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The Shepherd's Voice

MAY 2022

Ways to Give

If you are able, please consider signing up for online giving. Even a one-time special gift would be helpful. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the work of Good Shepherd!

ONLINE: Go to our webpage, www.gspr.org/give and click the "give" button.
GIVE+ TEXT: Text 877-771-4850 with the \$ amount, then follow the instructions given. For further assistance, you can also message ASSIST, FUNDS, or EDIT.
MAIL: Send your offerings to 112 N. Main St. Pearl River, NY 10965.
IN PERSON: Bring your offering to a worship service.

 Buy a ShopRite gift card and Good Shepherd receives **5% from each gift card purchase**, in support of our Youth. Cards can be purchased in the church office and used at any ShopRite location. **\$25, \$50, \$100 card amounts available - cash & checks accepted.**

Beloved,

I have been short on words these days and though, perhaps, you might enjoy this article, printed in the Christian Century March 31, 2022. I love the ordinary holiness of congregational life and the way that we come to know one another in the weekly gathering of worship and coffee hour and all the things we do together. This is just a beautiful reflection of that.

Pastor Lane

THE WONDERFUL ORDINARINESS OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Sometimes it's boring. Sometimes it's thrilling. Sometimes it makes me cry.
by Sheryl Fullerton

The first thing I notice when I ease into my seat is her hair. Except for the long months of the seemingly endless pandemic, I've been sitting behind Deidre Worthington for close to 20 years. Although there was that time, for a year or two, when she and her husband, Bertram, stopped coming because the sanctuary was going to be remodeled, and not to their liking. Somehow replacing the 1950s aqua bathroom tile mosaic backdrop behind the altar with simple board and batten was an affront not only to them but also to God.

Personal Care Kit Assembly Day

This evening I am puzzled. Deidre's short, blonde-highlighted hair is usually sleek, not a hair amiss. Proper and befitting an elegant transplanted British Anglican living in Berkeley and married to a rather dour, silent man who took on the role of parish archivist to make sure someone else didn't do a sloppy job. Deidre is the long-suffering head of the altar guild, the women—always women—who wash and iron and starch the various white altar cloths, polish the brass and silver, arrange the seasonal floral displays flanking the choir, and, most important, never complain. Deidre has been briskly commanding that hardy group for as long as I have been sitting in the fourth pew from the front, and she has resumed her duties now that we are gathering in person again.

Tonight Deidre's hair is not smooth, not sleek. Little tufts stick up, out, sideways in the back and on the sides. Her tousled bangs look as though she has not recovered from the severe ruffling of a violent windstorm. I am surprised. I can't help but stare, trying not to be obvious. I can detect no apparent cause in her expression or demeanor, just a slight forward curve in her usually upright slender back. But it feels like a disturbance in the congregational field.

I'm always watching for disturbances, practicing a sort of back-of-the-head forensics as my attention drifts during an awkward seminarian sermon or jolly announcements about the parish camping trip or those inevitable lags and drags in the liturgy. Over the years I have spent hours observing the backs of my fellow congregants' heads, made easy by the forward-facing arrangement of the pews. Hair is often a reliable indicator of someone's inner state, including the gradual unraveling of old age.

One week a gruff retired engineer's wiry, white, close-clipped hair is Marine tidy; the next it has devolved into a landscape of tufted, overgrown whorls. Then I note that he has dual hearing aids and has stopped singing in the choir. He still wears his Harris Tweed sports jacket, sharply creased slacks, and starched white shirt and tie, but something seems to have happened. The keen edge that led him to warn me, when I was a newcomer, that "they'll be after your money soon enough" seems to be gone.

Sometimes hairdos indicate more than a lost edge in my pew-mates. One Easter morning, as we rose to belt out "Christ Is Risen," Mary Mackey tipped over and out of her seat in the front row and cracked her head. Mary was immediately surrounded and comforted by friendly parishioners as someone called 911. The paramedics arrived in a few minutes to minister to her and wheel her out to the waiting ambulance, while we all sat hushed as the revolving red lights flashed through the stained-glass windows. It wasn't serious, thankfully, but Mary had been having trouble for some time. I had seen it coming as her tinted reddish-brown, salon-curved hair gradually turned white and limp. The Easter liturgy resumed after Mary's departure but in a subdued manner, all of us chastened at the prospect that we too might someday topple rather than rise.

Sitting in the pews week after week, year after year, is like perching on the edge of a geologic event, a slow-slipping fault. Change in those around me is sometimes slow and imperceptible, sometimes precipitous and surprising. One week Nancy and Dorothy and Margie and Dave are in their usual spots, greeting me heartily as we pass the peace. The next it seems Nancy has descended into dementia, Dorothy has moved across the country to live with her son, and Margie's comforting bulk has dwindled so much that her clothes hang on her as she makes her way unsteadily up the aisle during the Eucharist. And Dave just doesn't come anymore. I never find out why.

These changes are not only driven by illness and decline. I watch the frisky toddler who used to grind her Cheerios into the rug and howl during the prayers of the people become an acolyte, swelling with seriousness and pride as she swings the smoking censer at the Christmas Eve service. I wonder what happened to the three dark-haired daughters and their handsome parents—they used to come every week, all of them in dress-up clothes (unlike most of the rest of us). They were there for what seemed like years, then came no more. Did they move away? Succumb to a teenage allergy to church? There are no clues in the parish bulletin, but then I never knew their names.

It was a wonderful feeling to see so many people come down to Fellowship Hall to assemble our Personal Care Kits on Palm Sunday. Many hands make light work...and this crew was enthusiastic and joyful to be part of the process. The response of the congregation was heart-warming, and we want to thank you all for your generous contributions of the items and for the monetary donations.

We put together over 130 kits, 40 of these provided by our Boy Scout Troop 36, and were delivered after Easter.

Once again, the people of Good Shepherd have come through, have given from the heart, and will touch the lives of many. Thank you!

~lone Mensing



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Good Shepherd rejoiced in the resurrection of Jesus Christ with an outdoor sunrise service, two indoor Easter services, and of course, a delicious breakfast in Fellowship Hall. *On behalf of the Men's Group, and the organizers of the Easter Breakfast, we would like to thank all who donated, not only the items that were needed to make a wonderful breakfast we all enjoyed, but also to those that helped set up, cook and clean up. And, not to be remis, a thank you as well, to all that participated in the making the Holy Week services and Easter Sunday services so beautiful and meaningful. Have a joyous Easter season!*



Watch our livestreamed Easter service video, and our Holy Week video montage on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver). More photos available to view on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdPR).

I have been here in this pew for so many years of Sundays that I see young pregnant women bring their babies to be baptized, then watch those babies grow from exuberant children into fake-bored middle schoolers, then leave after high school, seldom to be seen again. One Sunday our music director, an erudite, eccentric, bald-headed, self-proclaimed music nerd, is wearing a supportive neck collar because the degenerative disease he's been living with for years is suddenly progressing. Just months later he can no longer play the organ, pluck his homemade washtub bass with the folk ensemble, or lead the choir. Just a short time later, he dies, and we mourn him. But we keep singing those same antique hymns and angular modern pieces that were so dear to his heart.

I am stitched into the fabric of this congregation and its rhythms like a button on a sweater, a little outside but firmly attached. I am a regular attendee but prone to criticism and irritation at some of the off-putting petty goings-on or clergy mishaps that lead me away from time to time. I always come back. And when I do I attend not just Sundays but all the holy days. On Christmas Eve I smile at the wacky, improvised children's pageant, with its manic toddlers in lamb suits and angel wings and a real baby on loan to play Jesus. After a few years, the chaos and crowds start to bother me, so I switch to the later lessons and carols service and join the joyful throng belting out the corny, well-worn Christmas carols in the candlelit darkness.

At Holy Week, I sink into each of the liturgies. Maundy Thursday brings eager acolytes who dart around, keeping all of us supplied with warm water and towels for our foot washing. I'm paired with a very large man I've never talked to or even greeted in the peace. His bare, purple feet are twisted and swollen, his toenails thick yellow horns on scaly toes. Yet I gladly wash them, trickling the warm water over each one, then drying them gingerly with a thick white towel. I don't look in his eyes; he seems a little embarrassed, and I doubt he'd ever submit to anything like this except in this liturgy. He does the same for me, and it all seems right.

I can't explain why this is so thrilling to me every year, except that we all know this is the doorway to Easter, and it begins with the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet as they protest, or like Peter—always Peter—clumsily try to make more out of it. They don't know, as we do, that the days of darkness and death—and then resurrection—will follow.

Two days later, on Saturday, I creep into the courtyard in the damp, cold Berkeley night to watch the kindling of the holy Easter vigil fire, which begins the most sacred (and longest) liturgy of the year. This is the anniversary of my baptism 20 years ago, when I stood in front of the congregation with two little redheaded girls and my friend Sandy, a Berkeley psychiatrist who had found her way from an indolent agnosticism to faith by way of the blessing of the animals on the feast day of St. Francis. She came from secular Judaism, I from lapsed Mormonism, to be sprinkled and blessed while everyone in the sanctuary watched, clutching their little white candles and holding us up as we promised to be Christ's own forever.

On Easter morning, I wedge into my seat, the sanctuary fuller than usual because of the influx of people who only come a couple times a year. Next to me, though, is my favorite acolyte, the one who is so transported every time she serves. Hers is not the perfunctory, hesitant performance I've sometimes observed; she sings enthusiastically, confidently says the Nicene Creed she's obviously memorized, follows the entire liturgy, and smiles her way from the first prayer to the last amen. But she's not serving today. This Easter she is dressed in a beautiful, seafoam blue dress with artful layers of lace netting and embroidery, her shiny dark hair caught up in a little bun encircled with a matching blue ribbon. I glance sideways at her as she smooths the skirt down, preens a little in the awareness of how pretty she looks, and yet is as serious as ever about singing, praying, and entering wholly into the spirit of the day.

I don't know her, but she is one of my favorite parts of coming to church because she reminds me of myself as a teenager, one of those girls who is entirely serious about church, God, faith. I wasn't an acolyte because that wasn't done in the church I was going to, but I believed, and that belief held deep meaning for me. That must be why I returned to church as a 50-year-old, after 30 years of wandering around and looking into the windows of all kinds of other spiritual options, none of which had the same gravitas for me as being part of a Christian community. Of being a Christian—or trying to.

It's a wonderfully ordinary path, being a churchgoing Christian. Sometimes it's boring. Sometimes it's thrilling. Sometimes I feel completely plugged in, surrounded by love and spirit. Sometimes it makes me cry because I am so moved. Other times it's a little empty, and it feels like the most interesting thing going on is the mysterious ruffling of Deidre Washington's hairdo. Especially after being kept away from it for so long by the COVID virus, I gratefully ease in and out of it all, this congregational life, seeking to be part of a long arc of love, devotion, faith, obedience, doubt, belonging, error, confession, reconciliation, and sometimes joy. As I sit in my pew, I am floated on the birdsong and squawks of babies gurgling and fussing, on the plainsong of chanted psalms, on the crescendo of the sung Eucharist, on the hum of greeting at the passing of the peace and the murmured prayers. Floated, that is, on the life of this congregation.

SUNDAY WORSHIP
IN-PERSON 8:15am & 10:30am*
**10:30 livestream available!*



We are always looking for volunteers at Good Shepherd. Check out our community events, below, or contact Volunteer Coordinator, Gina@gspr.org, to find out how you can lend a helping hand.

Card Drive  **Meals On Wheels**
Meals are just our first course!

Be a bright moment in someone's day! Join our card drive for *Meals on Wheels*. All you have to do is write a quick note of encouragement to a meal recipient. Get your own greeting card, or pick up blank cards at the church office. We will also have some available after service on Sundays! Drop them back off to us at anytime and we will deliver them to *Meals on Wheels*.

Magnolia Meals

Magnolia Meals at Home is a meal delivery program that provides nourishing meals to households affected by cancer, so that loved ones can spend quality time together. We have partnered with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Teaneck, and Trinity Lutheran in Bogota, to transport *Magnolia Meals* from *Meals on Wheels* in Nanuet, and bring them to St. Paul's. From there, they will be delivered to those undergoing cancer treatment.



Thank you to April's volunteers, Karen and Mike McCambridge! We are looking for volunteers every third Saturday of the month, at 9:30am. If you're interested in helping out, sign up online at volunteersignup.org/XRRJQ. Thank you!

May Collection

For the month of May, we will be collecting assorted toiletries (toothpaste, travel-sized items, feminine hygiene products, etc.). There will be a box for your donations at the entrance to the Education Building. If you'd like to volunteer to deliver our donations to *People to People*, sign up online at volunteersignup.org/BECRW, then call/text **Gina at 845-587-0904** to set up a time.



Thank you for your help!

GARDEN COMMITTEE

PLANTING & CLEAN-UP DAY

MAY 14, 8:30-11am



Bring your own garden tools & gloves!

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Have you ever thought about wanting to have a small garden but live in an apartment where there is no place for one? Good Shepherd has **10 garden spots (4 x 8)**, next to the playground, available for anyone in the community who doesn't have a yard of their own to grow a garden. We even have expert gardeners who are happy to lend words of wisdom and advice if you need a little help! If you are interested, please contact the **Church Office at 845-735-2243**. Gardens will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis, and to maintain a fair and safe community for everyone, there is a garden agreement to be signed.



Our total donations: \$277.54



We are so very grateful to those who participate! Use AmazonSmile to buy your personal gifts, while also giving to Good Shepherd! Agree to support us at <https://smile.amazon.com> and 0.05% of the profits will automatically be donated to us, in support of our Youth. Remember to use AmazonSmile, instead of Amazon, in order for Good Shepherd to receive the donation. Any questions, contact Cindy Sealander at csealander@optonline.net.



*Reaching out in inclusive love and generosity
so that all may know the love of Jesus.*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
112 N. Main Street Pearl River, NY 10965

Serving Rockland County, NY, and Northern Bergen County, NJ

LIFE STATIONS

DEATHS

Carol Brundage April 6, 2022
Judith Jakobsen April 29, 2022

AT YOUR SERVICE

The Reverend J. Lena Warren, Pastor
George Boothby, President
Michael McCambridge, Treasurer
Brian Burns, Director of Music
Elaina Burns, Organist
Renee Bucci, Creative Play Director
Dale Damon, Church Secretary
Lisa Filatov, Bookkeeper
Katy Wong, Communications Coordinator
Gina Danialinia, Volunteer Coordinator
Gisele Saldana, Sexton

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

Rev. J. Lena Warren, Pastor
George Boothby, President
Michael McCambridge, Treasurer*
Werner Boecker, Financial Secretary
Wendy Gates, Assistant Financial Secretary*
Kim Arcidiacono, Secretary
**Non-voting*

Anne Baumann Carole Meehan
Sue Baumeister Mark Olson
Jeff Bergman Lulu Paolini
Kristen Hanifin Christopher Ryan
Linda Hecker Tom Vislocky
Carol Hoerter Don Widmayer

CHURCH OFFICE

845-735-2243 | (FAX) 845-735-0819 | secretary@gspr.org | www.gspr.org

YouTube .com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver @GoodShepherdPR

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN OUR OFFICE HOURS!!

Hours of Operation Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 12-4 ***CLOSED TUESDAYS**

**We recommend calling prior to your arrival*

CREATIVE PLAY

845-735-2737 | renee@gspr.org | www.goodshepherdcreativeplay.com


@GoodShepherdCreativePlay

Hours of Operation M-F 8am-4pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Below is the schedule of council members who will be hosting our Sunday worship services. No sign-up is necessary to attend, but if you'd like to volunteer, please sign up at the links provided. We are always looking for ushers, greeters, and readers to join us, no experience needed! If you have any questions, please contact Gina@gspr.org.

- May 8, 8:15am (volunteersignup.org/K9KAL) Host: Don Widmayer
- May 8, 10:30am (volunteersignup.org/KCCMP) Host: Kristen Hanifin
- May 15, 8:15am (volunteersignup.org/RT9B7) Host: Linda Hecker
- May 15, 10:30am (volunteersignup.org/REF3X) Host: Mark Olson
- May 22, 8:15am (volunteersignup.org/4JW7Q) Host: Sue Baumeister
- May 22, 10:30am (volunteersignup.org/D7X4T) Host: Chris Ryan
- May 29, 8:15am (volunteersignup.org/ML74M) Host: Sue Baumeister
- May 29, 10:30am (volunteersignup.org/DCXH9) Host: Werner Boecker
- June 5, 8:15am (volunteersignup.org/EDXB) HOST NEEDED
- June 5, 10:30am (volunteersignup.org/7K97X) HOST NEEDED
- June 12, 8:15am (volunteersignup.org/9DT34) HOST NEEDED
- June 12, 10:30am (volunteersignup.org/CRPEM) HOST NEEDED
- June 19, 8:15am (volunteersignup.org/HH3RD) HOST NEEDED
- June 19, 10:30am (volunteersignup.org/8L3EK) HOST NEEDED



COFFEE HOUR
HOSTS NEEDED

If you'd like to host a Coffee Hour, after 10:30 worship, please contact Lynn Casey (lynnlarsoncasey@gmail.com)

Upcoming Coffee Hour: **Sunday, June 12**
Hosted by Donna & Keith Skoog

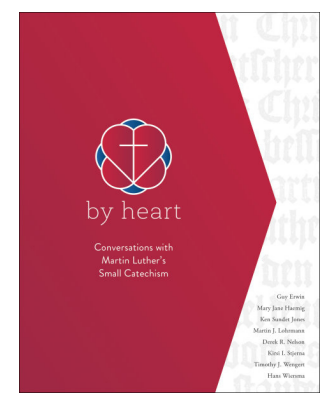
Join Us!

Coffee & Conversation Thursdays, 3pm, 39 E Central Ave.

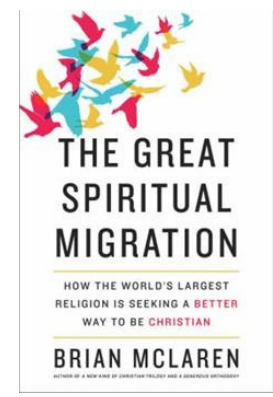
Warm up with a great cup of coffee at Dean's Coffee Co. in Pearl River. Meet Pastor Lena on Thursday afternoons and support our local coffee shop.

Adult Forum Sundays, 9:30am, Church Parlor

By Heart is a richly illustrated, in-depth exploration of the Small Catechism. The authors of each chapter bridge the historical context of the Small Catechism with life today, by addressing the reader in the second person. It is in keeping with the everyday language that Luther used in the explanations and embodies the declarative nature of the gospel that he strove to encode in that language.



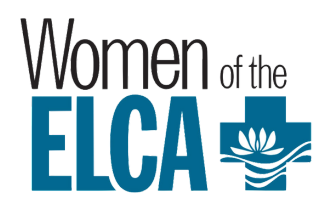
Wednesday Evening Book Group Beginning May 18, at 7pm, via Zoom (HYBRID)



We will be reading together *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian* by Brian McLaren. We will begin reading together on May 18, at 7pm, and will read off and on throughout the summer, as schedules allow. Our first meeting will be online but we might meet in person some, too.

Interested in reading with us? Let Pastor Lena (PastorLena@gsprg.org) know. She'll get you a book and keep you in the loop!

WELCA Summer Luncheon Tuesday, June 6, 12pm



We will have our luncheon at Joe and Joe's in Pearl River, and everyone will order and pay for their own meal. We will not be meeting in July and August, but will resume with a very important meeting on September, after Labor Day, to decide how we will continue to going forward. **If you have any questions or need a ride, please call Barbara Bow at 845-521-2611 or Mary Iseman at 845-623-7638.**

Stay Connected



Subscribe to our weekly E-newsletter, "By The Way," sent out on Thursday evenings. Email communications@gspr.org to be added to our list.



Visit our website at www.gspr.org, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram, @GoodShepherdPr, for the latest, up-to-date information!



Subscribe to our YouTube channel and receive alerts when new videos are posted! Go to www.youtube.com/c/GoodShepherdPearlRiver.



GO DIGITAL! Having trouble receiving *The Shepherd's Voice* on time? Opt for our digital newsletter, instead. Email communications@gspr.org to sign up for our E-Voice.

Please send your articles for the June/July 2022 Voice issue to Katy@gspr.org by May 19. If you have any articles or photos you'd like to see, or share, on our social media pages, or weekly E-newsletter, feel free to email Katy. As always, you can call the Church Office if you have any questions.

Dear Good Shepherd Families,

Thank you to all who contributed to making Holy Week such a meaningful experience. We are grateful to all who shared their musical gifts with our congregation!

Our sanctuary choir will continue leading us in worship through Pentecost Sunday. We would like to extend our gratitude to them for their dedicated service to our congregation. If you would like to join our sanctuary choir, you are always welcome to sing with us! We meet every Sunday at 9:30am and every Thursday at 7:00pm.

Our children's choir will sing again on Sunday, June 5th as we celebrate Pentecost. All are welcome! Please join us every Sunday from 10:00-10:20am in the choir room as we prepare special music for the congregation to enjoy.

The Band will continue to rehearse two Sundays a month immediately following the 10:30am worship service and they will lead worship on May 8th and again during the summer. Join us in the sanctuary to make some music together as we prepare the Band to lead a worship service!

If you would like to join us in serving our congregation through music, please let us know or simply drop by the choir room! All are welcome!

Sundays

- Choir Rehearsal in the choir room - 9:30am-10:00am
- Children's Choir in the choir room - 10:00am-10:20am

Thursdays

- Bell Choir Rehearsal in the choir room at 6:15pm
- Choir Rehearsal in the choir room at 7:00pm

Thank you!

Elaina and Brian Burns
elainaburnsmusic@gmail.com



Creative Play News



MAY this month bring you all sunshine and happiness!

Creative Play students are busy creating some memorable art to gift to their moms or significant caretaker in their life. We will be spending a lot of time on celebrating those who love and care for us, and learning how to show our appreciation!

“Any way you slice it, we are grateful for our staff!” On Friday May 6th, we will celebrate our Creative Play staff. The office ladies will host a luncheon for the teachers and aides who have worked diligently and happily through yet another challenging school year. Our children have had a wonderful experience in their classrooms thanks to the dedication of our staff. This day is set aside to thank those who work with their heart, each day at Creative Play, that’s Amore!



The week of May 16th, we all need to pray for sunshine as we will spend time enjoying the fresh air, picnicking outdoors. Each class will have time to play special games on the playground, and then enjoy their snacks on a picnic blanket. This will be a fun day for all!



We continue this month celebrating our Earth. Many classes have been busy planting vegetables and flowers, and learning about recycling and upcycling our trash. Through these studies, our students learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, and the arts.

Creative Play will be closed in observation of Memorial Day on Friday, May 27th, and Monday, May 30th.

Be well, be safe, and be HAPPY,

Renee Bucci

Renee Bucci, Director of Creative Play
renee@gspr.org

“Mothers hold their children’s hands for awhile, but their hearts forever”



Bereavement Support Program



All who are grieving and desire support are welcome to Saint Margaret's seven-week Bereavement Support Program, **Wednesdays at 10am, May 11, 18, 25, and June 1, 8, 15, 22.** To register, please call Tracey at the Parish Center Office at 845-735-4746.

Saint Margaret of Antioch Church, Doyle Center
115 W Central Ave, Pearl River

Good Shepherd Prayer Chain

If you, a loved one, or friend experience difficulty and desire prayer support contact **Ione Mensing, at 201-664-1235, or Carol Westphal, at 845-624-5732.** The Good Shepherd Prayer Chain will be activated, and many will be praying with, and for you.



Remembering and honoring those who have served us.