



River Spirit

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

"The Good News"

Every time someone tells me they got their COVID-19 vaccine shot (first, second, or only), I congratulate them on getting to that important milestone after a long year of pandemic living. Inwardly, I am equally thrilled, because I know that each shot of COVID vaccine helps the rest of us to be a little safer. It's like a footrace between the vaccinations and the new variants of mutated versions. Who will get the momentum in the short term or the long term? Of course, we're all rooting for the virus to lose, mutated or not.

Though some in the population are hesitant to get the vaccine (and I hope those hesitations will subside with time), most people are glad to seek an appointment. But getting an appointment has been very difficult for many people, even if your category is being accepted. Getting an appointment for a vaccine can feel more difficult than getting post-season tickets for a Cubs game!

But in the midst of the angst, we hear the heart warming story of a 15 year old who combined his compassion with his tech savvy skills and helped track down vaccine appointments for over 100 people, mostly senior citizens. Benjamin Kagan started by securing appointments for his grandparents in Florida, Arizona, and Indiana. He felt good about helping them. Then Benjamin heard about a Facebook group called "Chicago Vaccine Hunters", people who used their internet skills to help people in need. Right away, Benjamin joined the group and has helped scores of people to make their appointments for the vaccine. The group as a whole has connected 1,500 people to vaccine appointments.

Writes the Tribune's Heidi Stevens, "This pandemic has brought us low and laid bare an awful lot of ugly truths. But it's also revealed beauty. And a (15)-year-old kid connecting strangers to vaccines, which in turn connects them back to their loved ones, their post-quarantine lives, their futures, that is beauty personified."

Amen to that.

Peace,

Pastor Steve



Online Worship

Facebook

Youtube

Website



[Www.goodshepherdoswego.org](http://www.goodshepherdoswego.org)

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From The Office:



Photo by Debbie Klonowski

We have our worship service posted by 6:00 on Sunday mornings (Website and youtube with a 9:00 premier on Facebook) 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



Maundy Thursday Online April 1st 5pm

Good Friday Online April 2ndth at noon

Easter Sunday Online April 4th at 7am

Online Giving

*Make a Secure Donation
Schedule Recurring Gifts*

GIVING: Easter gifts and regular 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 also be found on our website under the giving tab. ~ Thank you!



It's finally happening! Tune in April 24th for Deacon Debby Ingram's ordination ceremony. We will share more details and the link as they become available.



Good Shepherd Health Team

COVID-19 Response

Church of the Good Shepherd's Church Council has taken on the role of "Health Team" as we consider when and how we can return to in-person worship. **No date has been set at this time, as our building size limits our ability to safely open our doors.** After discussing a document from our Bishop and the Northern Illinois Conference that lists "Absolute Guidelines" and "Best Practices" for Phase 3 and 4, the Health Team has decided to continue with online worship only. Examples of the restrictions that led to that decision include the limit of 50 people for a gathering in any 24 hour period, the social distancing that may limit our numbers well under 50 people, and the restrictions against singing (which is one of the more dangerous ways that a virus can be spread).

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding in the meantime, as we find creative ways to continue to be the church together!

Peace,

Pastor Steve

The Health Team of the Church of the Good Shepherd is encouraging all adults to get the Covid-19 vaccination as it becomes available. Doing so will show care for self, loves ones, neighbors, and our church family. 1a and 1b+ groups are being immunized now. 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.



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.



Using our Time Wisely

In order to live as God-pleasing stewards, we will want to use the time that God entrusts to us wisely. We can start by asking the question: "Lord, what can I do with my time that will please you and give you the glory you deserve?" First and foremost, God wants us to spend our time in serving and glorifying him. In speaking to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul wrote,

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

In all that we do, God is to be part of our activities.

God equips and enables us through the working of the Holy Spirit to use our time doing his will. We demonstrate God's grace at work within us as we do his will by serving him through serving others. With the words of the psalmist we pray,

"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

God's wisdom enables us to use well the time he has given us. As Paul wrote,

"Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

By wisely using our time to the glory and honor of God, we can live this life abundantly.

"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."

Will Rogers

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases:

If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

Ronald Reagan

Good Works

The Apostle Paul wrote, “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Thanks to the working of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, we have been equipped for every good work. “*We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do*” (Ephesians 2:10). God places within us a desire to do his work, and he equips us to do it. We are the channels through which God seeks the lost and helps those in need. We are blessed to be a blessing. “*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God*” (2 Corinthians 9:12).

Some Bony Observations

It has been said that the “body” of a church has four kinds of bones:

The Wishbones ... who spend all their time wishing somebody else would do all the work.

The Jawbones ... who do all the talking, and very little else.

The Knucklebones ... who know everything anyone else tries to do.

The Backbones ... who get under the load and get the work done.

What kind of bone are you?

The Grace of Giving

Through our own personal efforts, we are not going to be able to increase our level of giving. We grow in the grace of giving as the Holy Spirit, working through God’s Word, instructs and empowers us to be more generous. As we spend time reading and studying God’s Word, we will grow in faith and, as a result, grow also in our generosity. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work*” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

It is only by God’s grace that we have money to give, and it is only by God’s grace that we have the desire to give.

Giving Is an Act of Worship



A little boy was fidgeting in church one Sunday morning during the pastor’s sermon. Finally, he leaned over to his mother and asked, “Mom, if we give the money now, do you think he’ll let us go?” If this boy expresses our idea of stewardship, we are missing the true meaning, purpose, and joy that are associated with giving. Our giving should express our thankfulness for who God is and what God does for us. Through our giving, we worship and honor our heavenly Father. We give not because God needs our gifts, but because we have a need to give. God in his sovereignty chooses to bless us as we give (Acts 20:35).

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Hallelujah! Christ arose! May we once again celebrate Jesus' resurrection in our lives!

Every quadrennium the UMW national office chooses mission priority issues and 2021 is the first year in this new quadrennium. These mission priority issues translate into social action. The UMW website lists why United Methodist Women engage in social action:

United Methodist Women members engage in social action drawing from our Biblical and theological Christian tradition and our Wesleyan heritage. We look to the Bible and to United Methodist Church social policy and prioritize the needs of women, youth and children as we set priorities for social action. We also draw on our rich 150-year heritage of engagement in mission as advocates for justice.

The two priority issues for the 2021-2024 quadrennium are:

Criminalization of Communities of Color:

Interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline

The school-to-prison pipeline is a term used to describe how children and youth of color are rerouted by systems and institutions, funneled away from educational success and toward the criminal justice system. The goal of this campaign is to move local decisionmakers to address the criminalization of children and youth of color and reduce racial disparities in school discipline.

One of the Mission u studies for this year is Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools which goes along with this priority issue. This book is in our UMW library. I have read it and found it very informative and challenging. I am still very willing to deliver any UMW library book to those who request them. Contact me at jmmccarty70@gmail.com or 630-636-7233. If you'd like a list of books that are available, I could email it to you.

Climate Justice:

Reduce carbon footprint emissions of corporations and individuals

While climate change affects everyone, it does not affect everyone equally. The poorest people in industrialized and developing nations suffer the worst effects of the buildup of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. Women and children comprise an estimated 70 percent of the world's poor. United Methodist Women calls for sound stewardship of the earth and sound relationships within and between communities, whether local, state, national, or international work. We work to provide practical, theologically sound tools to guide and inspire your work, to create a healthier environment locally, nationally and globally .

UMW Climate Justice Federal Legislative Day will be held on April 14, 2021. Go to the UMW website, www.unitedmethodistwomen.org, for more information.

Janet McCarty, UMW President

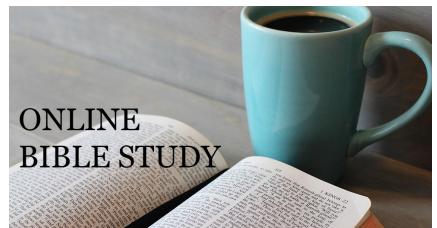


- Grab a coffee and join the UMM online Fridays at 7am!
- I am planning on have these meetings every Friday morning at 7:00 AM until we can meet at the church again. Contact Craig McGregor for the zoom link.
- We are always looking for people interested in the UMM stocking of the Kendall Co. Food Pantry on Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm.

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



New Sunday morning Zoom Bible Study starting April 11th at 10 am. At the beginning of Lent, our class chose two studies that we liked so starting after Easter, we will do the Lent study, *Give It Up!* by Dottie Escobedo-Frank. What holds your attention and occupies your mind? If you discovered the answer was your cell phone, online gaming, or Facebook, you could give it up for a week if you wanted to, right? But if challenged to do so, would you? What if saying "yes" to this challenge of letting go brought you closer to God? Take a journey of self-discovery and learn how the power of release brings great gain in this seven-week adult study. This is a book study so you will need to purchase the book which is available on many online websites. Contact Janet McCarty at jmmccarty70@gmail.com to sign up for the class. You will receive an email on Sunday mornings with the log-in information.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK! IN PERSON



The link is now live for our next Sunday School event on April 11th from 10-11 a.m. Please be sure to bring your completed health forms, that are sent to you in e-mail the Friday before Sunday School, and wear a mask. We will be taking temps and passing out hand sanitizer at the door. Looking forward to seeing you!!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080549A4A92FA02-sunday2>

to sign up soon to reserve your spot! If you have any questions feel free to contact me,

Ruth Frey- dozygit@gmail.com

Caroline to Carolina

Our Good Shepherd sister-in-Christ Caroline Carter has recently moved to North Carolina with her granddaughter. Let us pray for Caroline as she seeks to gain in health following a recent hospitalization. Cards of encouragement can be sent to Caroline at 412 Griffin Dr., Henderson, North Carolina 28792





Missions Minute

Good Shepherd PADS volunteers hit it out of the park when called upon to help provide a meal for guests at Daybreak Shelter. Several of our volunteers donated a wide variety of items for the March 19 dinner at the shelter in Joliet, which Kendall County PADS has been working closely with throughout this past year. Several former guests of Kendall County PADS were able to get spots in the Daybreak shelter last year when PADS closed due to the pandemic, and PADS has been donating and serving meals there for the past several months. Special thanks to Shar Momich for coordinating the communication to the volunteers so everything went smoothly and needs were filled very quickly.

We have 5 spaces reserved to pack meals at FMSC in Aurora on Saturday, May 1 at 2pm. Masks and social distancing are required. Let Sara know if you'd like to join the group by emailing poniatowski@att.net or calling (773)251-8372.

We've got 6 spots available for a mission trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham from June 6-9. We will meet in Chatham (or arrange carpool) late afternoon/early evening on Sunday, June 6, work full days on June 7 and 8, and work a half day before returning to Oswego on June 9. Cost is approximately \$100/person, which includes MMDC's fees, dorm room, and most meals. Contact Sara for more info or to sign up for the team.

If you would like to be involved with the Good Shepherd Missions Team, or if you would just like more information, please contact Sara Poniatowski at poniatowski@att.net or (773) 251-8372.

Sara Poniatowski

poniatowski@att.net



Mission Giving Thankyou notes:

Thankyou for your gift of \$1,865 to the Salvation Army (Christmas offerings). Each day we see desperate individuals and families seeking help from us.

Many are hard-working people who have lost their jobs, while others are finding it difficult "to make ends meet" for their families.

The Salvation Army through its food pantry, utility, prescription, and rental assistance strives to ease the burdens of these struggling families. That is why we appreciate your donation so much. We give thanks to God for providing for our needs through people like you.

Sincerely, Joaquin Rangel

Corps Officer

Aurora Corps

YOUTH GROUP

Summer of Service



We have been brainstorming ways for our youth group to be active helpers in our community this summer.

We are also trying to work on a few fundraisers to help us possibly go on a weekend trip towards the end of summer.

These slides layout some of those plans for your consideration. Specific dates and times will be put in place in April

Oswego Parks and Recreations.



In April we will start to help with planting the Community Garden run by the Park District. Volunteers hours will be available on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10am.

Once a month on Sundays throughout the summer the youth group will assist with garden needs.

We will also be doing a river clean up day in late May. This date is TBD.

Christine's Dream Equestrian Center



Christine's Dream Equine Therapy Program at Giant Steps, in partnership with Rich Harvest Farms, is a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International Center. They serve the needs of young adults on the Autism Spectrum.

Our youth will have the opportunity to assist with their annual horse show on May 1st. This is a showcase for parents to see students have learned.

Our Youth will help with ticket taking and setting up.

Throughout the summer youth that are 16 and older can volunteer to help as a horse guide for students that are on the spectrum. We would receive training and could volunteer on Wednesdays or Fridays in the summer.

Nativity House, Lockport

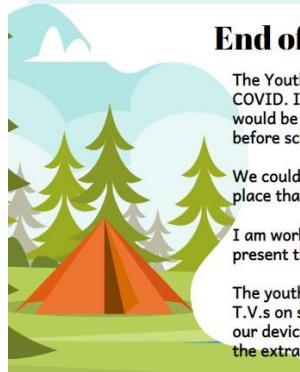


Nativity House is a home of Catholic Social Teaching and Hospitality.

Our youth will have the opportunity to see how others within the Christian Faith put the love of Christ into practice.

We will help with some of the garden planting and clearing out the farm space. Their might even be some yoga with the goats:)

Dates will be posted soon.



End of Summer Trip Option

The Youth have not had the opportunity to do a trip due to COVID. I have found a horse ranch in Wisconsin that I think would be a great trip for them. This would be in early August before school start.

We could ride horses, swim, fish, hike and canoe all in one place that is not too far from home

I am working on details, pricing and structure but I wanted to present this idea for consideration to gauge parental support.

The youth love the idea and are aware that there are NO T.V.s on sight. That means a weekend in nature away from our devices! Parents are welcomed to join in and I would love the extra help! Details to come in April.



Registration is open for the 2021-2022 school year!
Information and registration coming soon for Summer Camps
Ages 3-6

We had a very successful Bunny Hop
meeting lots of young families from the
Oswego area.

Thank you to all who ordered butter braids!



Reserve 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 (630) 554-3269.



The Easter lilies that will beautify our sanctuary this Easter have been lovingly donated by:

Steve & Debbie Klonowski in loving memory of Dodie Blake, Everett Blake and Al Klonowski

Janis Olson in loving memory of Don Olson and Lydia Carpenter

Glenda & Ervin Tifrea in loving memory of Glen & Gladys Ode and William & Louise Ode

The Church of Good Shepherd Staff in honor of the Good Shepherd Family for all of your wonderful support this past year. Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and we hope to be back together soon!

April Birthdays

Cali Roberts	4/1
Jillian Perez	4/3
Mike Roess	4/8
Mike Elliott	4/9
Nick Ports	4/10
Susan Rutsay	4/10
Jaslynne Kubelka	4/13
Jon Conover	4/14
John Frey	4/15
Craig Clark	4/16
Scott Johnson	4/16
Christine Bielawski	4/18
Sally Smith	4/18
Charlie Farrow	4/20
Mary Church	4/21
Pat Coleman	4/22
Harold Nott	4/22
Genie Cross	4/23
Colin McWethy	4/23
Robert Leffel	4/24
Christine Conover	4/25
Barb Pearah	4/25
Daniel Conover	4/26
Will Hornbuckle	4/26
Debbie Klonowski	4/26
Amanda Sidhu	4/27
Judy Luytjes	4/27
Bob Mead	4/30
Marilyn Risch	4/30



The Church of the Good Shepherd

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Christian Education Hour

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Free childcare available during both services and Christian Education Hour

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.



Pastor: Pastor Steve Good

pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org

Youth Director: Rachel Conover: jessicarc31@gmail.com

Executive Assistants: Diane Baum and Jessie Livingston

Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Newsletter Editor:

publications@goodshepherdoswego.org

Office Email: office@goodshepherdoswego.org

Little Shepherd Preschool:
littleshepherdps@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



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