



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

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March 31, 2020

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

400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA 91007 - [www.cgsun.org](http://www.cgsun.org) 626-447-2181

**Sunday, April 5, 2020**

**Palm Sunday**

**The Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Preaching**

**Sermon Series "I Am" # 6: "I Am the True Vine"**

**Scripture Lessons: Psalm 118:19-24, John 12:12-15, and John 15:1-11**

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

**Worship Services will be available only on-line at 10 a.m. or in recorded archives (see above).**

**All classes, rehearsals and meetings are  
postponed through April 19 at least**

**Do not come to church in person! Watch on-line!**

**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.



**Easter Flower Pick-Up**

We will be blessed with beautiful flowering plants in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday! They will remind us that Christ's love lives among us regardless of our circumstances. Thank you so much to those who contributed. To maintain our "safe distance", those who ordered plants may pick them up between 11:15 AM - 1 PM in the church courtyard following the Easter Service. If you need assistance to obtain your plants, please contact Margaret Blair, (626) 574-1827.

**Memorial/Veteran's Day Flowers**



It has become a tradition at our church to have special Chancel Flowers on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day in honor of **all** those who have served or are currently serving in our country's armed forces. We would like to honor your service, or the service of a loved one, by adding your name, rank and the branch in which you served to our list. We invite you to give a donation to the flower fund to keep this tradition going. Checks should be made payable to "Church of the Good Shepherd" and turned into the office with "Veterans' Flowers" on the memo line of the check. Suggested annual donation of \$20 covers both holidays. Those making a donation will be shown with an asterisk, but all who have served or are currently serving will be listed.

## On-Line Giving Instructions

1. Go to [www.cgsum.org](http://www.cgsum.org) if you are not on the Good Shepherd web site.
2. Click on the **ONLINE GIVING** button.
3. The **Non Pledge Giving** box will be highlighted in Blue. This fund supports the church operations.
4. Enter the amount that you want to give.
5. Enter donations for other funds as desired.
6. Click on the **Continue** button.
7. Enter your **Giving Information**.
8. Enter your credit card information.
9. Ignore the **Save Profile** option.
10. Click on the **I am not a robot** box.
11. Click on the **Process** button to send your donation.
12. You will receive an email confirmation for your donation.

## Through the Years

### Sierra Service Project

For almost 30 years, the youth of our church have had the opportunity of participating in the Sierra Service Project. For a week each summer, they travel to a western state to help work on homes in the communities they serve. And work it is! It may include roofing, building wheelchair ramps, painting, or making home repairs. Primarily they have gone to Native American Nations or reservations in California, Nevada, Arizona and Oregon. Over the years, the young people have worked with over a dozen different Indian tribes. One of our pastors, the Rev. Steve Horswill-Johnson, introduced the concept of SSP to our church in 1991. That year 13 youth and 7 adult advisors spent one of their summer weeks learning and using hands-on skills that the kids (and perhaps even the adults!) may have not done previously. When the group returned and told how much fun and satisfaction they'd enjoyed, 29 youth and 4 adults planned to take part the next year. Soon after that, Good Shepherd annually sent the largest contingent from any church in the western states. In a couple of recent years, a new concept called the SSP Weekend of Service was introduced. In this, South Central Los Angeles was the group's destination. In three decades, more than 260 people have given more than 28,488 hours of service. And often we hear them say that they have received more than they have given in the sense of fulfillment, accomplishment, and comradeship with each other.



## Celebrating 75 Years of Christian Ministry and Mission

Mark your calendars and join us in celebrating 75 years of Christian Ministry and Mission.

**Pictorial Directory Photos have been postponed until October 7-10**

**We hope the following activities can happen as planned. We will keep you posted if any dates change.**

**Sunday, May 17** - Charter Sunday with a re-dedication of the church during a single service at 10:00 am. It is also All Choir Sunday. Following the service is an all church photo and lunch.

**Saturday, June 13** – Diamond Dinner Celebration (invitations to follow).

**Sunday, September 13** – Family Homecoming with lunch and an outreach project.

## Pastor Eva Newsletter

I hope all are doing well during this time of Stay at Home. While we are all participating in safe health practices and social distancing, let us continue to remain connected to each other through prayer and worship.

Prayer- Let your prayers be a symbolic offering to God this week. Here is the prayer schedule that was shared in Sunday's worship: Monday pray for the people of this congregation; Tuesday pray for those who suffer and those in trouble; Wednesday pray for the concerns of the community; Thursday pray for the world, its people, and its leaders; Friday pray for the church universal- its leaders, members, and its missions; Saturday and Sunday pray for yourself, your health, your work, your family, your relationship with God.

Worship- Here is the "I Am Statement" that I shared in my Sunday Sermon. Read normally it is:

We are powerless. I refuse to believe that... We can change our lives.  
Loving Christ is the only way to live. But our children should know....  
There is really no hope for us. It's crazy to think that... Things can change.

But remember that Jesus came to change the world and with belief in Christ we read the statement backwards from the last sentence to the first sentence so it now reads:

*Things can change. It's crazy to think that... there is really no hope for us.  
But our children should know.... Loving Christ is the only way to live.  
We can change our lives. I refuse to believe that We are powerless.*

Sincerely,

**Pastor Eva**

## April 5<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday and Love Feast Fellowship

While Palm Sunday will now be viewed on-line, please know that Pastor Eva and the worship team will lead all in a wonderful worship service. Liturgy, Scriptures, Music, and Message will commemorate Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Here are some details for individuals and homes to prepare for the service:

- Word for Children- children should have an empty toilet paper roll and a green sheet of paper (8x11 preferred) to follow along with Pastor Eva's activity during this time
- Communion- will now be A Love Feast Fellowship that will allow all to participate virtually. It is customary not to use communion bread, or grape juice so not to confuse the Love Feast with the Lord's Supper. The bread may be a loaf of ordinary bread, crackers, rolls, or any convenient bread or cracker like food item. The grape juice may be substituted with other juices, or tea, or coffee, or even water. More info on Love Feasts can be found on the United Methodist website: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/the-love-feast>
- Closing of the Service- we will close the service in a more somber tone as we enter Holy Week and reflect on Maundy-Thursdays and Good Friday.

## Bears in Windows as Signs of Faith and Hope

As shared in Sunday's Word for Children- many homes are putting stuffed teddy bears in their windows for children to search for as they are walking in their communities with their families. Church members are encouraged to do the same, but also as a symbol of faith and hope. E-mail your photos to the church or post on the Facebook Group Page!

Here are some photos that we have received so far.... More next week!



(Panda Bear in Church Window)



(Teddy Bear at Arnold Home)



(Graduation Bears at D'Amore Home)

## Upcoming Events to Mark on Your Calendars!!

Events here at the church through April 19, at the earliest, are cancelled.

We are hopeful we can resume regularly scheduled events after our “safe at home” time including the special events show below, but will keep you informed and up-to-dated as the situation progresses.

Foundation Tea has been cancelled until further notice.

May 13 – 16 - Pictorial Directory Photos - Postponed until October 7 - 10.

May 17 Charter Sunday celebration has been postponed until summer. We will let you know the new date ASAP. There will be a re-dedication of the church during a single service at 10:00 am and the service will be followed by an all church photo and lunch



Saturday, June 13 – Diamond Dinner Celebration.

Ladies, The 2020 Women’s Retreat Weekend is October 16-18. Pastor Eva will be our leader!! Mark your calendars now so you don’t have a conflict!!



### **The WORD**

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**United Methodist**

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**[www.cgsum.org](http://www.cgsum.org)**

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Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry: Franklyn Shen

Director of Music Ministry: Stephen Pu

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