



Service Times: Sundays at 8 & 10:15 AM  
and Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

## ***Good Shepherd Episcopal Church***

The Rev. Bob Flick, Interim Rector

### **The Voice of the Good Shepherd**

*Offering love and fellowship through Jesus Christ to all seeking hope, mercy, and renewal.*

---

My Dear Friends at Good Shepherd,

Peace and all Good to each and every one of you!

These are indeed some difficult times for many, if not all, of us! We struggle with anxiety, fear, and even anger as we move through these days and months. We lean forward minute by minute or day by day, unable to do the things we are accustomed to and fearing that the future is, in many ways, out of our sights, unable to be designed or planned. Indeed, this is who we are (all of us) as individuals and as members of various communities, in these days.

We here at Good Shepherd are a distinct community, not a club or a fraternity, not a lodge or a sorority, not even a brotherhood or a sisterhood but a distinct community of FAITH IN JESUS. WE regularly gather around ONE table, together, to praise and thank. WE gather together and tell our common stories and WE receive Jesus into our hearts and bodies. WE are truly blessed to be in close and loving relationship with each other and with Jesus himself. Now, today, our personal relationships are stressed, our physical gathering is limited but we remain who we are, most essentially, brothers and sisters to each other and most especially to **Jesus** himself. Though our "gathering" has changed in form our "gathering" in **reality**, in **faith**, **hope** and **love** remain exactly the same. As we struggle in these hard times let's make a conscious effort to be united in our common reality, **Community in Jesus**.

Though we may be distanced from each other and challenged in showing affection, care and even love "in-person" our SPIRIT transcends our challenges and our common prayer unites us. Continue to pray for each other, continue to check-in on each other as you can, continue to celebrate however you can around our ONE table...even if it's physically far, far away.

Please know that each of you is in my prayer as I hope for the day when we can gather, closer together, and look into each others' eyes, around our common table...

fr. Bob

---

**SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER  
10:00AM FROM THE CHURCH  
ON ZOOM**

Fr. Bob Flick is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  
Just click on the link to join from your computer or phone in using the number provided below:

Topic: SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Join Zoom Meeting, LINK:

<https://zoom.us/j/7013756886>

Meeting ID: 701 375 6886

Dial by your location  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

---

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN EVENINGS**

Wednesday evenings in Lent will continue as they have been on Zoom. A Link will be sent out next Tuesday via a special VOICE:  
6:15-7:00PM. Lenten program focusing on Prayer  
7:00PM. Compline (Night Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer)

---

**LATEST DIRECTIVES FROM THE DIOCESE OF TEXAS  
CONCERNING COVID-19**

**New Guidelines, effective 26 March 2020:**

“Shelter at home” or “Stay at Home-Work Safe” measures have now been put into place. After reading the guidelines in the differing counties we believe the following is true: You may continue to go to church, work with less than 10 people, 6 feet apart, for worship only.

Essential personnel can go to the office to do what is needed regarding finance and correspondence on an “as needed basis.”

The closure of offices and suspension of public services until May 10th, in accordance with the local and statewide guidelines remains in effect. Most counties have made it clear

that there are to be no public gatherings of 10 or more until May 10th. Your county may be different. It appears that these guidelines will continue even after the “shelter at home” and “Stay at Home-Work Safe” measures are lifted.

We will address this weekly.

If we can return to public worship sooner we will do so.

And, if we have to extend the self-quarantine in accordance with health and state leadership guidance, then we will do so.

---

## HOLY WEEK, EASTER SERVICES

The above Directives from the Diocese almost certainly imply that our plans for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and for Easter will need to be tailored to meet current norms. We will keep you in touch as we continue do the planning for Liturgical Celebrations for that most Sacred Week. The Diocese has offered some guidance and Good Shepherd staff will discuss how we might offer services that meet our common needs.

---

### FAMILY PROMISE WEEK

March 29-April 4

**Still Needs Volunteers here at Good Shepherd!**

We are still scheduled to host Family Promise the week of March 29<sup>th</sup>. As of this writing we are scheduled to host two (2) families consisting of 4 people for a week. We will provide dinner, fellowship, and lodging for one week. Our Family Promise Ministry is a Body of Christ program that needs cooks, hosts, and brethren.



Starting on Sunday, March 29, a few strong folks are needed to help to set up beds and bedding (typically the beds arrive noonish). We will then need hosts (2 people per night, one of whom must be female) and food (scheduled menu provided, BUT if you really want to serve your favorite family meal one night, just sign up).

We sent out a sign up sheet to the Family Promise Email List yesterday asking people to still provide meals. If you are not on the email list, please contact the Church Office and leave a voicemail that you want to help with dinners at: 281-482-7630 or email Amanda at [office@gshepherd.net](mailto:office@gshepherd.net).

*Jim Babb*

Family Promise Co-Ministry Lead

---

## Stewardship still Needed...

We greatly appreciate your continued pledges and offerings. The office is able to accept mailed donations or individual pledges. We are very grateful to several of the parishioners who have actually stepped up their pledge schedule to help us get through these times. Income has diminished.

On Monday we will complete the installation of a new Air Conditioning Unit, the main unit in the Church. The previous unit failed and needed to be completely replaced as it was 18 years old and had been serviced beyond repair. This unexpected expense cost to us: \$10, 450.

As there are no Sunday collections at regular services you may mail checks to: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 1207 Winding Way Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546. The church office is currently closed but we are checking voicemail at: 281-482-7630 and checking the mail every few days at the Post Office. The Vestry is currently investigating e-giving options and we will keep you posted as that service is developed.

---

## Family Promise of Clear Creek Needs Help

All across the United States, families are having to make changes in order to keep themselves safe. For families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, the risks are even greater. Family Promise and our Affiliates are working across the country to make sure that we can help as many families as possible find a safe place to stay during this stressful time.

As our schools, churches and businesses close, Family Promise of Clear Creek is open and eager to serve homeless children and their families. But we need your support!

Closures and layoffs from the COVID-19 epidemic have suddenly increased our costs. Some families must be housed in hotels instead of our local churches. More families need emergency housing and food when they are furloughed or laid off from work.

Here's how you can help:

1. Donate to Family Promise of Clear Creek now.  
\$75 provides breakfast and lunch for a family for 5 days  
\$91.96 provides emergency housing for one night for a family that needs emergency housing  
\$645 houses a family for 1 week during the epidemic
- 2.. Pray every day.

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

~ Cameron Wiggins Bellum

We are calling all our supporters to give what they are able today. To make a donation, copy this address into your browser.

<https://www.fpgives.org/organizations/family-promise-of-clear-creek>

Sincerely,  
The Board of Family Promise of Clear Creek

---



## Easter Smoked Hams – order now!

Easter is April 12<sup>th</sup> this year and the Brotherhood is planning to do smoked Easter Hams (spiral cut) again, subject to external conditions yet to be determined. If you would like to order a ham, please call or email me per below. Hams will be approximately 12 lbs each. Price is \$40 each. Last day to message me with your order is Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup>.

You can pay when you pick it up on Friday 4/10 or Saturday 4/11 when we call you to come. Checks should be made payable to “Good Shepherd” with “Brotherhood Ham” in the memo line. Donations are always welcome too.

Peter Gilmour Brotherhood Chapter Director  
480-206-9242 [ptrgilmr7@gmail.com](mailto:ptrgilmr7@gmail.com)

---

## Love

I have an ever-increasing gray hair situation that is in part due to the small people that live in my house, to which I am now homeschooling and quarantined with. It's pretty difficult to SEE them in the midst of schoolwork woes, worrying and fussing over the whole world, making dinner and getting my own schoolwork done. Even now, instructions are flying from my mouth to a small person to quit bossing and get their own teeth brushed (incredulously, not going to school seems to indicate to my children that teeth brushing is optional and fighting with one another appropriate).



Ok to the point. Remember the 5 love languages, as written by Gary Chapman in the 90's? The idea of seeing each person, to relate and to love them as they best receive- well it sounds like what God might want from us. Loving is way more fulfilling than more Netflix, hiding in your closet (never done that...) and wishing life would return to normal. When our focus is on God's love and our love for each other I do believe that the worry, the stress and nervousness abate a little or a lot.

Purposeful love is the kind of love you choose- the one you choose to do because it's good, it's what we were made for. I am not really touchy, so I understand if this is not always easy. The hugs and back scratches I give out are chosen, not instinctual or particularly enjoyed by myself- except through knowing that for those kids the love was felt. My kids are all different- so my two touchy kids get hugs while I have another that chats, another that needs praise and another that, like myself, is all about sharing food.

If your fear is that you'll run out of love, that your family will suck all the life out of you- know that it might feel like that but God has LOTS of love to refuel you with. Just ask; love comes from him. I hope and pray that through this my hearts will be bigger with love and my trust deeper as I share tacos and SEE my small peoples. I hope the same for you.

1 John 4:7 “Beloved, let us love one another because love comes from God”

Abby Martin  
859-354-5307  
[abby.g.shelton@gmail.com](mailto:abby.g.shelton@gmail.com)

---

**Coronavirus Updates are on the Good Shepherd Website**

During this pandemic, we will continue to post Coronavirus updates on our website to try to keep everyone informed. Please check out "Coronavirus Guidelines from the Bishop of Texas" on our website: <https://www.gshepherd.net/gsec/home>. We will post any communications we receive so keep checking this site.

---



### Do you or someone you know need a Prayer Shawl?

Although the Prayer Shawl Ministry is not meeting on Tuesday mornings, we are still very active. We are communicating, talking, praying, laughing, knitting or crocheting. There has been some discussion of how long social distancing would need to last for us to deplete our private yarn stash.

We are well supplied with shawls (and yarn). If you need a shawl please contact me at 281-844-4293 and I will pull an item for you and leave it in the church for you to pick up. The church office is currently closed except by appointment, unless you have a key. To arrange to meet Amanda at the office, leave a voicemail on the church office phone and she will call you back within 24 hours: 281-482-7630. Bags and cards are available in the closet in Shepherd's Hall. If

you chose to make arrangements with the church office to pick up a shawl, I request that you let me know what you chose and who it is for. We keep a list.

These are tough times. When I knit I always pray that the recipient will feel themselves wrapped in the arms of a loving God. If you or a loved one needs that support, for any reason, shawls are available for you.

Joy Little  
Prayer Shawl Ministry

---

### Vestry Phone Visitations

Throughout last week the Vestry has been able to conduct a visitation of members of the Congregation over the phone. Easy of the current 11 members of the Vestry was assigned a list from the directory of members and was asked to do a simple check-in. I thank the Vestry for having performed this great service. As I received feedback from members of the Vestry I was able to make notes about particular members who were particularly struggling during these days and I will be doing follow-up. Certain of the Vestry members will also be doing follow-up.

A more mundane and practical outcome of this broad venture was that we learned that some of our members are not receiving the VOICE. We were able to fix that and add them to the list. We also learned that many had abandoned their land-lines and that we were not able to contact them as we had no current phone number. We are not able to fix that unless members keep us updated. If you did not receive a call let Amanda know at the office so that we can update our records. We also learned that some, like me, don't answer just any random call from unknown numbers and so many messages were left on recorders. That being said, if you have needs that we might be able to address here at the parish during these tough times do not hesitate to call. If we are not in the office we will retrieve the calls and follow-up. If you would like an occasional check-in, please let me know. You may need to call us back, especially if you were left a message or received no call at all.

Let's make it a point to show a little extra care and consideration toward each other as we walk together through these difficult days!

Fr. Bob

---

## Grocery Store Information and Hours during the Pandemic

Kroger in Friendswood, 281-992-0830  
Hours 7AM – 10PM  
No special hours for seniors  
[www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com)

Aldi  
855-955-2534  
[www.aldi.us](http://www.aldi.us)  
Cannot find hours of operation or local phone

HEB  
281-996-9967  
Hours 8am – 8PM  
[Newsroom.heb.com](http://Newsroom.heb.com)  
Special Senior line, 1-833-397-0080  
Delivery for 25 items or less, with \$10 tip/delivery fee included in bill  
Special Senior website: [favordelivery.com/seniorfavorapp](http://favordelivery.com/seniorfavorapp)

---

## Easter Lilly Parish Fundraiser

The Easter Lily order could not be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We will be utilizing the Lillies as a fundraiser to the Congregation. Instead of purchasing your Lillies at the store, consider making a donation to Good Shepherd, (tax deductible as we are not setting a price). Arrangements will be made for flower pick-ups as soon as we have the delivery made. Be sure to put a note on your check, on the memo line, indicating that it is a donation for Easter Lilies. No price is set - gifts of any size are appreciated and will be accepted. If you have a church key, donations can be placed in the In Box outside the Church Administration Office Door or can be mailed into the church at: 1207 Winding Way Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546.



---

## Website Updates

Have you checked out our website recently? We are posting updated information on the Home Page frequently. Go to: [www.gshepherd.net](http://www.gshepherd.net).

---

## Share a Story

The Weekly Voice of the Good Shepherd is more than "What's Happening", "What's Coming Next", and messages from your staff. It's yours! It's about YOU too! Do you have a praise report, a "God-sighting", ministry update, or just something fun to share regarding life at Good Shepherd? Please send your stories, announcements, and updates for consideration to [office@gshepherd.net](mailto:office@gshepherd.net). Please submit by Wednesday to make the deadline for that Friday's Voice.

---

Visit our website

