



Friday Bulletin

Good Shepherd E-News
10 June 2022

**The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio**

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This Upcoming Sunday

**First Sunday after Pentecost
Trinity Sunday**

12 June 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship (Bulletin)

Service: Holy Eucharist Rite II-B

Celebrant: the Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Musician: Gregory Proctor

Lector: Norm Fox

Eucharistic Minister/Prayer Leader: David
Burton

Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte: Sharon Huges

Altar Guild: Sharon Huges

Coffee Hour Host: Lois Wagner

LESSONS for the First Sunday after Pentecost-Trinity Sunday: Proverbs 8: 1-4; 22-31; Canticle 13 (Said); Romans 5: 1-5; John 16: 12-15.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

Trinity Sunday June 12



Join us in person or through the church email as we celebrate the Mystery of the Trinity on Sunday, June 12. Trinity Sunday is a day the Church gives us to wonder at the uniqueness of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Three in One. While intellectuals warn there is no way to describe the Trinity without committing heresy (a word that means false teaching) the purpose of the day isn't to put undue pressure on preachers, it is to engage the mystery of God who is Love in the never-failing hope we will recognize that Love in our lives.

Coming up on the Calendar

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

Wednesday, June 15, 12:00 noon - - Prayers on the Porch

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

Sunday, June 19, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, June 22, 12:00 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl at Julie's

Wednesday, June 22, 12:00 noon - - Prayers on the Porch

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

Wednesday, June 29, 12:00 noon - - Prayers on the Porch

Sunday, July 3, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Starting in June CrossRoads Café is open Mon-Fr 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.
and Sundays after church.

Notes & Announcements

Summary of Listening Session with Standing Committee -- What I Learned --

On Tuesday, May 31 I attended a zoom listening session with members of the Standing Committee of the diocese. The purpose of the session was to learn where the Standing Committee is in the process for calling the next bishop of the diocese. What I found interesting was the work they are doing with a consulting group from the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia to help them navigate and interpret the variety of responses individuals and parishes are having to the retirement of Bishop Breidenthal and the process of finding a new bishop.

The consultants shared with us a summary of what happens to a system (i.e. diocese, church, parish, school, family, any functioning community/group) when it experiences disruption (i.e. interference, crisis, interruption, any change major or minor).

The basis of their explanation is the relationships we have with each other and the system.

At the start of a relationship (real life examples: in a parish when a new priest arrives; in a family when a family member gets married or has a baby; in a university when a new president arrives) expectations of roles, behaviors, accountability, etc. are established. Once these expectations are accepted, the system (parish, family, university) settles into stability. For good or for ill, pretty much everyone knows what to expect and when to expect it. For example, the priest is going to preach a sermon every Sunday. The parents will care for the newborn. The professor will stick to the syllabus they made.

Stability in the best of times can be fragile as it is susceptible to disruption or change. This disruption can come from outside or inside the system. Our diocese was hit with two disruptions at once when shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic began (outside disruption) our bishop resigned (inside disruption). Around the same time, our community of Athens was hit with two disruptions with the pandemic and Ohio University terminating thousands of employees.

The Responses to Disruption: a brief summary

The consultants explained there are three general responses to disruption.

1. The **first type of response** to the disruption is feeling anxiety that causes an individual to leave the system. This is the cause of divorce in families, why some people leave parishes, why many priests retired early when the pandemic started.
2. The **second type of response** to disruption is a strong desire and attempt to return to the way things were before the disruption. This is why some people will try to live the lifestyle they had before a job loss when they no longer can afford to, why some folks denied the existence of the pandemic, etc. The desire is to seek comfort in what was, but because things have changed, what used to be fails to give stability or comfort, which can cause anxiety, which may cause people to leave the system. We saw this when some people did not want to follow Covid protocols when returning to in person church services, attending concerts, or other public group events. Failure to accept the change that has happened caused anxiety that led to disengagement. The third kind of response is the healthiest.
3. The **third type of response** to accept the change – whether it is the pandemic, retirement of the bishop, job loss, birth of a child, new spouse etc. – and go back to the establishment of expectations realizing the change or disruption in the system means expectations need to change. An example one person gave was before the pandemic her parish's times of worship were problematic, but no one was supportive of changing them because they had always been what they were. After doing church on zoom for over a year, the parish was more accepting of changing the service time as they were grateful to be able to meet in person. This has been a good change for the parish.

The Standing Committee is using this paradigm to help them interpret that data gathered from the most recent survey as to whether or not the diocese is ready to move forward to call a new bishop. They are wondering if people in the diocese are desiring to return to the way things were before Bishop Breidenthal retired instead of being ready to accept

the change that a new bishop will bring to our diocese. This concern is justified as the Standing Committee members do not want to repeat unhealthy patterns, even if they are the patterns that feel “normal”, as they may lead to more disruption in our diocese. That is why they called the listening sessions, to hear from the diocese – remember that’s you and me – what we feel ready for: a return to the way things used to be, or a changes that a new bishop will bring and what kind of change we want to see in our diocese, which will help us and the person called determine if this is the right diocese and the right time for them to serve.

Religious Connection

Systems theory can be helpful in looking at any change in our lives. I was taught systems theory in seminary because it is a helpful way to understand human behavior in the church, parishes, diocese, families, etc. One issue with systems theory is the language used to describe what is pretty universal can be dry and reflect secular business practices more than the beliefs or theology of the church. When I worked with Living Compass (an Episcopal Ministry started and overseen by an Episcopal priest) we found a way to adapt the language of systems theory to help us recognize our personal patterns of behavior and lift them to God and let God in and change us, to give us holy disruption, so that we can grow more Christ-like. The idea was to help learn to identify where God is present in systems theory. Living Compass also took a different approach to disruptions. Sometimes disruptions can be an opportunity for an encounter with God, as God can be in the disruption. This is not to be interpreted as God causing anxiety or pain or suffering. Any change can be an opportunity to look for God. This perspective has helped me adapt to changes caused by the pandemic, my hip replacement surgeries, and the changes in our neighborhood. Trusting God is with me in whatever is happening helps me avoid anxiety or at least work through anxiety, toward moving forward in a healthy, holy way.

Whether you are interested in this as where the Standing Committee is with the search process for a new bishop or if the idea of system theory is intriguing to you, I suggest next time you experience change to work through it with the model I described and prayerfully reflect on where God is as you work through change.

Many Blessings,

Mother Deborah

Editor's note: If you want to read more about the norm-setting model the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia consultants are using you can read it [HERE](#). Note that the document is academic writing -- i.e. dry and un-churchy.

Prayers on the Porch
Wednesdays in June
at Noon

You are invited to join Mother Deborah every Wednesday in



the month of June on the porch of the church for a midday prayer service. Each week will have a different focus depending on current events.

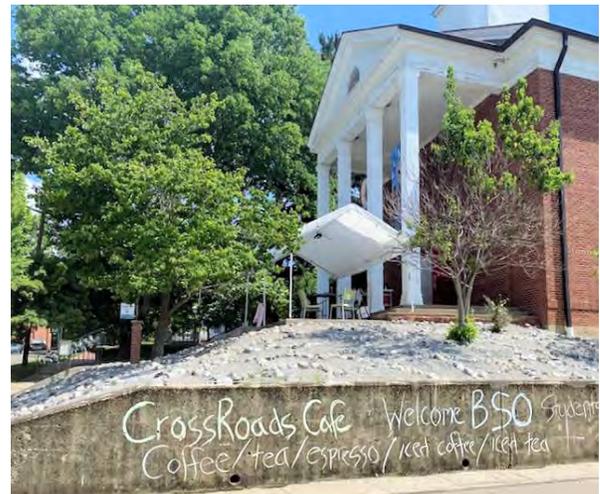
We hope you can join us.

CrossRoads June Hours

Join us weekday mornings

9:30 am - 12 noon.

Featuring Deeper Roots Coffee, iced coffee, tea, iced tea and espresso drinks.



Supporting Humanitarian Response to the Crisis in Ukraine

Episcopal Relief & Development
(Please click above for link to see more)



Looking beneath the surface. While exploring the river walkways in getting acquainted with Marietta I walked across the Putnam Street bridge over the Muskingum river and then down to the walk way beneath the bridge. **Wow !**
(Ted Foster)



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.

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](#)**

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

64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701
740-593-6877
chogs@chogs.org
www.chogs.org

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.