



# THE SHEPHERD

*Jubilee!*  
*50 Years of Faithfulness*  
*Remember • Renew • Rejoice*

You will make the fiftieth year holy, proclaiming freedom throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It will be a Jubilee year for you...  
Leviticus 25:10

**Worship Next Sunday:**  
**June 10, 2018**

**All Things New Series**

**Second Sunday**  
**Rev. Laurie Gates-Ward**

**Prayers for our Hospitalized and Homebound:**

Louis Curry - Southwinds	Nancy Maguire—Home
Donna Grimes—Home	Lynn Headley—Ass't Living at Hawkins Gate
Mary & John Welsh—Home	Carolyn Rochelle—Home/at Natalie's
Dorothy & Wayne Bennett—Home	Janice Reuter —Home
Bob & Jan Hersh—Home	



**We Welcome Visitors!**

We are so happy that you are here today. If you would please take the time to fill out our guest registrar on the attendance pad, we would greatly appreciate it. We look forward to getting to know you better and are happy to answer your questions. Look for someone with a red and white badge if you have questions that need answered today.

**Church Events:**



Good Shepherd is pleased to announce that we are now accepting credit cards as an option for your electronic giving. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or charged to your credit card. The electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, electronic giving will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. Options are also available for other frequencies of donations and one-time donations

Please go to our website at [www.gsumc.com](http://www.gsumc.com) and click on "Donate Now". If you do not have access to the web, authorization forms are available in the church office.

By using the web based option and creating a password protected profile, you are in complete control to start, change, or stop your donations. Dates of donations are based upon the start date that you enter. If you start weekly donations on a Friday, then every Friday a donation will be made.

For further questions, contact Dan Sansbury at [danclaudias@gmail.com](mailto:danclaudias@gmail.com) or by calling 301-609-9659.

**Celebrating YOU Today!**

It's the first Sunday of the month and time to celebrate our congregation's JUNE Birthdays and Anniversaries. Join us in the Fellowship Hall between services for cake to recognize our family and friends on their special day. We wish all of you a wonderful day of love and blessings. If we do not currently have your Birthday/Anniversary information, please provide your name, address and dates on the form provided in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or information, please call Cathy Lavoie at 301.645.2717 or email [lavoie20602@aol.com](mailto:lavoie20602@aol.com).



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**UMM Workdays and Breakfast**

The United Methodist Men will have two work days, Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9, to construct new risers for the sanctuary. "All hands on deck" are requested, as we need to complete this important project before church services on Sunday. This project will involve heavy lifting, and the assistance of our younger members will be especially appreciated. Work will begin approximately 9:00 am both days and continue until about 5:00 pm. We will hold our monthly breakfast meeting on Saturday, June 9 at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall before beginning work. All are welcome to join us for faith, fellowship, and French toast! If you are able please arrive early to help with setup and preparing breakfast. For more information contact David Storm.

**Miriam Circle**

The Miriam circle will meet at Helen Riley's at 6:30 pm on Thursday 6/7/18 .

**New Beginnings**

The New Beginnings group will meet for lunch at 12:00 noon on Monday, June 11 at Marie's restaurant on Route 301 in LaPlata. All retired persons are invited to attend for fellowship and a good lunch. If you have any questions, call Mary Ellen Huff at 301-843-9787.

**GSUMC 50th Anniversary BBQ Cookoff and Praise and Worship Concert**

It's a celebration and fund raiser Good Shepherd style- food, fun, music and fellowship! On Saturday June 16 we hope to fill the back parking lot with grills, smokers, music and laughter for the afternoon as our grill chefs prepare to compete. We will have a cook off with BBQ and sides in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 PM and a Praise and Worship Concert immediately following in the Sanctuary. Dig out your best recipes and plan to bring enough to serve 20 people. Sign up between services on Sunday June 3 and 10th to compete in one or all of the categories- Beef, Chicken, Pork, Veggie, Beans, Coleslaw and Cornbread. Tickets will be sold on June 3rd and 10th as well. The cost is \$5.00 per person and \$2.50 for children 10 and under. Come get together to decide who the best grill chefs and cooks of Good Shepherd are in 2018!

**Summer Sunday School**

Sign up in the lobby to teach one or two Sunday's of our GSUMC Summer Sunday School! Our Summer ministry for the children is a 1 room Sunday School format with all the children together for one class of complete awesomeness & fun! We have a great curriculum designed just for this format. We are also in need of classroom aides for the summer. For more information, contact Carol Wunderlich at wunderlich.ca@hotmail.com or 301-843-6797.

**Church News:****Sunday School Mission Giving**

supports Heifer Project. Two Sundays a month our children's Sunday School offering goes toward supporting Heifer International. This year, the Sunday School donated \$900 to provide three water pumps for families/communities who do not have access to clean water. These pumps will provide clean drinking/cooking water, improve hygiene, aid in farming, and free young girls from walking miles to get water each day so that they can go to school. Because we sent the gift on Giving Tuesday, it was matched by another organization, so we actually had a part in providing six water pumps. Thanks to all the GSUMC children and families who have supported this ministry through Sunday School offering.

**Lay Reading**

Are you interested in reading scripture on Sunday Mornings? For more information, please contact Rev. Laurie (revlaurie@aol.com).

**Amazon Smile**

Turn your online shopping into support for Good Shepherd UMC through AmazonSmile! its is easy to link your existing Amazon accounts to AmazonSmile - just follow the directions on the website. Choose Good Shepherd United Methodist Church of St. Charles City as the charity of your choice and then start signing on to amazonsmile.com to do your shopping. A portion of what you spend will be sent to GSUMC.

**Prayer Ministry**

If you wish to receive prayer concerns or to submit a prayer concern, email our coordinator, Dan Sansbury (GSUMCprayerchain@gmail.com). Be sure to request permission to post personal information about others on this prayer chain. To have a joy or concern lifted in prayer during Sunday worship, please write your request in the Prayer Book located on the counter on the back wall of the narthex before worship.

**Contribution Envelopes**

For your convenience, blank envelopes are always available for your contributions in our narthex area. If you have any questions about your contributions, please see the Financial Secretary and counting team in the Parlor each Sunday morning.

***50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Extravaganza!  
Calendar of Celebration Events  
Good Shepherd UMC***

June 1, 2018

- **Banquet Ticket Sales Begin** for Current Members
- July 15: Ticket Sales Open for Others

June 3, 2018

- **Music Sunday**
- Featuring All GS Music Groups both services
- Rev. Sue Carns will bring Message
- Children's/Youth Musical in the Evening

June 16, 2018

- **Praise Night & BBQ Cookoff**
- Food, Praise Service & Entertainment
- BBQ Cookoff with grills, smokers, the works!
- Display of 50 years of GS History Artifacts

Sept. 8, 2018

- **50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet**
- Jaycee Hall 6-9 p.m.

Sept. 9, 2018

- **50th Anniversary Worship**
- Cake Celebration Reception
- ONE Service at 10 a.m.

**Good Shepherd United Methodist Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Laurie Gates-Ward, [revlaurie@aol.com](mailto:revlaurie@aol.com)  
 Director of Discipleship: Carol Wunderlich, [wunderlich.ca@hotmail.com](mailto:wunderlich.ca@hotmail.com)  
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 Minister of Connection: Linda Flanagan, [waldorfangel@gmail.com](mailto:waldorfangel@gmail.com)

## ***Ponderings on the Presence of God***

By Alan B. Ward

I can now add a *yurt* to the places I've slept...

For Memorial Day weekend, my family stayed a few nights at a campground in Lancaster, PA. We had the experience of camping (e.g., hanging out around a campfire, eating hot dogs and hamburgers and making S'mores) but then we could go inside to three-star accommodations when it was time for bed. The pullout bed was quite comfortable.

It was nice to get away from the "normal routine" for a few days. To simply brew a pot of coffee and come have a few minutes to sit on the deck outside our yurt in the morning was good. I realize I don't engage in this practice as much as I once did—and I miss it. There is always some task or responsibility that calls me—and I have a hard time ignoring them to focus on prayer. Ironically, many of the morning noises at this place reminded me of home: Canada Geese (many of whom no longer seem to return to Canada), Mallard ducks, other birdsongs, woodpeckers. But the change of scenery—and removal of "normal routine"—seemed to make all the difference.

As I sat on the deck, I looked upon a small grove of trees near the yurt. I began to concentrate and became aware of so much activity going on that I hadn't noticed when I first sat down. That little micro-ecosystem was teeming with life! Many different birds were moving around singing their songs and doing what God made them to do. Then I wondered: How many plant species were in just that little area alone? How many creatures are there that I cannot see? As the first line of Gerald Manley Hopkins poem, *God's Grandeur*, puts it: "The world is charged with the grandeur of God." The question is: Am I "tuned in" enough to notice?

For me, it had been a while since I took time to pay close attention to the world. That morning, I felt a bit like Jacob waking up from his dream at Bethel (**Genesis 28:10-17**). Up until that moment in the story, Jacob was too busy doing his own thing (mostly hiding from his twin brother Esau, who last he knew, wanted to kill him for tricking him into giving Jacob both his inheritance and birthright) to be conscious of God. It's only when he was forced out into the wilderness, on the run, removed from all the noise of his "normal" life, that he got a glimpse of what had been there all along—he just hadn't taken time to notice.

I started to sing Francesca Batistelli's, *Holy Spirit*, a simple tune I often use as my prayer to welcome God's Presence. On this morning, the words of the bridge particularly spoke to me:

*Help me become more aware of Your presence.  
Held me experience the glory of Your goodness.*

The idea of *being aware of God's Presence* has changed over the centuries. It's interesting I stayed in a *yurt*—a semi-permanent tent—this weekend. At the time of Moses and the Exodus, God's Presence was believed to dwell in a yurt, or a tent if you prefer. The Tabernacle was literally a moving Temple for God (see **Exodus 26–27** for details on how it was made). It was a pretty elaborate structure that clearly would have taken some work to set up and take down at each stop along the way. It was like the yurt I stayed in this weekend—only on a larger scale, and much more ornate as would befit the place where God's Presence was believed to dwell.

When Joshua takes command following the death of Moses, God promises to be with him wherever he goes (**Joshua 1:5-6**). I've always interpreted this as a promise that God would be with Joshua *personally*, as we might interpret it today. And perhaps it was like that for him. But the theological concept of God dwelling in individual hearts really didn't exist when Joshua lived. I think it's more likely that Joshua probably heard these words as a *corporate* promise from God—to be with the People of Israel always, i.e., through his Presence which dwelled in the Tabernacle, which literally went with God's People wherever they went.

During the reign of King David, Israel enjoyed a period of stability and prosperity as a United Kingdom (all 12 tribes of Israel together), and the people decided a tent was no longer sufficient to house God's Presence. Although it's never clear that God is fully behind this idea, the people insist that God needs a "permanent" home. Discussion of the Temple starts toward the end of David's reign, but the Temple isn't built until David's son Solomon becomes king (**1 Kings 6**). The Presence of God was conveyed to the Temple with much fanfare.

Unfortunately, Israel's "golden age" didn't last very long. After King Solomon (and the seeds of division are planted long before that), Israel spiraled into civil war and split into a Northern and Southern Kingdoms—detailed in **1 & 2 Kings**. The Northern Kingdom (consisting of 10 of the 12 tribes) was largely wiped out by the Assyrians, leaving the smaller Southern Kingdom (the tribes of Judah and Benjamin) with Jerusalem as capital. A little later in history, the Babylonians invaded Jerusalem and take the best and brightest of Judah (the name for the Southern Kingdom) off into captivity, and kill the rest. During that invasion, the Temple was destroyed.

It's difficult to estimate how big an impact that had on the Jewish people. While the Temple was rebuilt at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (**Ezra 6:13-18**) it was never restored to its former glory. Not only that, but the people themselves had been changed by their time in exile. Years spent cut off from the Temple and all that was familiar to them forced them rethink where God's Presence dwelled and what it meant to be a people *with God*. During this time, the beginnings of synagogue worship were established. So, while the Second Temple is built, it never becomes the center of worship that the First Temple was.

The Second Temple was expanded around the time of Jesus as part of a massive construction project by Herod the Great. By the time Jesus was alive, the expanded Second Temple dominated the skyline of Jerusalem once more. Meanwhile, God seemingly had been confined to the Temple again, with access strictly controlled by religious leaders called Pharisees—who imposed countless laws surrounding purity and access to God. The Pharisees were allowed to continue their quaint religious practices as long as they cooperated with the Romans. So, in a way, since the Pharisees are puppets of Rome, Rome is ultimately controlling access to God, which presents a problem that Jesus (being himself God) can't ignore.

In a sense, when Jesus overturned the tables the Temple Courts (e.g., **John 2:13-22**), it was more than just the moneychanger's stalls he was disrupting that day. He was disrupting an entire corrupt system of worship. Symbolically, Jesus's *turning over the tables* in God's House represents setting God's Presence free. (Not that it was ever really confined, but people had come to view it that way.) Jesus also foreshadows that the building, as impressive a physical structure as it was, would one day lay in ruins. The Second Temple was destroyed in 70 AD as retribution for an uprising by the Jewish people. (Jewish theology envisions a day when a massive Third Temple will be established where God can once again dwell.)

In the New Testament, we see God's Presence back on the move again. This time, God is not carried in a yurt, or confined to a certain physical place where the people have to go to encounter God (**Acts 17:24**), now God's Presence dwells in the heart of every believer (**1 Corinthians 6:19**). God, promises to follow us wherever we go. At the Ascension, Jesus promises his followers he will be *with them* always, even to the ends of the earth (**Matthew 28:16-20**). No longer confined to a physical body, the Second Person of the Trinity once again reigns over Creation—and has much more freedom of movement.

This freedom of movement is further enhanced through the action of the Holy Spirit—the third person of the Trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit—who Jesus promised his followers would come and continue to instruct them—and did so dramatically on the day of Pentecost. Scripture teaches us that the Trinity is not static, but dynamic, always on the move. The movement of the Holy Spirit is often depicted as wind blowing or breath—or the flutter of dove's wings.

This past week was Trinity Sunday, when we pondered the three-in-one nature of our God. The Father and the Son and Holy Spirit sometimes act as three distinct beings, but exist as a unity—e.g., described in **John 14**—and we who believe are drawn into that relationship. Paul says frequently that Christ is in me and I am in Christ. Ergo, where we go, God goes. Jesus can literally be in any location where one of his followers is located. As Eugene Petersen stated it in one of his book titles, “Christ plays in 10,000 places,” which I’d call a conservative estimate.

Which brings me back to the deck our yurt in Pennsylvania. I wasn’t in church this past Sunday morning, but I was *with God*; I was in God’s Presence. Now clearly the Pastor’s spouse is not advocating not attending church. Quite the contrary. The witness of Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments is that God often shows up most powerfully when the People of God are gathered together—e.g., Pentecost. Furthermore, I’m a bit dubious of the person who says, “Oh I don’t need to go to church; I experience God out in the world without organized religion.” While I don’t discount the notion that organized religion has “problems,” or that it is possible to have profound encounters with God in isolation, my experience is that, in general, we are most able to discern God’s Presence in the world when we make a regular practice of gathering as a community to worship. It’s as if regular participation in corporate worship tunes our senses to “become more aware of God’s presence,” and “experience the glory of God’s goodness” when we are on our own in the world. Clearly, if God is in all and works through all, then it makes sense God is with me—and with you—wherever we find ourselves. The question is the same as the one Jacob wrestled with: *Are we aware enough to recognize it and respond?*

# Good Shepherd United Methodist Church – June 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
					6:30-8:00 Girl Scouts (FH,7) 7:00-8:30 Korean Bible Study (C)	6:00AM Korean Pray (CH) 8 AM Korean Music (MR) 9:00-12:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal (S) 10-4 Cleveland Baby Shower?? 4:00-8:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S,FH) 7:00&10PM NA (P)
<i>Holy Communion</i> <b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Music Sunday 6-7:30 Youth Group (FH,7) 6:00-8:00 Children's Choir Program (S,FH)	3-7 Our Place (FH,K,7) 6-9 ICC (P) 6-7:30 Carpenter's Crew (S)	6:30 UMW (P)	6-7 Men's Bible Study (P)	9:30AM Bible Study (CH)3 -7 Our Place (FH,K,7) 6:00 Men's Emmaus (MR) 6:00-8:00 Women's Emmaus (MR) 7:30 Troop 1780 (FH,7)	UMM (S,FH) All Day 7:00-8:30 Korean Bible Study (C)	6:00AM Korean Pray (CH) 8 AM Korean Music (MR) UMM (S,FH) All Day 8AM UMM Breakfast (FH,K) 7:00&10PM NA (FH)
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
Celebrate Graduates Youth Sunday 12:30 Youth Pool Party and Picnic?	6:30 GSEC Staff Mtg.(7) 3-7 Our Place (FH,K,7) 6-9 ICC (P) 6-7:30 Carpenter's Crew (S)	7:30-9 Troop 1780 Patrol Mtg. (7)	6-7 Men's Bible Study (P) 7:00 VBS Leader Training (FH)	9:30AM Bible Study (CH)3 -12-2 Prayer Weavers (CH) 7 Our Place (FH,K,7) 6:00 Men's Emmaus (MR) 6:00-8:00 Women's Emmaus (MR) 7:00 Finance Comm.(P) 7:30 Troop 1780 (FH,7)	6:30-8:00 Girl Scouts (FH,7) 7:00-8:30 Korean Bible Study (C)	6:00AM Korean Pray (CH) 8 AM Korean Music (MR) 5:00-9:00 BBQ & Praise (S,FH) 7:00&10PM NA (FH)
<i>Father's Day</i> <b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
	3-7 Our Place (FH,K,7) 7:00 Trustee Mtg. (P)	6:30-8 UMW Monthly Mtg. (P) 7:30-9 Troop 1780 Committee Mtg. (7)	9:00-3:30 Dist. Comm. on Ministry (CH) 6-7 Men's Bible Study (P) 7:00 GSEC Board (P)	7:00 Church Council (P) 3-7 Our Place (FH,K,7) 6:00-7:00 UMW Prayer Cir. (P) 6:00 Men's Emmaus (MR) 6:00-8:00 Women's Emmaus (MR) 7-9 Our Place Brd. (7) 7:30 Troop 1780 (FH,7)	7:00-8:30 Korean Bible Study (C)	6:00AM Korean Pray (CH) 8 AM Korean Music (MR) 7:00&10PM NA (FH)
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
VBS Set-up (S, FH, Lobby) 10:30 AM VBS Leader Training (Rms 27& 28)	<b>VBS</b> 3-7 Our Place (FH,K,7) 6-9 ICC (P)	<b>VBS</b>	<b>VBS</b> 6-7 Men's Bible Study (P)	<b>VBS</b> 3-7 Our Place (FH,K,7) 6:00 Men's Emmaus (MR) 6:00-8:00 Women's Emmaus (MR) 7:30 Troop 1780 (FH,7)	<b>VBS</b> 7:00-8:30 Korean Bible Study (C)	6:00AM Korean Pray (CH) 8 AM Korean Music (MR) 7:00&10PM NA (FH)  (<-VBS) No Weddings

The Promise of the Rainbow  
A Musical by Sue Norris and Lee Campbell  
Directed by Brian Turnmire and  
Kelly Campbell



Performed by  
Operation Faith  
The Cherub Choir  
The Carpenter's Crew of  
Good Shepherd United Methodist Church  
Tonight, June 3, 2018  
6:00 PM