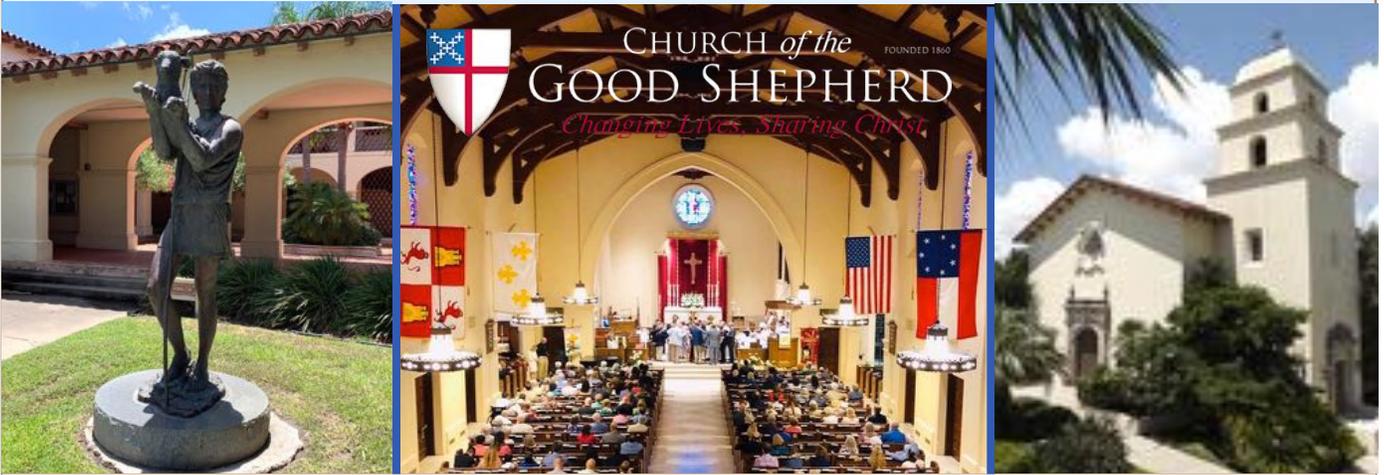




# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Volume 50, Issue 10



### From the Rector



Dearly Beloved,

2020 has been a challenging year to be the church, but also a reminder of just how essential the church is in equipping people to get through unexpected and difficult times. What would we do without our faith, our Lord, and each other? It is for times like these that God has been preparing us through the fellowship of His church. We need each other; we need our church.

I am so proud of the way in which our staff and leadership have moved from total shut down to worshipping online, and back into a carefully planned reopening. Fortunately, we were able to move right into online worship where many people remain connected to the church today. In addition to those coming in-person, we have an average of 330 online viewings of our worship each Sunday. Our team has done a fantastic job of keeping our church connected through this time of isolation, and slowly we are getting back to normal.

We've just had Confirmation, and a wonderful Rally Day Picnic in celebration of Good Shepherd's 160 years of **Changing Lives and Sharing Christ**. It is so good to be moving back into a regular routine of Sunday School, Youth Group, and Bible Studies.

As we look toward year-end and planning for next year, our giving is understandably down but so are our expenses. We will need everyone's financial support to close the year in the black. With in-person attendance way down we want to encourage the regular practice of giving, either online or by mail. Please contact the church office if you need technological assistance.

(continued on page 2)

## FROM THE RECTOR (continued)

(continued from page 1)

You should have received a pledge card in the mail. Please take time to prayerfully consider your commitment to God's work through the church. The commitment that you make is a hopeful projection of what you would like to give back to God in the calendar year 2021. It is our prayer that you will take the next step in your faith and increase your pledge as a percentage of your income from year to year, working toward the biblical standard of the tithe (10%).

As we all move through this challenging time, we need our church and her witness in the world more than ever. We ask you to prayerfully consider the many ways in which God is sustaining you through His church. As a sign of your praise and thanksgiving, we ask that you bring your pledge card to church on **Commitment Sunday, October 25th**, where we will make our offering to the Lord together.

Faithfully, yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Milton +".

## Sunday Worship Services

8:00 a.m. ✦ 10:30 a.m. ✦ 5:30 p.m.

The Church offers three Sunday worship services in-person. We are following our Phase 2b Protocol and Guidelines in order to continue to provide a safe way to worship in our sanctuary. Please wear your mask to church.

For those who would prefer to view the service online, we will continue to offer that option. **We record one of the Sunday morning services and then email the service to our congregation.** It is also posted on our website at [cotgs.org](http://cotgs.org).

We also offer **Live Stream through Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings.**

\*Those who have underlying health conditions are encouraged to consult with your doctor before returning to public gatherings.

# STEWARDSHIP

## YOUR STORY + OUR STORY + GOD'S STORY

### *Stewardship 2021*

Stewardship falls in the category of discipleship. Part of discipleship is the use of our money, gifts, abilities and resources. As followers of Jesus, we are called to leave the kingdom of this world and come under the rule and reign of God. When we choose to follow Him, we serve a new master and everything we have belongs to Him. We give back to God as His instruments on earth with praise and thanksgiving.

## Commitment Sunday

**Sunday, October 25 during all services:  
8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.**

Please join us on Commitment Sunday as we offer our "first fruits" in the form of a pledge. All pledges will be collected and taken to the altar. This motion is a beautifully sacramental action. We are taking something that represents our life and bringing it to the altar to dedicate it to God. We invite each of you to reflect on the ways in which your life, and the lives of your loved ones, have been impacted through God's mission of Good Shepherd. It is not about the amount, it is about recommitting yourself to Him.

## Ways to Pledge

- **Pledge Card** - mail to the Church Office or bring to church
- **Pledge Online** - <https://cotgs.org/giving/make-a-pledge/>

Pledge cards have recently been mailed to every member of our congregation. If you did not receive yours, please call or the Church Office.

We appreciate your commitment to Good Shepherd. It takes all of us, as members, to run our facility, grounds, and programs, as well as help our community through mission and outreach.

Pledge cards can be placed in the offertory plate on Commitment Sunday, or anytime you are in church. They can be mailed or brought to the Church Office, or you can go on to [cotgs.org](https://cotgs.org) and make a pledge or payment online.

## GIVE ONLINE

Giving Online is simple!

### 3 Easy Steps:

1. Go to [cotgs.org](https://cotgs.org)
2. Click the GIVING tab
3. PAY ONLINE & SUBMIT

The drop-down menu gives options to pay on your pledge as well as the ability to make other contributions.

If you have a **QR code reader** on your mobile device, scan over the image below and it will take you directly to our Online PAYMENT page!

### QR CODE to GIVE ONLINE



You can scan the image below and it will take you to our "Make a Pledge" page on our website.

### QR CODE to PLEDGE ONLINE



# OUR NEW CHURCH APP IS COMING SOON!

## Check Out Our Church App!

Access sermons, prayer requests, events and more.



1. Download Church by MinistryOne in App Store



2. Search for Our Church

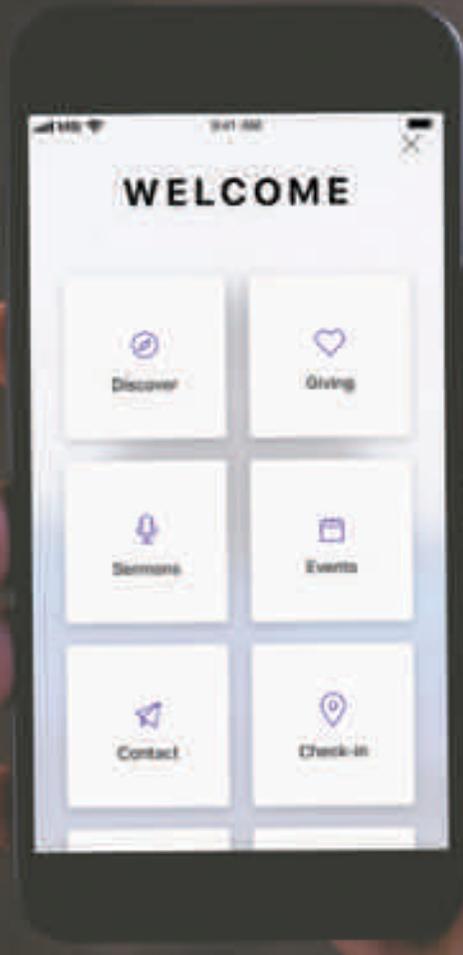


3. Select & Explore!

**This App is Safe & Secure!**



MinistryOne



Church of the Good Shepherd is excited to announce our new "Ministry One" Mobile App!

**Our App will allow you to:**

- connect with members through the directory
- register and pay for events
- send prayer requests
- update contact information
- view recorded worship services
- pledge and give online and see giving history



## ← Look for this App icon!

The App is called MINISTRY ONE in the App store on your mobile device.

Once you download the app, you will receive "Login" credentials by email from [cotgs@cotgs.org](mailto:cotgs@cotgs.org) to set up your personal profile. The directory will only be visible to members with these credentials.



### Something Worth Sharing

When was the last time that you shared joy? I'm not talking about the last time you experienced joy. Rather, when was the last time that you shared a joyful experience from your everyday with someone?

I cannot begin to tell you how many times in the last six months on phone calls and Zoom meetings I've asked, "How are you doing?" only to hear in reply something generic like: "Oh, we're getting by," "We're surviving," "We're doing OK," "We're making this work," ... Truth be told, I've become more adept than I'd like in answering that question with platitudes, too. Sharing something personal can be exhausting (and my call sheets are long)—it's easy to shrug off those kinds of questions. That's true even with the joyful news that I do have to share: like that my daughter has taken her first steps and is becoming quite the chatterbox, or that Claire and I are expecting our second child, a baby boy, in mid-November.

But even though it can be exhausting, we need to share more. I feel lucky when I get a little more: when I get to listen as someone shares with me their experiences even when they are moments of frustration or anger or loneliness or sadness or even profound loss. And, further, I feel truly blessed when someone shares their joy, because no matter how exhausted I have found myself I have learned that one person's experience of joy in reply to "How are you doing?" can change the course of my entire week. Joy spreads joy.

I have faith that we have more to share—especially joy. Why is this important? Studies in psychology teach us that the greatest predictors of depression in adults is anxiety and lack of control over things in our lives—especially negative inputs over long periods of time. For months now, it has felt like we have either had a deadly disease or that we have been freaked out that we may get a deadly disease; or that we have either lost part of our income or that we're freaked out that we're about to lose it all; or that we have either been home or lonely too long or that we feel like we can't do the things we normally do to recharge. And since it is not unusual for parents to shoulder the burdens of their kids, I know that families are especially vulnerable.

Between COVID-19, months of isolation, hurricanes, anxiety, and everything else, I think that a focus on joy is what we need right now since joy is a Christian response to things, well, "not joyous." After all, Paul claims joy as being a fruit of the Spirit (second only to love) in his letter to the Galatians. Joy is good fruit we can share to uplift and to keep our spirits high in these uncertain times.

And my prayer is that as the monotony of this worldwide grief sandwich continues, you are able to continue to find joy in your everyday and then make the effort to share it—to spread that joy in all the world.

His Peace,  
William

*By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ~Galatians 5:22-23*

## Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

### THE STORY

9:30 a.m. in Munds Hall Auditorium

Led by the Rev. Milton Black and the Rev. Philip May

We are going through the entire Bible in 2020. *The Story* curriculum gives adults the opportunity to learn, discuss and apply the Chapter of the Week.

### THE STORY for Young Families

9:30 a.m. in Dobbins Hall Classroom

Led by Rev. William Campbell

This is a special Adult class for parents. This class will not only take parents through the Bible, but will also help parents guide their children through the Bible.

## Wednesday Classes

Wednesday Evenings

### GOING DEEPER INTO THE STORY

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Led by the Rev. Philip May [pmay@cotgs.org](mailto:pmay@cotgs.org)

RSVP by email to reserve your seat or to join us online.

Join Fr. Philip in the Parlor *or online* for a bible study, "Going Deeper Into the Story". We will explore the historical setting of the New Testament, and how it affected the life and ministry of Jesus. Please email Fr. Philip if you would like to participate in person, so we can arrange the Parlor to keep everyone at the approved distance. Don't forget your mask! You may also participate online via Zoom. Please let Philip know.

### THE REVELATION OF JOHN: Light for Dark Times

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Dobbins Hall Adult Classroom

Led by the Rev. Frank Fuller [fef3t@aol.com](mailto:fef3t@aol.com)

RSVP to Fr. Frank to reserve your seat

Through the centuries, the last book of the Bible, the Revelation, has given hope to Christians through persecutions, plagues, wars, and catastrophes. The text has confused, befuddled, inspired, and enraged interpreters for two millennia. This class will try to read closely the visions of the seer John, seeking light to live by for our own times.

## TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*Pilgrim's Path: A Study of the Psalms*

**IN-PERSON SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE**

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

in the Parlor and Online

Elizabeth Black will begin a new study this Fall: *Pilgrim's Path - A Study of the Psalms*. For almost thirty years, Elizabeth has connected with the Psalms by reading them daily, allowing them to shape her prayer life, and her spiritual walk.

In 2015, Elizabeth published a devotional book on the Psalms called *Hand in Hand, Walking with the Psalms through Loneliness* that highlights the presence of God in our lives. This year, she has chosen to readdress these powerful scriptures through a more theological lens. She has studied theological resources on the Psalms, including books and commentaries by C.S. Lewis, John Stott, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Eugene Peterson, Timothy Keller and more.

This study will trace the magnificent, creative outreach of God to his people, the response He so desires from us, our struggle between two worlds, and how He leads us back to himself.

### This Study Includes:

13 weekly lectures posted as a Podcast

13 sets of study questions

13 weekly Group Discussions (in person)

### 3 Ways to Participate:

In-Person (limited seating)

Online with Podcasts and Study Questions

Do your own group study using materials

### How to Sign-Up:

Go to [elizabethheadblack.com](http://elizabethheadblack.com)

Everyone must register online on her website whether you are doing the study in person or online. You will receive a pass code to get materials. The cost is \$10.

# CHURCH COMMUNITY

## Worship In-Person or Online

Currently, we offer services at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Sundays. For those who would prefer to view a service online, we offer that option. We record the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service and email it to our congregation and post it on our website. We also offer a **Live Stream** service through **Facebook Live** at **10:30 a.m.** on Sundays.

The **service bulletin** is attached to the email on Sundays and on the website post. We also post the bulletin on Facebook on Sunday mornings, on our website under the "Members" tab, and it is emailed on Saturdays.

## Wednesday Evening Service

### Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist/Healing Service

This is the perfect service for those who want a smaller setting with fewer people. Healing prayers are offered for your health, addiction, mental well-being, restoration from broken relationships, and peace.

## Sanitation of the Church

After each Sunday service, the entire sanctuary and other common areas will be sanitized with Vital Oxide, a no rinse sanitizer. Vital Oxide is an EPA registered hospital disinfectant strong enough to kill the Corona Virus plus many other viruses and bacteria, yet gentle enough to be used on food contact surfaces. It will not irritate your skin, and does not contain Volatile Organic Compounds. It is applied with an Electrostatic Sprayer that ensures 100% surface coverage.

## Offertory Online

We know that not everyone is ready to return to in-person worship at this time. We ask that you continue to give regularly if you are able. Thank you!

Two ways to give at this time:

- Online at [cotgs.org/giving/pay-online/](https://cotgs.org/giving/pay-online/)
- Mail a check to the Church Office.

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR YOUTH GROUP

### Monetary or Meal Donations Needed from Members of our Congregation

Due to our Phase 2b guidelines for Youth, we are unable to have parents prepare meals and serve them to our youth on Sunday evenings. In order to provide a meal to share, we must have pre-boxed dinners. We have provided the meals through our youth fund the last couple of weeks, but we realize that it will quickly deplete our youth budget if we continue to do this every week.

We are asking for the support of anyone in our church community who can help support our youth program at this time. **We would like to continue to make our youth program a priority at Good Shepherd.**

**So, we are asking for your help** by either making a monetary donation or by providing a meal on a Sunday evening to be delivered to the youth house. (You can do this with a friend!)

### Choose one if you are able:

- To make a **monetary donation**, go to <https://cotgs.org/giving/pay-online/> and choose "Youth Event" or mail a contribution to the Church Office and indicate "Youth Meals."
- To **provide a meal**, contact Glenn Meschko at 210-460-8788 or email [gmeschko@cotgs.org](mailto:gmeschko@cotgs.org).

**Your help is greatly appreciated!**

# YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



## YOUTH GROUP

### Sundays - Outside at the Youth House

- Middle School Games (6th - 8th) 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Middle and High School Dinner 7:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- High School Games (9th - 12th) 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Our Youth Minister, Glenn Meschko, has created a fun and safe way to meet. We have games, fellowship, and a boxed dinner each week. This month we will cover a four-part lesson on Disruptive Joy.

Activities and dinner are held outside. You must wear a **mask** and we will provide hand sanitizer. We will follow the protocol of the school/church, diocese and the state. Bring a friend!

Glenn is looking for parent volunteers for the Youth Group Kick-Off. Please text Glenn at 210-460-8788 to volunteer.

## Children's Chapel

3 years old - 1st grade

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

We are happy to provide Children's Chapel this Fall during our 10:30 a.m. service. Safety guidelines and protocol will be followed. **Temperatures will be taken upon arrival and masks must be worn. Hands will be sanitized.**

- Meet outside the chapel.
- We will walk socially distanced in a line to the playground for story time.
- Then we will play with social distancing.
- We will join the parents in the church during the Peace.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School will begin September 20th for all ages. We will follow all Phase 2b protocol from the diocese. Masks are required and we will social distance. Each of the three age groups will be in separate classrooms. We will begin the New Testament portion of The Story. Adults lead these classes.

3 Year Olds - 1st Grade: Room 107

2nd - 5th Grade: Room 102

6th Grade Confirmation: Room 106

## NURSERY

Ages 1 - 2

Sundays from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

We are following our Phase 2b guidelines which can be found on our website. Until further notice, we will only be able to accept children ages 1 - 2 in the nursery. All infants under the age of 1 are welcome to go with their parents to the adult Sunday School classes. They are also always welcome in the sanctuary during worship. We will have three rooms open in the nursery so we can social distance all children, and there will be plenty of adult supervision.

## New Youth Intern

*We are excited to announce that we have a new intern for our Youth program, Hansley Osborn! She will assist our youth minister, Glenn Meschko. Please read the message below from Hansley.*

Hi! I'm Hansley, and I am ecstatic to be the new Youth Intern here at The Church of the Good Shepherd. I am from San Antonio where I attended Samuel Clemens High School and graduated with honors in 2018. I started attending Youth Group myself my freshman year of high school after a friend simply invited me to attend with her one Wednesday night. I was saved and became a Christian a year later in 2016.



Now, I am a senior at TAMU-CC majoring in Communication Studies and minoring in Business Management. Youth Group was a pinnacle part of my growth with Christ, having that support system and group of friends that lead me toward God and towards the best version of myself really aided my growth with the Lord all throughout high school.

Speaking to my spiritual mentors during tough times, having their guidance in life and in study was an amazing blessing, a blessing I hope to share with the students here at COTGS. I hope to be a Godly friend to these students, a mentor they can trust and confide in during their walk with Christ. I ultimately want to support my students in life in general, let them know they're not alone! I hope to counsel these students in Jesus Christ, his love, compassion, kindness, understanding, and help them proclaim Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior because of his pure goodness; helping them navigate religious stigma and focus on God's goodness for themselves and the people around them. Through God's guidance I hope to help foster a culture of community and love in the COTGS youth ministry.

I am leaning on God to reveal what His plans are for me after graduation from TAMU-CC in December of 2021. I hope to enter the humanitarian field, or do travel journalism under a Christian lens. Ultimately, I want to help others grow and plant seeds in others (1 Corinthians 3:7) in any way, but especially through educating people on different cultures around the world in hopes to fostering understanding within communities in the name of Jesus. I look forward to growing in this community and I am honored to now be a part of the COTGS family!

Peace and Blessings,  
-Hansley Osborn



**Sunday, October 4  
4:30 p.m. in the Courtyard**

Please bring dog or cat food to  
donate to area shelters.  
We will also accept monetary donations.

**2021 Women's Retreat**

**Save the Date!**

**March 26 - 27**

**Mustang Island Conference Center**

**Speaker and Leader: Ashlee Sallee Kinsel**

**ATTENTION  
YOUTH!  
HAPPENING #146  
IS HAPPENING!**

**10TH - 12TH GRADERS**

**November 20-22**

**Register at**

**[https://www.dwtx.org/  
events/happening-146](https://www.dwtx.org/events/happening-146)**

**Happenings** are spiritual renewal weekends for older high school students, led by their peers. Each Happening begins Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. sharp, and wraps up around 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. It is a lock-in, so prepare to stay the entire weekend.

In order to protect participants and staff, COVID-19 guidelines and protocols will be upheld.

**Registration for Happeners will be limited to 24**, with the number of youth and adult staff kept low as well. A waiting list will be monitored to make sure that if anyone becomes unable to attend the next person in line is invited.

Accommodations will be limited to four people per cabin, and a majority of the program will be held outside. In addition to the usual packing list, participants will be asked to bring a personal fold-out, camp chair for outdoor seating, a refillable water bottle, and a few face masks.

Send questions to  
[dwtxhappening@gmail.com](mailto:dwtxhappening@gmail.com)

# MISSION & OUTREACH

## FROM GOOD SHEPHERD'S CORNER

The procedures for dealing with Covid-19 have gone well for the Corner and you have all been gracious about wearing masks and social distancing. We will continue to take consignments by appointment. In light of this positive response we are happy to announce that beginning October 2nd we will be open for a full day on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will also be open two Saturdays per month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In addition, we are going to take consignments on the two Saturdays a month that we are open. These appointments will be between 10 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. Please give us 3 - 4 days notice if you plan to consign on a Saturday, so we can be sure we have volunteers in place to help you.

Here is the calendar for the remainder of 2020. **The circled Saturdays are the days we will be open.**

### THE SATURDAYS WE WILL BE OPEN

October 2020							November 2020							December 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

The Corner would like to thank you for consigning, donating, and shopping with us after we re-opened. It is our pleasure and privilege to serve you and our community through this ministry. We look forward to doing business with you and seeing you in the store.

Warmest Regards,  
Good Shepherd's Corner



### **New Hours:**

**Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**2 Saturdays a month from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (see calendar above)**

**Closed on Sundays**

# WORSHIP SERVICES & HOURS

## Sunday Schedule for Summer

8:00 a.m. Traditional Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Family Eucharist  
5:30 p.m. "Come As You Are" Eucharist

## Nursery For the Little Ones

(Suspended until further notice)

0 - 2 Years in the Nursery 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
3 Years - Kinder in Children's Chapel 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.  
*From Children's Chapel they join their families in Church before Communion.*

## Sunday School Classes

(Resumes on Sunday, September 20th)

Sundays 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Children Meet in the Water Street Classrooms

Youth Meet in the Water Street Classrooms

Adults:

Large Group w/Rev. Black & Rev. May in Munds Hall Auditorium

Young Families w/ Rev. Campbell in Dobbins Hall Classroom

## Weekday Services

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Healing Service with Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

## Monthly Services

(Suspended until further notice.)

We offer a service of Holy Communion at the Trinity Towers retirement community at 3:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month.

## St. James Chapel Services

Tuesdays at 8:05 a.m. K-2nd Grade Chapel

Tuesdays at 8:40 a.m. 3rd & 4th Grade Chapel

Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. Preschool Chapels (4 services)

Thursdays at 8:05 a.m. Middle School Chapel

At this time, we will not be able to accommodate parents at our chapel services. It is for scholars and faculty only until further notice.

**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

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