



# Friday Bulletin

**Good Shepherd E-News**  
25 February 2022

The Episcopal Church of the  
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio

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## This Upcoming Sunday

**Last Sunday after the Epiphany**  
February 27, 2022

Inside service, please wear a mask and  
follow Order of Worship guidelines.

10:30 a.m. Service

[Order of Worship](#)

Holy Eucharist Rite II-A

Celebrant: Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Alex Buckley

Prayer Leader: Dana Carlson

Eucharistic Minister: David Burton

Altar Guild: Sally Spero

**LESSONS** Last Sunday after the Epiphany: Exodus 34: 29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:2; Luke 9: 28-36.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

**A Call to Rest**

# A Call to Rest



Last week Bishop Smith, who is serving in a pastoral capacity until a new bishop is elected, sent out an email addressed to all active clergy and the wardens of parishes. The email is a powerful call for active clergy to take 3-5 days of rest before June 5. These paid days of respite are not part of clergy's vacation, sick days, continuing education, or days off. They are an extraordinary manifestation of God's grace during an extraordinary time in response to what Bishop Smith is observing in clergy in

parishes: an exhaustion that is not just physical; it is spiritual, mental, and emotional.

In the Episcopal Church's 7 Practices of the Way of Love ([details can be found at episcopalchurch.org](https://www.episcopalchurch.org)), in addition to Learn, Turn, Pray, Worship, Bless, and Go is the practice of Rest. This practice is perhaps one of the most difficult to describe because our culture over values productivity. However, this is not healthy, and other cultures have embraced the practice of rest. For example, the Anishinaabe people have a practice of only telling stories when there is snow on the ground. Their stories are how they reconnect with the earth, their people and families, a form of rest that happens during the winter.

Rest is one of the practices of the 7 Ways of Love that go back to the very beginning, when God rested after creating the world and everything in it, thereby establishing a practice and pattern for all life. Some theologians go as far as calling it a sin to not rest. In this situation, the prescribed rest is not a punishment for clergy and leaders who have been working too hard. It is what God intended: *a gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration*.

As for what that will look like...Mother Deborah has met with the Senior Warden to explore possible times for her to take the days of rest. Most likely they will not be over a Sunday and will take place sometime in early May. Until then, perhaps the Bishop's email can also serve as a reminder that the pandemic is not over, no matter how much anyone wants it to be, and there are those who are carrying the burden of this pandemic more than others. Pretending it is over won't help the burdened, it makes it worse. Instead of wishing the pandemic away, perhaps we can all be renewed to practice kindness and compassion with each other.

You can read the Bishop's email below.

February 17, 2022

To: The Clergy of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, Lay employees, Senior and Junior Wardens

Dear Colleagues:

The media of all sorts, and various research studies, have noted the toll that the pandemic has taken on pastors and lay employees in the Churches. The pastoral burden

of excess illness and death in our communities has been enormous. Arranging worship, remote and in-person, week-by-week, has made a difficult situation more complex. Add to this the challenges that leaders face in an increasingly fragmented culture, both in the Church and in the world. Some of us and our own families have become ill during the past two years.

We are worn out and in need of relief.

Recognizing this need, I strongly urge the clergy and lay employees in the Diocese of Southern Ohio to take some dedicated time off. Soon. This respite should be in the range of three to five days, and it should not count against vacation leave, any sabbatical accumulated, or weekly day(s) off. This is not a pastoral direction of the canonical sort, such blanket directions being questionable in authority. I hope, however, that you will receive this letter with the urgency that compels me to write it. For our well-being, we need a break.

Circumstances differ from place to place, and I resist writing a long list of rules. I hope, however, that you will arrange pastoral coverage for one another, so time off becomes possible for everyone. Consecutive days of respite multiply the value of time away, so I encourage you to take all the time at once. I realize that bi-vocational and part-time clergy, including most deacons, face unique circumstances. You will need to shape any respite within the strictures and possibilities of your own life. I also expect that the lay employees among us will be given the same access to respite.

My expectation is that you will claim this time between now and the Day of Pentecost, June 5. You should know that I do not exempt myself from this expectation, so I also will take time for respite during this season.

With my continuing prayers for all of you, I am

Faithfully yours,

George Wayne Smith  
Bishop Provisional  
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

## Coming up on the Calendar

**Sunday, February 27, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

**Wednesday, March 2, 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. - - Ashes to Go**

**Wednesday, March 2, 5:30 p.m. - - Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist**

**Sunday, March 6, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

**Wednesday, March 9, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting, Julie's**

**Sunday, March 13, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist**

**Wednesday, March 16, 12:15 p.m. - - Lenten Organ Meditation**

Thursday, March 17, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting, ZOOM

Sunday, March 20, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, March 23, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting, Julie's

Wednesday, March 23, 12:15 p.m. - - Lenten Organ Meditation

Sunday, March 27, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, March 30, 12:15 p.m. - - Lenten Organ Meditation

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**CrossRoads Café is open on Sundays after church.**

## Notes & Announcements

### New Frontal, Falls, Burse and Veil

This Sunday we will be blessing the new frontal, falls, burse and veil David Burton is giving in memory of his mother and giving a prayer of thanks for the frontal set they are replacing. We will do this during the "Welcome" section of the order for worship, after the prelude and before the opening words.



### Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022

**Ashes to Go** 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Front Porch of the Church

**Service** 5:30 p.m.  
Inside Church

We invite you to accept the invitation to a Holy Lent either by stopping by for Imposition of Ashes on the porch or joining us for a simple service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist. Both are good ways to begin the season of "creating new and contrite hearts" within each of us.

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## Lenten Organ Meditations

Members of the Southeast Ohio chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present a series of Lenten Organ Meditations on Wednesdays at 12:15 beginning March 16 and ending on April 13.

The programs are free and open to the public. Masking and social distancing are required

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

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

### 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. organ fund, plate collection, etc.

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

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

### Pandemic Note:

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

**The Diocese COVID**

64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701  
740-593-6877  
chogs@chogs.org  
[www.chogs.org](http://www.chogs.org)

**Guidelines request  
all persons wear masks  
inside the church  
building regardless of  
vaccination status.**

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