



Friday Bulletin

Good Shepherd E-News

24 February 2023

The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio

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This Upcoming Sunday

First Sunday in Lent

The Great Litany

19 February 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship (Bulletin)

Service: The Great Litany & Holy Communion

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Jack Flemming

Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte: Owen Buckley

Eucharistic Minister: David Burton

Altar Guild: Sally Spero

Coffee Hour Host: Anne Walker



LESSONS for the First Sunday in Lent - The Great Litany

Old Testament – Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7

Psalm – 32 (Sung)

New Testament – Romans 5: 12-19

Gospel – Matthew 4: 1-11

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

Reflection

Church in the World on Ash Wednesday



I look forward to Ash Wednesday every year, even when it is cold and snowing or raining. Even in the early days of the pandemic when we were still in lock down. Because here at Church of the Good Shepherd we have an opportunity few parishes have: to share who we are and what we are with our neighbors by inviting them to share the reminder of our mortality.

This reminder is humbling and simple. Unlike other times when we go out to the sidewalk in our neighborhood, there is nothing much to set up or prepare. It's just me, maybe a few others, and a container of ashes. To me, it is the church truly meeting people where they are, as

they are. As the representative of the church, I wear the same ashes on my forehead because we are not different on Ash Wednesday. That's the day all our differences vanish in the truth of morality. It is also the day we show our trust and hope in God's love.

Standing by the sidewalk outside the church building, every year I am struck by how vulnerable I feel at first as people walk past and I offer, "Ashes for Ash Wednesday?" At first, there is always one or two persons who are quick to say yes. Then, I stand in the polite refusal as more people pass by, declining my invitation. Most either ignore me or say things like, "No thank you." Or "I'm good." This year someone declined by saying, "I hope you have a happy holiday."

As in years past, there were a few who didn't know what Ash Wednesday is, and once they stopped and found out were glad to receive ashes.

Several people came intentionally for ashes, even though they didn't have any other reason for being on our part of campus. They thanked me for distributing ashes. One person quietly said after, "That felt so good." I

watched a few students suggest to their friends that they could also receive ashes, and they did.

One or two confessed to me it has been a long time since they've been in church, and asked if our ashes were for everyone. Of course, they are. That is one of the reasons I love Ashes to Go, anyone can receive ashes and for someone like that who has felt separated from the Body of Christ and God for a while now remember their connection to God.

More than one person said they appreciated receiving ashes and reminded me many folks do not have time to attend church services. That is how Ashes to Go started, when a layperson noticed too many people were too busy to come to church on Ash Wednesday.

The hour of offering ashes always passes quickly and the vulnerability I felt when it started changed into the joy of feeling connected to our neighbors and for them to remember their connection not to me but to God. I am grateful for Michael Luelloff and Benjamin South who joined me for part or all of that hour and whose presence is symbolic of how the church is not one person, but the entire Body of Christ. In that one hour so much happens, people receive the invitation, and many people reject it. But at the end of the hour, we all are somehow closer to each other and God than we were before, and that is how the mystery of the sacramental holy presence of the church in the world works on Ash Wednesday and every day.

Many Blessings,

Mother Deborah

Coming up on the Calendar

Sunday, February 26, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 26, 10:30 a.m. - - The Great Litany - Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, February 28, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting (Nehls Hall)

Sunday, March 5, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 5, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, March 12, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 12, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, March 14, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting (Nehls Hall)

Thursday, March 16, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting

Sunday, March 19, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 19, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Discretionary Sunday)

Sunday, March 26, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 26, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, March 26 _____ - - AGO concert 1st Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, March 28, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting (Nehls Hall)

Looking Ahead

March -- Lenten Program 12:30 p.m., Nehls

March 1 Compassion and Faith

March 8 Compassion and Listening

March 15 Compassion and Prayer

March 22 Compassion and Mercy

March 29 Compassion and Well-Being

Sunday, March 26 - - AGO concert for organ and instruments at 1st Presbyterian Church. Marsha Reilly and Kathleen Ristinen Jonas will be participating.

April 2 - Palm Sunday 10:30 am Service will begin on the porch for the blessing of the palms.

April 6 - Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm a simplified service from the Book of Common Prayer commemorating Jesus' last night before his death.

April 7 - Good Friday 12:00 we are holding this Book of Common Prayer service at the traditional time of noon.

April 8 - Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 pm this year's vigil will be an intimate worship service reflecting on the resurrection.

Sunday, April 30, 3:00 p.m. - - Celebration Concert III Dr. Gregory Crowell, guest organist.

Schedules

Coffee Hour Schedule

Feb. 26 Anne Walker

Taken Dates for Altar Flowers

During Lent there are no flowers and for Easter we will have an announcement for lilies.

[To Altar Flower Open Dates and Procedure.](#)

Notes & Announcements

February 26 First Sunday In Lent

This coming Sunday is the First in the season of Lent, and it is a tradition in the Episcopal Church to begin the church service on that Sunday with the Great Litany. A litany is a long list of prayers, and the Great Litany is a beautiful list of prayer that encompasses our beliefs, our intentions, and our penitence.

Because so much is included in the Great Litany, we do not need the Prayers of the People or the Confession in the liturgy on the First Sunday of Lent. We hope you can join us on Sunday at 10:30 am in person so you can participate in this Episcopal tradition. If not, we invite you to pray the Great Litany on your own. It is found on pages 148-153 in *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Welcome to the Season of Lent

The church follows its own calendar, and with Ash Wednesday transitioned into a new season. Lent is a forty-day season that originated in the very early days of the church. Long before the Middle Ages, the early church had many struggles, one of which was periodic persecution which threatened the church's existence. One form of persecution was anyone who identified as a Christian was targeted by the Roman government and could be arrested because of their faith, because it was against the law to follow any religion except for that of Rome. While under arrest, Christians were tortured until they renounced their faith. If they didn't, they were either thrown in prison or

killed. Because of the threat, many Christians did renounce their faith.

The persecutions came and went depending on Roman leadership. When the persecutions were over, many Christians who had renounced their faith decided to return to the church. This proved both problematic and opportunistic for the Christians who had not renounced their faith, despite the risks. They were not sure how to welcome back those who had renounced their faith, which was in that time a very serious problem. These were not Christians who had not been to church in a while, these were individuals who had publicly vowed to follow another faith and disavowed their belief in Christ. The early church believed for those who had taken such drastic measures to be reconciled with the Body of Christ, they needed a season of penitence. Not as a form of punishment but a time of reflection to help them decide if they really wanted to rededicate their life to Christ.

In the Spirit of the Body of Christ, the early church members who had not renounced their faith participated in that season of penitence with those seeking reconciliation. In addition, they used this season to instruct those who were new to the faith. The season culminated with a glorious celebration of Jesus' resurrection at the Great Vigil of Easter where everyone new and returning was welcomed into the full Body of Christ.

Over the centuries, the church has kept this season of penitence. Even though we no longer have the problem of those who renounced their faith wanting to return, we still struggle with maintaining a balance between how we follow Christ which can be counter to our modern culture that values dollars over people and measures and rewards success differently. Sometimes even the most faithful need a season of prayer and reflection like Lent.

To reflect the change of season, in person church attenders will notice the worship space has changed its color and the altar and priest now wear purple. The color purple reminds us Jesus is a different kind of king from that of the world. The music, readings from the Bible, and prayers will have a penitential theme. We refrain from saying the word *alleluia* in the church services in Lent, because it is a word of celebration, and will save it for our Easter celebration.

Whether you attend in person services or not, the invitation to observe a holy Lent is for all people. If you have not been to in person services in a while, this is a good time to return. You can also take on the practice of reading the Bible daily, or daily prayers, or reading a special devotional for Lent. There are many ways you can share in the gift and opportunity of this season; we invite you to join us.

Volunteers Needed to Serve Free Lunch

at United Campus Ministry in Athens

If you miss helping with Wednesday Lunch, please consider volunteering to help UCM who are now serving a free lunch every Wednesday. If you are interested, please reach out to Ari Faber at ari@ucmathens.org.

The Sunday afternoon Concert to celebrate the completed organ restoration drew quite a number of students. In case you missed it before, here is a [link to the program](#).



Pancake Supper -- Steve Steward would have been quite proud of the job well done by this flipper crew.



Lenten Devotionals Now Available at the Church

Starting on Sunday, you can pick up a FREE copy of the Lenten Devotional from Living Compass titled *Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*. If you prefer to download a copy, visit www.livingcompass.org and go to the Lenten Resource section.

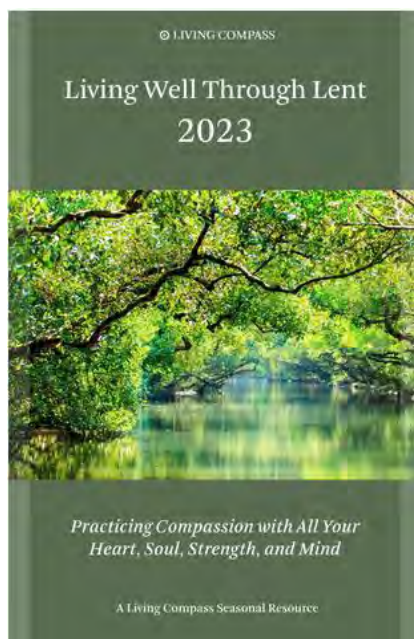
If you plan on joining us Wednesdays in Lent at 12:30, you need to pick up a copy of the Lenten Devotional or download a copy as we will be using it for our Lenten Discussion. Be sure to bring your own lunch. (See "Something to Look Forward to" for more detail.)

Something to Look Forward To: Lenten Program Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

Practicing Compassion

"In order to prepare for the new life of Easter, we need to be intentional about discerning what it truly means to practice compassion with our whole being." – the Rev. Scott Stoner

Compassion might be one of the expressions of love we could really use and could make an important impact right now. Even if it is something we value and appreciate, the practice of compassion can get lost in the stuff of our lives. This year's Lenten devotional from Living Compass reminds us anything we value needs to be expressed in our lives and sometimes we need to practice these values like a master musician practices music not to master them, but to make them an integral part of our lives. To help us with this practice, we are offering weekly discussions based on the Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind devotionals.



If you do not already have a copy, we have a few books at the church to give away or you can download a free PDF version, or order an e-book from Amazon (\$.99) -- see **LIVING WELL THROUGH LENT** 2023: Practicing Compassion

We'll be meeting Wednesdays during Lent in Nehls Hall.

March 1 *Compassion and Faith*
March 8 *Compassion and Listening*
March 15 *Compassion and Prayer*
March 22 *Compassion and Mercy*
March 29 *Compassion and Well-Being*

Please consider joining us. Bring your lunch and together we'll pray the Noonday prayer in the Book of Common Prayer and discuss the readings and reflections from the Lenten devotional.

We are looking forward to returning to the Lenten Program tradition at Church of the Good Shepherd!



Holy Week Schedule

We will continue to observe the ancient church tradition of holding special liturgies during Holy Week. Please consider joining us in person or online.

April 2 - Palm Sunday 10:30 am

Service will begin on the porch for the blessing of the palms.

April 6 - Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm

A simplified service from the Book of Common Prayer commemorating Jesus' last night before his death.

April 7 - Good Friday 12:00

We are holding this Book of Common Prayer service at the traditional time of noon.

April 8 - Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 pm

This year's vigil will be an intimate worship service reflecting on the resurrection.

Repeats & More



The Diocese
of Southern Ohio

From the Standing Committee: Profile Released; Nominations for Bishop Open until February 28

"The Standing Committee is pleased to share with you the profile of our diocese prepared by the Bishop Nominating Committee as we search for our 10th Bishop... The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for bishop until midnight on February 28...."

[Read the profile here.](#)

Bishop Transition News/Updates -- [Follow this link](#) --



CrossRoads Café is closed until we find staff. If you know of someone looking for a job, please have them send an email to chogs@chogs.org or revedebwoolsey@gmail.com.

We are still selling Deeper Roots Coffee Beans. \$15 for a 1 pound bag and \$12 for half pound. Please contact Michael Luelloff at michael.luelloff@hotmail.com if you want to purchase a bag.

If you want to help the folks who have been negatively impacted by environmental disaster and war anywhere in the world please consider contributing to **Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)** which is the official ministry of the Episcopal Church. You can select which fund, such as Ukraine Crisis Response.



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This past week a "large" gathering of 5 planets was visible to the naked eye. Wednesday afternoon and evening the sky was pristine clear, and two planets were visible near the moon throughout. Late afternoon Michael captured this artistic shot with the church steeple, and I took one later that evening in Marietta. Note how the position of the moon has changed. The only celestial object I can name is the moon.





Contacts & Information

Contact Information

For pastoral needs, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895 (cell) or 740-593-6877 (church), or by e-mail at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com.

To find out more about Good Shepherd and other matters, please contact Alex Buckley, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5513 or by e-mail at macbuck@yahoo.com.

For maintenance matters, please leave a note at the office or contact Dana Carlson, Junior Warden, at 740-664-2022 or by e-mail at carlsondana@hotmail.com.

For emergencies, please call The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895.

NON-emergency messages can be left on the church's answering machine (740-593-6877). The parish office administrator is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877) or barbara@chogs.org.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons

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[DONATE to Good Shepherd](#)

This takes you to the Parish Home page where you can donate on line via PayPal. If you have a preference, please indicate on the the "Add special instructions to the seller" section the purpose of the donation—e.g. Covid Memorial, plate collection, etc.

Check out the Church's [YouTube Channel](#).

LIKE us on Facebook [Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd 45701](#)

Office Hours:
10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The Diocese COVID Guidelines request all persons wear masks inside the church building regardless of vaccination status.



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