



2018

**Sunday Worship
10:00a.m.**

**Sunday School during
Worship**

**Fellowship Coffee
Following Worship**

**-Joint Board Meeting
June 12 at 7pm**

**-Women's Fellowship
Windup June 13 at
6:30pm**

**-Shepherd Group
June 20th at 1pm**

**-Men's Fellowship
June 16th**

Pastor:

**The Rev. Rick Beck
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Joint Board Chair:

Anita Jones

Building: John Dyck

Congregational Care:

Shirley Klockow

Treasurer:

Lynne Hennig

Good Shepherd Church

Mission Statement

**Good Shepherd Community Church:
Where God loves, Christ leads and people serve.**

What Are We Waiting For?

Have you every found yourself becoming impatient with God? Things happen that seem beyond our physical, mental, or emotional resources. When we each the point of being overwhelmed we often turn to prayer. We faithfully offer our concerns to Christ relying on his promise that "What ever you ask in my name I will do." But sometimes it appears he has selective hearing. In fact, we may even reach a point when we question the existence of God.

Possibly the biggest barrier to our patience with God is our inability to see life outside our own experience. We prefer quick answers and need frequent affirmations that we are on the right track. When the physical world is the measuring stick we use to determine what is real, it may be difficult to trust spiritual truth. We need something concrete to reassure ourselves that God and spirituality is just as real. At a deep level, a soul level, we want to believe, and past spiritual experiences will confirm this. But waiting can be exhausting. Just remember how you felt about this past winter that didn't want to end. At the soul level we know beyond rational thought but trusting this "knowing" is a test of faith. Something in our soul doesn't let us go. Some teachers suggest that what holds us in faith is the image of God; God within seeking God's self.

I recently came across the image of "the long arm of God" which speaks of God's time. Divine promise reaches far into the future; sometimes into the near future, or possibly beyond our life-time. This image holds the promise of God's faithfulness. God's promises will be fulfilled. Our prayers will be answered. While we are waiting, we may even be the answer to prayers offered by others.

Why does God take so long to respond? Maybe it's because we're not ready for the answer. This is a popular belief among some, but I doubt if it's the primary reason. I believe the answers we seek are all around us. We just don't recognize them. Divine answers are always rooted in love and relationship. In our frustration we may try to create our own answers but until they draw us closer to others, they won't be completely satisfying. When we surround ourselves with a loving community we often find peace and understanding even if what we perceive to be a problem persists. Happiness is not defined by the absence of problems but by the depth of relationships.

Then something mystical happens. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them." God desires to be one with creation. It is in the sharing of love that Divine and human union is realized. God is not interested in problem solving but in relationship building. Providing quick answers doesn't encourage the relationships necessary to reveal Divine love and spiritual wholeness. Or as the apostle Paul states in Romans 5:3-5, "suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

What are we waiting for? In the arms and hearts of family and friends we endured the winter we thought would never end, and now we are savoring the sweet warmth of summer. Live with the questions until you discover you are living the answers.

Pastor Rick Beck