday, 9 Worship 11:00
CHURCH PICNIC 12:00

Wednesday, 12 Shepherd's Kids 5:30-7:00
 Choir 7:30

Thursday, 13 Women's Bible Study 10:00

Sunday, 16 Adult Sunday School 9:30
 Worship 11:00
 Coffee 12:00

Wednesday, 19 Shepherd's Kids 5:30-7:00
 Choir 7:30

Sunday, 23 Adult Sunday School 9:30
 Worship 11:00
 Coffee 12:00

Wednesday 26 Choir 7:30

Thursday, 27 Women's Association 10:00-Food Closet Shopping

Sunday, 30 Adult Sunday School 9:30
 Worship 11:00
 Coffee 12:00

