



## Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

7 August 2022

The Episcopal Church of the  
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio

Seeking to know and serve Christ in loving service to  
the campus, the community, and the world.

Today's printed **Order of Worship**

### Lessons for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 14-Tract 1):

Old Testament - Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20

Psalm 50: 1-8, 23-24 (SAID)

New Testament - Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

Gospel - Luke 12: 32-40

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

### The Collect

**G**rant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### The Gospel



### Luke 12:13-21

**J**esus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes

near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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### **Gospel Engagement Questions:**

The parable Jesus told in today's Gospel features a reversal of power and hierarchy when the master serves the slaves. Jesus used this to illustrate what the Kingdom of God is going to feel like. Have you ever had an experience where the expected roles were reversed?

The Gospel also mentions the Second Coming of Jesus, which has been used in some novels and movies as the end of the world, something dreaded. But the earliest followers of Jesus looked forward to his return. Have you given much thought to the theology of Jesus' return? Why or why not?

## **The Sermon**

### **What We Are Waiting For**

How are you at waiting? Is waiting something you do well, or have very little patience for? I know people for whom waiting causes a great deal of stress, anxiety, and restlessness. For them waiting can feel like a waste of time or a punishment. Others impress me with their ability to practice waiting as an opportunity to rest or be present in the moment and place they are in. For them, waiting can be joyful.

How we wait might depend on what we are waiting for. There is a difference between waiting in line at a store, waiting for results of a medical test, and waiting for a beloved and happily anticipated guest to arrive, or

for the date of an event like a holiday, trip, or vacation.

Sometimes the wait can be long. I have shared how I waited until I was 38 years old to get married because I was waiting for the right person, meaning the person I fell in love with, who loved me, and who wanted to share the adventure of life as a priest with me. Even though I had not met Michael until two or three years before we were married, I believed he was going to come into my life. Many of my friends and family thought I was foolish to wait. Some thought I should have settled for someone who seemed to love me, even though I didn't love them. Others, like my father, didn't think I'd ever get married. Despite what anyone else believed, I waited. And my waiting wasn't an act of despair, it was an expression of hope.

This waiting wasn't always optimistic. It wasn't always easy. It was lonely at times. It made me different in the eyes of society, and sometimes made me feel excluded. Some dioceses and parishes either refused to interview me to serve as rector because I was single, or if they did, asked me incredibly personal questions about my sexuality and my single status. Yet, despite the challenges, the loneliness, and discrimination, I waited. This waiting was not passive. I prayed, I reflected on what I needed in a spouse, what kind of relationship I wanted, and what I could and could not give. I lived a full life. I had happy moments, accomplishments, and never believed I was anything less while I waited. I found friends who supported me and helped by waiting with me. All this waiting made my engagement announcement and our wedding truly joyful, as many saw something holy at work in our relationship.

Waiting certainly seems to be what today's Gospel and Letter to the Hebrews is about. Waiting is a major theme in the Bible, not waiting for your turn in line at the grocery store, or waiting for test results, although we could make that kind of waiting into the practice of waiting the Bible talks about. In the Bible, as we heard in today's Hebrews lesson, waiting is an act of faith. It is waiting for God to fulfill God's promises, even when those promises seem ridiculous or impossible.

Like Abraham and Sarah, after they had reached old age, having a child that will lead to a people too many to count. Such a promise means God doesn't put limits on people because of age or ability. Such a promise also means the people God made the promise to, Abraham and Sarah, would not live long enough to see it come to fruition. All they could do was wait for it and try to raise their offspring to believe and wait. By waiting, living, doing what they need to survive, caring for each other, worshiping and showing what it is to be God's people in the world, through their waiting God acted and God's promise eventually came to fruition.

This brings us to today's Gospel where Jesus was teaching about

the same kind of waiting. The promise Jesus was talking about is God's promise to bring God's Kingdom to earth, to transform the kingdoms of humanity into the dream God has for God's creation where all life – that means all people too -- is an expression of God's love by loving God and each other. It's a kingdom without the violence of murder, a kingdom without the hierarchy of powerful, it's a kingdom without hoarding money or toilet paper, which means it is also a kingdom without charity, because there will not be a need for charity. It is a kingdom where all people respect the dignity of each other, and all of creation without exploitation. It's a world of sharing, not consuming. It can be difficult for us to imagine the world like that because that is a world of love, forgiveness, and mercy. Where everything from health care to education to food, clothing, and shelter will be available to everyone with no debt and no concern for corporate profit. There is no place for greed in God's Kingdom, nor any of greed's siblings like racism, supremacy, sexism, ageism, wealth, consumerism, or all the other ways we try to put each other in a hierarchy of our making. It's a kingdom like the Psalms and prophets describe -- a Peaceable Kingdom where God is fully present with people and people are present with God and will work together to create and sustain such a world. It's a relational, connected, communal kingdom.

This is the kingdom Jesus proclaimed came near when he walked the earth. Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection started the process of God's Kingdom coming to earth, and it is the kingdom that will fully come to the world when Jesus returns. This was a central theme of Jesus' preaching, so much so that scholars say the members of the early church, those first followers of Jesus, believed he was going to be returning and God's kingdom would be realized before the end of their lives. But, like Abraham and Sarah before them, as time went on, they began to realize that isn't how God works. God rarely acts in the timelines we prefer. They believed Jesus is coming, but they did not know when. So, they did the most faithful thing they could: they waited.

I'm sure that meant they witnessed and probably suffered injustices and violence and discrimination. But through their faith and waiting, they were able, as Jesus said in today's Gospel, to store up heavenly treasures, which helped them endure and they passed on to those who came after them. We often hear this passage of scripture on Thanksgiving when we it is suggested this scripture means to be generous with our material possessions. And that is not a wrong interpretation. I also believe this passage is about how to wait without fear and anxiety by working to store up the kind of treasure that is part of God's Kingdom.

If God's Kingdom is not about consuming, then treasure is not material. It is not a big bank account or box full of expensive jewels or an expensive car or expensive house or a huge church building with elaborate

stained-glass windows, altars, and art. Treasure in God's kingdom is the stuff of relationship, like Jesus showed in his life. It is all the practices that help us feel closer to God and each other, praying, listening, sharing, forgiving, and waiting together as we work to do what we can to help make God's kingdom a little closer. It is not easy to believe in something you cannot touch or see, but if we pay attention, as Jesus says in today's Gospel, and if we know what to look for, we will recognize when God's Kingdom does appear. I've seen God's kingdom come when the victims of the shooting at Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina forgave the man who killed their pastor and several members. They didn't forgive him because they agreed with his actions. Far from it. They forgave him because that is how healing happens, and how they could move forward without vengeance that would only perpetuate more violence. Ten years ago, I saw another expression of God's Kingdom come when people of many faiths in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area came together to pray and hold vigils for the victims of a shooting at the Sikh Temple in nearby Oak Creek. In the wake of the tragedy, which was motivated by white supremacy, people all over the world contributed support to survivors. One survivor became a politician and advocates for gun control and works to pass legislation intended to eliminate hate crimes. Two completely different examples from my own life are the medical care team, friends, and many of you who worked with me during the long days of recovery from two hip replacement surgeries, and the friends who waited with me while I waited for the person I wanted to marry to come into my life.

These Kingdom of God moments make me wonder if one of the things the Holy Spirit may be calling the Church to in these anxious days where so many struggle with waiting, or where difficulty and whatever is disliked is thrown away without thought or care for others, is to help show the world how waiting can be a life-giving act of faith. For example, every time a public official says they will pray for victims, there is an outcry on social media that prayer is a waste of time. This is of course intended to be a specific criticism of elected officials, but it is expressed as a generality that diminishes the important act of waiting. It is also, perhaps in a backhanded way, a reason why humanity needs Jesus to return and God's kingdom to come. Because try as we might, humanity not been successful in creating such a kingdom on our own.

We as a church can remind the world we are waiting for Jesus and a different kind of kingdom, even if we are criticized or called foolish for believing in it. Even though we don't know when this will happen, even when we see acts of injustice and violence, we practice our faith by waiting for God's kingdom to come, by trying to live as if it was already here. We can do this through those acts that accumulate the kind of treasure that is of God's Kingdom: praying, studying, waiting with each other, paying

attention for those moments when we recognize “God’s hand at work in the world about us”, listening for the Holy Spirit and continuing to do what we can to show a little bit of God’s holy, healing, forgiving, hopeful love in our community. Sometimes that love is a free mask during the pandemic, offering a place to rest or where someone can grieve in a world that eschews both, paying for a cup of coffee or tea not for yourself, but so someone else can experience a bit of grace, praying or holding our worship service on our front porch so passersby can see a different kind of prayer and expression of Christianity. These and many other ways are how we wait with the world by showing the world there can be joy because of what we are waiting for: God’s kingdom, that God is waiting to give to us.

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### **Sermon Engagement Questions:**

Have you ever noticed how much waiting takes place in both the Old and New Testaments?

How does the observation waiting is a theme that runs through the Bible influence how you experience times in your life when you have to wait?

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The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost,  
7 August 2022

### **Please include in your prayers**

**In our world,** we pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, and for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; we pray for peace with justice throughout the Middle East. We pray for the victims of the coronavirus. We pray for all people affected by natural and environmental disasters. We pray for the people who are suffering from war, especially the people of Ukraine, we pray for the community of Uvalde, Texas, and we pray for all asylum seekers, immigrants and refugees. We pray for Joe our President, Kamala our Vice-President, Mike, our Governor, the Supreme Court and the members of Congress.

**In our diocese,** In our diocese, we pray for our Provisional Bishop Wayne, the search process for a new bishop, and for Kenneth, Nedi, and Wendell our assisting bishops.

**In our parish,** we pray for Good Shepherd's continued growth, for our Rector Rev. Deborah Woolsey, for our Associate Priests, Rev. Leslie Flemming, and Rev. David McCoy, for our ministry to students, the university, and the community. We pray for our friends at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Merida, Mexico.

**Those Whom our Prayers are Requested:** Bud and Carol, Chris L., Gloria R., Jean R., Miriam, Sharon, T.C., Ted, Andrea and Aven, Baby William James, Dana Carlson, Zelma Coleman, Lee Kembell-Cook, Richard DeNune, Roy DePue, Nona Forbes, Jan Gault, Lindsey and Regina Golden, Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, Debbie Hunsberger, Bob and Nancy Jackson, Peter Kachenko and family, Julie Nehls, Donald and Junie Oney, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Virginia Richards, Michael Vaughn, Emily Woolsey and we pray for all who care for them. \*\*

**Anniversary:** Megan and Tyler Shannon (8/10)

**Birthday:** Paul Hillard (8/7), Christiana Martin (8/7), Caitlin Reilly Schave (8/7), Jean Fieler (8/10), Jeff Maiden (8/11)

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## **Rest in Peace the Rev. Ed Smith**

Today in the Prayers of the People we prayed for the Rev. Ed Smith who died a few days ago. I do not assume you know who he is, because Fr. Ed is a priest in the Diocese of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, the diocese where I grew up and was ordained to the priesthood. Fr. Ed was the director of every church camp I attended as a youth and he was a supporter during the process of ordination. He preached the sermon at my priesting ordination service 15 years ago. In that sermon he said to always remember the symbol of the priest is not the chalice and paten, it is the bowl and towel because the priest is a foot washer. His ordination gift to me was a large bowl and a towel and if you have attended a Maundy Thursday service here at Church of the Good Shepherd, that is the bowl I use when I wash feet as part of that service. While Fr. Ed is not a member of this diocese nor never set foot in this parish, I would not be here if it weren't for him. That is one of those beautiful Kingdom of God connections the Church can be part of. Thank you for joining me in praying for Fr. Ed today and being part of that holy connection. May he rise in glory.

Many Blessings,

Mother Deborah

\*\* Full names are normally not published online but since the prayer list is not printed for the in-house 10:30 service, we will publish full names unless requested otherwise. If you have a name to be

added to the prayer list, Lynn Graham maintains this information. Lynn may be reached at 740-593-5098 or [grahammowery@aol.com](mailto:grahammowery@aol.com).

## At-Home Worship

Christ Church Cathedral Cincinnati live streams its services Sundays at 10 a.m. These are saved and can be watched later.

<https://cincinnati.cathedral.com/ccs/join-online/>

Washington D C -- there's much to explore at the the National Cathedral's online portal. <https://cathedral.org/worship/>

## Coming up on the Calendar

### Coming Up:

**Wednesday, August 10, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's**

**Sunday, August 14, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (First Sunday Service with newly installed refurbished organ)**

**Thursday, August 18, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting**

**Sunday, August 21, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

**Monday, August 22, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - - First Day of Classes at OU Blessings, coffee and donut giveaway.**

**Wednesday, August 24, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's**

**Sunday, August 28, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Outdoor Service)**

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### Coffee Hour Schedule

August 7	Sharon Huge
August 14	Alex Buckley
August 21	Dana Carlson
August 28	David Burton

**CrossRoads Café is open Sundays after the 10:30 Service.**

## Events Looking Forward

**Sept. 4 (Sunday) Funeral service for Virginia Smith 3pm**

**Sept. 11 (Sunday) Outdoor Service 10:30 am with special remembrance for 9/11**

**Oct. 7-10 (Friday – Monday) College Student Retreat in the Hocking Hills**

**Nov. 6 (Sunday) Newly Refurbished Organ Celebration 3pm (first in a series)**

**Nov. 19 (Saturday) Diocese of Southern Ohio Convention Hybrid zoom and in person in Cincinnati**

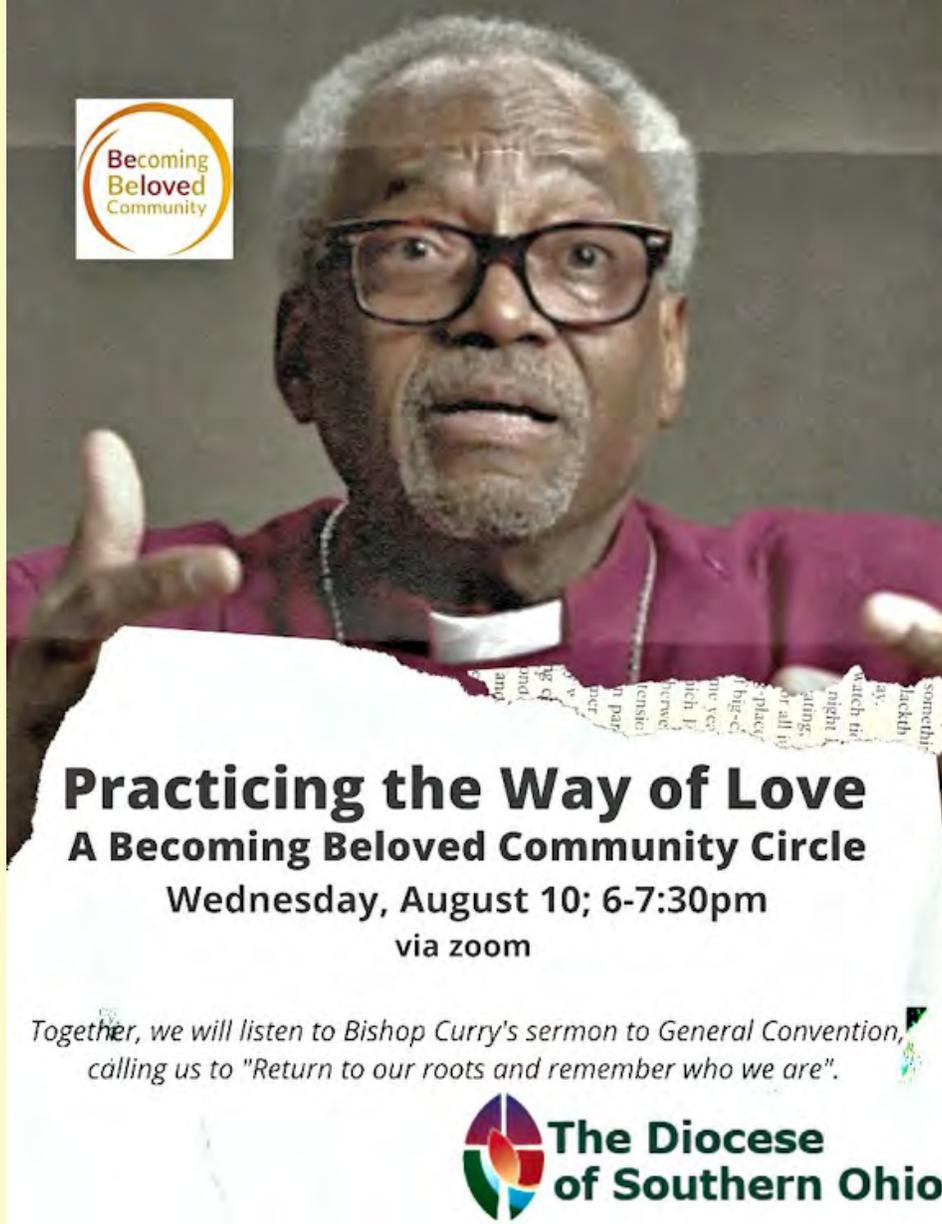
**Nov. 24 (Thursday) Thanksgiving Day service 10:30 am**

**Nov. 24 (Thursday) Thanksgiving Meal for parishioners 1:30 pm**

**Dec. 24 (Saturday) Christmas Eve 7pm**

**Dec. 25 (Sunday) Christmas Day 10:30 am**

## Notes & Announcements



**Practicing the Way of Love**  
**A Becoming Beloved Community Circle**  
Wednesday, August 10; 6-7:30pm  
via zoom

*Together, we will listen to Bishop Curry's sermon to General Convention, calling us to "Return to our roots and remember who we are".*



## **You won't want to miss this Way of Love Circle!**

Bishop Curry will light our fire for Jesus and we'll explore a practical next step he references that will be rolling out soon from the The Episcopal Church focusing on small group engagement.

Zoom link here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9839954118?pwd=YTh4VXRmN29mVGI4ZS95cEtsRWtpdz09>

**Please invite others! All are welcome, anytime.**

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## **Bishop Search Process Begins: Letters from Bishop Smith and the Standing Committee.**

**In case you missed it Friday, here are the links to a note from**

Bishop Smith "[The Time Has Come to Move Ahead](#)" about the process and notes from the Standing Committee "[Bishop Search Begins, Timeline Announced](#)".

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## Provide relief and help communities recover from flooding and fires



Deadly flooding and fires in southern and western parts of the US are displacing thousands and creating a financial burden on the most vulnerable. Episcopal Relief & Development is working with church and local partners to provide help where it's needed the most. Your swift response and compassionate gift to the [Episcopal Relief & Development Disaster Fund](#) will provide supplies to help communities in Kentucky, Virginia, Missouri, California and other places make a full and sustained recovery. Visit [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org) to make a contribution today.

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## From the Episcopal News Service - - **Message from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on "Lambeth Call on Human Dignity."**

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is among an estimated 650 Anglican bishops worldwide—including more than 100 Episcopal bishops—attending the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, England, through Aug. 7.

[Bishop Curry shared this video message HERE.](#)

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## Update on the Organ --

Next Sunday, August 14, Marsha will be able to play the organ for the worship service. However, this is just a part of the on-going process of the organ's refurbishment. the week of August 15 - 19 the organ builders will be in the church building finishing the installation. They will need access to all parts of the building, so please be aware if you need to be in the building that week.

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## Unpacking the 80th General Convention

If you missed last week's Zoom meeting with Bishop Smith and members of our General Convention deputation, videos of both meetings and the deputies' slide presentation are available on the [Diocese's video page HERE](#).

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A crystal on the Covid Memorial reflecting its sunny Wednesday afternoon surroundings, note spider cobweb.



Michael Luelloff captured this sunset Friday evening.



Saturday after the thunder shower, a family crossing Ted Foster's driveway to greener pastures.

## Contacts, Information

### Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

[Staff](#)

[Campus Interest](#)

### Pandemic Notes:

[Link to the DSO guidelines for returning to in-person worship](#)

In light of local conditions we request all persons wear masks inside the church building **regardless** of vaccination status.

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

[E-News Guidelines and Back Issues](#)

[Diocese Southern Ohio](#)

[Bishop Transition](#)

[\[E\]Connections](#)

[Episcopal News Service](#)

[Episcopal Journal & Café](#)

Thursday. Masks are required.

The **Church Building** is not open for public meetings and gatherings but during office/CrossRoads hours the thrift shop and chapel are available for individuals. Masks are required.

**CrossRoads Café** -- Join us Sunday after the 10:30 service.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

## [DONATE to Good Shepherd](#)

The above takes you to the Parish page where you can find instructions or 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. organ fund, plate collection, etc.

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

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

is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877)  
or [barbara@chogs.org](mailto:barbara@chogs.org).

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**45701**

**Office Hours:**

Masks are required.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday  
740-593-6877  
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Blessings !