



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (USA)

Making space for faith

From the Pastor's Pen

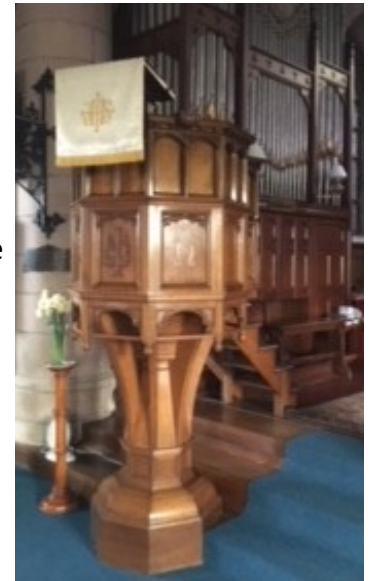
Preparing for Communion

When I was in Scotland in May of 2017, I visited friends in a small village in Aberdeenshire, where Ian was a Church of Scotland pastor. The Church of Scotland is a Presbyterian church—it's where the church we know originated.

Now, Ian's church predates Good Shepherd by several centuries, and I was interested to learn some about the way they've done things over the years.

When we got to talking about communion, he showed me how, in years gone by,

on communion Sundays a board would have been erected down the center aisle, and people would move to the end of their pew to partake off that board—a kind of gathering around the table. He also showed me some of the communion tokens the church had used in the past. These were used to show that someone was allowed to take communion; they were handed out to parishioners during the previous week when the pastor and an elder visited them in their home to determine if they were eligible to take communion. Being eligible meant that they were living moral lives and had confessed and repented of their sins, and also that they understood the Presbyterian theology of the Lord's Supper.



Fyvie Church Pulpit



Communion tokens from Fyvie, Scotland, 16th - 19th centuries

It's been some time since Presbyterian churches tested people on their eligibility to partake in the Lord's Supper, and what we see overall is an opening of any barriers to participation. Back in the 1990s, the church voted to allow children who were not yet confirmed to partake (at their parents' discretion). And more recently, we've seen a softening of the old rule that you had to be baptized before you could take communion. Good Shepherd has a history of opening the Table to all who wish to commune, and I have to say that that openness makes me very happy.

And yet, our *Book of Order* still suggests that we need to prepare ourselves for communion, by putting our trust in Christ, confessing our sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. It also suggests that, "if the Lord's Supper is celebrated less frequently than on each Lord's Day, public notice is to be given at least one week in advance so that all may prepare to receive the Sacrament" (W-3.0409).



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

I'm intrigued with this idea that we need notice of an upcoming communion so that we might prepare to receive it. That suggests that we might need to be doing some preparation beyond what happens in worship on Sunday morning.

As we approach **World Communion Sunday** on October 7, then, I would invite you to prepare yourself for the sacrament on that day. Here are some steps you might take:

Put your trust in Christ. In prayer, ask God if there are ways you are trying to manage your life entirely on your own, and ask for help in relying more on our Messiah, Jesus.

Confess your sin. In prayer, share with God where you think you've gone wrong, where you are ashamed of yourself, where you've erred.

Seek reconciliation with God. Remember that God is eager to forgive our sins. Reflect on God's relationship with you as a loving parent, and savor God's loving grace.

Seek reconciliation with one another. If you are in the middle of an argument, a feud, an impasse with a family member or friend, figure out how you can ask their forgiveness, and how you can change your behavior. Even if you're 100% sure it's all their fault, I can pretty much guarantee you that you have also contributed to the disagreement. Figure out how your behavior or attitude has contributed, and work on changing it.

And then! Then you'll **really** be ready for communion on October 7. And if you haven't done all these things? Come anyway—it is Christ who invites us, and we are his.



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION—OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 11 10:00 AM:

Circle Bible Study - Lesson 2: God with Us in Our Uncertainty

All women of the church, please join us for our new Bible Study. Even if you cannot attend every lesson, we would love to have you join us for fellowship, learning, and growing in our faith together. (All are invited to go out to lunch following the program.)

Saturday, October 27

Mark your calendars for our next Women's Retreat coming up on Saturday, October 27. Titled "Women at the Well" led by our pastor, Rev. Jeanne Gay.

THANK YOU to the congregation!

A big THANK YOU from the Women's Association for the over 90 backpacks that you donated!! They were delivered to Riverside Elementary on Tuesday, August 28 by Gary and Jane Workman plus their two granddaughters, who were excited to visit the school where both their father and uncle attended. Fun day!

We received a dear thank-you note from the school including, "Good Shepherd Rocks! Thank you for the fabulous assortment of backpacks!"



DEACONS

Autumn leaves, changing leaves
colors red and gold
Autumn sound all around
beauty to behold - Anonymous



Fall has officially arrived, but not before we enjoyed our "indoor" church picnic. The weather did not keep all who attended from having fun and fellowship. A special thank you to Farrell Maddox for bringing the pesky ants, and to Clay Maas and Allan Wronowski for preparing the tasty hot dogs. One advantage to an inside picnic was making and eating your favorite ice cream sundae. Any ideas for next year's picnic are welcome!

Our neighbor, Found in Faith Ministries, will have their Open House, on October 11th, 4:00-7:00 pm. Deacons agreed to provide salads and drinks. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information on their mission, stop by and see their new showroom. 610 Town Center Dr., Joppa, MD.

SAVE THE DATES

The Giving Boxes

Saturday, **November 17, 2018** - 9:00 am – 12 noon - **Food Boxes Packing Day**

Christ Our King Presbyterian Church, 10 Lexington Road, Bel Air, MD

The giving boxes include a frozen turkey and non-perishable food items. These items are in addition to the fresh food bounty that Good Shepherd provides for a full Thanksgiving feast. If you wish to help pack boxes please see Chris Bohns, or Dorothy Burns. We typically serve 20 -22 families through our food pantry.

Extreme Family Outreach

Holiday of Hope Star Kids Programs

More information will be provided on the above outreach items.

As always, the 1st Sunday of the month we collect items for the food pantry. See Wayne and Joan Douglas, or Dorothy, to determine what needs restocking.

Turn in your Redners receipts!!



2018 Good Shepherd Women's Retreat:

Women at the Well

Wells in Biblical times were vital for people's daily needs. They were also places where women gathered—and, often, where men went to meet and court women. When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at a well (John 4:7-15), he offered her Living Water. Where do we go to quench the thirsts in our own lives?

This retreat, led by Rev. Gay, is open to all women of Good Shepherd (and their friends).



Date: Saturday, October 27, 2018

Place: Christ Our King Presbyterian Church,
10 Lexington Rd., Bel Air

Sign-Up: Table outside sanctuary
(or call church office)

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Cost: \$10.00

Deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 24

Questions: Jane Workman (410-679-0875)

*Come to the 2018 Women's Retreat for Bible inquiry,
provocative questions, deepening faith ... friendship, fun, and food.*



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Wednesday, 3

Deacons 6:30
Choir 7:30

Sunday, 7

Adult Sunday School 9:30
Worship 11:00
Peace Offering Received
Food Closet Sunday
Coffee 12:00

Wednesday, 10

Shepherd's Kids 5:30-7:30
Choir 7:30

Thursday, 11

Women's Bible Study 10:00
Session 7:00

Saturday, 13

Susquehanna Training 9:00-3:00

Sunday, 14

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

Wednesday, 17

Shepherd's Kids 5:30-7:30
Choir 7:30

Sunday, 21

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

Wednesday, 24

Choir 7:30

Thursday, 25

Women's Association 10:00

Saturday, 27

Women's Retreat

Sunday, 28

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

Wednesday, 31

Choir 7:30



GSPC WOMEN'S CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018 - 10:00 – 12:00 - UPPER ROOM

GOD'S PROMISE: I AM WITH YOU

BIBLE STUDY-LESSON 2 – GOD WITH US in OUR UNCERTAINTY

SCRIPTURE: *Exodus 3:1-12; Judges 6:11-27*

KEY IDEA: God accompanies the called: it is God's presence in our weakness that equips us for our calling.

WHAT ABOUT HER? Delores Barr HOSPITALITY: Ellie & Paula

WE WILL BE GOING OUT FOR LUNCH



SHEPHERD'S KIDS



Our 2018-19 Shepherd's Kids Season is off to a great start. Thanks to Rita Garrity and Bill Starke for planning the story and activities. Many thanks to Jeanette Petnic for preparing the delicious food. 19 children joined us in the month of September. We always have room for more. If you know someone with children invite them to join us. You do not have to be a member of Good Shepherd or our Children's Center to attend. We will meet again on October 10 and 17. If you would like to be a volunteer, please see Rita or Farrell.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dave & Debi Carey
740 Towne Center Drive
Joppa, MD 21085
410-515-3544 410-236-5214
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Lamie Chiongola
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Happy & Happy

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- October 15, 2016*
Seaver & Jenna Shunk
- October 20, 2001*
Clay & Vickie Maas
- October 22, 1966*
Wayne & Joan Douglas
- October 30, 1993*
Ricky & Di Ciccotelli



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 6 Lamie Chiongola*
- 10 Dave Carey*
- Bennett Shuttlesworth*
- 14 Bob Barr*
- 21 Ricky Ciccotelli*
- 27*
Becky McKemy
- Beu Shear*

Prayer List

Philip Pugh, The Family of Wayne Weich, Diana Ciccotelli, Rodger & Vyona Bultena, Ed Matthai, Suzy Phillips, Dr. Whiteford, Haley H, William Webster, Cortney & Michael, Diane Petty, Jim & Hazel Morgan, Tim Villa's Mom, Alan Watson Jr, Lynda Bates, Steve Rapley, George Zepp, Paige, Dan Schultz



gsprayers@juno.com

SCHEDULES

Ushers:	Tellers:	Lay Readers:	Children's Time:
Oct. 7 Petnic, Workman	Bohns, Kent	Maas C.	PreVatte
Oct 14 Tich, McKemy, Morgan	Starke, Webster	Burns E.	Wronowski, G.
Oct 21 Douglas, Webster, Starke	Pfoutz, Wagener	Thompson	Wronowski, A.
Oct. 28 Maas, Wronowski	PreVatte, Workman	Barr	Gay

Session Highlights—September 2108

Session will meeting on Thursday, October 11 at 7 PM. You are welcome to join us, just let the Pastor know.

Session began it' leadership year in September. The Elders serving on Session are Mike Bohns, Soung Hee Baranowski, Valerie Davis, Vickie Maas, Farrell Maddox, Hazel Morgan, Cindy PreVatte, Gail Wronowski and Gary Workman. The session met with and welcomed seven new Good Shepherd members on September 23. Session is discussing the issue of church safety.