



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

Volume 55, No. 1

January 12, 2021

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)

Sunday, January 17, 2021

This Sunday in Worship

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend

Human Relations Day (UMC Special Offering Sunday)

Drive Thru Communion today 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Scripture: Psalm 139:1-6 and Matthew 2:9-12

Message: "Journey of the Magi – Homage to Jesus", The Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Preaching

**Introit and Anthems: from the Youth Choir- "Open", "I Have Decided", "Glory to God",
and Benediction Response "A Closing Prayer"**

Congregational Hymns from The Faith We Sing (black songbook):

"Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary #2164" and "Star-Child #2095"

Among the Church Family

In Our Prayers:

Our prayers are with all those who have been mentioned previously and please include **Carole Sano** who is recuperating from surgery.

Answered Prayers:

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, love and caring you all gave me. I know it helped! **-Elaine Iverson**

Thank you to all of those praying for Kristie Hubbell. She received a call on New Year's Eve that she will not need chemo or radiation. She only needs hormone therapy. Good news for the New Year. Thanks be to God!

-Donna Graham

Attention all 6th-12th graders, the Class of 2021 Confirmation Class is now forming!

Pastor Eva and I would like to do a confirmation class this spring. Please let me know if you have not been confirmed and would like to be a part of this year's class. Classes will be held via zoom, and we will work with those who are interested to select the best time for classes. Our hope is that if it is safe, you will be recognized live in church in front of our entire congregation! Please call me at (626) 272-5081 or email me by **Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021**, if you are interested at fnjshen@sbcglobal.net. – **Franklyn Shen, Director of Youth Ministries**

PLEDGE CARDS 2021

Thank you to the individuals and families that returned their 2021 Pledge Cards. The Finance Committee greatly appreciates your financial commitment to the church especially after the challenges of 2020 that we all faced. There is still time for those who have not turned in their pledge cards. Please mail back or drop off to the church office.

Drive Thru Communion This Sunday, January 17, 11:30 am—1:00 pm



We will offer a Drive Thru Communion at the church 11:30-1:00.

- Please Enter the Large West Parking Lot off Duarte and Follow the Signs.
- 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.

Walking Group

Our walking group meets weekly on Tuesdays at 8 am. You must bring and wear your mask, plan to social distance, and **Catherine Doster**, who will be leading the walks, will provide the water. If you want more information, call Catherine at 626-365-6447 or email her at catherine.doster@yahoo.com. What a great way to start the New Year!!



Sarah Circle

Sarah Circle, a UMW fellowship group at Church of the Good Shepherd, welcomes the participation of any woman. During the pandemic, we are meeting by Zoom the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM. Contact Margaret Blair (kdblair@earthlink.net) for the Zoom invitation. Join us on Thursday, February 4!

Reflection to Resolutions



We are in the swing of a new year! I know; New Year's Day has passed. The fireworks, the feasting, the ball drops – they've already happened. And maybe you've already done a fair amount of reflecting, planning, and making resolutions. Nevertheless, while these activities are still fresh, and if you haven't already done so, I encourage you to set aside some time to prayerfully reflect on God's movement in your own and the church's life this past year and where you see God moving you as an individual and us as a church. For example, were there any times this past year where God was especially present to you? What was that like, and what did the situations have in common? Were there any times where it seemed like God especially came through for you? Where or how has God's movement in our church been especially clear to you?

Likewise, looking towards the upcoming year, is God calling you somewhere or to something specific, perhaps to be more engaged in social service or to be more active in a certain church ministry? Do you discern that God is calling our church somewhere or to something specific? This sort of activity typically requires genuine thought, and often we will arrive at answers and insights through prayer. By taking the time and the effort, though, we can arrive at New Year's resolutions relevant to us and our specific situations, resolutions that will help us grow closer to God individually and fulfill God's purposes for us as an entire community.

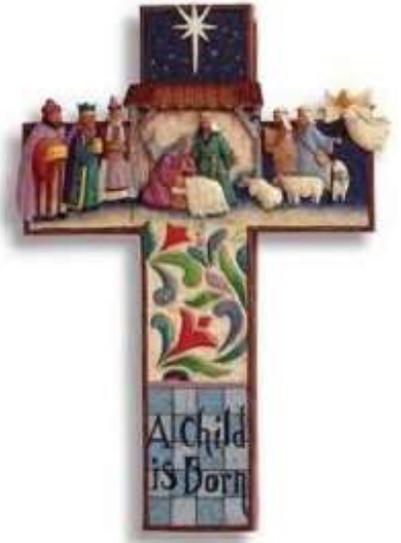
-Michael Chesnut, Ministerial Intern

Keep Christmas Alive!

During this past Advent several CGS groups discussed *“Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas”* by Pastor Adam Hamilton, UMC. Our discussions led us to contemplate the birth of Jesus that put “flesh on an invisible God”. Pastor Eva delivered wonderfully thoughtful messages during Advent on the themes and titles for Jesus as discussed in *“Incarnation”*—Jesus is our King, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light, Word of God, and Lord.

Because these concluding words from *“Incarnation”* by Pastor Hamilton were quite meaningful, we wanted to share them: “May this joy be yours [*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!*] as you hail Jesus as your Christ, your Messiah, your King. May you taste the hope and mercy he offers as you receive him as your Savior. May you feel his peace as you accept that he is your Emmanuel. May you hear him as God’s definitive Word to you, even as you allow his light to dwell in you and be reflected through you. May he be your Lord, guiding, leading and directing your path.”

Let us keep Christmas alive by living these words and by doing good for others, showing kindness, helping others, and “putting flesh on God”. Bring your Christian faith to life!



Below is an important message from our District Superintendent, the Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon:

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the East District,

As we move into the New Year, there have been new questions about restrictions for worship gatherings following the Supreme Court's decision on November 25th. In that decision the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 against the Government of New York setting regulations for worship gatherings that were more strict than regulations for retailers, offices and factories. The ruling was based on the Courts understanding of the First Amendment’s guarantee of Religious Liberty. On December 3, the Court also vacated the same restrictive guidelines in California. While these rulings address a matter of constitutional law lifting governmental ability to restrict religious worship, it does not change the California-Pacific Conference’s dedication to participate in our local efforts to eradicate the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting scientific and health care experts recommended guidelines to curb this deadly contagion. To that end we continue to freely worship as the Body of Christ, but for the United Methodist Churches of the California-Pacific Conference, we will continue to do so only virtually and in approved outdoor settings. We pray for patience and endurance so that the vaccines which are now being deployed can bring us to the place we can joyfully embrace in our Sanctuaries. When that day comes, we will all gather together and lift our voices in thankful praise for the health of our families of faith.

Blessings,

Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon

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Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon

East District Superintendent

mmackinnon@calpacumc.org

909-984-7100

Sunday Service Is Broadcast Live at 10:00 am to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG - Drive Thru Communion this Sunday in the church parking lot, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Save the date: January 21, 2021, for a fundraiser event for the Good Shepherd's Children's Center at Blaze Pizza in the Von's Shopping Center on Naomi in Arcadia. More details and flyer to follow!

The Children's Center and the Church Office will both be **closed on Monday, January 18**, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

The 2021 Flower Chart is now hanging in the Narthex of the Sanctuary and we can sign up to give flowers "in honor of" or "in memory of" loved ones (or in celebration of an anniversary, birthday, special event or accomplishment) by calling Linda Doran in the church office, 626-447-2181. The cost of the flowers is \$45 (payable to "Church of the Good Shepherd") Mail the check to the church and write "Altar Flowers" on the memo line. The church office will place your order with ZuZu's Petals of Arcadia and have the personalized message announced in church by Pastor Eva on the appropriate Sunday. After the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service that Sunday, you may stop by the church to take your flowers home with you or let us know and we will have them in the church office on Monday morning after 9:00 a.m. Thank you for helping to beautify our worship center.

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

Sunday School for preschoolers and elementary grade kids meets by Zoom on **Sunday mornings, 9:15-9:45**. Please contact **Heather Reynolds** (khreynolds89@earthlink.net or 626-272-6629) for the zoom info and other information. We will also make a recording of our class available securely for kids who can't join at the regular time.

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



*open hearts,
open minds,
open doors*

The WORD

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Church of the Good Shepherd

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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