



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

Volume 55, No. 3

January 26, 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 31, 2021

This Sunday in Worship

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture: Psalm 62:8-12 and Matthew 2:13-15

Message: Journey of the Holy Family- Go and Seek

Prelude and Postlude: "Give Me Jesus" and "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Introit and Anthems: "Seek Ye First", "Abide with Me", Bell Choir Piece, and Sue Holder Solo

Congregational Hymns from the Red UM Hymnal: "God of Grace and God of Glory #577",

"Spirit of the Living God #393", "Trust and Obey #467"

Among the Church Family

In Our Prayers:

Our prayers are with all those who have been mentioned previously.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will have its first meeting of 2021 on Saturday, January 30th, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Details will be sent.

CGS Family Promise: Calling All Supporters for "Virtual Hosting", January 24-30, 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact Family Promise (FP). Since Good Shepherd has committed to host FP guests January 24-30, 2021, CGS will "virtually" host our guest families at a motel and provide grocery cards for food during our hosting week.

We will be virtually hosting 2 families. One family has a son (19 months) and the other family is a single mother with 5 children (ages 17, 15, 13, 11, & 4). Just like all of us, the pandemic has affected their lives, but they are striving to keep and/or get permanent jobs to help them meet their goal of independence.

Because of the need to host 2 families, the CGS FP Team is asking our congregational supporters to contribute \$2,000. We will use some of our CGS budgeted funds to pay for the virtual hosting and the additional funds will need to come from donations.

Here's how you can help these 2 families :

1. Send a check payable to Church of the Good Shepherd, 400 W Duarte Rd, Arcadia, 91007
2. Put "CGS FP #8240" on the memo line
3. Or give online through the church website (www.cgsum.org).

1 John 3:17-18 –*But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in words or talk but action and in truth.*

Grateful blessings for your faith, your heart, your love, your actions, and your support!

CGS Family Promise Team, Diane Lucas, Coordinator, dlucasarc@gmail.com, cell--626-975-3100

Celebrating 75 Years of Christian Ministry and Mission

Through the Years

Coping with Covid



When the history books are written some decades hence, they will surely include lengthy and complex discussions of the pandemic that began in 2020 and lasted until who knows when. When the history of Church of the Good Shepherd is written some years hence, it will surely include the many ways in which our church coped with Covid.

Thrust upon the entire world, the novel virus Covid-19 spread quickly and unsparingly. It affected everyone in ways we couldn't have imagined. Among them were the challenges faced by our churches.

How could we continue our Christian life together? How could we hold our church together when we couldn't attend it?

Well, those histories will have a beautiful story to tell of how we coped with Covid. We had planned to celebrate our 75th Jubilee throughout 2020 and 2021. Plans were regrettably abandoned as we adapted to the new reality. We happened to live at a time when it was possible to maintain contact electronically, so very near to the pandemic's beginning, our church went virtual.

Worship services, the central core of our faith journey, were held online. Think of the planning, coordination and work it took for so many people to create and provide the service every week! All who participated in person at church carefully followed safety protocols: wearing masks, social distancing, small gatherings. Music was performed by the organist and a few adult and youth choir members and bell ringers. Memorial flowers continued to beautify the altar. The pastor still brought intriguing items for the children's moments. The pastoral intern's message was a video that was inserted into the morning's program. A member read the biblical passages. Words to the hymns were printed so we could sing along from home. And the sermon was preached to a 'congregation' of members' photos taped to the empty pews!

As the pandemic wore on, people felt the isolation more and more. Fellowship groups set up Zoom meetings so their members could participate safely from home. The Wednesday noon Book Club still read books and held their usual lively discussions. United Methodist Men met weekly. Sarah Circle held evening meetings and conjured some fundraisers. Outreach to Family Promise continued.

A few in-person activities were set up with strict compliance to safety rules: mask-wearing, social distancing, and a limited number of participants. On campus, an informal walking group formed to offer six-feet-apart camaraderie weekly. Car drive-throughs were set up to provide Holy Communion on certain Sundays. Volunteers maintained the handsome campus grounds.

Throughout, the church staff kept the church business on track, working somewhat modified office hours while still caring for members' needs.

So our church history someday in the future will retell the story of how Church of the Good Shepherd members maintained their Christian lives and held the church together as they adapted and coped with Covid.



Plastic Bags and Egg Cartons

Foothill Unity Center is still collecting egg cartons and plastic bags. During this "Stay at Home" era we have a different location for dropping them off. Whenever you are in the vicinity of the church, they can be placed in the box located near the entrance to the office. Arrangements have been made to transfer the contents of the box to Fellowship Hall for future delivery to the Center. —Vern and Lynne Whitaker

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.

Gold Award for CGS Girl Scout

Shinjini Das, an Ambassador Girl Scout in Troop 14331 based out of Church of the Good Shepherd, recently completed her Gold Award Project to benefit Family Promise at the church.

Since she was a young girl, Shinjini has always had an innate passion for giving back to her community. Whether going to soup kitchens every week or volunteering at her local hospital, she always tries to find a way to do what she does best: make others feel at home while away from home. As Shinjini entered her last year of high school, with the goal to earn her Gold Award, she was able to piece together her proposal between college applications and the challenge of working with Covid obstacles, and submit it in August of 2020. She knew she wanted to base her project around situational homelessness, since LA is one of the major cities with the largest homeless population, and because she wanted to lift people's spirits. With the belief it must be disheartening and frustrating to continuously move from home to home, her goal was to create something people could take with them wherever they go, as well as feel a sense of hope.



With the guidance of her troop leader, she reached out to Family Promise, an organization that works with situational/family homelessness, and it led her back to the Church of the Good Shepherd! Shinjini coordinated with Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles and the COGS Board of Trustees for approvals and set out to begin her project.

It entailed making 32 no-sew fleece blankets as well as painting a big mural in the Wesley Building of the church where the families usually stay. She made the blankets to give each individual a tangible reminder of hope and to make them feel extra loved and supported. Each blanket was made with love and has a little heart patch sewn on as a symbol of her compassion and care. Likewise, her mural is a symbol of warmth, hoping that when families stay in the church, it brings them smiles and comfort.



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*

The Gospel for Our Time

I recently had to write a sermon for class on "What Is the Gospel?" In a twist, we were encouraged to preach on a passage from the Old Testament, and I felt led to select Isaiah 61:1-3. If you have a chance, I encourage you to read it. It's a wonderful text that was originally written in a very difficult time of Israel's history, a time of dashed expectations and unfulfilled hopes. And even though this passage was written more than 2,500 years ago, I found that it had much to say to us today.

Just like the ancient Jews, our own time has been one of tragedy and unfulfilled hopes. And I think this has disoriented us, frustrated us, caused some of us to despair. So for those of us who feel this way, I would just encourage us to remember that we root our hope in a God of new life. The gospel story does not end in the death and violence or the despair and hopelessness of the crucifixion. The story ends with resurrection. In the Isaiah passage, the story ends with an image of trees freshly planted, an image of new life and hope. And because of this, we can be assured that the current story we're living in, this story of COVID-19 and a divided America, this story also won't end with death and violence or despair and hopelessness. This story will end with new life, with hope for our future.



–*Michael Chesnut, Ministerial Intern*

Reminders:

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

The Church Council will have its first meeting of 2021 on Saturday, January 30th, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Details will be sent.



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. Or you may pay for flowers online through the church website but still let the church office know you placed an order please. Then, 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.

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 you may email her at catherine.doster@yahoo.com.



*open hearts,
open minds,
open doors*

The WORD

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(626) 447-2181

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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