

April 24, 2022

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
P.O. Box 683  
Olney, IL 62450  
217-218-0803  
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff,  
Roger Sholders

*Visitors are welcome*

*We offer Bible classes for all ages*

*We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

## Jesus, the Loving Shepherd

By Michael Hickox

In **John 10:11**, Jesus said, "***I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.***" Jesus often used sheep and shepherds to illustrate spiritual truths. One passage in which He did so is **John 10:1-18**. In this passage, Jesus described Himself as both the door to the sheep fold and the good shepherd.

To appreciate Jesus' role as our shepherd, we must recognize our *need* for a shepherd. This involves accepting that we are, spiritually speaking, *sheep*.

Without a shepherd, sheep cannot take care of themselves. Without a shepherd, it will likely not be long before sheep are devoured by predators.

Though we may not like comparing ourselves to sheep, we *are* like sheep, needing a trustworthy shepherd to lead us to *spiritual* security and safety.

This ties in with Jesus' point that He is the door to the sheep fold (**John 10:7**). In **verse 9**, Jesus said, "***I am the door. If anyone enters in by me, he will be saved, and will go in and go out, and will find pasture.***"

As the hymn *Jesus, the Loving Shepherd* says, "without is danger," but in Christ, one is in "the fold of safety." In Christ, we are spiritually provided for.

By referring to Himself as both the

# Jesus, the Loving Shepherd

(Continued)

door to the sheep fold *and* the good shepherd, Jesus shows us that not only is He the One *in whom* we have safety, but He is also the One who *leads* us to safety.

Notice **John 10:3-4**: ***The gatekeeper opens the gate for [the shepherd], and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. Whenever he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*** These verses show us two ways in which our shepherd leads us.

He leads us, for one, by His words. As Jesus said, ***“the sheep listen to [the shepherd’s] voice.”*** We must obey the commands Jesus speaks to us through His word, looking to Him as our leader.

Jesus is contrasted with the false shepherds (“***strangers***”) **John 10:5** refers to. Jesus’ followers must approach spiritual matters with the right heart to properly distinguish between the deceiving “***voice***” of strangers, and the voice of the true shepherd.

Like an earthly shepherd, though, Jesus also leads by going before us (**John 10:4**). He has left us a perfect example to follow. Walking in Jesus’ steps is a theme of the New Testament (**John 13:15**; **1 Pet. 2:21**; **1 John 2:6**). As sheep, we should follow the example Jesus has given us.

In describing Himself as the good

shepherd, Jesus also expressed the care He has for His sheep.

While the “***thief***” of **John 10** only has selfish, greedy desires toward the sheep (**verse 10**), and the “***hired hand***” puts his own interests ahead of the sheep’s (**verses 12-13**), the good shepherd is different. Christ has laid down His life for the sheep (**verses 11, 15**).

**John 10:17-18** emphasizes Christ’s *willingness* to go to the cross. As Jesus implied in **Matthew 26:53**, He could have been sent more than twelve legions of angels to stop His enemies from crucifying Him, but He *chose* to go to the cross, in order that we might be saved.

We could not ask anything more of our great Shepherd. We should be appreciative of our Shepherd’s protection, provision, and willingness to sacrifice Himself for us.

Furthermore, we should accept His provision by following Him with full trust that He knows what is best for us.

When we do so, we can trust that we will be spiritually secure in the “fold of safety.” We can trust that no matter what persecutions or trials come our way, spiritual predators are nothing in comparison to our great Shepherd.

May we appreciate, follow, and trust Jesus, the loving Shepherd.

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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## Words to Consider

***“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we tell you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will in no way precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. So we will be with the Lord forever.” – 1 Thess. 4:14-17***

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Jerry & Sandy S  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond B  
Robert C  
Sharon G (Cancer)  
Doans' Grandson, Wilson  
Devin D (Cancer)  
Vicki S (Cancer)  
Susan F (Cancer)  
Christie's Brother, Jerry (Lung Cancer)

## Daily Bible Reading

April 24 – 2 Samuel 19-20; Luke 18:1-23  
April 25 – 2 Samuel 21-22; Luke 18:24-43  
April 26 – 2 Samuel 23-24; Luke 19:1-27  
April 27 – 1 Kings 1-2; Luke 19:28-48  
April 28 – 1 Kings 3-5; Luke 20:1-26  
April 29 – 1 Kings 6-7; Luke 20:27-47  
April 30 – 1 Kings 8-9; Luke 21:1-19

***“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”  
– Isaiah 55:8-9 (ESV)***

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, April 24, 2022

Bible Study: Dan D

Worship: Jim

Evening: Travis

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Douglas

### **Assignments**

Sunday, May 1, 2022

Reading: See

Announcements: Bulletin

Table: Board

Serve:

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Invitation:

### **Clean Building**

Jeanette (Apr) / See Bulletin Board (May)

### **Prepare Communion**

Jeanette (Apr) / See Bulletin Board (May)

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Next Sunday (1<sup>st</sup>) adult class:**

*Effective Bible Study*

**Wednesday (27<sup>th</sup>) adult class:**

*Ephesians 3:18ff*

### **Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

April 25 – Jessica

April 29 – Emily

April 29 – Jerry