



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

Volume 54, No. 11

March 17, 2020

The Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist Church

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

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 23:1-6 and John 10:11-18

Sermon Series: "I Am" #4 - "I Am the Good Shepherd"

The Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Preaching

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. (see above).

An on-line bulletin will be sent later this week

so you will be able to follow the service at 10 a.m. on Sunday

**All classes, rehearsals and meetings are
postponed through the month of March.**

**Do not come to church on March 22 and March 29
(see article on the next page).**

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.

Richard Vethamani's Prison Ministry is postponed

The UMW Dine-Out Fundraiser at **Alex DiPeppe's**, 610 Live Oak Avenue, is postponed.



FURTHER INFO From East District Superintendent, Rev. Melissa MacKinnon

In terms of guidance from medical professionals, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has produced a number of helpful documents that you may want to go over with your church.

As we have been checking with our sister denominations, we found an excellent Emergency Plan from the United Church of Canada as well as a Pandemic Preparedness Guide from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that we are studying.

For now, please consider following the advice in general being given by our own American medical authorities:

- Seek immediate medical intervention if you develop flu like symptoms
- Stay home if you are not feeling well, and especially if you are coughing
- Wash your hands on a regular basis and use hand sanitizers as an alternative
- Sanitize those areas with which you have a lot of contact

Most importantly as people of faith, let us pray for those who have contracted the virus and for our worldwide population that the virus will be contained. Let us turn to our God in faith and let us not succumb to our fears and anxieties.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD RESPONSE PLAN FOR COVI D-19:

PRAYER, PREVENTION, PROVISION

PRAYER

- Pray for family and friends
- Pray for our church, the community, and the world
- Pray for those in high risk categories: Seniors, immune deficiencies, and young children
- Pray for church and government leaders

PREVENTION

- March 22nd and 29th Worship Services will be ONLY be available On-Line via LIVE STREAM (10am) on church website (www.CGSUM.org) or Facebook Group Page (Live and Recorded). Do not come to church on those Sundays.
- Offerings and Tithes can be mailed to the church or dropped in the Office mailbox.
- Restricted Office Hours: Monday-Friday (9am-12noon). Please do not come to the office, feel free to call (626) 447-2181 or e-mail instead (e-mail@cgsum.org)
- Limited or Cancelled Group Facility Use: Group Leaders will contact their groups
- Children's Center will be closing March 17 through April 3.

PROVISION

- To Provide Pastoral and Lay Care for each other
- Pastoral Care- Pastor Eva is available for in person or virtual visits. Her contact info is (626) 447-2181 office, (562) 682-8859 cell, and PastorEva@cgsum.org
- A Lay Care Team will also be set up to help check in on our Elderly and Home Bound members. Please contact the church if you would like a call or visit from a Lay Care Team member or would like to be on the team.

Thank you to our Church Office Staff, Children's Center Staff, Youth Director, Christian Ed Director, Worship and Church Council Leaders, Music Director and Choir Directors, AV Team, and Facility Staff for their continuous care and work for the church during this time.

Please check the Church Web-Site for future up-to date announcements: <https://www.cgsum.org/news-events/latest-announcements>



Easter Flowers

It's time for pre-sales of potted flower plants which decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. The plants include double lilies (\$17), mums (\$14), azaleas (\$20), and hydrangeas (\$20). Pre-sales will occur until March 29 in the church office. They may be designated in honor of or in memory of someone special and/or designated for homebound members, and may be picked up after the 10 AM Easter Sunday service. Make checks payable to Church of the Good Shepherd, with "Easter flowers" written in the memo line.

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.



Through the Years

Our Story Featured

A page in the Independent Star-News on December 31, 1961, described our church's history and activities up until that time, about 16 years after it was launched. The Rev. Will Hildebrand had been appointed minister who enrolled 86 charter members and who later oversaw the groundbreaking for the chapel and offices. At the time the church was featured in the newspaper, the Rev. Thatcher Jordan was the pastor. He led the congregation in the three building campaigns for a new sanctuary and two church schools. Parishioners' dreams were realized in 1961. A mortgage-burning ceremony was celebrated in November with Rev. Hildebrand as guest speaker. Our name, Church of the Good Shepherd, was selected in early December, and the first worship services were held in the new sanctuary on December 22, the same week the article was published. By then the church had grown to about 1,450 members, with an average of 1,000 youngsters ages 2 to 12 attending Sunday School. Activities offered were a men's group, the women's society, six couples' groups, six youth groups, and six choirs. Photographs of both the sanctuary and Rev. Jordan enhanced the story as well as his Sunday Meditation called "Spendthrifts." Apparently featuring an almost-full page about a local church was the newspaper's practice, as it announced it would feature Trinity Methodist Church of Pasadena the following Sunday.

Celebrating 75 Years of Christian Ministry and Mission

Mark your calendars and join us in celebrating 75 years of Christian Ministry and Mission. More details to follow as events get closer:

May 13 – 16 - Pictorial Directory Photos

Sunday, May 17 - Charter Sunday will be a re-dedication of the church during a single service at 10:00 am. It is also All Choir Sunday. The service will be followed by 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's Newsletter

These past few weeks our lives have been filled with unending news about the Covid-19 Health Crisis. The Covid-19 virus is offering challenges that we may never have anticipated. It has caused disruption to schools, businesses, personal lives, and social events. The church has been affected as well. On Sunday, I met with Church of the Good Shepherd leaders after worship to discuss our response: A 3P Plan...Prayer, Prevention, and Provision. Please see the 3P Plan in the newsletter.

This plan includes the decision to close Sunday worship services for the remaining month of March (March 22nd and 29th). This was a difficult decision to make. I, like many of you, value the power of worship in a community setting. While our services will be closed, I and a small group of leaders will still lead the worship services that can be viewed on line. This brings us to a new way of experiencing a worship community. Through the on-line Live Streaming (10:00am) and Recorded viewing options the worship community that is usually the people in the pews around you now shifts to a virtual community. Families are encouraged to watch the service together in the comfort of their homes. Individuals are encouraged to call fellow church members after worship and share their thoughts. Friends and family can now be invited to "attend" worship via the on-line experience and not have to worry about what to wear, parking spaces, arriving on time, etc. And yes, we will still have Prayer, The Word for Children, and Offering, they will just be in new adapted forms.

Adapting to a new experience of worship is nothing new for Church of the Good Shepherd. When the church began 75 years ago in May 1945 it was one minister and a small group of faithful attendees who worshipped in the Holly Avenue School auditorium. The worship community adapted and changed when the building of the Chapel was complete in 1947. And again in 1961 when the Sanctuary was completed. The number of ministers, congregation members, and elements of worship may have changed over the years. However, the church and its members have always been a community of worship, fellowship and service together. I am confident that this will continue, even in adapted forms during these times of extreme public health measures, and for many more years to come.

Together in Christ's Service,

Pastor Eva

Upcoming Events to Mark on Your Calendars!!

Most events here at the church through the end of March are cancelled. Please read Pastor Eva's Prayer, Prevention, Provision article on the second page of this newsletter.

We are hopeful we can resume regularly scheduled events in April including the special events show below, but will keep you informed and up-to-dated as the situation progresses.

April 4 – Help put up the palms for Palm Sunday beginning at 8 am.

April 5 – Palm Sunday.

April 4 and May 2 – Our Next All Church Work Days!!

April 10 – Good Friday – Children's Center and Church Office closed.

April 12 – Easter Sunday.

May 13 – 16 - Pictorial Directory Photos - Watch for more information and sign-ups.

Sunday, May 17 - Charter Sunday.

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!!



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

Church of the Good Shepherd

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(626) 447-2181

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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