



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

Volume 54, No. 35

September 1, 2020

The Church of the Good Shepherd
United Methodist Church
400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA 91007 - www.cgsum.org 626-447-2181
Sunday, September 6, 2020

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin. Preaching – Fruits of the Spirit: Peace
Scripture: Psalm 95:1-7 and 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Labor Day Weekend – Drive Thru Communion

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)

Sunday Worship CDs and DVDs are available each week for those cannot view worship online. Please stop by the church office for a CD or DVD or call the office if you would like it delivered.

Among the Church Family

In Our Prayers:

Please continue to keep everyone previously mentioned in the newsletter and prayer chain in your prayers. Include Jeff Davis, Holly Earle's brother, who is undergoing cancer surgery on September 1.

And, prayer requests for our students, teachers, administrators, school staffs, and their families. May they be safe, positive, joyful, creative, engaged, and supported.

DRIVE THRU COMMUNION OFFERED NEXT SUNDAY, September 6 (11:30am-12:30pm)

For Worship next Sunday, we will continue to have the Love Feast during the on-line worship service, but we also offer a Special Drive Thru Communion option at the church.

- Please Enter the Large West Parking Lot off Duarte and Follow Signs to Stations 1-3.
- Remain in Your Car at All Times
- You may open your window (if you choose) when you stop at each station, but MUST WEAR A MASK and your car must remain six feet away from each greeter at the Stations.
- At the last Station- Pastor Eva will give you a Communion Blessings and Benediction.



BIBLE STUDY LED BY MICHAEL CHESNUT, Seminary Intern



Bible Study Schedule for the Upcoming Week:

No Bible Study on Tuesday, September 1.

Sunday, September 6, 9:00-9:45 am

Join Online Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86197714895?pwd=cVpXZXdlV29ocjRrTllyVVF6K3NJZz09>

Meeting ID: 861 9771 4895 (You only need the Meeting ID to join this Zoom Meeting. You do not need a password. We intentionally deleted the need for a password to make it easier to access.)

OR DIAL IN BY YOUR CLOSEST LOCATION

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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Celebrating 75 Years of Christian Ministry and Mission Through the Years Family Promise Introduced

In 2013, a Covenant Discipleship group was formed at CGS that included Larry Callaham, Elaine Drew, Michael Johnson and Richard Vethamani. They met weekly in the Wesleyan tradition to encourage each other in their faith journey. Inspired by Wesley's call for "Works of Mercy", they looked for a project for themselves to "feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoners and the hospitals, and seek out those in need." Rev. Phil Wood suggested several options which included Family Promise, a national organization that through its sheltering program assists transitionally homeless families to end their homelessness.

After much research, discussion, and prayers, the CGS Family Promise Ministry officially began in 2014. The first Family Promise Leadership Team was Larry and Marilyn Callaham, Craig and Diane Lucas, Lynne Rivera, Mark Renfrew, David and Joann Steinmeier, Vern Whitaker, and Richard Vethamani. With Family Promise San Gabriel Valley guidance, our CGS Family Promise (FP) team planned for months, decided on which areas on the campus to use, designed sleeping areas, and bought supplies and bed linens for air mattresses. Our Good Shepherd Foundation provided a grant to cover initial expenses.

The first Family Promise hosting was September, 2014. As of summer 2020, we have hosted 25 weeks serving 36 families, sometimes with as many as 4 families in one hosting week, with a total of 76 children ranging in ages from 1 month to 18 years old. During each of the weekly hostings, our CGS FP volunteers (usually around 60 each week with a total of over 300 service hours) provide dinner, social and recreational opportunities, and a safe place to sleep. At the end of our hosting week, the guest family moves on to the next hosting church.

Through Family Promise, CGS utilizes our spacious campus to bless others. It is an opportunity to be in ministry within our community and make a significant difference in the lives of parents and children. We share their stories, we hold and play with their children, and we share meals with our guest families. Family Promise is well supported by members and friends of CGS. This is a church-wide ministry that everyone can participate in regardless of age or ability.

Not only has CGS FP been host to our guest families, but we also have mentored other churches as they began their FP hosting.

Having our FP guest families with us is a blessing to us and we are changed by that experience. As a church family, we demonstrate that when individuals do their small part, together we can do something big and significant, by the grace of God. Our Family Promise Ministry is how we share God's blessings with others. It is how we love God and love neighbor. Thanks be to God!

-Richard Vethamani

From Our Seminary Intern:

I broke my leg three days before I was supposed to begin high school. It was the first day of full-pads for football practice, and I made the mistake of going against the hardest hitter on my football team. It didn't bode well for me.

I spent the next four or five weeks in bed recovering. As painful as it was, I was mainly just bored. This was before cell phones were widespread, so I couldn't text my friends. I wasn't a big reader at the time. I just watched Olympic tennis and stared at my ceiling. When I grew tired of that, I spent my time thinking about what it would be like once I was mobile again. Then I would be able to mosey down the hall and sit at my computer. Then I would be able to play basketball. Then I would be able to go to school and see my friends. Looking back on it, these times of envisioning played a critical role in helping me get through the pain and boredom of my fractured ankle.

We talk a lot about COVID-19 these days, and appropriately so. It's exerting a profound pressure on our lives. But perhaps with all this time inside, we can think of what it will be like when we're finally able to go outside. Most especially, perhaps we can think about what we want our church to look like once this all blows over – which may feel like an eternity. But COVID *will* eventually blow over. And it's good to think about what we want things to look like, what we want our church to look like, when that happens. Are there crucial lessons that we've learned that we want to continue applying? Are there experiments that we want to try out? Or, are we confident in the direction that we were heading before COVID, and is it that we only need to continue in that direction? All are legitimate possibilities. Nevertheless, perhaps we can spend this time dreaming and envisioning possibilities. It will likely help us get through this, and it will stand us in good stead when COVID *does* blow over.

-Michael Chesnut



**CGS SETS GOAL OF 75 PARTICIPANTS FOR
FAMILY PROMISE OF SGV'S AWARENESS & FUNDRAISING EVENT!
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020**



For more than 10 years, Family Promise of San Gabriel Valley has been helping families in need find stable housing and develop the skills and tools to succeed independently. You can show your support for children and families battling homelessness and raise awareness of this crisis by joining Family Promise of San Gabriel Valley's first Night Without A Bed sleep out on September 11, 2020.

Put up a tent in your back yard. Make a fort in your living room. Wrap up in blankets on the sofa or in a sleeping bag on the floor. Give up your comfortable bed for one night and share the experience with friends and family. Post photos of your Night Without A Bed on social media using #NightWithoutABed, tag Family Promise, and ask sponsors to support your efforts to help families battling homelessness.

WAYS YOU CAN PARTICPATE WITH CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD:

- 1) Commit to spending the night with out your bed and help the church reach its goal of 75 participants in honor of CGS's 75th Anniversary.
E-mail Pastor Eva (pastoreva@cgsun.org) or call the church office with your name and how many from your family who are participating.
- 2) Make a financial contribution that will support the work of Family Promise. Please go to the following website to make an individual contribution:
<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/family-promise-of-san-gabriel-valley/night-without-a-bed>
 - On this site you can choose any amount you would like to donate; for example \$30 provides a set of sheets for a child, \$50 ensures a family has a meal, \$100 shelters a family for a night.
 - Be sure to select the one time donation or monthly donation tab located above the blue Continue tab.
- 3) E-mail Pastor Eva a photo of how you spent your night without a bed. Photos will be shown during the September 20th on-line worship service.

For more information or questions, please contact CGS Family Promise Coordinator, Diane Lucas (dlucasarc@gmail.com)

A Flu Shot is the Best Protection Against the Flu



We will be offering the trivalent (not quadrivalent) **flu shots on Sunday, October 11 from 11:30 AM – 1 PM**. This will probably be a drive through program this year. Contact Margaret Blair, (626)574-1827, if you are age 18 & older & wish to be on the recipient list.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends that almost everyone six months and older get a flu shot every year by the end of October. The flu vaccination is especially important for people 65 years and older because they are at high risk for developing serious complications from flu.

In the United States, a high-dose quadrivalent vaccine is licensed only for persons aged 65 years and older. The higher dose of antigen in the vaccine is intended to give older people a better immune response, and therefore, better protection against flu.

Once again Methodist Hospital is offering flu shots through our parish nurse program. **However, the flu vaccine that Methodist Hospital provides is the trivalent vaccine for younger adults.** Therefore, it is recommended that individuals 65 years and older get their quadrivalent flu shots through their physician or local pharmacy.

Upcoming Events to Mark on Your Calendars!!

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

Sept. 6 14th Sunday of Pentecost Fruits of the Spirit: Peace Psalm 95:1-7
 Drive-thru Communion (see article) 2 Corinthians 2:5-11
 Labor Day Weekend

As online only Worship Services continue, we also offer Virtual Coffee Fellowship time on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11:30 am! Use the following login or call in information to join us for virtual fellowship from the comfort of your home.

Here is the Zoom Login Info: only the meeting ID is needed- no password required.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87937808985>

Meeting ID: 879 3780 8985



The Good Shepherd Children's Center is now enrolling infant - five years for Fall, call 626-447-1249 for more information.



The WORD

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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 Cook

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