

# The Shepherd's Crook



GOOD  
SHEPHERD  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October, 2020

*The Shepherd's Crook*  
is published for GSPC  
members and friends.  
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**All the Members of the  
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**Accompanist:**

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**Treasurer:**

Joyce Matthews

**Nursery Attendant:**

Taya Mendez

**Events Coordinator:**

Diana Bennett

**Centus Counselor:**

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**Clerk of Session:**

Mary Archuleta

**Session Members:**

Anna Bond

Fred Finke

Mary Ann Hood

Robin Kelly

Joyce Matthews

John Shaeffer

Paul Steward

Barbara Swanson

## Talking About Religion and Politics

So I watched the first presidential debate tonight and among other things I wondered how the U.S. could restore the civic institution of neutrally moderated actual debates between candidates with contrasting political ideas? I also wondered about religion and politics...so before you stop reading and file this into the "One more for the 'don't mention politics in the church' file" read on just a little longer.

I've been fascinated by politics and Jesus since Sunday school. We sang songs about how Jesus loved all the children of the world: Jesus, equality, and world peace. We collected money for the Presbyterian Women and the CROP Walk: cared for the poor and contributed to world mission. We heard sermons about Civil Rights, Vietnam, Jesus, racism and pacifism.

*Sunday school was awash with religion and politics. Faith mattered. The world mattered. How we lived together mattered.*

Diana Butler Bass, an American historian of Christianity and an advocate for progressive Christianity wrote the following and I want to share it with you. "I'm sure God cares about the polis, the Greek word for "city" from which we get the word "politics." The life of the city. That's what politics is. Caring about the life of the city.

I suspect we can't talk about religion and politics because we equate "faith" and "public life" with triumphal partisanship, with yelling more than reason and prayer, and, of course, with winning and losing. When it comes to religion and politics, conventional labels have come to mean less than how certain spiritual themes shape the polis: irony, humility, lament, charity, forgiveness, generosity, neighborliness, hope, hospitality, justice, and compassion.

I want people of faith to be able to talk about these things...that beautiful list of words...and pursue them in policies and practices that enable all Americans to live with dignity and in peace. That's religion and polis and notice the list is not religiously exclusive...it isn't a theocratic vision; it's a spiritual and ethical one. Christians, Jews, Buddhists, humanists, Muslims, Sikhs...people of all faiths or none...have valuable perspectives to offer our common life. Politics is bigger than picking a candidate or winning an argument (elections and debates are foundational to democracy). Rather, it invites citizens to consider vexing issues in relation to our deepest ethical commitments. These are things we must talk about. And if we don't talk about them, it will be the moral death of us.

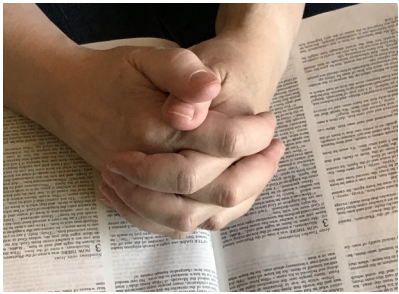
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I wish religious communities weren't so frightened by this conversation. I don't know if we can talk about religion and politics now. The moment to do so productively, openly, and with grace may have passed. There is hatred and anger and so much division. We've forgotten how to listen to one another. It doesn't have to be this way."

I like her words and her reminder to us that we can do better...talk together and pursue policies and practices that will enable all of us to live with dignity and peace. I'm guessing you all would long for that, too. May it be so. Amen.

Peace, Sheri  
Interim Pastor  
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church



## Prayer Needs

Bill and Gayle Hoffman, Sue Holland,  
Michelle Watson and Barbie Swanson  
Our military men & women  
Our first responders & health care workers  
Clients of our Food Bank  
Heather Chimhoga Orphan Care  
(HCOC) in Zimbabwe  
Guatemala Mission Partnership  
Highlands Camp and Retreat Center  
Our church, that it may thrive as it brings  
the good news to our area.



### October Birthdays

Bob Swanson	Oct. 7
Becky McGillin	Oct. 9
Rita Le Doux	Oct. 11
Dawn Diehl	Oct. 11
Stacy Steward	Oct. 19
Luitgard Ramsey	Oct. 21
Norm Rasmussen	Oct. 23
Wendy Tyburczy	Oct. 23
Patty Steward	Oct. 28



There are boxes of dishes in the storage container which has the stuff from Shepherd's Hall. Would anyone like some of them or do they have suggestions for what to do with them? We are planning to have most of the things left in this storage container picked up and donated to Habitat or another group to use. We do not have space for much of anything left in this container. Once that container is emptied we will check the things left in the other container and follow the same procedure. When we have a date for the pickup of the first container things, we will let people know. If any of you have suggestions, please contact Noel Matthews in the next week or so at 303-918-0640.

## A Message from the Office

Peace and blessing to you all!

It's nice to be back in the office in our newly completed building. I'm still sorting through what's been stored while I was working from home. Anyone who has moved recently knows the issues - boxes missing, stashed in surprising places. Things I remember having but can't find. It's all part of the process. Thanks for bearing with me as I reorient myself to this new/old space and the weirdness that is working during COVID-19.

- Teddie

### COFFEE, CUPCAKES & CONVERSATION (CREATOR, SON & HOLY ROAST) *ALWAYS THE PERFECT BLEND...*



Sheri is planning to have small gatherings in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings in October and November so members can see the finished renovation and get to know her a little better. We'll have eight tables set up with one person or couple at each table. We're also requiring strict compliance with temperature checking, sanitation and mask usage during these meetings and for any visitors during the week. You must sign up in advance to attend one of these gatherings by emailing or calling the church.



The Food Bank needs someone to pick up our monthly load of TFAP food. Bill Anderson has done this for many years and needs to discontinue this service. The pickup is done the 2nd Monday of every month and involves picking up the groceries at the Food Bank of the Rockies and bringing it to our church. It would involve about 3-4 hours of time every month. There will be people at the church to help unload the food. If you are willing to help us with this monthly volunteer opportunity, please contact Mary McCarron, Mary Kennedy, or Julie Klahn. You need to have a pickup or other vehicle that will hold food, or we will reimburse any rental of a truck. Please prayerfully consider this, as the food bank needs someone as soon as possible.

In September the food bank served 58 households including 195 individuals, 71 of which were children. This is twice as many as we served last month. Now that construction is over we anticipate our numbers growing. We have also begun distributing the Senior Boxes once again under the CSFP program. We gave away 8 boxes this month and anticipate giving out 10 or 11 next month.

# *The Shepherd's Crook*

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Worship 10:00 a.m. online on Facebook and  
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To bring the love  
and teachings of Christ  
to our community by:



GOOD  
SHEPHERD  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcoming all,  
Serving together, and  
Growing in faith.



Mission Statement  
Revised and Adopted September 2018