

# Shepherd's Voice

CELEBRATING

*God's  
Creation*



**April 2021**

# What is God's favorite color?



**Renee Patterson**

**Senior Pastor**

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Hello People of God! One of the things I LOVE about spring is the bursting forth of color. Do you have a favorite color? Have you ever wondered if God might have a favorite color? Surely it has to be that pinkish-orange color of a fantastic sunset...or maybe it's that mesmerizing aquamarine blue of the ocean. Perhaps that sounds like a trivial wondering for the vastness of God, but how can you not wonder about that when you take in the grandness of Creation? Is it possible that God *does* have a favorite color? We need only turn to Genesis 1:30 to discover a gracious and bountiful God saying, "And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every **GREEN** plant for food." The life-giving Creator of both great and small has designed the very substance of life to be **GREEN!**

Genesis is but the beginning of God's taking delight in His 'very good' **green** earth and the multiplying menagerie of living creatures that this **greenness** sustains. I am grateful that we have a Creator that has gifted us with this astounding place to live and breathe and play. I am also grateful that we have a specific day to acknowledge all of this **greenly** blessing as we celebrate **Earth Day on April 22nd**. The observance of Earth Day each spring gives Christians the specific opportunity to consider God's good creation and our stewardship of it. Genesis 1:26 reminds us that we (God's people) have been given dominion and responsibility for this Earth that God has entrusted to us.

What if this Earth Day (or the entire month of April even) you celebrated this gift of **green creation** by giving thanks to God for this place to live? What if you made a conscious effort to search for products that are sustainably sourced thereby making a step towards protecting this beautiful place? What if you spent time seeking "**green theology**" in Scripture? You need not look far to discover verses like John 3:16, "For God so loved the **world** (cosmos) that He gave His one and only Son. . ." Yes, God so loves *this whole (green) world*. And so should we, people of God...so should we.

As the wonderful signs of spring and new life continue to emerge, may we truly dance with delight as we witness our planet practicing the Creation-miracle of **re-greening** itself once again. Because THAT is truly something to celebrate!

Created in One Peace,

Pastor Renee

# Shepherd's Governing Board

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*"He is not here; he has risen!"*

~Luke 24:6-7~

**Holy Week Schedule:** The entire Governing Board is so excited for spring and the hope that it brings. We look forward to seeing you at our Holy Week services that are planned for this week. Sister Tashina is producing an online Maundy Thursday service (April 1st) with video clips of our people sharing meals in their homes. Good Friday service (April 2nd) will be in-sanctuary at 7:30pm. On Saturday (April 3rd) come join the fun at the Eggstravaganza Event (egg hunt and other fun) outside. We will have three service times for our Easter morning worship (April 4th) at 8:00am (in-sanctuary, traditional) and 9:30 and 11:00am (parking lot worship, contemporary). We have back-up plans in place for inclement weather on Easter morning.

If you are planning on attending on Good Friday or in-sanctuary at 8am on Easter morning, please make sure to RSVP through the easy reservation system set up on our website: [sohsv.org/rsvp](http://sohsv.org/rsvp). You can also call the church office before 3pm on the Friday before at 651-483-5419. No reservation is needed for the parking lot services on Easter morning.



**The Donuts Are Back!** Our theme this Lent season is (re)connecting with God. It is time to (re)connect together again as a community in our **Parking Lot Services** which will be starting up again at 9:00am April 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be offering donuts in the yard after service! Coffee will not be served, so if you desire coffee with your donut, please provide your own travel mug of your favorite java or other beverage of your choice.

**Spring Season of Service:** Mark your calendars! April 25<sup>th</sup> through May 23<sup>rd</sup> will be our next Shepherd Season of Service. The Joy Team is preparing a large list of opportunities for families and individuals to join in this campaign of service. They are also working on getting starter packs set up for the service projects we loved so much at our last Days of Service. Families will be able to take the starter packs home to purchase or finalize the remainder of the project to bring back the following week. Watch for more details coming soon.

The Governing Board extends joyous Easter Greetings to you all! At our last Governing Board meeting, we discussed the all-important topic of what our favorite Easter candy is.

With which Governing Board member do you feel an Easter candy bond?

**Dave and Chriss** share an affection for Malted Milk Ball Eggs; **Deb** has fond childhood memories of Fanny Farmer Butter Cream Eggs; **Elizabeth** loves the Reese's Peanut Butter Egg; **Lynn** goes for the Cadbury Chocolate Egg, while **Pastor Brice** prefers the Cadbury Caramel filled Egg; **Sister Tashina** can be won over with yellow Peeps; **Maria** finds biting the dark chocolate ears off the bunny so satisfying; **Kristen** reaches for the colorful Robin's Eggs; and both **Pastor Renee and Sally** will gladly take the black jellybeans off your hands!

*"Alleluia! Christ is Risen!"*

Your Shepherd Governing Board,

Dave Webb, Chair  
Deb Kohen, Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Kohen, Treasurer  
Maria Miller, Secretary  
Kristen Goligowski  
Chriss Latterell  
Lynn Mears  
Sally Peters  
Pastor Renee Patterson

Hello Dear People of Shepherd,

Spring is in the air and it is a beautiful feeling. It brings hope of newness and resurrection. Both the resurrection of Jesus and resurrection of all that was buried beneath the cold and snow of winter. This renewed sense of hope also brings about a renewed sense of energy. For me that energy feels like the desire to step into that call to action in our world that God has placed in us. The call to tend to the care of the earth around us. Partially to get my hands in the dirt and do something constructive in my yard outside, but also to engage in deeper levels of caring for our planet and the injustices that continue to ravage God's creation.



**Sister Tashina Good**  
**Deacon**

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I wonder if you have similar feelings. Like you just want to get outside and go for a walk or plant your garden or shop at a farmers market or explore ways to reduce your trash and increase your recycling or fill in the blank here. As this renewed energy bubbles up inside me, I sit here wondering if it has something to do with where or how I was raised, or perhaps it's the community I find myself in now. Or is it something more instinctual about how God created us? In scripture, the first vocation or calling of a task or work that brings life-giving fulfillment within us, that God placed upon humanity, was to till and keep the earth: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." - Genesis 2:15. In this second account of Creation, even before there was any companion for Adam or the call of fellowship and community and love of the other, there was a call to care for the creation.

As many of you know, I am not a fan of cherry picking verses to fit my perspective but instead prefer to understand the text from the lens of either context or how it fits with the rest of scripture, or both. When I read this verse from Genesis, it not only causes me to pause and wonder how this text might connect us now to a deeply rooted call to care for creation, but it also causes me to ponder around one of my absolutely favorite verses in Paul's letter to the Romans: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." Romans 12:1. In this text Paul is speaking about how everything we do, every action we take or do not take, is an act of worship to God. Be it how we treat other drivers on the road or our next-door neighbors who continue doing that annoying thing, or how we are or are not wasteful with our time and resources. He speaks to worship not simply being something done in a communal ritual like Sunday morning services, but also that the minute and mundane aspects of our days and lives are truly spiritual and are acts of worship that we present to God.

When we pare these two scripture texts together, God's first call of vocation to humanity to care for creation and the reminder that every action of our lives was designed to be an act of worship to God, it fills me with excitement and dread. Excitement that we not only have a part in making change but that we were designed for it. And then dread of all I have missed out on doing. Good thing we are Lutherans and lean on God's never-ending grace. (More tie ins of scripture from other places here...if you want them let me know, the list is long!) With that we have the opportunity to step up our work, to lean into the promise of hope and possibility. We can make a difference in the care of this beautiful creation God has placed us in and we can give glory to God as we do it. And April, hosting Earth day on April 22, is the perfect time to try taking on or removing one thing to make that difference. What will it be for you? Perhaps you will reduce your red meat intake. Perhaps you will eliminate single use straws and utensils. Perhaps you will invest in renewable energy. Perhaps you will plant something in your garden to help the honeybees. Perhaps you will attend a seminar to learn about what our state and local government is doing about climate change and how you can get involved. The possibilities are endless and each one of them an act of worship to our God. What a joyful thing that is! Whatever you would like to do, I am excited to learn and talk with you about them. Please, reach out and we can grab a cup of coffee or a have zoom session and learn together.

See you in church,  
Sister Tashina



*“<sup>A</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...” Ephesians 2:4-5*

**Brice Bloxham**  
**Associate Pastor**

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Snow is melting, the snow is falling so that the snow can melt again, the rain is coming, grass is growing, trees and flowers are beginning to bloom... and with that we're spending more time outside less bundled up. So, I wonder what are some of your favorite outdoor activities? Are you a runner? Do you like to work in the garden? For us, our boys love the water. They love swimming and splashing, and they love to get out to the lake. THEY. LOVE. FISHING. The joy on Simon and Silas's faces when they hook a fish that puts up a fight delights me to the very depths of my soul. How do you get out and enjoy the creation that we've been gifted? If you were or had a teenager around the year 2006, you're probably

familiar with the Disney Channel movie *High School Musical*. Now, I was not a teenager then, nor did I have one, but that doesn't mean I escaped unscathed. I vividly remember the movie's theme song *We're All in This Together* and the phenomenon it was with the dance that followed along with it. It is a striking tune and it reminds me a bit of what our newsletter theme is this month. By now, I am sure, you may be aware that it is Earth Day, which falls this year on Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is an opportunity for us to pause and think about the world that we live in, to be witness to this place that we have been gifted, to really observe what this place we dwell in offers.

A recent epistle reading from the lectionary came from Ephesians 2. Paul writes in that letter that God has made us alive together with Christ. A life together with Christ. If we are to believe that, if we are to have faith in that, then we indeed are in this together. I realize that sounds kitschy, I get that it sounds cliché, but if we are in fact a community together then we do not exist apart. Our lives in Christ mean that we do this life together with one another and with our God.

Earth Day is an odd holiday to me. We set aside one day out of the entire year to contemplate this planet that we live on. Well, that's nice. What about the other 364 days of the year? Is there more to honoring than thinking about our Earth on just one 24-hour span every single year? The way that we are interacting with our Earth is unfortunately doing more harm than good. The evidence is mounting up and it's painting a bleak picture for what's to come. How does our faith impact how we interact with the world? As Christians our call is to care for what God has given us. Unfortunately, in too many ways we seem to be doing more harm than good. Our faith not only calls on us to experience life together with Christ but also to care for what we have been given to steward, God's creation.

That same Ephesians reading from a few weeks ago ends with the reminder that we have each been “created in Christ Jesus for good works.” These things that we do are not so that we might boast as the author of Ephesians writes but rather so that God might be glorified. What an image! To be created for something that does good, that with God can build life. While one day a year to enjoy, think about, honor, and safeguard the creation we've been given to live in is not nearly enough, perhaps in it we can begin to do the good work needed. And to undo some of the damage that has been done at our hands, so those who are coming after us may enjoy this creation for generations to come. This is not a doom and gloom piece of writing, but instead an invitation to think about how we live, because we're all in this together.

Found with you, in Christ,

Spring is in the air. People are getting vaccinated. Christ has risen... *The Good News is everywhere.*

But when you think about it, spring itself is actually quite chaotic. Sure, by the end of season we have beautiful flowers and trees in bloom. Sunshine. Warmth. But before that: mud, snow, and rain.

I think that's what has always drawn me to spring. Of all of the seasons, it's the messiest. It's when we see the marvel of our earth in its fullest glory. Life coming from stillness. And while that growth is wonderful, it's also transformative in ways that can be, well, uncomfortable.

Just this past week, I spoke with a music colleague of mine and we were remarking at how at the end of this whole pandemic, we cannot wait to return to lives full of music and community. But at the same time, we were both interested to see the new growth that comes from this period of chaos. This period that has literally uprooted our lives and thrown us into a future that is uncertain.

That newness is both exhilarating and terrifying. But I look at the process our earth goes through every year, constantly in flux and in renewal, and it helps me to realize that this is all in God's larger plan for us. It's new. It's chaotic. It's beautiful. It's where we're meant to be.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Joe



**Joseph Trucano**  
**Director of Music and Worship**  
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## Financial Update

Thank you to all that moved their electronic giving over to our new vendor, Simple Church Giving! It is easy to give online and we offer many different ways (see below).

Our community has done a wonderful job of keeping expenses under control especially the last twelve months. As we continue to recover from the pandemic, we appreciate all of your assistance in this. While expenses have been under control, giving has not met budget expectations. We are continually falling short in giving. In January, we were 11% behind in congregational giving and in February, we were 13%. If the giving continues to come at a shortfall, we will be over \$120,000 short in our giving budget by the end of the year. You can help us out by donating. Please let me know if you have any questions.



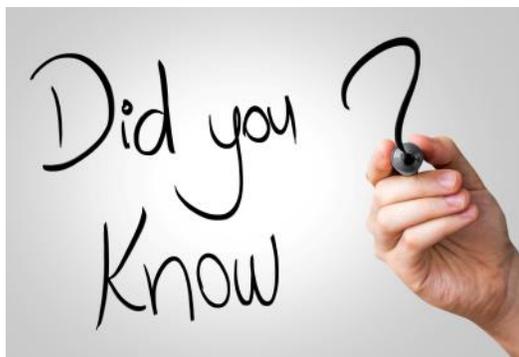
**Miranda Oliver**  
**Director of Operations**  
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Operations  
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As most of you are aware, April celebrates Earth Day. Did you know that Shepherd has a Green



Team? Do you have an interest in preserving God's Creation? How about using best practices in the building? Do you have a passion for taking care of the planet? Want to involve the younger generations in stewardship of the earth?

Please contact me directly to show your interest in the group. I'll see what times work best for all and we'll come up with an initial meeting which will probably take place outdoors due to COVID-19.



- Since 2015, Shepherd has received items and rebates for our energy and conservation efforts of over \$75,000!
- When you recycle a bottle, leave the top on it as the sorter can in turn recycle it.
- You can recycle aluminum foil in the Twin Cities area, if it is clean. Just crumple it into a ball to aid in the sorting before placing in your single sort recycling.

### How can one support Shepherd financially?

- Mail in your offertory envelopes
- Give online on our Giving Page
- Text To Give - Simply send a text with the word GIVE to 651-412-7495 with the amount you would like to contribute.
- List Shepherd as your beneficiary
- Transfer Stock to Shepherd

With any questions regarding giving, please contact [Miranda](mailto:Miranda).





Our little learners love learning and taking care of the planet! Each year when celebrating Earth Day, we create activities that encourage our students to care for God's world. We love to go on nature walks, plant seeds, sort recyclables, organics, and trash, and create art with our recyclables.

Take a peek at ways we care for the world around us!



We reuse yogurt cups and paper towel rolls to paint circles, egg cartons to make caterpillars, and then practice sorting the items we use in the classroom. They always ask which bin do their snack materials go in... green, gray, or blue?



# Youth Ministry @Shepherd

## CONFIRMATION IN APRIL

Wednesday Evenings 6:30PM—8:00PM

FOCUS: Jesus: birth, death, and resurrection

7th—Lesson—Large group via zoom

14th—Small Group Time in-person

21st—Individual Project Week

28th—Project Presentation Week—in-person

## ReFUEL IN APRIL

WHY SHOULD FAITH EVEN MATER IN MY LIFE—APRIL FOCUS: EARTH DAY

Join us on April 25th 6:30-8pm at a local park for some hiking and park clean-up and a congregational member joining us to talk about why caring about creation matters in their life and ours as well. All High School youth are welcome!



(re)Fuel - Shepherd High School Youth  
Why Does Faith Even Matter in my Life?

Monthly Sunday evening gatherings with a fun game, service project, and guest speaker from the congregation who talks about why faith matters in their life

Topics like International Women's Day, Earth Day, Pride Month, College Prep & More!

Keep up-to-date with information on our website and instagram pages



<https://www.shepherdshoreview.org/high-school-youth-ministry.html>



@youthshepherd

# ADULT *Faith* FORMATION

All April; Adult Ed events are subject to change. Please pay attention to weekly eNews for up-to-date information

**Weekly Bible Study:** Wednesdays throughout March at 1pm IN PERSON in Shepherd's Narthex and at 6:30pm via Zoom. Join us to discuss the upcoming scripture text and learn together.

**OUTDOOR Donut Time:** Join us each Sunday in April after Easter for our Donut Time after outdoor worship in the parking lot! *We might even get Donuts!*

**Spring Book Study:** Join us for our Spring Book Study on 'One Coin Found' by Emmy Kegler. Contact Sister Tashina or Pastor Renee to get access to the Zoom links.

We will be gathering on both Wednesdays at 2:30pm and Thursdays at 6:30pm every other week beginning on February 24th and 25th. Both weekdays will have the same questions and focus so choose the time that works best for you.

Book Study Schedule:

April 7/8 – Chap 6 & 7

April 21/22 – Chap 8 & 9

May 5/6 – Chap 10



# COVID-19 (seemingly eternal existence) Update 4.01.2021



**SO many changes!! We have all had to endure the shifting and changing guidelines and allowances of this pandemic existence. And we all have ongoing questions about what all this means.**

**Here are some answers to the FAQ's we have been hearing from you all:**

**Is the office open?** Yes...sort of. Generally, someone is in the office M-F, 9-4:00. Please call ahead if you'd like to stop in, and also please exercise distancing as it's the polite and right thing to do for everyone's safety.

**Why do we have to RSVP for worship?** This allows us to do contact tracing if someone were to get infected. It makes it easier to get ahold of who was here to let them know. It also ensures that we have adequate space for safe distancing in our sanctuary.

**Why can't we sing in worship?** While we love sharing time together in worship, we still aren't ok with sharing each other's germs. And singing projects those little germ buggers farther than 6 feet...even with a mask. So, for right now we are holding off on adding that to our worship time.

**Why are we still offering online services?** There are still many people that do not feel comfortable being together. We want to still include them in our worshiping experiences. So, for the foreseeable future we will be continuing our online services.

**Where are the hymnals and things in the pews?** The less things touched are less germs shared...enough said.

**Why are we not passing the offering plate in worship?** See answer above.

**When can we have donuts back?** **APRIL 11<sup>th</sup>** has been designated as **DONUT SUNDAY!!** We will be worshiping outside again with our **Parking Lot worship** and enjoying a donut after worship outside on our lawn. Our first batch of donuts will be in memory of Bill Henry, as he was our donut and coffee set-up guy for years. It will be BYOC (bring your own coffee) though, so bring your mug.

**If you have other questions that were not addressed here, please reach out to the office as they are the keepers of all the church answers.**

Your Shepherd Staff-

Pr. Renee, Jilene, Pr. Brice, Joe, Sr. Tashina, Miranda, and Michelle

Greetings,

As Christians, our faith calls us to action and to use the gifts that we've been given to serve not only our God but our community. We have an opportunity to use our gifts to financially support one of our ministry partners. This is a great way to connect our financial assets and gifts to our faith through the generous stewardship of those resources.

Yet another round of stimulus funds have entered many accounts. For this, we are all thankful. Things, while getting better, are still not back to normal for our congregation or our ministry partners. Even though we're seeing more "movement towards normal," the financial recovery for non-profits, charities, and churches will be a much longer recovery. We are looking to you to aid in filling the gaps.



We can do a great many things with the financial resources we have been gifted by God. Putting them back directly with local retailers, paying down our personal debt, or saving those funds can be great. We also have an opportunity to do some good outreach with it.

As you may be aware Shepherd's giving has been down a bit these past couple of months and we are not alone. Our ministry partners are feeling the tightening of their giving strings as well. Nonprofits across the board are hurting both financially and in volunteerism. Holy Hammers, a chapter of Habitat for Humanity Twin Cities, is no different. Holy Hammers works with Habitat to create and provide affordable, safe, and equitable housing. It is a phenomenal ministry and initiative that puts families in lasting and stable structures that they can turn into a home of their own.

Shepherd has begun a matching fund appeal. We had a goal of \$10,000 in pledged funds. At present, through the generosity of several Shepherd Members, we have exceeded our goal and have \$12,500 already pledged. Our attention now shifts to the broader Shepherd Community. Our goal is to raise a total of \$25,000. That first \$12,500 raised would go to Holy Hammers. The next \$12,500 (and hopefully beyond!) will go to support Shepherd of the Hill's general fund. 100% of your contribution will be tax-deductible. We have already reached \$12,500 of our goal. We need help with the remaining \$12,500.

During the course of April, you will hear us talking about this and urging you to step-up your already generous giving. We are a community of believers that rely on one another. Thank you in advance for your help with this giving opportunity.

Miranda Oliver, our Director of Operations, will handle all the financial details and transactions. You can give online, with a check, stocks, credit card or cash. One thing to note when considering an electronic payment is that Shepherd does pay a certain percentage on each online transaction. Including that cost in your gift is always appreciated. [Click Here to Give](#)

I am at your disposal if you have any more questions. Please feel free to call or email. Thank you, again, for your support and for considering being a matching funds donor.

Found with you, in Christ, Pastor Brice



# END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## A Community Forum For All

Thursday, April 15 7pm - 8:30pm

*Learn . Unite . Act . Prevent*



Jessica Bartholomew  
Founder of Anti Child  
Trafficking United



Cynthia Terlouw  
Founder of  
Terebinth Refuge



Eleana M. Lukes  
Trafficking survivor and  
crisis advocate  
at Terebinth Refuge



Paul Kroshus  
Police Detective  
Expert in victim-centered  
trafficking investigations

### SPEAKERS



**MODERATOR**  
Angela Davis  
Host of MPR News  
weekday 11 a.m. program



Join us for this free, virtual forum for students, parents, teachers, & residents.

Learn about human trafficking in our community, how our students are most vulnerable, online safety, and how to spot the signs.

**REGISTER NOW**



For Questions Email

**Rotary.HT.Forum@gmail.com**

<https://ardenhillsshoreviewrotary.org>

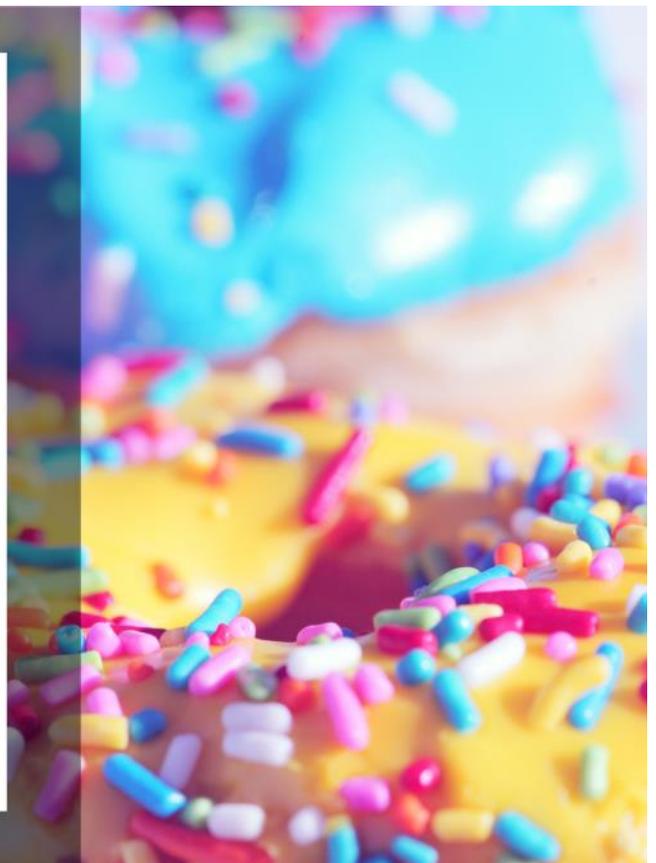
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NEW BRIGHTON - MOUNDS VIEW ROTARY CLUBS**



# DONUT SUNDAY

Join us, Sunday, April 11 as we kick off Donuts at Donut Time!

We will be safely distributing Donut Hut Donuts after Parking Lot Worship for the foreseeable future beginning on April 11. Join us for fellowship and tasty carbs. It will remain a BYOC (Bring Your Own Coffee) event while we are outside.



SAVE THE DATE  
SHEPHERD'S SPRING 2021  
SEASON OF SERVICE  
STARTS SOON!



APRIL 25-MAY 23

WE WILL HAVE AN  
ABUNDANCE OF  
SERVICE OPTIONS FOR  
FAMILIES, GROUPS, AND  
INDIVIDUALS

STAY TUNED FOR MORE  
INFORMATION!





## Connect with Us

**Website:** [sohsv.org](http://sohsv.org)

**Phone:** 651.483.5419

**Email:** [staff@shepherdshoreview.org](mailto:staff@shepherdshoreview.org)

### **Office Hours**

**Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 4:00pm**