



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

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December 1, 2020

The Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist Church

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

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

In-person gatherings remain suspended at CGS.

Please join us for ONLINE Sunday Worship Services (church website or Facebook Group Page)

No Bible Study during Advent—Join the Advent Book Study 9:00-9:45 a.m.

Sunday, December 6, 2020

This Sunday in Worship

**Second Sunday of Advent and Love Feast Communion—
choose your own bread and liquid item to participate at home.**

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 2:1-7, 21

Message: "Jesus Our King", The Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Preaching

**Introit and Anthems: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", "For Unto Us A Child Is Born",
and "In the Bleak Midwinter"**

**Congregational Hymns: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus #196", "I Want to Walk
as a Child of the Light #206", and "What Child is This #219"**

Please note that there will not be Drive Thru Communion this Sunday.

**Save the date of Dec. 20th for a special Drive Thru Christmas Event at church—
more details to come!**

Among the Church Family

In Our Prayers:

Our prayers are with all those who have been mentioned previously. Be sure to include: **Kay and John Meisch** who are unable to travel to Arcadia as they usually do in the winter as John is undergoing chemo and radiation for lung cancer. Our prayers are with both the Meischs who are in New York. Prayers for **John Goodno** who is recuperating at home following knee surgery. Healing prayers for John and prayers for his wife **Sara**, his caregiver. Also, please keep **June and John Fee** in prayer—June is still in Methodist Hospital and is not doing well, and it is difficult for the both of them to be apart during this time.

Charge Conference Zoom Meeting Set for Dec. 8th at 5pm

The District Superintendent, **The Rev. Melissa McKinnon**, will lead this annual meeting of Church Leaders including a 4pm meeting with SPRC. The login info will be emailed on Dec. 5th and please remember to wear your favorite hat and bring the "most Methodist item you own" to the meeting. Also, pets will be counted in the attendance!

Sarah Circle Meeting

Sarah Circle, one of the United Methodist Women fellowship groups, is now meeting the first Thursday of the month via Zoom. If you are interested in joining, please contact **Margaret Blair** at (626) 574-1827. We will be Zoom-ing together **this Thursday, December 3rd at 7 PM.**

Celebrating 75 Years of Christian Ministry and Mission

Through the Years

Our United Methodist Men



Without Joe D'Amore's persistence, the United Methodist Men's fellowship group might never have been launched. After talking with Phil Wood, the pastor at that time, and with several men who supported Joe's enthusiasm, all men of the entire church were invited to a barbecue at the parsonage on July 10, 2004. Sixty attended. A survey was conducted to learn of the men's interests and how to organize the new United Methodist Men. It received its charter from the General Council of United Methodist Men. Joe was its founding president, followed by Richard Vethamani and Craig Lucas in ensuing early years.

Joe and Richard, both active in the UMM, have shared some of their memories. Topics of greatest interest to the men were expressed as their relationship to their wife, their spiritual life, and work, home, and ministry. The men wanted monthly meetings, short mission trips and annual retreats. Sometimes they had speakers, sometimes not. Steve Wilson often led the worship service. Their fellowship at these times was enhanced by sharing a meal. The culinary talents of John Garton, Dave Cooper, and Jim McIntire stood out in this ministry, as they did an outstanding job organizing meals. With teamwork, the group worked out the logistics: carpooling, brochures, agenda, schedule and the many other details needed for their meetings and retreats to run smoothly.

Wrightwood was the site of their first retreat in mid-November, 2005. Cornish Rogers was the speaker, and about 30 men attended. Mildly roughing it, they were housed dormitory-style, and meals were provided by camp staff. Along with studying and discussions, the men played games and got to know each other through rich conversations. They loved to sing under Larry Callaham's leadership.

At later retreats, the group stayed in a smaller house, famously called the Huddle Hut, at Wrightwood. They enjoyed playing board games, doing skits, huddling around a campfire with hot chocolate, and singing to the accompaniment of Mark Renfrew and Pedro Galindo on guitar. But the mountain's elevation and insecure footing around the campground led the group to seek out a different retreat location.

Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes attracted 16 UMMers in May, 2014. Later they went Aldersgate in Pacific Palisades, where CGS women had held many retreats. Like the women, they had high praise for the delicious meals served at Aldersgate, as well as its fine accommodations. The customary format at retreats was to break into small groups to talk about a topic, then gather together and share their observations and opinions. Harry Heflin and Steve Wilson conducted many bible studies.

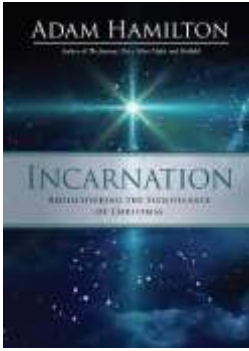
With time, dwindling participation led the UMM closer to home with weekend retreats in Jordan Hall. The men met on Friday evening, went home overnight, and returned Saturday for a daylong retreat. This didn't have quite the allure of a getaway retreat, but at least retained the UMM spirit and camaraderie.

Richard remembers the many ways the UMM served together organizing the annual Easter Breakfast, serving meals at Union Station, and preparing all-church barbecues for the Fourth of July and for Homecoming Sunday (now Welcome Sunday.)

With the pandemic, meetings are now held virtually on Thursday mornings with Larry Callaham, Craig Lucas and Mike Johnson serving as leaders. Richard says enthusiasm for the original mission for the UMM is still strong: to support spiritual growth among men, helping men to mature as disciples as they encourage spiritual formation in others.

New Sanctuary Pew Photos!

While we are still unable to worship together in person, It is wonderful to have your photos in the Sanctuary pews and show the slideshow of the photos each month. So all are encouraged to submit new photos (of yourself or your family) for the Sanctuary pews. They can be festive Christmas photos, or funny photos, or a photo of a place that you've vacationed to in the past. Please email your new photo to Pastor Eva (PastorEva@cgsun.org) by Dec. 15th.



CGS 2020 ADVENT BOOK STUDY **INCARNATION - Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas**

by Pastor Adam Hamilton

UMC of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas

Via Zoom, discussions will be EITHER

5 SUNDAYS, November 29, December 6, 13, 20, & January 3, 2021

9:00-9:45 am led by Michael Chesnut OR

5 MONDAYS, November 30, December 7, 14, 21, & January 4, 2021

7-8 pm led by Diane & Craig Lucas

To reserve and attend, contact Diane Lucas dlucasarc@gmail.com

Website Redesign

This has been an ever-evolving year for our Church with the unexpected arrival of the COVID-19 Pandemic to our country. As a church, we are grateful that we are able to connect with our congregation through technology, and specifically our Website and Facebook page. We were ahead of the curve, due in large part to Pastor George's vision for implementing this capability in 2018. Our Facebook page, however, has been in place much longer, and now it's getting more visits than ever before.

As we look forward, we have no timeline for opening the church doors in the short term, and so we will continue to conduct our church services as we have been doing. The Church Council has agreed it's time to put a fresh look onto our website to continue to welcome new and continuing viewers to our services. As such, we are beginning the process of redesign.

As the Website Administrator for CGSUM.org, seeking input from you as to the look, the accessibility, and just overall feedback on the design we have, to assist in creating something more 'user friendly' for us all. I also am looking for photos you may have – I know many of you do – of activities at the church, particularly the ones that show individuals engaged in social gatherings, whether in large or small groups. We particularly want to include children and youth activities, to show that we have so much to offer at our church, and just to give viewers an idea of who we are as a congregation. We all arrived here for a reason . . . and those reasons are what I want to be able to portray to those that are seeking a church home, whether on-site when we are able to do that again, or even on-line as we have much to offer there as well.

Please send your ideas, feedback, photos, to: communications@cgsum.org . If you would rather discuss in person, you can reach me at (626) 963-8604. I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you again soon in person.

Marcia D'Amore, Website Administrator, CGSUM.org

The Season of Advent: Hope

The Season of Advent is upon us. It is a time of waiting and preparation to celebrate the birth of Christ. It is a season of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. As I reflect on Hope this week, I remember when I was a child I had hoped for many things: a Cabbage Patch doll at Christmas, a Puppy for my birthday, trips to Disneyland, and a baby brother. While I never received the baby brother that I had wished for, I did receive most things because of my parents. As I grew older, I hoped for different things: good grades in school, a career that fulfilled me, and a spouse that loved me. As an adult, I realized these things were possible because of the work I put into them. I needed to study hard to receive good grades, I needed to follow my call into ministry to have a career that I truly feel blessed to have, and I need to be caring and patient to receive the love I have in my marriage.

Yes, for most things we hope for in life, we must be willing to work hard for them. We need to also recognize God's hand in these things. God truly loves us and cares for us. His love for all people is so great that he gave the world the gift of Jesus Christ. Jesus brought hope, joy, peace, and love to the world. Jesus was the King that worked hard in his life- in teaching, in preaching, in healing, in serving. Today, we are called to honor this by working hard and helping God bring hope to the world. Consider buying extra groceries to donate to Foothill Unity, call a fellow church member to brighten their day, pledge financially to help the church continue 75 years of ministry and mission, purchase an Advent Christmas market gift, help a neighbor with errands, etc. And all are encouraged to take time this season to just breathe, to pray, to read Scripture, and to be in a deeper relationship with God.

Blessings to All this Advent Season!

Pastor Eva



Advent Candle of Hope

Our Worship Service Is Broadcast Live on Sunday at 10:00 am to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG

Tuesday mornings at 8:00-9:00 a.m. – Join the walking group in the church parking lot and courtyard!



FUNDRAISER

Eat Chipotle, help Good Shepherd Children's Center

Calling all burrito lovers,

Foil your dinner plans and stop by the Chipotle at **608 W Huntington Dr in Monrovia** for our fundraiser on **Wednesday, December 16** from **4:00pm - 8:00pm**. We're raising money to support Good Shepherd Children's Center, so just download a flyer from the link below or mention the fundraiser at checkout and they'll donate 33% of the proceeds to the cause!

Good Shepherd Children's Center December Dine-out at Chipotle Dec. 16 from 4pm - 8pm

[Click here for more details.](#)

Can't wait to see you!



*open hearts,
open minds,
open doors*

The WORD

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District Superintendent: Melissa Roux MacKinnon

Pastor: Eva Thai-Erwin

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry: Franklyn Shen

Director of Music Ministry: Stephen Cook

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