

Prayer Concerns:

Brendan Daily (friend of Morgan Pugh)
Ralph Du Cheney (father of Stacia Profit)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
Jeannie Etzler (daughter of Warren Summersett)
Hope Eutsler (leukemia in remission)
Ralph Eversole (several conditions)
Jesse (seeking help from heroin addiction)
Margaret Keltner (in hospice – mother of Jan Jones)
Betty Lloyd
James Marshall (mysterious ailment)
Tim Morris (liver transplant)
Stacia Profit (painful sciatic pinched nerve)
Aaron Reis (age 15, received a heart transplant – son of Bruce Reis)
Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)
Aimee Schulte (friend of Sarah Kimmet)
Dave Slygh (organ transplant problems)
Taylar Stephens & Family
Tom Theobald (cancer in remission)
Tim (cancer – friend of Barb Good)
Steve West (son-in-law of Jeff & Marcia Pollock)
Noah Wyatt (recovering from surgery – son of Stuart Wyatt)
Judy Foust (knee surgery)
Tina Fay
Bev Hefner (aunt of Jenny Pugh)
Hayden Williams (medical tests)
Jean Owens (hip)

Serving our Country:

Micah Linger (*grandson of Doris Evans*)
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)
Pete McCollow (U.S. Marine Corps)
Will Morrison (U.S. Army Reserves – *deployed to Iraq on April 1*)

In Mourning:

The Family of Ted Hirn

Rev. Thomas Emery
“The Good Shepherd” - 1 John 3:1-11
Salem Presbyterian Church
April 26, 2015

Look at the picture Jesus gives us here of a good shepherd who will lead us in and out of green pastures. This is a comforting portrait of a shepherd caring for his sheep. The shepherd would lead his sheep out to distant areas and stay there for days. Being a good shepherd, he creates a temporary corral, a pen to keep the sheep in when they were not grazing. Using the crude stones of the field, a shepherd could quickly put together such a structure, and at night he would lay his body down in the opening of this corral making himself the door. No sheep could wonder away at night unless it stepped over the sleeping shepherd, and no wolf could come in to do harm without waking the shepherd. He is the gate.

TEACHING POINTS

Teaching Point One: *We follow the Good Shepherd's voice.*

Teaching Point Two: *The Good Shepherd cares for and protects us.*

Teaching Point Three: *Are we listening for His voice?*

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

“The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” (1 John 3:2 NLT)

ACTION POINT

Jesus contrasts the good shepherd with a temporary shepherd who is a hired hand. Jesus says that hired shepherds are not fully committed to their cause, because they do not own the sheep. Have you ever been fully committed to some Christ-honoring cause? Have you had full ownership of some Christian project or program? If you have then, you know what our Lord is discussing. Who puts in the most hours? Who joyfully gives money to the cause? Works the hardest? Cares the deepest? It is the owner - not the hired hand. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He models to us how we as the church are to take care of His sheep. Are you letting Him be your model? Is He guiding you, pointing you, giving you direction?