

The Shepherd's Crook



GOOD
SHEPHERD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2021

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

Pastor :

Rev. Sheri Fry

Office Administrator:

Teddie McConnell

Choir Director:

Sara Tyburczy

Accompanist:

Dr. Jonathan Morris

Treasurer:

Joyce Matthews

Nursery Attendant:

Taya Mendez

Events Coordinator:

Diana Bennett

Centus Counselor:

Josh Parker, LCSW

Clerk of Session:

Mary Archuleta

Session Members:

Fred Finke

Mary McCarron

Robin Kelly

Joyce Matthews

John Shaeffer

Paul Steward

Barbara Swanson

Scapegoating and the Cross...A Temporary Solution

The word "scapegoating" originated from an ingenious ritual described in Leviticus 16. According to Jewish law, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest laid hands on an "escaping" goat, placing all the sins of the Jewish people from the previous year onto the animal. Then the goat was beaten with reeds and thorns, driven out into the desert, and the people went home rejoicing. Violence towards the innocent victim was apparently quite effective at temporarily relieving the group's guilt and shame. The same scapegoating dynamic was at play when the European Christians burned supposed heretics at the stake, and when white Americans lynched Black Americans. In fact, the pattern is identical and totally non-rational.

Priest, theologian and author, Richard Rohr writes, "Whenever the sinner is excluded, our collective ego is delighted and feels relieved and safe. It works but only for a while, because it's merely an illusion. Repeatedly believing the lie, that this time we have the true culprit, we become more catatonic, habitually ignorant, and culpable – because, of course, scapegoating never really eliminates evil in the first place. As long as the evil is "over there," we can change or expel someone else as the contaminating element. We then feel purified and at peace. But it is not the peace of Christ, which "the world cannot give" (John 14:27).

Jesus became the scapegoat to reveal the universal life of scapegoating. He became the sinned-against one to reveal the hidden nature of scapegoating, so that we would see how wrong even educated and well-meaning people can be. This is represented by Pilate and Caiaphas (state & religion), who both find their artificial reasons to condemn him. In worshiping Jesus as the scapegoat, Christians should have learned to stop scapegoating, but we didn't. We are still wrong whenever we create arbitrary victims to avoid our own complicity in evil.

Authority seems to soothe anxiety for some and relieves their own responsibility to form a mature conscience. With the mistaken view of God as Punisher-in-Chief that many Christians seem to hold, we think our own violence is necessary. But there is no such thing as redemptive violence. Violence doesn't save; it only destroys all parties in both the short and long term. Jesus replaced the myth of redemptive violence with the truth of redemptive suffering. He showed us on the cross how to hold the pain and let it transform us."

(continued next page)

Prayer for our community: *Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness & hope that we can never understand. Thank you for leading us into a time where more of reality is being unveiled for us all to see. We pray that you will take away our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear and despair. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Amen*

What is a Transitional Pastor?

Healthy “Transitional Pastors” (use to be called interims) for the 21st century church who serve in between “Permanent Pastors” do not prepare the congregation for the new pastor. *They prepare the congregation for a new chapter of ministry.*

And when “Permanent Pastors” are called, *they continue to help the church transition into that new chapter of ministry.*

Healthy 21st Century ministry is about the congregation more than the pastor.

Yes...we need faithful, fearless, creative, loving, well-trained pastoral leadership in every congregation. *But so much of what determines whether a congregation will thrive, or die is based on the congregation not the pastor.*



Sometimes church people do not want a new chapter of ministry. And this is sad, because stuck churches die. And here's the kicker; transitional change is not just a tweak.

In my years of ministry, I have heard church people tell me that things are changing because:

- They got a new sign
- They changed their church stationary
- They project their hymns on the wall now
- They decreased that number of elders on their governing board
- They agreed to let their pastor preach without a robe

These are tweaks...not cultural changes!

Cultural changes are way harder because our culture is so entrenched, we don't even know what it is. (And that is part of the job of the temporary Transitional Pastor: to help figure out who we are as a congregation right now.)

- Are we a congregation run by a few families?
- Are we a congregation afraid of ????
- Are we a congregation addicted to being a social club rather than an example of God's reign on earth?
- Are we a congregation who looks down on people without our income or education?
- Are we a congregation that honestly does not want “strangers” to join us?
- What else are we a congregation of???

Transitional ministry is where all of us are right now.

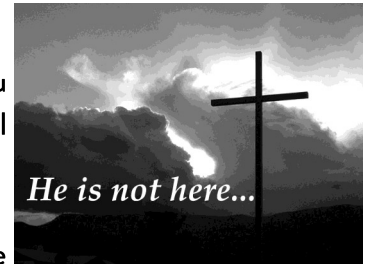
As our church opens its doors to in-person meetings and worship I will be inviting you all in small groups to gather for cupcakes, coffee and conversation to discuss the past, present and future happenings at Good Shepherd as we prepare the way for a new “permanent pastor.”

- Pastor Sheri

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week services are an attempt to recall through Scripture, music, sacrament, prayer and postings the entire week's events.

We are happy to offer a Maundy Thursday service at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 1. You may enjoy the on-line worship service in the sanctuary on the screen. Worshipers will receive individually wrapped Communion elements.



Easter Sunday at 10:00 a.m. we invite you again into the sanctuary to view the on-line service on the screen or to join us from the comfort of your own home. We ask that if you join us in the sanctuary you wear masks, sign in and sit appropriately distanced from one another.

Blessings to you all during this Holy Week!

Your Good Shepherd Staff ~ Pastor Sheri, Teddie, Sara and Jonathan

Lift up your Hearts and Treasures to God Through a Bequest to the Church!

Your church is your spiritual home – and so much more. It's the place where children have been baptized, youth have come to know Christ, where couples began a new life together. It's where community members gather for meals, enjoy playgrounds, receive food in times of need, and share friendship and hope.



Many Presbyterians leave gifts to the church through life insurance proceeds, beneficiaries of retirement plans, wills, estates and trusts.

You, too, can leave a legacy to support the community ministry of Good Shepherd, ensuring the congregation that has nurtured your spiritual life and served your community thrives for generations to come.

You can leave a gift to Good Shepherd in the following ways:

- **A bequest in your will**
- **Retirement plan beneficiary**
- **Life insurance beneficiary**
- **Proceeds from the sale of real estate or property**
- **Other ways that suit your situation**
-

Your financial support ensures that Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church will remain a place of hope and faith for generations to come.

Compassion, Peace and Justice Advocacy Training Days

presented by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness and its fellow Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries April 7-9 | Virtual Event



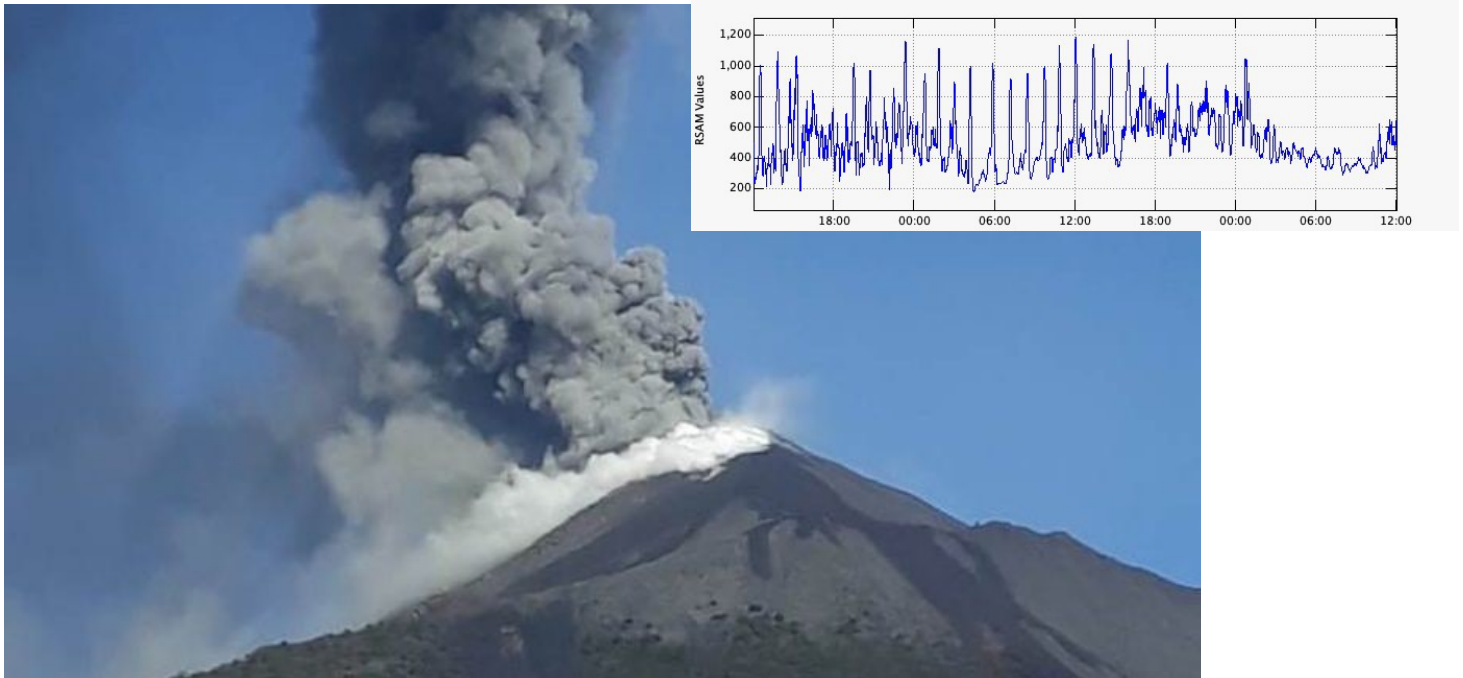
Join us to learn, organize and advocate around environmental justice! Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Days offer an opportunity to support this global movement centered on and led by the people and communities most vulnerable to climate impacts due to historic racial and colonial inequities. We continue to see how the historic reality of colonialism and structural racism has designed systems that live on today through environmental racism and a myriad of other injustices that grew out of the same evil roots. Throughout 2020, these systemic issues manifested themselves in the disproportionate number of racial and ethnic minorities who became sick with and died of COVID-19, as well as the continued extrajudicial killing of Black men and women.

Each day will start at 11 am (ET) and go to 12:30 pm. On April 7 & 8, there will be small group gatherings at 1:30 pm (ET).

Register at <https://www.atlpcusa.org/events/cpjdays2021>

The Earth and its people are groaning. We are called to respond.

Guatemala Mission Partnership Report



GMP's mission is to help the people of Guatemala with clean water.

Guatemala has many active volcanoes. Dr. Joel runs a clinic in the east central region, north of Guatemala City and Pablo is our in country liaison and lives closer to Pacaya.

In addition to Pacaya there is also one near Tiquisate (Volcan de Fuego) which was Marsha's and my first installation trip. On our side trip to Dio de la Muerta we saw it smoking and later it erupted killing 165 people. - Fred Finke

ASH DISPERSION AND ACTIVITY UPDATE

March 24th, 2021. In the last hours, the Pacaya volcano has presented the formation of gas and ash columns from 3000 to 4500 meters above sea level (9842 to 13123 feet), which have dispersed in different directions. Meteorological models indicate that this ash can move to the northeast and east at superficial to medium levels, and in a southwest direction at high levels (greater than 5000 meters above sea level). The processing of satellite images that record the dispersion of ash, so far indicate a direction of displacement towards the northeast. OVPAC observers report south wind around the volcanic edifice. Volcanic activity has been accompanied by sounds similar to a train locomotive faintly and explosions sporadically. The effusive-type activity has allowed the lava flow to the southwest to continue active, with reported lengths of up to 1,400 meters.

Annual Elephant Rock Ride

We now have 8 people in the process of registering to ride for TEAM GOOD SHEPHERD on June 6th at the Douglas County Fair Grounds! They are Stephen Chappell, Pastor Sheri and her family (5 people), Teddie McConnell and David Wolters. They will be raising much-needed support for the Heather Chimhoga Care Center in Zimbabwe.



Our partners in Zimbabwe tell us that the community vegetable gardens have had a very successful year due to abundant rainfall. The poultry project is now self-supporting and providing protein for the children's meals. The moringa project is also a growing source of nutrition, as well as a new product to market. Part of the Clinic is in use, although it is not completely finished nor had an "official grand opening." That should take place sometime in the next several months.

COVID-19 remains an extreme challenge in Zimbabwe, and schools are currently closed. Staff members, families and community caregivers provide food delivery, medical care and educational to help to the children as much as possible. Our continued financial support is critical through fund-raisers and congregational pledges from the churches in the ZMP. Please consider making a generous donation to support 1 or more bike riders, either on-line (zimpartnership.org) or through Good Shepherd by writing on your check that it is for ZMP and the name(s) of the riders you wish to support. Thank you in advance for your on-going support of and dedication to this important mission.



The ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING offering is currently being received. This is the annual Lenten-season offering that supports the Presbyterian Mission Agency in its response to on-going and urgent needs related to hunger and disaster assistance around the world.

OTHER MISSION-RELATED OUTREACH

The Mission Committee is looking forward to re-establishing a relationship with **Vantage Point High School** and is also involved in the process for Good Shepherd becoming a registered **Safe Parking location** for a limited number of homeless families living in their vehicles. Stay tuned for new developments!

The Good Shepherd Food Bank served 63 households, 204 individuals and 64 children during March. They are in desperate need of diapers in sizes 2, 4, and 5.





Birthday List

14th - Sidney Schneider
15th - Sue Coleman
17th - Kristina Watson
19th - Linda Jaramillo
20th - Ruth Vazquez
24th - Diana Rau
29th - Maxine Killion

Prayer Needs



Please pray for the victims of the shooting in Boulder and their families; for Art and his family, grieving the loss of Jan; for the Bennett family who are grieving the loss of Diana's parents; for Wava V. is home now and on hospice care; the family of Barb W., who is now living with her daughter due to severe Alzheimer's disease; for the family of Burton K., who is in memory care and hospice care; Pee Wee and the family of Sue H.; Norm R.'s family, for Bill and Gayle, H.; for Jim S. and Michelle W; for communities affected by COVID-19 or by human rights violations here in the United States and throughout the world; for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.

Our Daily Bread Report

We met today via Zoom. Churches involved are Covenant DTC, Good Shepherd, St. Paul, and Westminster Pres. Each member brought us up-to-date on what was going on. Everyone except us is doing drive through disbursement. Covenant Cupboard has hundreds of families come every Friday. Westminster has 25-30 families per week. St. Paul gives out 30-40 boxes per week. I think these food banks are open once or twice a week. None of the other food banks uses Link2Feed, as we do. Some get food from Food Bank of the Rockies. A couple (including us) do TEFAP distributions.

Future plans are still up in the air as to continue the drive through or allow people in the food banks. Most will continue drive throughs through the summer and reevaluate in the fall.

We will meet again in a few months. Have not heard about any funds from Presbytery, as their mission giving has been down quite a bit this year.

Highlands Camp Report



Highlands is going to pursue one team for Partnership Day Camp this summer, and has 5 churches currently very interested. Lots of logistics to consider. There are many dates for Family Camps scheduled, some 3 days and some 4 days. Maria has asked several regulars to be volunteer leaders for some of these camps. We will hire some staff for this summer and so far have hired Hunter Fritz to work at Highlands as activities coordinator. He will also help out where needed, and will be a valuable resource. The Mountain Bike Park is being planned by a professional mountain bike company for a reasonable fee, and then volunteers will help build it. The big need is dirt, and that can be very expensive.

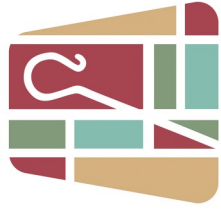
APRIL 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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				1 5 pm Maundy Thursday Service	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter! 10 am - Worship <i>Christ Risen!</i>	5 COVID vaccine clinic	6	7	8	9	10
11 10 am - Worship	15	16	17	15 1 pm Sometime Circle	16	17
18 10 am - Worship	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10 am - Worship	26	27	28	29	30	
Sunday evenings - FUKAH - rental						

MAY 2021



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday evenings - FUKAH - rental						1
2 10 am - Worship In-person resumes	3	4	5	6	7 12 - 10 pm Scrapbookers in FH	8 8 am - 6 pm Scrapbookers in FH
9 10 am - Worship	10 9:30 - 12 Men's Shed	11	12	13 1 pm Sometime Circle	14	15
16 10 am - Worship	17 9:30 - 12 Men's Shed	18	19	20	21	22
23 10 am - Worship	24 9:30 - 12 Men's Shed	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

The Shepherd's Crook

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
10785 Melody Drive
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thegoodshepherd.org
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Worship 10:00 a.m. online
and in the sanctuary with masks and distancing.



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

