

The Shepherd's Word  
Our Shepherd UCC  
920-565-3376

March 2021  
Pastor Nathan Athorp  
ourshepherducc.com

Send newsletter articles to: [OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com)



**Consistory**

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Roger Sheahan - Secretary  
Nancy Cherney  
JoAnn Gadicke  
Kyle Stowers  
Ruth Hering

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Treasurer  
  
Carla Hemb-  
Church & Financial Sec

The Shepherd's Word  
Our Shepherd UCC  
710 Ethan Allen Drive  
Howards Grove, WI 53083

**Prayer Concerns...**

*Please keep those who are shut-in or ill in your prayers.*

*Stella Miller – 326 Isabelle Court  
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085  
Cell: 920-889-8366*

*Kathleen Grube -Terrace Estates  
1231 Eisner Ave  
Sheboygan, WI 53083*

*Darwin Meyer 2005 Appletree Road Room 4  
Howards Grove, WI 53083*

*Cleora Marx 110 S. Pershing Avenue  
Howards Grove, WI 53083*

*Doris Hanke The Waterford  
2586 Valley Rd  
Plymouth, WI 53073*

# Some Church Activities have been cancelled or postponed.

Services will continue  
on Facebook

Please check the  
Our Shepherd Facebook page or  
Website ([ourshepherducc.com](http://ourshepherducc.com)) to get  
updates as to when and how things  
will be changing.

Watch the Facebook page for special  
announcements and weekly church services

You can also get messages to and from  
Pastor Nathan Athorp through  
phone call or email

Contact information:

Cell: 920-946-3585

Church: 920-565-3376

e-mail: [nathorp70@gmail.com](mailto:nathorp70@gmail.com)

## Church School News

### Items for the Food Pantry

The month of March donations may be placed  
in the basket, located in the office area: **Canned Fruit**



**Thanks for returning the advent food bags, and Thank you Jimmy Kalk for being our delivery guy.**

**Change for Change Jar** - Money used to purchase items for food pantry  
**Prayer Shawl/Blankets** – For those in our prayers, items can be found in the office area. If you know of someone in need of a shawl/blanket, please select an item to present to them.

**Beverage Tabs** for the Ronald McDonald House

**Birthday Bags** — Consider bringing in a birthday bag and add it to the basket in the office. (In a bag: box of cake mix, small bottle of oil, can of frosting, candles – eggs supplied by food pantry) Thank you to those that continue to supply items for birthday bags.



**B:** Be with God **L:** Love God & neighbor **U:** Understand yourself as a child of God **E:** Explore the Bible

Church school is offered to children age 3 to confirmation. Watch your email for updates

The church school is planning to hold google meet activities with the children on the following dates at 9:00 a.m. We will tape the activities so those that cannot attend, can watch at their convenience. Watch for the link on the date of the meet. If you do not receive it, please contact Renae [rwunsch@hgsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:rwunsch@hgsd.k12.wi.us).



Church School Dates: 9:00

March 7 -Lent March 21 – Easter

Thank you to the dedicated staff that continues to help prepare crafts for the church school lessons.



## Wednesdays During Lent

Welcome to Lent, a time of self-reflection and examination. That in and of itself is kind of counter-cultural in our society today, our world does not always take the time to pause and examine the what, how, and why we are doing what we do. We have a tendency to spend more time trying to figure out what we are doing next instead of what we could be doing right now. In response to this I want to take some time this Lent season to examine one aspect of our faith life. I want to take some time on Wednesdays in Lent looking specifically how we are called by Jesus to extend welcoming hospitality towards others.

We will be doing this by looking at a number of scripture passages in the Gospels. We will be looking at the stories of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan Woman at the well, Jesus interacting with Zacchaeus, and finally Jesus interacting with a Canaanite woman trying to have her daughter healed. These are not necessarily situations where Jesus had gathered a large number of people together, hosting a party that requires hospitality, but these are more like chance encounters where people found themselves in front of each other and needed to decide how they were going to interact with each other.

In the past year this congregation has not had a whole lot of opportunities to extend hospitality as a group. We have been unable to gather in that manner, but I have also gotten the impression that this group really enjoys extending hospitality and we do it well and I believe we will experience that hospitality with a renewed energy when we are able to resume those activities. Over that past year we have had countless opportunities to practice hospitality in the ways demonstrated in these scriptural passages. These events occur each and every day as we encounter people in the grocery store, in our work environments, or even in our neighborhoods when we take the dog out for a walk. These are the chance encounters that are really not planned at all, and yet they provide us with an opportunity. These encounters provide us with the same opportunities that Jesus found in our Gospels. Opportunities to extend hospitality and a welcoming atmosphere in a manner that Jesus would be proud of. I invite you to join me as we explore Jesus' radical hospitality and how we can make that happen in our lives today.

## Walking Humbly

As a congregation, on the first Sunday in Lent, we celebrated my official installation. Yes, I began my employment here the first Sunday in August, but official installations normally occur after official start dates. This installation may have taken a little longer than normal, because everything seems to take a little longer to figure out these days. First of all, we needed to decide if this was going to be an in-person event or a virtual event, after we decided it needed to be virtual, then we had to figure out all of the logistics of that and how we were going to put it all together. So, it has taken a little bit of time to figure that all out. It probably took a little more time, because honestly it has not been the highest thing on my priority list. I am not one who puts a whole lot of emphasis on ceremony and fanfare, it just isn't me. But we got it all taken care of and I am very grateful for that.

One of my responsibilities for this event was to choose the scripture for the installation and I selected Micah 6:6-8 as one. Micah 6:8 reads, 'He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?' Those are words I really try to live by each and every day, it is really pretty simple: 'Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly'. Or at least it is pretty simple to remember as a motto. Living it out can definitely get more complicated. What really is justice? How can we truly love kindness? What do both of those concepts mean in our daily life? We can spend tons of time on those two and we would have to increase the postage and the budget for the newsletter if I were to go into great depth on those two concepts. We might have to save those for a sermon series, I am not sure one sermon would be sufficient.

That being said, today I think I might have a greater understanding of the third part of that verse, walking humbly with our God. I am sitting in my office writing this article a couple of hours after we shared my installation and after this amazing congregation put together a last-minute parade in order to officially welcome and celebrate my installation. Today I am truly feeling humbled as your pastor. Humbled to have the privilege and pleasure to be on this journey with you. Humbled to be invited into your lives during some of their most sacred moments. Humbled that you would look to me for direction and wisdom. Humbled that during these strange times you still found a way to welcome me into this community. Thank you for this amazing privilege, I am excited to see where this journey might take us!

*-Pastor Nathan*





### **The Upper Room**



The March/April issue of the daily devotional "The Upper Room" is available in the Literature Rack.

YOGA 

**Until further notice Yoga is postponed** honoring no group larger than 10 to gather in one place. An email will be sent to participants when we will resume. If you or someone you know would like this notification please contact Renae at the number/email listed below.

We are always looking for new friends to join our program. Questions, please contact Renae at 565-2785 or [rwunsch@hgsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:rwunsch@hgsd.k12.wi.us)

### **SHOP WITH SCRIP**

Continuing in 2021, card orders will be due the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month.

**Don't worry; we will have a stockpile of the cards purchased most often that you can buy any Sunday. It's best to get that order in on a monthly basis so you can plan for it in your budget.**

Any questions, talk to Shari Ver Straate, Renae Wunsch, Nancy Cherney or Char Gumm.

Thanks for supporting this program.

*The Falls Food Pantry serves the needy of Howards Grove, Kohler, Sheboygan Falls and Waldo. All donations are very much appreciated.*

### **God's Blessings on your Birthday - March**

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Danielle Stoffregen | 3 Marcella Munger |
| 4 Glenn Ver Straate   | 5 Jaimie Simon    |
| 5 Gary Wiegand        | 7 Zach Mock       |
| 9 James Kalk          | 10 Cleora Marx    |
| 14 Samantha Leischner | 20 Lee Leischner  |
| 23 Jessica Wieck      | 27 Jacob Vasconi  |
| 28 Dale Cherney       | 29 Sophia Knuth   |

### **Newsletter via E-mail?**



Interested in receiving this newsletter via email instead of in the mail? We can easily do this! Send Pastor Nathan an email at [nathorp70@gmail.com](mailto:nathorp70@gmail.com) indicating so and we will make it happen. We are also able to send it to multiple emails within a family if that is desired, or if you know someone who isn't on our mailing list that would benefit from our newsletter, we would be happy to add them to our emailing list. Foregoing the printed email will save the church postage, paper, and printer ink. Of course, if you prefer to continue receiving it on paper, we will continue to do so.

## Three ways to send your offering

Our Shepherd has three options for providing your offering:

1. Sending a check via postal mail to the church
2. Using your bank's online bill pay to send a check to church
3. Online giving – see article in this newsletter for instructions

Mail all checks/bill pay out to:

Our Shepherd UCC  
710 Ethan Allen Drive  
Howards Grove, WI 53083

### Grateful Weekly Offerings

Supporting the church can be done by mailing your offering directly to the church or on-line bill pay (Please enter your envelope number in the account number field when using on-line banking).

## Consistory Meeting

February 14, 2021 @ 8:30 a.m.

- \*Jeff W and Pastor Nathan set up new camera for services
- \*Vanco online giving site is up and running
- \*Pastor Nathan attended 6 online stewardship sessions
- \*Pastor Nathan has received his second COVID vaccination
- \*Mark & Sandy Vollbrecht donated a fireproof filing cabinet
- \*Pastor Nathan feels small church meetings can be allowed at this time with proper precautions
- \*Pastor Nathan's installation will be held on February 21 with Rev. Ted Drewsen of Madison leading the service
- \*Women's Fellowship had a short meeting to discuss Stained Glass project
- \*Next Meeting – March 14 @ 8:30

Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
September-May



### On-Line Giving

Are you feeling like you have an awful lot on your plate? Lots of commitments to keep track of? So much to do that you feel like things are slipping through the cracks? We have an opportunity for you! We can help you take something off your list and make it happen automatically. We now have the opportunity to offer you automated on-line giving to Our Shepherd. You have the opportunity to set a payment up as a one-time event, or a contribution that happens automatically for the amount and frequency that you choose. Just like you might pay your mortgage, or your utility bill, or a car payment automatically without having to do something every month, you can now set up the same arrangement with Our Shepherd. Use the following link to make that happen, <https://secure.myvanco.com/YHE5/home> or call the church and we will gladly help you navigate the system.

## THE NEWSLETTER HAS A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

Please send all newsletter correspondence to  
OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com

It will be on the front cover of the newsletter  
for future reference. Thank you

## Church School Lentin/Easter Project

The Church School will be sending Easter joy to the families of Bridgeway House and request your assistance with our outreach project.



1. There are 6 blanket sets at church to be tied. If you have interest please pick up a bag with material at church by March 14<sup>th</sup> and return by March 28<sup>th</sup>. Please leave your name when you take a blanket, should we need to contact you.
2. We have been informed the families really enjoy the snack treats in their baskets. To simplify the collection this year, we will be collecting snack items for 4 families. There are 11 children and 4 moms ranging in age from 2 to 16. We will divide the donations appropriately.
3. If you would like to give a cash donation it will be used by the families to prepare an Easter dinner.
4. We were also informed the Bridgeway House reaches out to over 100 people. The group at large is in need of shampoo, conditioner, body soap, or other personal care items.

Donations may be dropped off at church or the Wunsch house (711 S. Wis. Dr.) by March 28<sup>th</sup>. Please label the bag for the Bridgeway House/ or Easter project. Thank you for your continued support in spreading God's love.



## Meals for Salvation Army

The Women's Fellowship will be making meals for Salvation



Army on March 2 and 16. We are asking for help in providing these meals. Below is a list of items that we will need. We will be serving 30 people.

- 3 large cans cream of mushroom soup
- 12# ham
- 1 gal milk
- 1 bag onions
- 1 stalk celery
- 5# flour
- 2#butter
- 4 loaves Italian bread

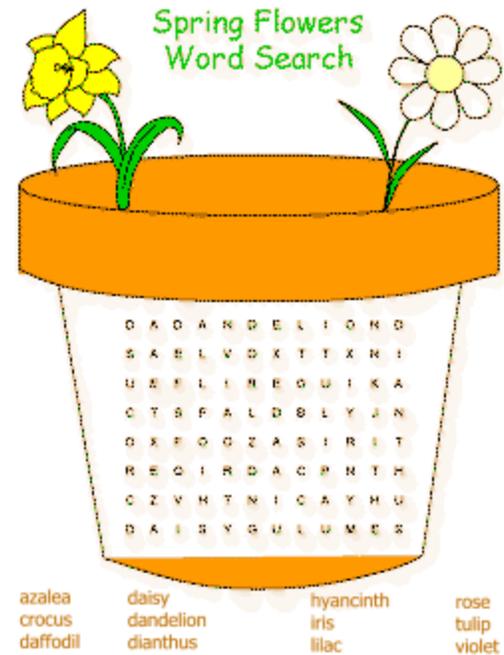
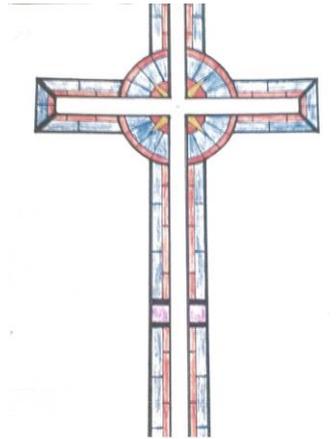
**Thank you for all your help. You can drop off your donations by March 2**



**Women's Fellowship  
February 11, 2021----2pm**

Pastor Nathan opened with a Valentines Litany.  
Treasures Report: Check book balance:  
\$1,759.62  
Income \$335.00 Cookie Walk  
Expenses: \$400.00 for the blinds

**Old Business:** The Women's Fellowship agreed to move forward with the purchase of stained glass for the sanctuary. The cost of this project is \$8,906.00. We presently have funds from the Memorial Fund and Women's Fellowship, but are still in need of additional funds. We are asking the congregation to help us with this project. Anyone interested in donating to this project can make a check to Our Shepherd Women's Fellowship by Sunday March 14 or let Helen Harms know if you are willing to help with this project. Thanks for your support. See picture above.



We are going to order Easter Lilies to beautify our Sanctuary for Easter. An order form will be sent as soon as we know the prices. For those of you that ordered last Easter and did not receive your money back we will use that to place your order this year.

**New Business:** Starting in March the Women's Fellowship will be undertaking a new mission project. We will be making meals for Salvation Army for the homeless. We will be doing this on Tue March 2 and March 16. On the second of March we will be making Scalloped Potatoes and Ham. On Tue. March 16 we will be making Cream of Potato and Ham Soup for 30 people. If anyone is interested in helping by donating supplies or your time please contact Char Gumm at 920 475-3657. If we have enough support from the congregation, we would like to do this monthly. We can help by donating supplies or money to help with the costs. There are presently 30 homeless in Sheboygan County that they are presently feeding every day. Help us to make a difference in someone's life.

**Giving Back  
With Love**



Please donate your time, food,  
water, or cash if you can.  
Thanks in advance!



<p>Food Pantry Items</p> <p><b>Canned Fruit</b></p> 	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>7</p> <p>Sunday School Lesson</p> <p>10:00 Worship - on Facebook</p>	8	9	10	11	12	<p>13 Daylight Savings</p> 
<p>14</p> <p>8:30 Consistory Meeting</p> <p>10:00 Worship on Facebook</p>	15	16	<p>17</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day</p>	18	19	20
<p>21</p> <p>Sunday School Lesson</p> <p>10:00 Worship - on Facebook</p> <p><b>Scrip Orders Due</b></p> <p><b>Newsletter Articles Due</b></p> <p>Spring Begins</p> 	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>28</p> <p>10:00 Worship – on Facebook</p>	29	30	31		<p><i>March</i></p> <p><i>2021</i></p>	

