



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

Volume 55, No. 5

February 9, 2021

**The Church of the Good Shepherd**

United Methodist Church

400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA 91007 - [www.cgsum.org](http://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, February 14, 2021**

**This Sunday in Worship**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-3 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

**Sermon: "What is 1 John 4:9-12?" by Franklyn Shen; Music Provided by Youth Choir  
(Directed by Janice Clark) and Youth Bells (Directed by Carolyn Noonchester)**

**Call to Worship, Anthems, Responses: "This is the Day", "Seek Ye First",  
"Deep River (Youth Bells)", "In His Time", and "A Closing Prayer"**

**Congregational Hymns from the Red UM Hymnal: "Love Divine, All Loves  
Excelling #384" and "The Gift of Love #408"**

**ASHES-TO-GO OFFERED**

**Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

**10:00am-12:00pm and 4:00pm-6:00pm**



Please join us as we begin the season of Lent with our ashes-to-go drive thru any time between the hours of 10:00am-12:00pm and 4:00pm-6:00pm in our large west parking lot off Duarte Road on Ash Wednesday, February 17. This year, due to safety reasons, everyone must stay in their cars and must wear a mask for the drive thru and ashes will be given on a piece of burlap with a safety pin to wear. The ash-marked square is the symbol of the mark usually borne by each person on this date, but the square can last longer and become a symbol for the whole Lenten season. Over time, the ashes will fade from the square and the burlap will remain, a symbol of renewal and forgiveness.

**Among the Church Family**

***In Our Prayers:***

**Dorothy Denne** would like to say thanks for your prayers. Please continue cause it "ain't" over yet. Special thanks to **Lynne Rivera** who is one of God's angels without wings.

***New Baby:***

**Wyatt Oblonsky** was born on January 28, 2021, to **Dustin & Tori Oblonsky** and big sister **Elaina**. His grandmother is **Diane Oblonsky** and great-grandmother is **Elaine Iverson**. All are now home and doing well!

***CGS Prayer Chain:***

The Church of the Good Shepherd has a dedicated group of people who pray for members and their friends when a request comes into the church office. If you have a need for prayer for yourself, family or friends, please call the church office (626)447-2181. Recently some people "fell out" of the Prayer Chain list. If you have not been getting requests please let Carole Sano know and you will be put back on the list. If you would like to be added as one of our members of the Prayer Chain please send me your email address. Carole Sano's [email: jcsano@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcsano@sbcglobal.net)

# Celebrating 75 Years of Christian Ministry and Mission

## Through the Years

### A Woman of Many Firsts

A woman recently broke a glass ceiling by being the first woman elected to the vice-presidency of our country. But we recall 50 years ago when another woman broke a glass ceiling by becoming the first woman to be appointed a pastor at Good Shepherd.

Other Methodists may know Faith Conklin for her years as pastor at their churches, her many degrees and accolades, or her activism in peace-building and humanitarian efforts. Not members of Good Shepherd! First and foremost, they think of her possessively and lovingly as the first woman appointed to a United Methodist Church in our Conference—a radical and brave move in the '70s.

She came to Good Shepherd in 1971 when Fred Coots was senior pastor, and Jim Holland and Fred Trevino were associates. You may be surprised to learn that she was a volunteer during her first year, working both here and at the Claremont UMC. This meant she earned no credits toward her pension. She volunteered because, although she was ordained as a pastor, Bishop Gerald Kennedy refused to appoint her because he simply didn't approve of women in the clergy. He put her on 'supernumerary' status, which deemed her 'unfit' psychologically, emotionally or physically for the ministry.

Prejudice against women as pastors at that time ranged from the subtle to the blatant. Rev. Coots did not have that bias. When Holland and Trevino left in July to take other positions, Coots asked that Faith become one of two new associates. This time it was granted. However, a number in our church objected and some left, but Coots stood his ground and prevailed. Then that fall, Coots became District Superintendent, and Jim McCormick arrived as our senior pastor.

Despite the lack of acceptance from the higher echelons of the church, Faith soon became well-loved here. She and John welcomed their first baby, Charity-Jean, in June while Faith was still a volunteer. As a toddler, C-J was often seen roaming the church office. At women's meetings, she soon became everybody's baby. Her sister Joyanna joined the family three years later. Both babies were baptized here.

Faith found that women who were thirty to forty years older than she were highly supportive of her. She reflects that it may have had to do with their own experiences with gender prejudice in the workplace. At Good Shepherd, some couples seemed to prefer a male pastor for their wedding. However, it was customary for the three ministers to rotate among themselves, so Faith took her turn at this. She commented, however, that no one ever refused her for a memorial service.

After 4 years here, Faith served 7 years at Woodland Hills, 6 in San Diego as the first woman DS, 10 in Whittier, and 15 in Escondido. She retired in 2015 after 44 years in this conference. A happy note—after serving for 35 years, she was given credit for the years in which her pension had been denied.

Through the years she's served, often as that 'first woman', on local, district and national levels of Conference boards and committees. Faith has initiated or worked on innumerable compassionate programs: in Whittier, the cold weather shelter program, Sunday lunch program for homeless people, World AIDS Day Memorial service, the "Peace Pole" at Whittier City Hall, and first Mental Health Interfaith service. At Escondido, she worked on the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, "Peace Pole", weekday sack lunch, and D.O.V.E. (Dreaming of a Violence-free Escondido.)

Her illustrious career has garnered many 'first woman' spots in our conference, such as first district superintendent, first senior pastor at a multiple staff church, first ordained woman at Escondido UMC, and first Distinguished Pastor-in-Residence at Claremont School of Theology. Faith was honored as "Woman of the Year" for the 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

Life beyond Faith's profession has centered around her family. John was an aero-space engineer for more than 42 years. No matter where Faith served, he continued to commute to his job in Azusa. C-J has been the director of new ministries at Whittier UMC for number of years. There she and her 6-year-old daughter Seraphina Hope conduct the Children's Moments. Joyanna teaches second grade at Murphy Ranch Elementary in Whittier. Her children are Janelle, 17, and Jonas, 14.

And now? Faith now directs the Western Jurisdiction Course of Study for Local Pastors, and teaches two classes in it. She reads, she writes, she practices Tai Chi. And she loves science fiction, especially Star Trek, and has sometimes used its themes for sermons. It is unknown whether she plans ever to really retire.



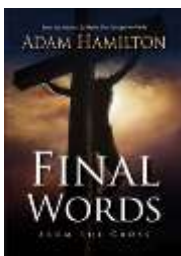
## CGS Foundation - 2020 Grants Funded

The CGS Foundation Year-Round Grant Program is open for 2021 grant requests. Grants must foster spiritual growth or facilitate membership growth of Church of the Good Shepherd UMC, Arcadia. Here are the programs funded in 2020:

- CGS 75th Anniversary Celebration: \$10,000
- UMW - Tablecloths for church and community events: \$610.80
- Troop 333 - Troop flags and camping gear: \$1,000.00
- CGS Children's Center - Payroll and Facility Costs: \$103,263.00
- CGS - Seminary Intern - \$10,000.00
- 2020 COR Leadership Conference: \$98.00
- Postage for Alternative Christmas: \$69.00



All grant applications must be submitted online only using the Foundation Online Grant Form - click the link below. Online grant application assistance will be provided when requested. [Year-Round Grant Application](#)



### ***CGS 2021 LENTEN BOOK STUDY*** ***FINAL WORDS FROM THE CROSS***

by Pastor Adam Hamilton

UMC of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas

Via Zoom, discussions will be 7 MONDAYS

February 22 through April 5, 2021, 7-8 pm

led by Diane & Craig Lucas

In each session, we will discuss Jesus's final words based on these statements:

- "Father Forgive Them"
- "Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise"
- "Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother"
- "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"
- "I Thirst"
- "It Is Finished . . . Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit"
- Postscript: The Words After That

Each chapter begins with the biblical account of Jesus's last statements followed by a first-person story as might have been told from the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross. Then the chapter explores the meaning of Jesus' dying words for our lives today. Join us and invite a friend to discuss how these powerful and meaningful statements have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves. The book is available from Cokesbury and Amazon. To reserve and attend, contact Diane Lucas [dlucasarc@gmail.com](mailto:dlucasarc@gmail.com).

## Branching Out

"The mission of the church to embody the good news of Christ to the world is not an activity of the church but is the church." These words come from United Methodist professor and retired bishop Will Willimon in a book that we recently read in my Pastoral Ministry class. When I first read this line, it took me some time to fully understand what Willimon meant. This is probably because I have tended to see things in the way that Willimon cautions against: I have typically seen mission as an *activity* of the church, as something the church *does*. Willimon says mission is just what the church *is*. I struggle with the exact phrasing, but I take Willimon's point. It is critical that we as a church community embody Christ's good news to the world. It's so central, in fact, that if the greater community and world can look at the church and have no idea what Christ's good news is, then we have a deep problem.



The reason I bring all this up is because of Pastor Eva's sermon yesterday Sunday when she exhorted us to be like Jesus in rooting ourselves in the community and faith of the church, and from there, branching out in love and faith to touch the world. Willimon's thoughts and then Pastor Eva's sermon got me wondering: what are different ways that our church can branch out and show Christ's good news to the world? We definitely already do a good job with family promise, our ESL ministry, and others. But what are other ways that we as a church community can show Christ's good news to those outside our four walls? And sure, branching out and serving the community is especially difficult with COVID right now. But COVID and the shift to digital interaction also means new opportunities for service and mission. Moreover, as impatient as we may be, we all know COVID can't last forever. So given that, what are ways, during and after COVID, that we as a church can be Christ's good news to the world? - **Michael Chesnut, Ministerial Intern**

## DRIVE THRU COMMUNION OFFERED

Sunday, February 21, 2021

11:30am-1:00pm

Following Worship on Sunday, February 21, we will offer a Drive Thru Communion.

- 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 Blessing and Benediction.



### Walking Group

Our walking group meets weekly on Tuesdays at 8 am. Everyone is welcome! Bring and wear a mask and plan to social distance. For more information call walk leader, Catherine Doster, 626-365-6447 or email her at [catherine.doster@yahoo.com](mailto:catherine.doster@yahoo.com)

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



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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