

Shepherd's Journal

February 2026



Pastor: Rev. Matthew Dotson Ministers: All The People Of The Congregation
We Invite & Welcome You To Church Of The Good Shepherd UMC

3025 Lucas Dairy Road Grafton, WV 26354

Church: 304 - 265 - 1705

Parsonage: 304 - 265 - 5643

Nurture * Outreach * Witness

Office Hours: Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday: 9AM - 12PM

Sunday School: 9AM - 9:45AM Sunday Worship Service: 10AM

Cub Scouts: Monday : 6:30PM Boy Scouts: Tuesday : 6:30PM

NU2U: Mon. - Wed. - Fri. : 9AM - 12PM (2nd Saturday Hours 9AM - 1PM)

Foster Closet: Wed. : 12:30PM - 2:30PM

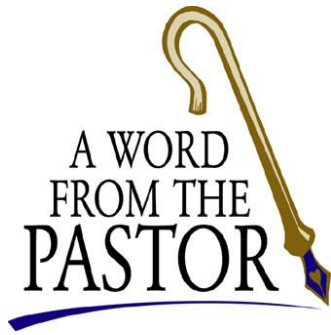
Jr. Youth: Thursday 5PM

E-Mail: shepherdwv@comcast.net Facebook: www.facebook.com/cogswv

Church Website: <https://shepherdwv.wixsite.com/cogswv>

Grow * Connect * Serve

Welcome To This Month's Shepherd's Journal. You Are Invited To Worship And Have Fellowship With Us. Please Leave Your Name And Contact Information With Us, So We Can Stay In Touch With You.



For many years, the practice of wearing ashes at the start of Lent seemed to be at odds with Jesus' way to perform our spiritual disciplines in secret. For many, that will be the only time of the year when we make a public spectacle of our repentance, maybe even our faith. As some people grow up, it might not be a discipline observed in their upbringing. However, the first time someone participates in this ritual, having ashes placed on the forehead by a pastor or friend, someone can be moved by the experience that a vow to seek the opportunity to make this observance accessible wherever one goes. There is something in the wearing of ashes that speaks of change for us and the world around us. A symbol of change that needs to be publicly displayed and not hidden away behind locked doors.

We sometimes think of Lent as the annual visit to the doctor's office to make sure we are spiritually healthy, expecting little to be wrong, but King David, in Psalm 51, verses 3 - 5, is not coming in for a check-up. He is not asking, "Am I doing ok, doctor?" He says, "I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me."

David is more like a patient waiting for a heart transplant. In verse 10 we read, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Listen to the verbs, wash me thoroughly, cleanse me, purge me, deliver me, restore me, teach me. He is a man in anguish, describing his feelings as his very bones have been crushed. Like a patient with a faulty heart valve, he knows that the great physician must do something radical with his heart.

Since we begin Lent by having ashes smeared on our foreheads, it is hard to miss the point that we are all sinners, but like a patient waiting on a heart transplant list, I wonder if God's grace will really touch me and heal me. Will I survive long enough for my name to be called? If I make it through surgery alive, will the new heart take to my chest or will it be rejected by my flesh? I don't doubt that I am a sinner. My bigger problem is I'm not sure I trust the great physician to heal me. There is more grace in God than sin in me. God did not cast me away from divine presence or take the Holy Spirit from me. I find it hard to believe that my sin is just blotted out, but I am blessed for I have heard joy and gladness from the Lord. I am washed, and though I may still be in the spin cycle, yet shall I dry. Hear me and believe me, God abounds in steadfast love, and there is more grace in God than sin in you.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Matt

Outer Flock

Dorothy Linn ~ Wishing Well Assisted Living, Room 609

1543 Country Club Rd. - Fairmont, WV 26554

Jo Parsons - 8400 #4 Southbridge Dr. - Estero, FL 33967

Pat Fitzwater ~ 713 Lower West Boyd Street ~ Grafton, WV 26354

February Birthdays

Andriana Kiddy - 3rd

John Finch - 13th

Adrienne Kunce - 13th

Jaxon Mayle - 20th

Dan Pauley - 23rd

Becky Toothman - 26th

Souper Bowl Sunday

February 8th after church.

Bring canned food items for the youth food drive. We need volunteers to make soup and sandwiches for after church. Let Adrienne Kunce know if you can help. Thank you. Wear your favorite team clothing.

Upper Rooms Are Available

Get your Upper Room at the church

Foster Closet Hours

Wednesday : 12:30PM - 2:30PM

Bread Of Life Volunteers Needed

February 1st, March 1st, April 5th

3rd Sunday Food & Fellowship

Volunteers Needed: March 15th

NU2U Will Be Open

February 14th: 9AM - 1PM

Get To The Church & Volunteer

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. We need 2 volunteers.

NU2U needs volunteers. The NU2U is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9AM - 12PM and on 2nd Saturdays: 9AM - 1PM.

VBS Meeting

We have a VBS meeting scheduled for **February 9th at 5PM**. You are invited to attend. If this date and time is not good, please let Pastor Matt know. Thank You.

Special Projects

Thank you to those that have donated to Special Projects. Your donations to this fund do not go unnoticed. Thank you very much for your continued support of Special Projects that help the church.

Children's Book Ministry

Interested in helping with our book ministry? Talk with Lynn Cartwright.

Christmas Shoebox Item For

February

64 Notepads

(Size That Fits In A Shoebox)

Dan Mankins Memorial Service At
Church Of The Good Shepherd
March 28th: 1PM

Sunday Greeters

February: Dave & Theresa Barlow

March: Dave & Jo Robinson

April: Mike & Brenda Wood

May: Stella Hawk & Linda McBee

June: Dave Murphy

July: Joe Day

August: Linda Adlington

September: Youth

October: Matt & Julie Dotson

November: Shelby Bolyard

December: Kathy Green

Our Nurture Group Needs You

All of us are called to be ready and willing to respond to others in their times of need and to rejoice with them in their times of celebration. Our Nurture group gives us that opportunity.

Next Meeting: **March 8th** after church.

2026 Fair Share

<u>January:</u>	\$	<u>July:</u>	\$
<u>February:</u>	\$	<u>August:</u>	\$
<u>March:</u>	\$	<u>September:</u>	\$
<u>April:</u>	\$	<u>October:</u>	\$
<u>May:</u>	\$	<u>November:</u>	\$
<u>June:</u>	\$	<u>December:</u>	\$

2026 WV Conference Fair Share

Category 1 (Ministerial Support):	\$6,775
Category 2 (World Service):	\$7,066
Category 3 (General Funds):	\$4,700

2026 District Fair Share

MonValley District: \$278

Sunday Information

December 28th: Att: 72 - Offer: \$3,655

January 4th: Att: 62 - Offer: \$2,689

January 11th: Att: 62 - Offer: \$2,505

January 18th: Att: 64 - Offer: \$1,310

January 25th: NO CHURCH : SNOW

This Is Your Sign

We are not called to sit around and wait to be asked. All of us are called to be an active part in God's church. God has gifted every one of us with a gift that is to be used in the work of the church. We are the church together. Do not wait to get involved. We all have gifts and talents to offer.

TCCCM Scholarship Fund

If you would like to make a donation, please make checks out to Church Of The Good Shepherd with scholarship fund in the memo. These scholarships go to Grafton High School graduating seniors.

2026 Church Committees

Trustees: **Michelle Moon**, Linda Adlington, Billie Bowman, Katrina Pauley, Linda McBee, Bill Whitescarver, Rob Mayle

PPRC: **Diana Thompson**, Lisa Stout, Jim Work, Wynne Proudfoot, Allison Iapalucci

Finance: **Kathy Green**, Diana Thompson, Carl Steenstra, Nancy Work, Ed Bolyard, Matthew Dotson, Crystal Forester, Theresa Barlow, Greg Cartwright, Larry Riichman

Nominating: **Matthew Dotson**, Sheryl Isner, Adrienne Kunce, June Upton, Linda Adlington, Allison Iapalucci, Jim Work

Permanent Fund: **Larry Richman**, Crystal Forester, Matthew Dotson, Carl Steenstra, Gary Gelhausen

Have A Recipe To Share?

We Can Share It In The Newsletter.

Troop 9 And Pack 9 News

Scouting offers the youth many opportunities. If you want to help, please contact Misty Finch: 304 - 641 - 6017.

February Events

- 1st:** Holy Communion Sunday,
Bread Of Life Volunteers Needed
- 8th:** Souper Bowl Sunday: Stay For Soup
And Fellowship After Church,
No Nurture Meeting
- 9th:** VBS Planning Meeting 5PM: You Are
Invited And Needed In Attendance.
If This Date And Time Is Not Good,
Please Let Pastor Matt Know
- 14th:** Valentine's Day,
NU2U Is Open 9AM - 1PM
- 14th-15th:** Fellowship Hall Reserved
- 15th:** Transfiguration Sunday,
3rd Sunday Food & Fellowship
- 18th:** Ash Wednesday
- 22nd:** First Sunday In Lent,
4th Sunday Casual Dress Day
- 24th:** TCCCM At Wesley Chapel UMC 6PM
- 25th:** Help With The Newsletter 10AM

Looking Ahead

- Mar. 1st:** Bread Of Life Mission
Volunteers Needed
- Mar. 15th:** 3rd Sunday Food & Fellowship
Volunteers Needed
- Mar. 27th - 28th:** Rotary Buckwheat
Dinner
- Mar. 29th:** Palm Sunday
- Apr. 3rd - 4th:** Lions Club Meet & Greet
With Easter Bunny
- Apr. 5th:** Easter

Apr. 5th: Bread Of Life Mission
Volunteers Needed

Apr. 19th: 3rd Sunday Food & Fellowship
Volunteers Needed

May 3rd: Bread Of Life Mission
Volunteers Needed

May 17th: 3rd Sunday Food & Fellowship
Volunteers Needed

Good Shepherd Is Providing Needs For Grafton High School

- Boxes Of Tissues
- 1' & 3 : 3 Ring Zip Up Binders
- White Out Bottles
- Mechanical Pencils
- Adult Scissors
- Clear Protection Sheets
- Heavy Duty Backpacks
- Funding For: Shoes, Clothing, &
Other Items Needed In An
Emergency For Students

Where To Find It In The Bible

Topic: ASCENSION

Elijah, Whirlwind

Second Kings 2 : 11

Christ's Ascension Foretold

Psalms 68 : 18

January Trivia Q & A

Q: Which Gospel records the miraculous catch of fish after Jesus' resurrection?

A: John (21 : 3 - 11)

February Trivia Question

Q: Whose 12 sons became the ancestor of the 12 tribes of Israel?

- A. Isaac
- B. Jacob
- C. Abraham

Stories And One Liners

The Bible is a very ancient book, yet it is always relevant to our lives. People in it have the same problems we do. Think of Noah... it took him 40 days to find a place to park.

When my friend Ralph was rector of a small Episcopal chapel in West Virginia, he presided at so many shotgun weddings he renamed his church Winchester Cathedral.

A Methodist minister, a Catholic priest, and a Jewish rabbi were talking.

The Methodist bragged, "One of my ancestors wrote over a hundred hymns."

Not to be outdone, the priest responded, "One of my ancestors translated the Bible into English."

"That's nothing," said the rabbi. "One of my ancestors wrote the Ten Commandments."



The Church of the Good Shepherd
3025 Lucas Dairy Road
Grafton, WV 26354-8470
304-265-1705
shepherdwv@comcast.net

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 57
GRAFTON, WV 26354