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The Landscape: Discernment as a Fundamental Disposition

By Susan Beaumont

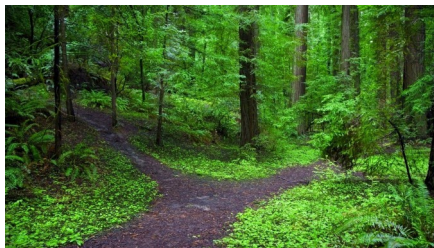
Discernment is how we live our lives, thoughtfully and faithfully. It is the fundamental disposition of aligning ourselves with that sense and experience of God's Spirit moving in and empowering our lives.

Discernment is also the Christian practice of seeking God's call in the midst of the decisions that mark one's life.

Communal practice of discernment places group decisions within the context of God's activity. It trusts that resolution based on something larger than self-interest or partisanship is possible....the goal of God's activity being the New Creation.

The practice of discernment makes intentional a process of reflection on and participation with God's Spirit as the fundamental context in which we live and make choices.

Its' important to realize: "Discernment doesn't just happen. It must be intentionally nurtured within the culture of the team. A team that is grounded in God's spirit, and open to authentic discernment, will cultivate its presence, its process, and its practices."



The excerpt above is taken from the UCC resource "A Discernment Travelogue available at uccresources.com .

Getting to Know :

Church of the Good Shepherd UCC

35 W. Philadelphia Ave., Boyertown, PA 19512



Let's start with our biggest news, and our best reason to ask for your thoughts and prayers: We have called a new Senior Pastor! Rev. Matt Hoover will be joining us tomorrow, August 8. We are excited about this new period in our church's history, and eagerly await Pastor Matt's guidance and leadership. He will join our Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Families, Rev. Kimberly Berenotto.

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ's ministry began in 1811 and it has been active in the Boyertown community for these two hundred plus years. Worship, mission, Christian Education and fellowship have always been hallmarks of our calling.

Worship includes an active intergenerational music program featuring choirs for all ages, a hand bell choir, and an orchestra. Throughout Lent one can attend Wednesday Lenten services and also a Seder Meal in combination with our Holy Thursday communion.

Mission activities include strong support for the Boyertown Area Multi-Service. We provide meals weekly through the winter for local folks at our Shepherd's Café and bimonthly for Opportunity House in Reading. We support Berks Women in Crisis, Water for Flint MI, Holy Joe's Café, Baby Manna, CROP, SERRV, Heifer International, and more.

Christian Education for all ages has always been a priority at Good Shepherd. We currently have four different classes devoted to Adult Christian Education, as well as classes for children, youth, and Confirmation. We have successfully teamed with a neighboring church to revitalize our Vacation Bible School program in the last few years. Our strong Youth Program this summer featured work trips to Heifer Farm in Rutland MA and Philabundance, and a trip to the National Youth Event in Florida.

Good Shepherd hosts any number of special dinners and brunches. Every Sunday we have coffee hour after the early service. All we need is a reason and we'll have a celebration! All are welcome at Good Shepherd!



Prayers are requested for Church of the Good Shepherd UCC in Boyertown and Rev. Matt Hoover.