

## Pastor's Report 2026

As I reflect back, this has been a good year of growth and mission for Good Shepherd. Our worship attendance is increasing, we held several good formation events (some in conjunction with St. Mary's Parish, Northfield), and we have served our community by now serving an in-person breakfast on Mondays, the Mission Outreach Community Lunch on Wednesdays, operating the Barre Warming Center in the cold weather and providing shelter overnight when the temperatures are life-threatening. All very good!

Three years ago, we began to look at how God is calling us in our life together. We developed a five year plan, "*Becoming Beloved Community.*" Our team leaders, our Wardens and Vestry and all our members have prayed together, worked together and deepened our faith and action in this light. I think it is evident that our fellowship, our common life in sharing our faith and our strong commitment to mission here in Barre have developed a strong basis as we continue to carry out God's call to us in the next few years. Also, we are blessed as all have contributed resources to make our parish stronger, and our financial position is in good shape.

Now, I believe, we are in a place to grow stronger and deeper as disciples. "Becoming Beloved Community" is an intentional community, and it is sustained by our commitment to follow in Jesus' Way of Love. Just as Christ sustains us by the gift of the Spirit of Love, we are called to be intentional about our growth in that love to draw closer to God and to serve our neighbors in the love we are given so graciously. This is discipleship. In the coming year, I pray that we all grow in our discipleship (that is what we have been doing!) And as we grow we share this faith more and more each day. During the coming year, we will have our ups and downs, but through it all God will be present with us and as disciples we will know of the strength of that loving presence in our lives.

I am so grateful every day to serve here at Good Shepherd in Barre because of the support and great examples of discipleship, love and generosity I see from all our members. As we continue this pilgrimage of faith together, may God bless us in our life together as disciples seeking to "Become Beloved Community."

Faithfully,  
Rev. Earl Kooperkamp  
Rector