

The Shepherd's News

132 East Valley Forge Road · King of Prussia · Pennsylvania 19406 · 610.265.4545
June 2021 · July 2021 · August 2021



Summer 2021

Good Shepherd members and friends,

Why not begin the summer of 2021 by coming to church ... in person!? As the iconic band, the Grateful Dead said, "What a long, strange trip it's been!" While our trip through the pandemic is not completely over, it is coming to an end.

On May 17th the Church Council voted to open the building to in-person worship beginning at 9:30am on June 6th. The positivity rate for the virus in the state, and in our county, is low and the rate of people being vaccinated is going up. The CDC is relaxing guidelines and our very own Governor Wolf has as well.

Questions you may have as you think about coming back to in-person worship at Good Shepherd ...

Do I have to sign up ahead of time? No, but we do ask that you sign in when you arrive so that we know who has been in the building.

Do I have to wear a mask? Yes, we are asking worshippers to wear masks. We are looking at relaxing the mask wearing once 70% of Montgomery County residents who are age 18 or older have been fully vaccinated. We will notify the congregation when we will no longer require the wearing of masks.

Will I be able to sing? Yes! With masks, at this point.

Will physical distancing be enforced? Yes, ropes will be up blocking certain pews but will be removed when the time comes to safely remove our masks.

Will the nursery be available? No, the nursery will not be available during the summer months.

How will communion be distributed? Communion will be distributed in the way that it was when we were worshipping in person earlier in the pandemic. Worshippers will be invited to come up the center aisle, pause at the front pew where the pastor will speak the words, "The body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you." Worshippers will then be invited to go to the left or right and pick up a prefilled glass with a wafer resting on the top. He or she may then move to the side and receive the eucharist. There is a receptacle to put your used plastic cup.

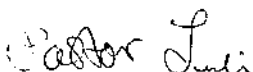
Will there be coffee hour? We will not have a coffee hour for the first few weeks, but hope to have them outdoors later in the summer.

We know that not all people will feel comfortable coming back to in-person worship. We understand and respect that. Our live stream on Sunday mornings will continue and we encourage you to join us there.

We also know that not everyone will be happy with how we have decided to proceed with our reopening. Some will think we are being too liberal with our plans and others will think we are being too conservative. Opinions on the matter seem to be as varied as the people who hold them. Please know, much thought and prayer has gone into our reopening plan. I am grateful for our Congregation Council's hard work. Please thank them when you see them. Serving on Church Council is a large responsibility and I am thankful for all their work during the pandemic.

Blessings this summer. We hope to see you in worship ... either online or in person!

Peace,


Pastor Julie DeWerth

JUNE OUTREACH—June outreach funds will go to support Cecil and Grace Bean's Soup Kitchen, which is committed to serving meals to food insufficient residents in the Norristown community. The soup kitchen's goal is to end hunger altogether and currently provides lunch on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and the third Saturday of the month, and breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. They currently serve up to 700 take-out meals weekly. Outreach Funds for the month of June will go to support this wonderful organization in our own community. *Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and marked "Outreach."*

JULY & AUGUST OUTREACH—July & August outreach funds will go to support the Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard. The financial crisis brought on by the pandemic has left so many families food insufficient. The UMACC is a collaborative and empathetic community response of our schools, municipalities, businesses, communities of faith, and caring neighbors. Their hope and goal is to strengthen our most vulnerable neighbors through food supplementation. They are open to those in need in the community on Tuesday mornings and evenings. The UMACC serves 150 families in Upper Merion. *Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and marked "Outreach."*



GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

We have some spots open for the 2021-2022 school year. Morning classes are available for children ages 2-5. Please contact Diane Smith at 610-265-0733 or gskoppreschool@verizon.net.



SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIALS

6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Thursday, June 17 (Rain date Tuesday, June 22)

Tuesday, July 20 (Rain date Thursday, July 22)

Tuesday, August 24 (Rain date Thursday, August 26)

Bring the family, some folding chairs, hang out in the parking lot. We can listen to music and catch up. Good Shepherd will supply the ice cream and music. It will be fun!

GOOD SHEPHERD MEAL MINISTRY

June 19th, July 17th and August 21st

We continue to serve warm meals as take-out to our cousins at the Cecil and Grace Bean Soup Kitchen. Last month we served about 70 meals. We follow strict Covid protocols to keep everyone safe. A small group of volunteers will meet to make casseroles at 10:30 am at Good Shepherd and another group of volunteers will join us in serving our "cousins" at the soup kitchen in Norristown at 12:30 pm. Two drivers meet at GS to transport the meals at 11:30.

Call Pam Satterfield at 610-804-9325 or email at pamsatterfield53@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

BAPTISMS

Faith Leigh Malarchik
Daughter of Jason and Erin Malarchik
Granddaughter of Janice Rackovan
May 2nd



Jameson Parker Damm
Son of Justin and Kimberly Damm
Grandson of Cathy Reilly
May 23rd



God's blessing to all as they continue on their faith journeys.

Olivia Paige Boyd, Keira Lynn Burkett,
Spencer Gerard Wynn Dolan & Liam James Rupp
April 25th



Congratulations to this years Confirmands.
Lucas Joseph Biegalski, Anna Irene Fleischer,
& Kaylie Paris Francis
April 18th

Wedding Announcements



Sarah Anne Hosgood and Dylan Walker O'Brien
April 17th

Christy Nicole Lehman and Joshua Jared Kopelson
May 1st



In sure and certain hope of the
resurrection to eternal life we remember *Ken Hofmockel*
Good Shepherd member who recently passed into God's Kingdom.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB AT GOOD SHEPHERD

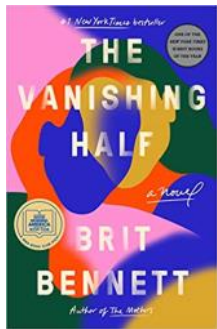
Summer Book Club will begin at 7:00 pm on the below dates, via Zoom. Links and passwords will be sent out before each event via the weekly email blast. ***Please join us!***



Monday, June 28, 2021—Flight Patterns by Karen White Georgia Chambers has spent her life sifting through other people's pasts while trying to forget her own. But then her work as an expert of fine china—especially of Limoges—requires her to return to the one place she swore she'd never revisit...

It's been ten years since Georgia left her family home on the coast of Florida, and nothing much has changed, except that there are fewer oysters and more tourists. She finds solace seeing her grandfather still toiling away in the apiary where she spent much of her childhood, but encountering her estranged mother and sister leaves her rattled.

Seeing them after all this time makes Georgia realize that something has been missing—and unless she finds a way to heal these rifts, she will forever be living vicariously through other people's remnants. To embrace her own life—mistakes and all—she will have to find the courage to confront the ghosts of her past and the secrets she was forced to keep...



Wednesday, July 21, 2021—The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?

Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins.



Monday, August 23, 2021 Anxious People by Fredrik Backman, Looking at real estate isn't usually a life-or-death situation, but an apartment open house becomes just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes a group of strangers hostage. The captives include a recently retired couple who relentlessly hunt down fixer-uppers to avoid the painful truth that they can't fix up their own marriage. There's a wealthy banker who has been too busy making money to care about anyone else and a young couple who are about to have their first child but can't seem to agree on anything, from where they want to live to how they met in the first place. Add to the mix an eighty-seven-year-old woman who has lived long enough not to be afraid of someone waving a gun in her face, a flustered but still-ready-to-make-a-deal real estate agent, and a mystery man who has locked himself in the apartment's only bathroom, and you've got the worst group of hostages in the world.

Each of them carries a lifetime of grievances, hurts, secrets, and passions that are ready to boil over. None of them is entirely who they appear to be. And all of them—the bank robber included—desperately crave some sort of rescue. As the authorities and the media surround the premises, these reluctant allies will reveal surprising truths about themselves and set in a motion a chain of events so unexpected that even they can hardly explain what happens next.

Humorous, compassionate, and wise, *Anxious People* is an ingeniously constructed story about the enduring power of friendship, forgiveness, and hope—the things that save us, even in the most anxious of times.



Good Shepherd Music Ministry



By the time this newsletter hits your device or mailbox, the announcement has likely been made that we'll be returning to in-person worship and I'm looking forward to seeing you in the pews again on Sunday mornings! Further, even though we'll be masked for a few more weeks (out of an abundance of caution for those most vulnerable among us and for those still in the vaccination process)...we will begin singing as a congregation again!

Our summer worship will look (and sound) very familiar. We'll be singing our liturgy, our hymns, and hearing special music each week. I'd like to thank our dedicated musicians who have offered their voices and special music to us each week over the past year – they will continue to lead us for a few more weeks...but now it's your turn to sing. Psalm 132:9 says in part, "*may your faithful people sing for joy*"; and I can't wait to hear your joy!

"HEAR" you soon,

Ross

ENGRAVED BRICKS



If you would like to honor or memorialize a friend or a loved one with a brick to be placed in the outdoor sanctuary you may do so by ordering an engraved brick. The bricks are 4 X 8 and the cost is \$60.00. The order forms are on the credenza in the Narthex. If you have any questions or would like an order form please call the church office at 610-265-4545 or email at the church office at gskopstaff@verizon.net.

VIRTUAL 2021 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

April 24th

Good Shepherd Attendees:

Pastor Julie and Ivana Anderson

Pastor Julie has been elected to Synod Council and to attend the ELCA churchwide Assembly in August 2022 in Columbus, Ohio.

MARY HUNTER SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Mary Hunter Scholarships have been awarded to the following recipients:

Matt Bubeck, Lauren Groff, Ryan Lee and Frankie Santini

A special thanks to Bill Hunter for setting up and maintaining this scholarship in honor of his mother, Mary Hunter.

WAYS TO DONATE TO GOOD SHEPHERD

1. **Give to the Ongoing Expenses at Good Shepherd.** While we are holding limited in person public worship during these unprecedented times, we have ongoing expenses. We are very grateful for those who are giving through online banking. If you give through the offering plate, we would be grateful for any checks received in the mail. Make sure that you either use your church offering envelopes, enclose a note or state clearly in the memo line if you would like it to go toward regular offering, outreach, casserole day, etc. The mail is being opened and deposits are being made on a regular basis. If you have any further questions feel free to email Karen Lehman at karen_lehman@verizon.net.
2. **Buying Gift Cards through Good Shepherd.** Gift card orders are placed the first Sunday of each month. Please email Karen Lehman at karen_lehman@verizon.net by 3:00pm (please put GIFT CARDS in the subject line) with your card requests. (Checks, payable to Good Shepherd, will be collected when the cards are delivered.) You will be contacted to set up delivery of gift cards.
3. **Amazon Smile.** Amazon donates a portion of sales made through smile.amazon.com to the charitable organization of your choice. Make sure you shop through smile.amazon.com and select Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of King of Prussia. If you cannot find us by name, search by location using "Kng of Prussa, PA" (yes, with missing letters!).



Good Shepherd has received \$1,123.00 through May of this year on behalf of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Thrivent Choice program to help further the work of our ministry at Good Shepherd. Thank you to the folks at Good Shepherd who have designated this church as the recipient of their outreach grant dollars from Thrivent. If you are a Thrivent member and would like more information on designating your outreach dollars to Good Shepherd, contact Barbara Petroske at 610.631.9392 or bpetroske99@gmail.com.

Mondays at Good Shepherd



Second Monday of the Month is Committee Night

Please check with your committee chairperson to see if your committee is meeting. June 14th, July 12th and August 9th.

Third Monday of the Month is Council Meeting at 7:00 pm

June 21st, July 19th and August 16th.



WOMEN'S RETREAT
For the Women of Good Shepherd and their Friends
September 24th and 25th

The Daylesford Abbey in Paoli will host our Retreat from 7:00 pm on Friday, September 24, 2021 until 2:30pm on Saturday, September 25, 2021. You will have the option to either stay overnight or just come for the day on Saturday. Feel free to bring a friend! As the event date gets closer, details will be made available. Feel free to check out the new facility: <https://daylesford.org/spirituality-center/group-retreats/>.

This year's theme is **Ch-ch-changes...Resting in God.** "Be present, merciful God ... that in the changes and chances of life, we may find rest in you." Life is full of transitions. Some more joyful and some more painful than others. Where and how do we find our place in the journeys? During our time together we will think and pray about making each transition. Please bring something that represents a joyful transition and a challenging (or painful) transition that you are willing to share. This year's speaker is Pastor Ghislaine Cotnoir.

Pastor Ghislaine Cotnoir received her M. Div. in 1986 from the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary). She was ordained the following year accepting a call to a congregation in Rochester NY. Most of her ministry has been in chaplaincy sites spanning the age range. She is trained as an Interim Pastor and has served in many congregations and agencies in Upstate New York and Southeastern PA synods. Pastor G is mom to two grown daughters. Look for additional details this summer. Remember to Save the Date!

THANK YOU FROM VICAR TOM

When it became time for me to undertake field education this past year, I did not know what to expect. That was a time, of course, when vaccines were in their infancy, and phrases such as "social-distancing" were still relatively new. Without knowing what to expect, worried that there would be no field education sites available, I was told about you all: Good Shepherd. I had seen the "church on the hill" before – passed it by every day on the way to my part time job at Trinity Episcopal in Gulph Mills – but I had never been inside.

Well, from the moment I was invited into the Good Shepherd community, as the scriptures say about that "city on a hill," I saw that your light cannot be hidden! I immediately recognized a care and engagement in your community that is truly unparalleled. Your love for your community is embodied by action that fosters a familiar and welcoming space to learn and grow. One of the most obvious embodiments of this love is in the virtual worship services, bible studies, and pub theology events held during this difficult time. To make such a switch from in-person to virtual and to do so without losing the integrity of those activities, exemplifies the heart of Good Shepherd, the light that shines from the church on the hill!

More personally, I saw this love embodied in your words of support, encouragement and instruction. I saw this love embodied in the way you show up for each other, and how you included me in that support. Thank you all for the kindness and generosity, the real friendship, that you have shown toward me. As I complete my time as your Vicar, I will surely carry this light you have shown me upon my journey. Until we meet again – and it is my sincerest wish that a time will come soon where we can safely do so in-person – may God's grace and peace be with you all!

In gratitude,
Tom

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Shepherd's News Summer 2021

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER—NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ...Wednesday, AUGUST 11th

Please email your print ready article to gskopstaff@verizon.net.

For information on office hours and Sunday service hours
please refer to the weekly email updates from Good Shepherd.



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Pastor—Julie De Werth 610-308-2675
Director of Music Ministries—Ross Boerner 484-369-1017
Parish Administrator—Kay Shinnars 610-265-4545
Preschool Director—Diane Smith 610-265-0733
Sexton—Ray Erwin 610-265-4545

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Preschool gskoppreschool@verizon.net