



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

Volume 54, No. 16

April 21, 2020

The Church of the Good Shepherd

United Methodist Church

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

Sunday, April 26, 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Preaching

Scripture Lessons: Psalm 116:1-4 and Luke 24:13-27

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

County “Stay at Home Order” continues into May.

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) through May 17.

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.

Signs of Faith and Hope during this Time of “Stay Safe at Home”

Email your pictures to Linda at the church (ldoran@cgsum.org). Below are more photos that we have received...



(A bear in the window watches from Dottie Zessau’s home.)



(Joann and David Steinmeier have a bear waving from their porch)



(Two bears riding in a wagon in Robin Graney’s window offer hope.)

More pictures of bears and heroes....



(This bear shares hope on the door of Norman and Linda Collar)



(Billie Tone went to Texas to celebrate her grandson Eoin's third birthday on 3/12 and is still there providing childcare for her son Jon and his wife Aileen while they are working erratic hours. They are both nurses. Stay safe!!)



(Ken Mallory was set to be honored at Dodger Stadium last Saturday for his WWII military service. It couldn't happen as planned but his family honored him on a Zoom conference.)

Celebrating 75 Years of Christian Ministry and Mission

Through the Years

The Geritol Gang...and others



Some decades ago, Art Leatherman, Win Balance, and Don Johnson felt the church sprinklers needed repairs or replacements. The men knew that professional help would be costly. So they volunteered to do what they could to see that the church property, including the parsonage next door, was properly watered. Art, Win, and Don, then retired, began meeting every Tuesday morning to work on the sprinkling system. Sometimes other retirees joined them. Before long, they became affectionately known as The Geritol Gang. But the Geritol Gang were not the only volunteers applying tender, loving care to the church. In December of 1999, as chairman of the Board of Trustees, Art made an appeal in The Word for volunteers to work one Saturday every three months from 8 a.m. to noon. Both men and women responded, arriving Saturday mornings ready to apply elbow grease to the many odd jobs around the campus. Tasks were both indoors and outdoors. The workers maintained the gardens, trimming and pruning as needed, and refreshing with new plantings. They cleaned gutters, painted, and made small carpentry repairs. Art was a mentor to the often-inexperienced (but willing) helpers. He called the project "Home Repair 101." His truck was usually loaded on Saturday with all the essential tools, ready and waiting, for that day's jobs. As the years passed, the Geritol Gang felt the pangs of aging, so they 'retired' a second time. In a ceremony in November 2005, handsome plaques were presented to each as "one of the saints of the church" for being part of the Geritol Gang. Two women were also recognized: Bernie Dever who organized volunteers for the Saturday workdays, and Elaine Iverson for being the Cookie Lady who constantly supplied them with her home-baked cookies. Their work has saved the church many thousands of dollars by not having to hire outside contractors. But there was more to it than money—it gave the volunteers a strong sense of camaraderie, accomplishment, and pride. It has been reincarnated in spirit lately with monthly All-Church Clean-Up Days focusing on a general cleaning and tidying. Why do so many members continue to give of their service and energy this way? As always, its lure remains the same: to enjoy the fellowship of friends, and to lovingly care for their home, the Church of the Good Shepherd.

On-Line Giving Instructions

1. Go to 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.

Pastor Eva Newsletter

Each day, around 12noon, I try to take time to stop, pray, and read a short devotion. The Upper Room Devotion for Tuesday, April 21st happens to be titled "Strength from Solitude." These devotions are written up to 6-8 months ahead of time. Little did the author know when she wrote the devotion, how fitting the theme would be during these times. Part of the focus verse is from Mark 6:31a (NRSV): [Jesus] said to [the apostles], "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." I'd like to think this time of Stay at Home/Safer at Home is God's way of calling all of us to take time to rest.

Our lives are usually busy with work, family/children/grandchildren, household duties, bills, and other tasks and other obligations. Sometimes we only have the hour long Sunday worship service as time to care for our spiritual life. With the COVID 19 restrictions in place for our health and safety, comes a hidden blessing of solitude and time. Jesus knew that the disciples needed a break from the crowds and the hectic pace of the ministry he was leading them in. So he invited them join him for a time to rest and renewal. To be in solitude with one another, and to drown out for a brief moment the business of their lives. I pray that we hear this invitation from Jesus today. In this time of Stay at Home, may you find comfort in the solitude and reconnect with your spiritual life as well.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT BLESSINGS BOX INSTRUCTIONS

For the Sunday April 19th Children's Moment, Pastor Eva invited the children are invited to create a blessings box. Here are the instructions for parents to help their children with the box:

- 1) Select a clean an empty container from home to use as the Blessings Box (examples: Kleenex box, reusable water bottles, cleaning wipes tub, spaghetti sauce jar, shoe box).
- 2) Think of someone in your life that you are Thankful for and write their name on the outside of the box (ex. a Teacher, a neighbor, a grandparent, a church friend, etc.).
- 3) Each day, say a prayer, and write a blessing about something you are thankful for that day on a piece of paper and date the paper.
- 4) Write your daily blessings and put them in the box. When we are able to gather again for worship in person, the children will be invited to bring their Blessings Box up for Children's Time and share them. Pastor Eva will give a prize* to the children.

*Currently, based on the May 15th Stay at Home end date, it is the hope to give each child \$1 per blessings (\$30 max). The child should use to money to purchase a gift for the person in their life they are thankful for (see #2). This may change if online only worship continues past May 15th, but all children will receive a prize regardless of days or # of blessings they write.

Upcoming Events to Mark on Your Calendars!!

We are postponing plans for all events for now. We will keep you posted on date changes.

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!!



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. 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. 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 or through the online giving method. [ONLINE GIVING](#) (Click)

- a) Go to **Altar Flowers** and enter your donation.
- b) In the box next to your donation, enter, "**Veterans' Flowers**"
- c) Select the **Continue** button at the bottom of the page and then enter your payment information.



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

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