



THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Granite Springs, NY
goodshepherdny.org

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OUR MISSION

To spread the good news of Jesus in our community through worship, fellowship, outreach, and education while reflecting Christ's love in all that we do.

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." John 10:11

WHO WE ARE

Small but mighty congregation
Welcoming and diverse
Deep fellowship
Supportive and caring for all
Christ centered community
Passionate about outreach

Whether you are exploring faith for the first time or have walked with Christ for years, there is a place for you here. We love to gather, to learn and to celebrate life together, whether it's a festive holiday service, a church supper, a community event, or a quiet moment of prayer. Come join us!





WHY OUR PARISHIONERS LOVE OUR CHURCH

Parish survey, Spring 2025

Close fellowship
Style of worship
Outreach program
The priest
Music and choir
The sermons
Sunday School

The church survey results above not only reflect what our parishioners love, but also what is important to them. The parish is looking for more consistency and hopes that having a shared rector will allow us to get back to the thriving church it used to be while realizing it will be a different model and will require adjustments on our part. We want someone who is a good listener and who will encourage parish participation, who will help us to develop growth and strategy for becoming financially stable once again. Most important a rector who will help us to continue to grow closer to God and have an open-minded approach to incorporating old traditions while inspiring a new way forward.

Our two strongest points are: fellowship and outreach

Our two weakest points are: membership and stewardship

"I will give you, Shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15

*"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them, not because you must, but because you are willing and as God wants you to be, not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve."
Peter 5:2*

Regarding our vestry, a quote from an interim priest in 2024:

"I have never worked with a vestry that works as well as this one does. There is collegiality, respect, sense of shared purpose and good humor among the group even when there is a disagreement. I attribute this to the individual members and to what I describe as "Community of Faith"

OUR WORSHIP

Our weekly service on Sundays starts at 10:00AM and is also broadcast on via Zoom. The service begins with a short children's sermon after which the children move to Sunday School and return in time for Eucharist. The Coffee hour immediately following the service is our time to reconnect with our parish family each week. Whether it's sharing a simple cup of coffee or breakfast/desserts we value our time together.



Our traditions also include celebrations of major feast days: Candlemas, Annunciation, Easter Triduum, Ascension Day, Holy Cross Day, Michaelmas, All Saints Day, and Twelfth Night. These Holy Day Eucharists are often preceded by sharing potluck dinners, desserts or just coffee & tea. We love to be together, sharing life with our parish family. The liturgical calendar gives us many opportunities to create and deepen our bonds, with God and each other.



Easter Egg Hunt



Blessing of the Backpacks

OUR MINISTRIES

Pastoral Care & Prayer Group: This team gives support by providing home and hospital visits, rides, meals, and actively prays daily for the confidential needs of our parishioners and friends.

Music Ministry: We have an active choir, some of whom are musicians too and perform on most Sundays and holidays.

WOCOGS: The Women of the Church of the Good Shepherd is a fellowship group open to everyone. They help raise funds through plant and bake sales, etc. and also includes a birthday card ministry who send out cards to all parishioners.

Financial Ministry: We have a treasurer and financial secretary.

Christian Education: Sunday School is a joyous part of our church and is offered during the 10:00AM service year-round for ages Pre-K through 8th grade. The program is led by the Sunday School Committee, a group of parents, grandparents, and interested parishioners. The Sunday School sponsors a variety of fun events such as the Blessing of the Backpacks, St. Nicholas Visit, Christmas Pageant, Spring Concert, and Graduation and during the summer months we have Craft Sundays. We anticipate the ongoing development of the Sunday School – maintaining recent practices while also embracing gradual changes through collaboration.

OUTREACH

We offer a wide range of programs that cater to the spiritual and social needs of our congregation and community. At our church we believe faith isn't just about Sunday services: it's about loving our neighbors, lifting each other up, and serving our community with open hearts.

Food Ministries

Twice a month a team of volunteers from other organizations along with our COGS volunteers gather in our COGS kitchen to prepare and serve a free hot lunch and delicious desserts to our local seniors. In addition, each attendee receives a take home dinner to enjoy later. It's gotten very popular with our seniors as we have an average of 50-60 attending most times. We also provide music and at times the seniors even get up and dance! Also, twice a month we make approximately 300 bag lunches which we deliver to two local food pantries.



Our volunteers prepping in our kitchen

Core Community Partners

- **Community Center of Northern Westchester (CCNW):** A hub of emergency resources offering support to help our food insecure neighbors to enhance their wellbeing. We collect food weekly for CCNW and partnered with them to obtain a grant from Episcopal Charities.
- **Putnam Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center:** The center works to create a space and supportive environment that provides free and confidential services and support to victims of violence. During the year we collect items for the center such as baby items, women's toiletries and at Easter time we provide Easter baskets for the children. We also support their annual fund raiser and partnered with them to obtain a grant from Episcopal Charities.

Additional outreach ministries we support:

- **The Putnam Humane Society**
- **American Friends of Jerusalem**
- **The Veteran's Hospital**
- **St. Mary's Food Pantry**

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Good Shepherd is located on four acres of land in a residential neighborhood. The Church, Parish Office, Sacristy, Breezeway, Guild Room, and Parish Hall are in three interconnected buildings. A separate house located on one corner of the property serves as the Rectory, and a Memorial Garden is located in a wooded section of the property near the parking lot, behind the Church. The front lawn includes the bell and cornerstone from the original Chapel of the Good Shepherd, which no longer exists. The bell is rung to announce commencement of the 10:00AM service, provided the snow is not too deep to get to it! This is a nice connection to our past.

THE CHURCH was built in 1954, and the first service was held on Christmas Eve. A brick construction with a concrete interior. The Church seats a total of 200 people and is heated, but not air conditioned, with ceiling fans used for cooling. The Church has a small narthex with a small adjoining room used for Acolyte preparation. A focal point of our Church is a large, round stained-glass window over the altar depicting Jesus the Good Shepherd which was donated by parishioners in 1962. Our church walls are donned by the Stations of the Cross, donated by a parishioner.

THE PARISH HALL was built in 1956 and it's a large, multi-purpose room used for Sunday school, coffee hour, church events and social gatherings. Like the Church, the Parish Hall is heated, but not air conditioned, with ceiling fans used for cooling in the summer. The Hall can accommodate 80 people at tables or 100 people with no tables. The Parish Hall has a few small rooms that are used for storage or as a meeting space. In the 1970's the Breezeway and Guild Room were built to connect the church with the Parish Hall and kitchen.

THE RECTORY is a wood framed Cape Cod style home located on church property but is situated apart from the Church buildings with its own driveway. The main level of the Rectory consists of a living room with hardwood floors and a fireplace, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom with a walk-in closet and master bathroom. There are also two additional bedrooms, and a full bath on the same level. It has a full basement with a one-car garage, washer/dryer, and utility space. Recently we upgraded to the Somers town water system. A/C is provided by window units.



THE MEMORIAL GARDEN was constructed in 2012 with donations from parishioners and can be accessed from the parking lot. To date, 12 interments have been made in the garden. A wooden trail was created by a parishioner in Boy Scout Troop 376 as his Eagle Scout project that leads from the memorial garden to the church. Engraved bricks are sold to support the Memorial Garden and adorn the entry to the garden. Traditionally, we start our Palm Sunday and Memorial Day services in the garden with a procession to the church. In the past we have also held Evening Prayer and Stations of the Cross in the Memorial Garden as well, weather permitting. It is also a great place for meditation. Teens of our church also created a tiny lending book library for children in the area and a garden for butterflies and plants.



Finances

Like most parishes across the church, the Church of the Good Shepherd has faced financial challenges over recent years because of covid, a dip in parish membership and a series of urgent capital repairs and improvements to our campus. With the grace of God and our strong and dedicated congregation, through stringent cost controls, generous donations, and gains in parishioners we have managed thus far to avoid any serious financial deficits.

However, we know that when we are blessed with obtaining a full-time joint rector, we will experience a shortfall. Fortunately, we are blessed with an endowment created by the estate of past parishioners. This fund is restricted and can only be used for operation when approved by a vote of the congregation. Our congregation unanimously approved using our Yandersitz Fund at a meeting in February 2025 as needed to cover shortfalls resulting from the additional expense of the joint rector. Based on our best budgeting and estimates, the fund will enable us to cover our share of the joint rector for over three years, by which time it is our prayerful hope and expectation that we will be again able to maintain a balanced budget and in time replenish the fund to cover future emergencies.

Good Shepherd Numbers at a Glance			
	2023	2024	2025
Parishioners	91	55	52
Average Sunday Attendance	33	42	33
Pledge Units	43	42	37
Total Income	178,000	155,460	148,400
Total Expenses	171,500	144,700	142,700

A copy of our full financial statements is available upon request.

We pray that God guides the Good Shepherd Parish and the person who will be called to join us so that we may come together to fulfill the mission of our parish.

OUR COMMUNITY

Granite Springs is a hamlet in the town of Somers, NY located 50 miles north of mid-town Manhattan (just over an hour by train), 25 miles north of White Plains, NY, and 35 miles west of Danbury, CT. The community surrounding Good Shepherd is a combination of suburban and rural. The natural

surroundings in and around Granite Springs are well worth exploring, and make a wonderful environment to settle down, build friendships, fellowship, and your relationship with God.

Somers is very family friendly with great public schools and many recreational activities for children. The [Somers Central School District](#) includes four schools on two campuses. School bus transportation is provided. The district's total enrollment in 2024 was 2635 students. The student ratio is 10:1. Consistent with the make-up of the town, racial diversity in the schools is limited, with 78.8% Caucasian, 4% Asian, 13.5% Hispanic or Latino, and 1.2% African American



The Elephant Hotel (Somers Town Hall)

and 3.5% multiracial students. In 2024, Somers High School had a 95% graduation rate for students.

It is easy to get your children involved in a number of activities sponsored by the Town of Somers. The [Somers Youth Sports Organization](#) ("SYSO") offers low-cost baseball, softball, basketball, football, lacrosse, soccer, and cheerleading. Town residents generally join one of the lake communities in town or swim at a local health club.

Northern Westchester is a great location for those who enjoy spending time outdoors with several state, county and town parks offering walking, hiking and biking trails, as well as fishing in one of the area's many reservoirs. [Lasdon Arboretum and Veterans Memorial](#), [Muscoot Farm](#), and [Reis Park](#) are all located in Somers. Reis Park offers a playground, playing fields, tennis courts, and the Somers Library. Within walking distance of Good Shepherd is the North County Trailway, a 33-mile paved biking, walking, skating, and skiing trail.

Theatrical performances or concerts are offered at the [Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts](#) in Katonah, the [Yorktown Community Theater](#), the [Schoolhouse Theater](#), the [Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival](#), the [Katonah Museum of Art](#), or at the [Katonah Art Center](#).

OUR NEW RECTOR

Our ideal minister is passionate about their faith, dedicated to serving others and eager to lead our church with vision and compassion. After several years of interim priests, we are looking for someone to make our church their permanent home. In order to do that we are moving forward to having a shared ministry with St Luke's in Katonah. We are seeking an individual to assist our small parish in achieving unity and growth once again.

A few years ago, several members of our congregation experienced disagreement with our last rector, resulting in the loss of long-time parishioners, pledge income, and the rector himself. We also temporarily lost our faith. This was a profoundly challenging time for many members of our parish, but we are resourceful and have survived. We are firmly committed to our church and strive to support one another and are excited to begin a brand way of sharing a priest and enjoying church life together. As we take this new journey, we will need our new rector to nurture volunteers, mentor lay leaders, support parish activities, and promote cooperation between the two parishes ensuring shared resources are used efficiently. Joining our parishes means becoming part of two close-knit communities dedicated to living out their faith. Our new rector will have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of parishioners, inspire others in their spiritual journeys, and lead initiatives that impact the broader community.

If you are interested in learning with us and leading a shared ministry, we encourage you to apply and share your gifts. Our website is currently under construction so please reach out to us for more details or with any questions. Thank you for taking the time to consider us to be your new home. May God bless you in your search.

Good Shepherd - Granite Springs NY

Treasurer's Report as of April 2025 for General Operating Fund Balance

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance Budget YTD ver/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget		
Income							
	Total Pledges	\$8,187.73	\$7,693.00	\$37,880.78*	\$32,694.00	\$5,186.78	\$100,000.00
	Total Other Congregation Donations	\$1,504.00	\$1,094.00	\$3,420.00*	\$2,477.00	\$943.00	\$6,990.00
	Total All Fund Raisers Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
	Total Rental Donations	\$2,525.00	\$2,633.00	\$9,950.00	\$10,882.00	(\$932.00)	\$32,300.00
	Total Endowment Gifts	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	\$6,600.00
	Total Special One Time Gift	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total Other Operating Income	\$144.90	\$167.00	\$4,871.68*	\$669.00	\$4,202.68	\$2,005.00
	Total Income	\$12,911.63	\$12,137.00	\$58,322.46	\$48,922.00	\$9,400.46	\$150,395.00
Expense							
	Total Rector's Compensation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total Rector's Benefits	\$250.40	\$0.00	\$250.40*	\$0.00	\$250.40	\$0.00
	Total Staff Compensation & Expenses	\$2,829.20	\$3,133.00	\$11,504.43	\$13,033.00	(\$1,528.57)	\$38,028.00
	Total Diocesan Expense	\$0.00	\$654.00	\$0.00	\$2,616.00	(\$2,616.00)	\$7,842.00
	Total All Fund Raisers Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
	Total Worship Expense	\$3,834.51	\$2,458.00	\$11,376.46*	\$9,748.00	\$1,628.46	\$29,315.00
	Total Church Programs	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$118.00	\$118.00	\$0.00	\$1,570.00
	Total Church & Office Expense	\$3,885.38	\$1,927.00	\$9,386.53*	\$7,329.00	\$2,057.53	\$23,047.00
	Total Utilities	\$2,911.87	\$1,755.00	\$11,597.82*	\$7,144.00	\$4,453.82	\$21,175.00
	Total Maintenance	\$1,588.14	\$2,742.00	\$9,634.12	\$13,260.00	(\$3,625.88)	\$34,930.00
	Total Expense	\$15,299.50	\$12,699.00	\$53,867.76	\$53,248.00	\$619.76	\$156,907.00
	Difference	(\$2,387.87)	(\$562.00)	\$4,454.70	(\$4,326.00)		(\$6,512.00)

* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date