



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

Volume 54, No. 23

June 9, 2020

**The Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist Church**
400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA 91007 - www.cgsum.org 626-447-2181
Sunday, June 14, 2020
Second Sunday After Pentecost
The Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Preaching
Scripture Lessons: Psalm 116:12-19 and Romans 5:1-8
Broadcast Live at 10:00 a.m. to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG
“Stay at Home Order” continues through June. In-person gatherings remain suspended.
Please join us for ONLINE Sunday Worship Services that will continue to be online
(church website or Facebook Group Page).

Among the Church Family

Please continue to pray for those previously mentioned and include **Susan and Walter**, neighbors of **Ila Harris**, as Susan begins radiation treatment for cancer.

Our prayers go out to choir member, **Mary Archibald**, and her family as they mourn the passing of her husband, **Rick**, on June 1.

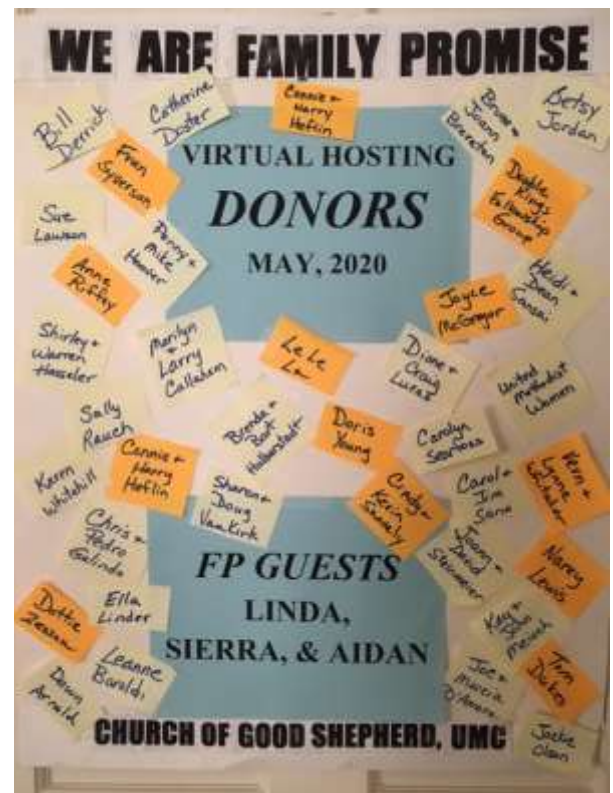
CGS Family Promise May Hosting

These 37 generous donors contributed \$4,000, some of which was used for our CGS May, 2020 Family Promise virtual hosting for our guest family of a mother with 2 teenage children. The virtual hosting included 1 week’s motel accommodations and gift cards used for dinners, breakfasts, and lunches for the week May 24-May 31. In addition, many CGS members sent cards of encouragement and support to the family. Although we could not physically be with our guest family, Melissa Odotei, Family Promise Director, said the family greatly appreciated the kindnesses CGS provided them. Not having to worry about safe shelter and meals, allowed our guest family to continue working towards getting back on their own.

Church of the Good Shepherd continues to support our Family Promise Ministry through our love, our faith, our respect, and our kindness for our neighbors who are in need.

Grateful thanks and blessings to all who were part of our virtual hosting and support for Family Promise!

-Diane Lucas, CGS FP Coordinator



Celebrating 75 Years of Christian Ministry and Mission Through the Years

Foothill Unity Center—A Long-standing Partnership

Church of the Good Shepherd has had a long and vibrant relationship with the Foothill Unity Center in Monrovia. Our members have volunteered to serve in ways large and small, from being on its board to handing out food to its clients. For that is what the Center is organized to do: to provide integrated services (food, health care, crisis care management, housing and homeless assistance, job development) to those in need in the San Gabriel Valley. It is the largest agency of its type in the region, serving 12 foothill cities. This year marks its 40th anniversary of service. And last year it was recognized as a California Non-profit of the Year. All services are free to qualified clients who have an income at or below 150% of the national poverty level. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Center has served over 8,140 individuals and 675,930 meals so far this year, and the numbers keep growing. In fact, the Center has already reached 83% of the food it provided in all of 2019. In addition to food (and other necessities, such as diapers and personal hygiene products), the Center's response includes deliveries to seniors and the disabled, case management, health and nutrition educational materials, pet food bags, permanent housing placement for families, and motel vouchers for the homeless.



With this kind of purpose and activity, it's not surprising that many Good Shepherd folks are attracted to support Foothill Unity with their donations of food, time and money. Case in point: Our familiar cardboard drum just off Jordan Hall holds our used plastic bags and empty egg cartons, both needed at the Center for packing supplies. Even today, with the church buildings basically closed due to Covid-19, these items can be dropped off at the church office and they will be taken to the Center. Volunteering to work at Foothill Unity Center and delivering items such as non-perishable food, disposable gloves and masks, hand sanitizer, paper products, etc., to the Center are other ways our CGS people help. The annual Back to School distribution event at Santa Anita Race Track attracts many of our volunteers on a hot late-summer day. They say they love seeing the delight on kids' faces as they are given shoes, underclothes, school supplies and backpacks. Vision and dental checks are available, as are haircuts and even manicures!

Turkeys now find their way in November to Ayres Hall in the Los Angeles County Arboretum, thanks in part to arrangements by Joann Steinmeier. It takes about 500 volunteers more than two days to prepare for the distribution of the turkeys and all the accompanying goodies to hundreds of client families. Here, too, you'll spot members from our church hard at work. David Steinmeier long planned the logistical side of this event—setting up a smooth flow of food boxes, volunteers, and families so that the distribution goes as seamlessly as possible. Two "Angel Trees" appear in Jordan Hall each Yuletide. Paper angels are colored by volunteers and distributed to local churches. Good Shepherd "angels" can choose from the trees a paper angel with a child's name, age, and a wished-for Christmas present. They buy gifts and bring them back to church unwrapped. The entire accumulation is taken to the Center to be parceled out with the food and other holiday week's necessities that are given to each client family. The Center's upper floor at this time literally bulges with gifts provided by Santa's "elves" of many faiths!

On quite a different level of church members' involvement, we find Gary Kovacic and David Steinmeier serving as Board members for lengthy spans of time—10 to 15 years each, and two years as president, which Gary is presently. The Center's Board of Directors is intentionally diverse. One-third of the directors are elected officials or their representatives, one-third are Center clients, and one-third are local community and business members. The board took a giant leap of faith in 2018 when it decided to purchase a new facility at 790 W. Chestnut Avenue, Monrovia, to provide much-needed warehouse, program, and staff space. The Center is currently conducting its first-ever capital campaign (including naming opportunities) to raise funds for the last half of the purchase price. In addition to the new building, there is also a Pasadena site that serves as a satellite distribution facility.

The relationship between Church of the Good Shepherd members and Foothill Unity Center is part of our history through the years, and shows every sign of continuing a strong, caring partnership through the years to come.



Pastor Eva's Newsletter Message

Dear Church of the Good Shepherd Members and Friends,

As I write this week's newsletter article, the country enters its 3rd month of Covid 19 and 3rd week of protests and marches for racial justice and equality. In the midst of these times, the Three General Rules of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, have been on my heart. These three rules guide us to lead lives of mutual respect, unity, and a deeper daily relationship with God. In simple terms, they are commands to "do no harm, do good, stay in love with God."

To "do no harm" calls us to love one another regardless of race, gender, status, etc. In response to the protests, I and other Arcadia Faith Leaders have published the following statement:

We, the members of the Arcadia Interfaith Action Group, who represent the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh faith traditions in our community, are united in vehemently condemning the senseless murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer. We also recognize that people of color are much more likely to be the victims of such violent treatment by law enforcement personnel. We acknowledge our Constitutional First Amendment right of free speech and assembly and support those individuals who are protesting such grievous behavior and are crying out for justice. But we do not support looting, violence, destruction of property, and other forms of license. These are counter-productive and do not promote a just society in which all people are treated fairly under the law. We need a lot more acceptance of our differences and celebration of our diversity in order to unite with one another.

To "do good" calls us to make decisions and do work for the good of our faith and local community. For our faith community, please know that there is a new church committee (named Together Again) that is working on plans to bring back in person worship services when it is safe to do so and with the Bishop's approval. More details will be in next week's Newsletter. For now, we will continue to have on-line only worship services and are working on options for those who are not able to view the services on-line.

To "stay in love with God" calls us continue to have faith at all times. Let us remember that God is present with us at during our lowest and highest times. He will guide us out of our dark times, and he will celebrate with us during the times of joy. We must then lead lives of prayer, Scripture reading, worship, and service.

I pray that your lives will be filled with the love and peace of Christ as we do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.

Blessings,

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin

June On-Line Worship Schedule:

Worship services will continue to be on-line only during the month of June.

June 14 – 2nd Pentecost Sunday

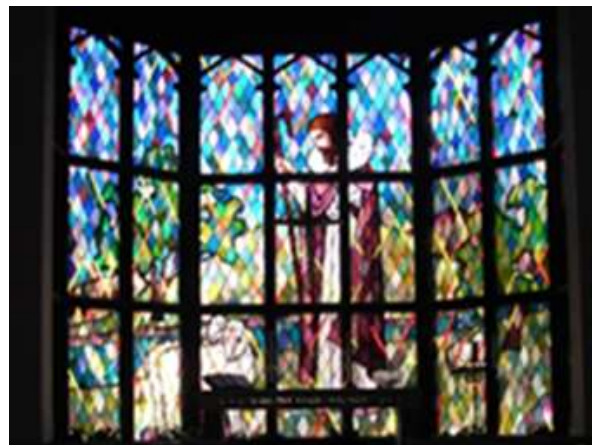
Theme: Sharing the Glory of God and Graduate Recognitions

June 21 – 3rd Pentecost Sunday

Theme: The Armor of God and Father's Day

June 28 – 4th Pentecost Sunday

Theme: To Be Welcoming



Upcoming Events to Mark on Your Calendars!!

June 14 - Sermon Theme: Sharing the Glory of God and Graduate Recognition

Pictorial Directory Photos have been postponed until October 7-10

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!! We hope by October we can have our event! We will keep you posted on whether we can do it as scheduled or postpone it.

Foothill Unity Center Bags & Egg Cartons

Thank You to the many church members who have supported the Foothill Unity Center by donating plastic bags and egg cartons. The Center is still collecting these items. During this "Stay at Home" era we have a different location for dropping them off. Whenever you are in the vicinity of the church, those bags and egg cartons can be placed in the box located near the entrance to the office. Arrangements have been made to transfer the contents of the box to Fellowship Hall for future delivery to Foothill Unity Center. *-Vern and Lynne Whitaker*



The WORD

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(626) 447-2181

www.cgsum.org

Ministers: Members of the Congregation

Resident Bishop: Bishop Grant J. Hagiya

District Superintendent: Melissa Roux MacKinnon

Pastor: Eva Thai-Erwin

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