



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

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December 10, 2019

The Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist Church

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

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent

Choir Christmas Cantata at 10:00 a.m.

(8:00 a.m. Service is not meeting this morning)

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Chancel Choir to sing "Born a Savior, Born a King;

A Prophecy Fulfilled by John Punifoy"

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-6 and Luke 1:39-45

"God with Us Brings Joy"

The Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Preaching

10:00 a.m. is Broadcast Live to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG

8:00 a.m. is not meeting this morning.

9:00 – Coffee Fellowship – Courtyard.

9:00 - Bible Study – Library.

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

9:30 – Carol Choir call time.

10:00 – Worship in the Sanctuary. Choir Christmas Cantata performed during worship.

10:00 – Children's Sunday School.

10:00 – ESL Bible Class – Library.

11:00 – SSP Stock Sales on the patio.

11:00 – Coffee Fellowship – JH

11:00 – Alternative Christmas Market – JH.

11:00 – Bake Sale in JH.

11:00 – Sign Cards for our Christmas tree in JH.

11:15 – Carol Choir rehearsal – Music Room.

11:15 – Youth Bells rehearsal – Sanctuary.

11:15 – 1:00 – Christmas Eve Rehearsal. Those not in Carol Choir or Youth Bells will be trying on costumes.

11:50 – Lunch for Christmas Eve rehearsal participants.

12:20 p.m. – Walk-through of the Christmas Eve Service (without music).

4:30 – Youth Choir – Music Room – Rehearsals for Cabaret and Christmas Eve.

6:00 – Youth Dinner.

6:00 – Sundays @ Six not meeting in December.

6:30 – UMYF – Fellowship and Program – Franklyn Shen will be leading tonight.

Among the Church Family

In Our Prayers:

Please keep all those previously mentioned in your prayers. If you or a loved one needs to be added to the prayer chain or the newsletter prayer list, please let the church office know.

New Baby:

Congratulations on the birth of **Thomas Wayne Riddles** born November 28, 2019, to **Amy and Kyle Riddles**. Proud grandmother is **Pam Carman** and proud great-grandmother is **Karen Whitehill**. Thomas' middle name is in honor of his great-grandfather **Wayne Whitehill**.

Finish Your Shopping at the Alternative Market!



You won't find any gadgets, gizmos or gimmicks in our shopping list, only the tools and resources that we need to do the most good here at home and around the world. Dedicate a gift in honor of someone special and you will receive a special gift card to present them describing the gift. A teacher may appreciate a gift of a school kit from Church World Service, Auntie or grandkids may love a flock of chicks you dedicate from Heifer, or you may get a smile out of Grandpa when you give him a toilet from Habitat for Humanity! How about your friend or neighbor with her beautiful garden...you can give her trees from Trees for Life

(only \$1 each), your friend who is always sharing goodies may love that you dedicated a day of meals at Union Station in her honor. The Market is held in Jordan Hall after the 10 AM service. Beautiful handmade gifts from cooperatives around the world will be sold from Heavenly Treasures. 100% of the sale price of these gifts goes back to the artisans. Each gift has a tag which tells where it was made. Heavenly Treasures also accepts credit cards.

Double Rings Bake Sale

Double Rings is having its annual Holiday Bake Sale after church the following **Sunday, December 15**, in Jordan Hall. Don't miss all the yummy goodies!



Christmas is Coming!



All of our major roles are filled for the Christmas Eve family Service at 5:00PM on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 5:00PM, but we have room for shepherds, animals, and angels. Carol Choir, Youth Choir, and Youth Bells will also be participating. Rehearsals for the Pageant will begin this Sunday, Dec. 15th from 11:15AM – 1:00PM, and Sunday, Dec. 22nd, from 11:15AM – 1:00PM. It is not a problem if you are unable to make both rehearsals. Lunch will be included!

Thank You!

A big thanks for your generous food and monetary gifts for the Foothill Unity Center's holiday food baskets. Many families have had and will have a wonderful holiday meal because you took the time to shop for them. Another thank you for all of you who adopted Angel Tree Angels. EVERY ANGEL WAS ADOPTED! Thank you for your love and caring. Blessings of the season to all!



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 Eva. 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!

Reminder: No 8:00 a.m. Worship Service on December 15. Everyone is encouraged to come to the Christmas Cantata at 10:00 a.m.

Merry Christmas!

Christmas is about two weeks away. Preparation! We're all short of time to prepare the way we'd like. Slowdown, reflect on what we're celebrating. Jesus, the Son of God, is born! We need to quiet down, pray, and just imagine what life would be like if there were no Jesus. To help you reflect, check out some of the Christmas display books. The Blessings of Christmas contains stories, poems, songs, and lovely pictures.



Thomas Kinkade's I'll Be Home for Christmas contains ideas of Christmas from a variety of authors. The scenery is lovely! J. Barrie Shepherd's Faces at the Manger contains poems, stories, and thoughts about the people at the manger so long ago. Gordon Powell's The Innkeeper of Bethlehem adds to the story of the first Christmas. Read Esther Barken's The Unused Cradle about Jesus' thoughts about a cradle Joseph had built when he was born.

If music is important to you, read Maymie Krythe's All About Christmas. Each chapter is about a different Christmas hymn. For lighter reading, David Baldocci's Christmas Train is about adventures aboard a train from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles.

Have a wonderful holiday, do what pleases you, attend Christmas Eve services, relax, and be glad.

- *Elain Drew, Librarian*



A Christmas Tree, for Our Church Family

In Jordan Hall this Sunday morn, there will be a tree for you to adorn. Cards to sign for your church friends, wish them Merry Christmas as the year ends. Write on a card to hang on the tree, holiday greetings for you and for me. No cost is involved, no fuss, no mess, just your church family for you to bless!

Pastor Eva's Reflections

When I was growing up at Long Beach First United Methodist Church, the children would reenact the Nativity story in Sunday School each Christmas. I always wished to be Mary because she was the one who got to hold the baby doll they used for Jesus and she seemed to be the center of attention. I was very excited when I finally got my wish, and my grandmother even made me a special blue and white checkered dress for my Mary costume. But as I was playing Mary, I soon learned that it wasn't Mary that was the focus, it was the baby Jesus that I was holding. Mary in fact was the most stationary and mute of all the characters. The other children as shepherds, angels, lambs and kings all were actively moving about. Each one took a turn before Jesus to bow or to give a gift or to speak about the good news of his birth.



This experience as a young child is a reminder to me that Jesus must always be the focus of our Advent and Christmas Season. We may all aspire to certain roles- the best gift giver, the hostess of our family gathering, the generous donator to charities, the person in the office with the holiday cheer, the friend who mails all their cards out early, etc. But let us aspire to the role of faithful observer- like the shepherds, lambs, angels and kings. All who took the time to stop what they were doing in the busyness of their lives. All who knew to pay their respects to Jesus and share about the good news of his birth. I pray that you find time to pause, reflect, and give thanks to God for the gift of his Son to the world. And may your life be filled with the Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace that Christ's birth brought on that Christmas day.

Grace and Blessings,

Pastor Eva

Upcoming Events to Mark on Your Calendars!!

Our annual Alternative Christmas Market has something for everyone on your list! The market will be held after the 10 AM service on December 15. Gifts from Church World Service, Trees for Life, FINCA, Heifer Project, Union Station Pasadena, Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise and Heavenly Treasures will be available for gifts that give twice!

December 15 – No 8:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Chapel this week. Everyone is encouraged to attend at 10:00 a.m. for the beautiful music by our choir. This is a great time to invite your neighbors to church at 10:00 a.m.

December 15 – Special Choir Cantata Music during 10:00 a.m. worship. Invite family and friends to this special time of worship.

December 15 – Double Rings Fellowship Group is having their Christmas Bake Sale in Jordan Hall at 11:00 a.m. – Alternative Christmas Market concludes – Sign a card for the Christmas tree in the hall to wish your church family a Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve Services are at 5:00, 9:00, and 11:00 p.m.



The WORD

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