



The **WORD**
of the
Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist

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The Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist Church

400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA 91007 - www.cgsum.org - 626-447-2181

Worship Schedule for Sunday, December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture Lessons: Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36

The Message: "Prepare a Place", the Rev. George Hooper, Preaching

8:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

8:00 a.m. – Worship – Chapel.

9:00 – Coffee Fellowship – Courtyard.

9:00 – Bible Study- Library.

9:00 – 11:30 – Childcare – Toddler Room.

10:00 – Worship – Sanctuary.

10:15 – Children’s Sunday School – Children go to classrooms with teachers following “Word for Children”

11:15 – Youth Bell rehearsal – Sanctuary.

11:15 – Coffee Fellowship – JH and Patio.

Angel gifts due

Alternative Christmas Market in Jordan Hall.

Craft Boutique Sale in Jordan Hall.

11:20 - Carol Choir in the Music Room.

4:00 p.m. – Choir Christmas Concert – Sanctuary.

4:30 - Youth Choir in Chapel.

5:00 – Reception and Craft Sale – JH.

Among the Church Family

Please continue to keep those previously mentioned in your prayers and let the church office know of new concerns. The hospitals are unable to notify the church, so please keep us informed.

Our condolences go out to **Doug, Sharon, Greg and Tim Van Kirk and family** upon the death of their father and grandfather, **Dick Van Kirk** on November 22, 2018. A service in celebration of his life will be held after Christmas.

Former pastor of the Westlake Village UMC, the Rev. Dr. Gary Dickey, asks our church to pray for not only first responders but also all pastors in the burn areas and mass shooting areas. Specific needs for those who give comfort following such tragedies are: Wisdom when people ask “Why?” and “What do we do next?” Inner strength in an on-going and draining time; Physical rest due to the numerous incoming calls; Ability to give hope to those affected.

Angel Gifts Need to Be Returned by this Sunday, December 2



Select items from the wish list on the back of your angel and bring the items back to church by Sunday, December 2nd. (the back of the Angels specify a return date of Friday, November 30th, but the 2nd of December is fine). **GIFTS SHOULD NOT BE WRAPPED!** If the wish list has you stumped you can purchase a gift card from Target, Walmart, BestBuy etc. A member of Santa’s crew or the child can purchase what is needed. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE GIFT CARDS IN JORDAN HALL, BRING THEM TO THE OFFICE FOR SAFE KEEPING.** Thank you for your participation in this meaningful Christmas outreach!



Christmas Concert

Featuring the Saint-Saens "Christmas Oratorio"

And other works for choir and orchestra

Directed by Dr. Peter Green

December 2

4:00 p.m.

Free Admission

**Church of the Good Shepherd
In the Sanctuary**

**Reception and Craft Sale Following
In Jordan Hall**

Adornment Celebration

Our annual Christmas adornment of our church campus is happening on **Saturday, December 8, at 4:00 p.m.** Please bring yourselves, your kids, your grandkids, your grandparents, etc. for this very fun evening. We will begin at 4 p.m. to decorate the church then join together for light refreshments following



Blue Christmas Service

While bells are ringing and people are singing, this season is not always the most cheerful season for everyone, particularly those who are missing loved ones, struggling with depression or going through a life hurdle. If you are looking for a safe space to reflect, pray and receive God's love during this season where you feel particularly estranged, you are invited to join our Blue Christmas service, December 20, 2018 in the chapel at 7:00 p.m.

Holiday Food Collection



**Feeding the
Community**

Each year our church collects canned and packaged goods to help round out the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets given to the clients of The Foothill Unity Center. Food list reminders were distributed after church last Sunday. Please staple or tape the list to your donation bag or box. Return your donations to Jordan Hall. Donations will be accepted through mid-December. Cash donations should be delivered directly to the church office and should not be left in Jordan Hall. Make checks out to The Foothill Unity Center. Here are a few suggested needs for the holiday baskets (canned or packaged items only):

Yams, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Soups, Beans, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Meats, Cereal, Dessert Mixes, Stuffing Mix, Rice, Baking Mixes, Pickles, Olives, Jell-O Mix, Pudding Mix, Gravy, Dinner Helpers, and Cranberry Sauce.

Christmas Eve Children's Pageant

The Christmas pageant is quickly approaching! We invite all children ages 5-18 to participate in the Christmas pageant, which will be a part of the Christmas Eve Family Service on Sunday, Dec. 24, 2018. We will have two rehearsals on Sunday, Dec. 16th and Sunday, Dec. 23rd, from 11:15AM-1:00PM (lunch included), and all members of the Carol Choir, Youth Bells, and Youth Choir will be participating in the service. If you are interested in participating or helping with lunch or costumes, please contact Franklyn Shen at (626) 272-5081, or by email at fnjshen@sbcglobal.net.





Poinsettias to Beautify Our Worship Centers

The Christmas season is upon us, and, per tradition, we have an opportunity to decorate the chapel and church with beautiful poinsettias. Pre-sale of poinsettias will be after church on December 2 and December 9 and in the church office. Each plant is \$15, and may be purchased in honor of or memory of a friend or loved one. Poinsettias may be taken home after the 9 PM or 11 PM services on Christmas Eve. Plants left after that time will be taken to our home bound members.

The Alternative Market Is Coming this Sunday!

No need to panic about filling the needs on your Christmas shopping list...the Alternative Market is coming! You won't need a bag or a box to purchase meaningful gifts for friends, family and co-workers. Your gift could be a breathing, hope-giving, money-making, fruit bearing, women empowering, food providing, milk-making, shelter giving, refugee assisting, community building, life changing miracle! Your purchases helps people locally, nationally and around the world to help end poverty and achieve self-reliance. Organizations offering gifts are CHURCH WORLD SERVICE, TREES FOR LIFE, FINCA, HEIFER PROJECT, UNION STATION, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, FAMILY PROMISE and HEAVENLY TREASURES. Come shop **December 2, 9, and 16** in Jordan Hall.

Homelessness, Lack of Affordable Housing...

We all know the situation exists here in the San Gabriel Valley and all over the country and the world. The lowest income renters in LA County spend 70% of their income on rent. Nowhere in the US can a full-time, minimum wage employee afford a 1-bedroom apartment. People throw their hands up and see the situation as hopeless. But we can give hope by purchasing gifts from three organizations in our Alternative Market: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY builds homes and has a Home Repair Program for Seniors, veterans, and other low-income homeowners, UNION STATION supports the homeless through meals and shelter, seeks permanent shelter for individuals and families, has job training programs and special facilities for women and children, FAMILY PROMISE supports homeless families and assists them in finding shelter, they organize interim housing until permanent housing is found. Come give the gift of hope to those on your Christmas gift list and make a difference in the lives of those in need. This year Habitat for Humanity is offering a free Habitat measuring tape and pen to accompany your gift cards!

Special Music and Hanging of the Greens on December 9

In addition to our annual Hanging of the Greens during worship on December 9, the Second Sunday of Advent, **Mrs. Ruth Gray and the Chamber Singers of Rosemead High School** will sing Mrs. Gray's anthems, "Christmas Canon of Peace" and "No Room, No Room" with our choir at the 10:00 o'clock service on December 9. There will be a reception in Jordan Hall for Mrs. Gray, the Chamber Singers and their families following the service.



Grace Notes

After a long and lingering summer, and another Autumn with terrible wildfires, we are finally into the full chill of this season. We have even had a few drops of blessed rain! Winter doesn't officially start for a couple of weeks, but we have certainly begun to bundle up, close the open windows, and sit a bit closer to the fireplace. Drawing inward - staying indoors, gathering together with family and friends, spending quiet evenings reading or contemplating life's mysteries - is a wonderful part of this season.

Drawing inward is also a part of this season of the Christian Year. In Advent we prepare for the arrival of Jesus. We take stock of ourselves and consider the spiritual life. We think of those who walked in darkness, and the apparent darkness of the world today. We contemplate the mystery of the incarnation and what it means that God chose to disclose God's own nature to us in this way. Of course this drawing inward is the prelude to an outward thrust as well, when the abundant generosity of God in the gift He has given us in Jesus is reflected in our joyful sharing of God's gift of Good News in Jesus.

I invite you to come along as we make our brief journey through Advent; as we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace into our world and into our lives. As we mark the days before Christmas and the Sundays of Advent with the lighting of candles, we will again consider and talk about those gifts that God gives the world in Jesus. This year we will focus on the work of preparation. God is ready to do great things in us!

-George

Many Upcoming Events to Mark on Your 2018 Calendars!!

December 2 – Angel gifts due on or before today. Alternative Christmas Market and Craft Boutique in Jordan Hall after church. Choir Christmas Concert at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary followed by a reception in Jordan Hall.

December 8 – Adornment Celebration at 4:00 p.m.

December 9 – Hanging of the Greens – Mrs. Ruth Gray and the Chamber Singers of Rosemead High School will sing Mrs. Gray's anthems, “Christmas Canon of Peace” and “No Room, No Room” with our choir at the 10:00 o'clock service. There will be a reception in Jordan Hall for Mrs. Gray, the Chamber Singers and their families following the service. Bring canned goods. Alternative Christmas Market in Jordan Hall. Glendale City College Concert – Sanctuary with reception following in JH.

December 16 – Alternative Christmas Market and Double Rings Bake Sale in Jordan Hall. 11:15-1:00 Christmas pageant rehearsal.

December 20 – “Blue” Christmas Service in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

December 23 – “Trek to the Tree” at 8 & 10 a.m. 11:15-1:00 Christmas pageant rehearsal.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 5:00, 9:00 and 11:00 p.m.



The WORD

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District Superintendent: Melissa Roux MacKinnon

Pastor: George Hooper

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry: Franklyn Shen

Director of Music Ministry: Peter Green

Director of the Good Shepherd Children's Center: Linda Brown