



The WORD

of the



Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist

Volume 52, No. 50

December 18, 2018

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 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture Lessons: Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:39-45

The Message: "Peace – The Time Is Now", Pastor George Hooper, Preaching
8:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Trek to the Tree – Bring your Christmas offerings to church.

8:00 a.m. – Worship – Chapel.

9:00 – Coffee Fellowship – Courtyard.

Bible Study – Dark until January 6.

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

10:00 – Worship – Sanctuary.

10:15 – Children's Sunday School

11:15 – Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsal

11:15 – Coffee Fellowship – JH and Patio.

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – An Open House at the parsonage
hosted by Kathy and George Hooper. All are invited.**

**6:30 – UMYF Christmas Party – Bring a wrapped \$10
gift for the gift exchange and a dessert to share.**

Worship Schedule for Sunday, December 30, 2018

First Sunday After Christmas

Scripture Lessons: Colossians 3:12-17 and Luke 2:41-52

The Word for All: "Have You Found the Way?", Pastor 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.

Bible Study – Dark until January 6.

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

10:00 – Worship – Sanctuary.

10:15 – Children's Sunday School

11:15 – Coffee Fellowship – JH and Patio.

No children's or youth choir practice, No UMYF.



Worship Schedule for Sunday, January 6, 2019

Epiphany of the Lord

Scripture Lessons: Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12

The Message: "Showing Forth", Pastor 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.

11:15 – Coffee Fellowship – JH and Patio.

11:15 – Carol Choir and Youth Bells meet.

4:30 – Youth Choir – Music Room.

6:00 – Youth Choir dinner – JH/Kit.

6:30 – UMYF – Confirmation Class #9.



In Our Prayers:

Our condolences go out to the family of **Naomi Cummings** who died on November 8, 2018, at the age of 101. She and her husband Rupert were members of Shepherders. She is survived by her sons Bill and Gary Cummings.



Kathy and I invite you to join us for a:

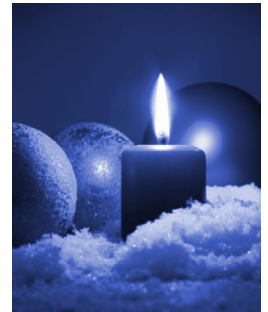
**Christmas Open House at the parsonage
141 White Oak Drive in Arcadia on
Sunday, December 23, 2-4 PM**

We will have homemade cookies and I will share some savory snacks from the grill. We look forward to preparing our home for your arrival!

Grace and Peace, *George*

Blue Christmas Service

A time apart, on one of the longest nights of the year. 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 CGS Chapel at 7:00 p.m.** The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration will be joining us this year for this unique service. All are welcome.



2019 Flower Chart

The 2019 Flower Chart is hanging in the Narthex of the Sanctuary. Sign up to give flowers "in honor of" or "in memory of" loved ones or in celebration of an anniversary, birthday, special event or accomplishment. The cost of the flowers is now \$45 (payable to "Church of the Good Shepherd"). The church office will place your order with ZuZu's Petals of Arcadia and have the personalized message in the church bulletin on the appropriate Sunday. After the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service that Sunday, you are invited to take your flowers home with you.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR



*The
Good*

Shepherd Staff:

Carolyn Franklyn

Ronda Diane Linda B.

Cindy Jeff Janice Steve

Peter Karen Linda D. Pastor George



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.

Church Office Closed Over the Holidays

The Church office will be closed beginning December 24, 2018, and will reopen on Monday, January 7, 2019. If you have an emergency during that time, please email Pastor George at pastorgeroge@cgsun.org or call him on his cell phone at 714-745-9246.

2018 giving must be postmarked, or received in the church office, by December 31, 2018. Money received after that date will be applied to 2019 giving.

This newsletter is the final one for 2018. The next "Word" will be typed and sent to the printer on January 7, 2019. The email version will be created at that time and sent out that week also. Any articles for that issue should be sent to ldoran@cgsun.org by January 7, 2019

Christmas Eve Worship Services at CGS

5:00 p.m. Family Service – Sanctuary - Featuring a Children's Christmas Pageant, our Youth and Carol Choirs singing and Youth Bells playing. Children are encouraged to attend this service with their parents. Free child care will be available for infants and toddlers.

9:00 p.m. Lessons, Carols, and Candles – Sanctuary - Christmas message by Pastor George. Chancel Choir and Bells will also be featured. Service in the Sanctuary concludes with candles.

11:00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion – Chapel - Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the lighting of candles at midnight as Christmas day begins!



Grace Notes

What was the star of Bethlehem?

Last week at our Men's Breakfast David Steinmeier shared a presentation on this question, making use of recent astronomical and historical information. I know that the question elicits some excitement as we had a new record attendance for our Thursday morning gathering!

David helped us to know a little more about who the "Magi" might have been, about dating the moment when Jesus was born, and about the meaning of some of the words in the Gospel texts. We learned that the "Christmas Star" might actually have been an alignment of planets that indicated to those who looked for such signs that something important was happening in that part of the world.

One of our members commented that this was very interesting, but that if God had wanted to place a beacon over the stable, God could have done that.

This led to a wonderful discussion about the MEANING of the sign: whether it was a conjunction of planets, or a bright beacon over Bethlehem, or something else entirely, the point was that God was letting the world know that something new was happening. People who were seeking found reason to intensify their search! Seek and you will find that God is with us! This is the meaning of Christmas.

As the discussion continued, we all agreed that we are blessed to belong to a community of believers where differing points of view about how God works are not only allowed, but encouraged. Often in working through the HOW, we are reminded of the WHY. And on that question, we are one.

"For God so loved the world..."

Merry Christmas,

George

Many Upcoming Events to Mark on Your Old and New Calendars!!

The Conversational English Class is Dark on December 28 and January 4, returning on Friday, January 11.
Sunday morning Bible Study is Dark on December 23 and December 30, returning on Sunday, January 6.
The Wednesday Night Crafter's Workshop is DARK until January 16.



December 20 – “Blue” Christmas Service in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m.
Dec 20 to Jan 3 – Children’s Center closed. Reopens on January 4.
December 23 – “Trek to the Tree” at 8 & 10 a.m. - 11:15-1:00 Christmas pageant rehearsal.
December 23 - Open House at the parsonage at 141 White Oak Drive, Arcadia, 2-4 p.m.
Dec 24 to Jan 4 – Church Office closed. Reopens on January 7.
December 24 – Christmas Eve Services: 5:00, 9:00, and 11:00 p.m.

January 5 – Church Council meeting at 9:00 a.m. – Library.
January 5 – Van Kirk memorial service at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
January 10 - Sarah Circle next meeting is on the 2nd Thursday, in the Library at 7:00 p.m.
January 13 - Double Rings old/new board planning meeting, at 11:30 in the Library.



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Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January by

Church of the Good Shepherd

United Methodist

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(626) 447-2181

www.cgsun.org

Ministers: Members of the Congregation

Resident Bishop: Bishop Grant J. Hagiya

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