



River Spirit

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD,
UNITED METHODIST OSWEGO, IL 60543

“The Good News”

Recently I was invited to walk the grounds of “The Healing Gardens” on the site of a former St. Charles farm from 1842. What a beautifully calming experience; the fragrant roses, the colorful zinnias, the Baltimore Oriole singing her song, and the softly winding mulched pathways that allows you to meander and go where the spirit leads. The feeling of peace and contentment was palpable as the Creator seemed to say, “slow down, enjoy, I made it for you”.

The owners, psychotherapist Deborah Marqui and her husband Buzz, created the gardens after Deborah had to face two different life-threatening cancers over a period of years. Deborah’s vision was to create a space that was not only for her healing but also for the well being of others. Using her gardens and the surrounding woods in her daily meditations on her path to healing, she said, “I began to see metaphors in nature that taught me about myself, God, and life.” She is doing well, 26 years after her original diagnosis of “terminal” cancer.

This meditation strategy would not have surprised author Charles Cook, who once observed, “Our deepest roots are in nature. No matter who you are, where you live, or what kind of life you lead, you remain irrevocably linked with the rest of creation.”

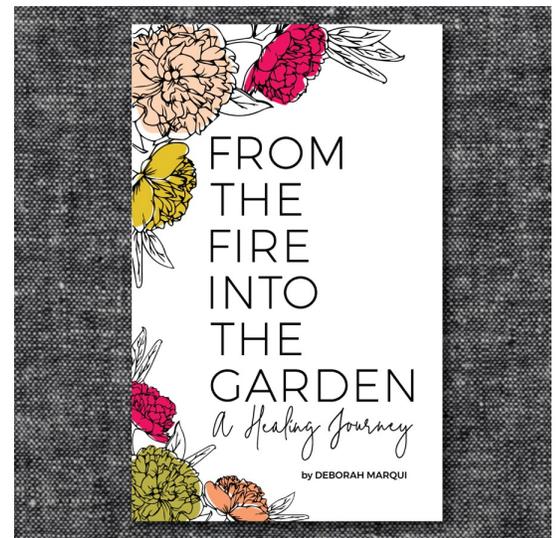
This would not have surprised Jesus either, who once said, “Consider the birds of the air” and consider the lilies of the field” in a nature lesson to help us understand how much our Creator God cares for us every day.

Give it a try. Turn off your device. Put on your sun hat. Take a stroll in the yard or at the park, and see what God has to teach you in those intentional moments of opening up your senses to the divine presence around you.

You may be surprised.

Peace,

Pastor Steve



In Person 10am Sundays

RSVP:

office@goodshepherdoswego.org

Online: by 6am Sundays

Website, Facebook, Youtube

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

JULY 2021

From The Office:



Photo by Debbie Klonowski

Our Church office remains on limited hours while our building is reopening. Diane and Jessie continue to check voicemail and email regularly. Please let us know of any needs, prayer requests or requests for a pastoral phone call. Please RSVP to the office to attend worship in person on Sunday mornings.

We have our online worship service posted by 6:00am on Sunday mornings as well as Wednesday devotionals at 6pm, and Thursday story time for the kids at 11am.

If you would like to have a zoom meeting with your group and would like us to set it up for you email Jessie at publications@goodshepherdoswego.org



Sunday School for ALL ages will return in person on Sunday, September 12th and is scheduled to run from 8:45am to 9:45am.



GIVING: Online giving is available and is appreciated as we will still have our regular operating costs and bills. Please mail in your giving to P.O. Box 695 5 W. Washington St. Oswego IL 60543 or use our E giving for online giving <https://giving.ncsservices.org/app/giving/goodshepherdoswego> which can



2021 ORNAMENTS are on sale now! Get your 125th Church Building Anniversary Ornament today! Please email or call the church office to reserve your newest ornament and pick up time at office@goodshepherdoswego.org, or call Diane at (630) 554-3269.





Good Shepherd Health Team

The Health Team of the Church of the Good Shepherd is encouraging all adults to get the Covid-19 vaccination. Doing so will show care for self, loves ones, neighbors, and our church family. You may visit the Kendall County Health Department with questions and schedule your appointment through the portal: <http://www.kendallhealth.org/community-health/covid-19-vaccine/covid-vaccination-appointment-portal/>

As our building continues to be open for more small groups to gather safely, please adhere to the cleaning and space limit guidelines that are posted throughout the building.



Masks are required when entering the church building at any time. Thank you.



In Person: 10am Sundays

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Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Understanding Stewardship

- † The motive for Christian stewardship is love and gratitude.
- † The purpose is to glorify God.
- † The guide is the revealed will of God.
- † The efficiency is the power of God's grace.

Blessed to be a Blessing

Many times in Scripture we are promised that the one who gives will receive.

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap" (Luke 6:38).

"Bring the whole tithe ... Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the flood-gates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" (Malachi 3:10).

What happens when we emphasize the latter instead of the former is the development of a "name-it-and-claim-it" type of religion in which we give only so we can get.

First Timothy 6:5-10 warns us of the dangers of this attitude. Paul wrote that false teachers *"think that godliness is a means to financial gain."* We know from Scripture that we have been blessed that we might be a blessing to others. Therefore, we share our wealth—our monetary wealth (Romans 12:13), our wealth in talents and responsibilities (1 Peter 4:10-11), our wealth in experiences (2 Corinthians 1:4), and our wealth in time (James 1:27).

God blesses us so we can be his instruments to support the needy and extend his church.

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Money Will Buy Things

Money will buy ...

A bed, but not sleep.

Books, but not brains.

Food, but not appetite.

Finery, but not beauty.

A house, but not a home.

Medicine, but not health.

Luxuries, but not culture.

Amusements, but not happiness.

A Crucifix, but not a Savior.



The church is like a bank ...

The more you put into it, the more interest you have in it!

A Thief Has Broken into Our Church

He has done considerable damage. Even the casual observer may see evidence of the break-in. What has he taken? He has taken strength from our Sunday School. Every Sunday his thievery deprives the congregation of about one-fourth of its membership. He depletes the offering potential of the church. There is no insurance that will cover the damage caused by this thievery ...

except the safeguard of spiritual commitment. The culprit's fingerprints are much in evidence. From this his identity has been established. His name is MR. INDIFFERNCE. This criminal in our midst has weakened the educational arm of the church, depleted the attendance at worship, and looted the tithes and offerings. Most interesting of all is the method by which he initiates his crime. He begins first in the home.

BEWARE OF THIS THIEF!

Cell Phone vs. Bible

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

Oh, and one more thing: Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill, and, one more thing ... there are no dropped calls!

Are You Willing?

"Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have" (2 Corinthians 8:11-12).

There is so much need around us. Daily we are interrupted by telephone calls soliciting our donations to well-deserving causes. We hear of elderly people in nursing homes who never have visitors and children in need of mentors. Committees within our congregations seek to add to their boards in order to carry out the ministry of our churches.

We may become overwhelmed. Where do we start? How can I ... one person ... fill all these needs? Often guilt accompanies these questions. What is God asking of us? According to the Apostle Paul, we are expected to give according to what we have. He was speaking here of monetary offerings, but his admonition relates to the sharing of our time and abilities as well. The key, Paul seems to say, is to be willing. *"If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable."*



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Our UMW Unit Fellowship Gathering on June 1st at Prairie Point Park was the first time we met as a whole Unit since March 3, 2020, due to the restrictions brought on with the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a beautiful evening and the ladies that came out enjoyed sitting in a circle, seeing each other in-person, and sharing news and laughs. The UMW Mission Team will be meeting in August to make plans for the rest of this year. Stay tuned for updates.



Mission u events are great opportunities to study current issues impacting society, grow spiritually and be in community with fellow United Methodists working to put faith, hope and love into action. At the NIC virtual Mission u, we will examine how we as God's people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully, and how the culture of violence impacts children in and out of schools. Our 2021 Mission u will offer the following studies:

- ❖ *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* (led by Audrey Sherman & Deaconess Christina Meyer)
- ❖ *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship* (English, led by Judith Siaba; Korean, led by Rev. Young-Mee Park; Spanish, led by Rosa Villarreal)
- ❖ *Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence*, a study for youth (ages 12-17; led by Diana Davis)
- ❖ *Responding to Violence*, a study for children (ages 5-11; led by Rev. Harriette Cross)

Mission u will be a virtual event. **The opening session will be held Friday evening, July 23 (7-9 PM).** All class sessions for adults (English and Spanish) and for youth and children (English only) will be Saturday, July 24 (9 AM-4 PM).

Registration specifics are in the attached flyers. The fee is \$10 for each adult, \$5 for each child or youth with a maximum of \$10 for children and youth per family. Registration is due by noon, July 21, and can be done through a Cheddar Up link <https://2021-mission-u.cheddarup.com> or by mailing or emailing a completed registration form to Betty Erickson, 39W265 Osage Drive, St. Charles, IL 60175, NILUMW.registrar@gmail.com.

If you would like to order the books related to the studies, you can find *Pushout* at your favorite site for book purchases. *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom* and the curriculum guides for adults who wish to lead the youth and children studies (*Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence* and *Responding to Violence*) are available at UMW Mission Resources, 800-305-9857 or <http://www.umwmissionresources.org/>

Be ready for another great UMW event, to remember who we are and why we are still going strong. Contact me if you have questions about Mission u.

Janet McCarty, UMW President



- Grab a coffee and join the UMM in person or online Fridays at 7am!
- Starting on Friday morning July 2nd from 7:00 to 8:00 am the United Methodist Men will be holding their coffee hour in person. For those who wish to attend via zoom, there will be an internet connection in the gathering room. Join us to find out what is happening with U.M.M. and the church.

- We are always looking for people interested in the UMM stocking of the Kendall Co. Food Pantry on Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm.

Please contact the church office at 630-554-3269 or office@goodshepherdoswego.org with any questions.



Good Shepherd Men's Luncheon - Wednesday, July 21st at Noon

Starting in July, the United Methodist Men will be resuming their monthly Mens' Luncheon. For July our restaurant will be at **No. 1 China Buffet Restaurant**, 684 W. Veterans Pkwy, Yorkville on Wednesday, July 21st at 12:00 PM. Please join us for good fellowship and a fine meal.

*Thank
you*

THANK YOU! Chili Drive-Thru

Thank you so much to all who helped with the Chili Drive-Thru. You survived the heat and served many meals. We appreciate everyone who supported us. We hope you enjoyed it.

~Craig Mc Gregor





Missions Team Minute

Missions went on the road in June! Seven team members total went down to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Pawnee, IL. We all had a great time serving together, meeting new people, sharing meals, and, of course, playing games and working on puzzles in the evenings.

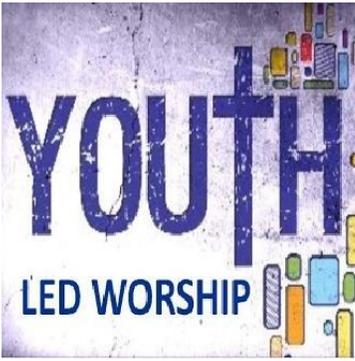
Please view this video all about MMDC and our time on the trip:

[Good Shepherd UMC June 2021 Mission Trip to MMDC](#). Contact Sara @poniatowski@att.net if you have questions or are interested in going on a future trip.



Pictured from L-R: Aidan Poniatowski, Ally Hartness, Pam Hartness, Sebbie Poniatowski, Sara Poniatowski, and Barb Schilling (Not Pictured: Steve Poniatowski)

Looking ahead, an opportunity arose just days ago for us to provide a meal for Daybreak Center in Joliet on **Friday, July 16**. We would not have to go to Daybreak to serve the meal, although if anyone is interested in doing that, Sara can facilitate that opportunity for you. What is needed is for a team of 5-7 people to provide the food for that day's lunch. Good Shepherd PADS Food Team members supplied a meal in March, and Missions Team donated a portion of our tithe from the Finance Committee to Daybreak last month, so hopefully we can continue to provide, as we are called upon to do so. If you have not already been contacted about this opportunity to provide a lunch meal for Daybreak guests and residents on July 16, and are interested in helping, please reach out to Sara at poniatowski@att.net.



Thank you to our Good Shepherd Youth Group for the wonderful and inspiring worship service on June 27th!



July Birthdays

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| 7/1 | Mike LaGow |
| 7/1 | Jennifer Perez |
| 7/2 | Morgan Mayfield |
| 7/3 | Jeff Dobbin |
| 7/3 | Dorothy Ragsdale |
| 7/3 | Jackie Weirich |
| 7/4 | Marilyn Constantine |
| 7/4 | Susie Ferone |
| 7/5 | Steve Poniatowski |
| 7/7 | Edith Overstreet |
| 7/7 | Julian Wood |
| 7/8 | Amber Dobbin |
| 7/9 | Jack Stees |
| 7/10 | Ken Haltenhof |
| 7/10 | Vanessa Uhrig |
| 7/11 | Garth Ingram |
| 7/11 | Shane McEhlaney |
| 7/12 | Terri Colegrove |
| 7/13 | Pat Steele |
| 7/15 | Layla Groebel |
| 7/16 | George Kazda |
| 7/16 | Lauren Nicholson |
| 7/16 | Tim Wood |
| 7/17 | Eric Nadler |
| 7/18 | Sandra Weinke |
| 7/19 | Jacob Bonhert |
| 7/20 | Steve Farrow |
| 7/20 | Sean Moore |
| 7/22 | Aaron Groebel |
| 7/23 | Craig McGregor |
| 7/26 | Larry Luytjes |
| 7/26 | Sharlene Momich |
| 7/27 | Tina Heidrich |
| 7/27 | Alicia Johnson |
| 7/28 | Jeff Bonham |
| 7/28 | Daniel Wood |
| 7/30 | Marc Bonhert |
| 7/30 | Jeremy Johnson |
| 7/30 | Betty McQueen |
| 7/30 | Donna Trinko |
| 7/31 | Tom Cross |



Find us online!

<https://www.facebook.com/gschurchumc/>

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

The Church of the Good Shepherd



United Methodist
5 W. Washington St.
PO Box 695
Oswego, IL 60543

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



10 AM IN PERSON WORSHIP

ONLINE WORSHIP AVAILABLE ANYTIME

RSVP FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

office@goodshepherdoswego.org

Everyone is Welcome!

- Wheelchair Accessible building
- 8:15 AM traditional and 10:30 AM contemporary services.
- Weddings dates available for our beautiful 1890's sanctuary and downstairs reception area. 630-554-3269.
- We practice open Communion, we honor the Evangelical tradition of using grape juice and bread and gluten-free
- Space available for weddings, parties, events and meetings. Alcohol not permitted.



 Find us on
Facebook

Pastor: Pastor Steve Good

pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org

Youth Director: Rachel Conover: jessicarc31@gmail.com

**Executive Assistants: Diane Baum and
Jessie Livingston**

Temporary Church Office Hours: Tues & Fri 10am-3pm

Newsletter Editor:

publications@goodshepherdoswego.org

Office Email: office@goodshepherdoswego.org

Little Shepherd Preschool:

[littleshepherdps@sbcglobal.net](mailto:little shepherd dps@sbcglobal.net)

Director – Amanda Sidhu Teacher: Eileen Lesak

Teachers Aides: Vincenza Ferguson & Ellie Guzman

Choir Director: Jonathan Tatar

Custodian: Bonnie Kennedy

Nursery Attendant: Shannon Cronin

Organist & HandBell Choir Director: Cheryl Todd

Pianist: Sue Gilla

Reborn Praise Band: Jon Conover, Band Leader