



River Spirit

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

"The Good News"

He was the first known person to travel to all 419 National Park Service sites in the U.S. in April 2019. Mikah Meyer loves nature and he can't seem to get enough of it. But he also wants to feel safe when he is exploring God's creation, and to help others feel safe as well. He is not concerned about the inherent natural dangers of mountain lions or wildfire or steep places. Mikah is concerned about other humans. He is concerned about the bigoted, hateful people who would speak disrespectfully or threaten violence toward people like himself, a gay man, a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community.

He was also aware that, as a white man, he has the responsibility to use his position in society to advocate for a racially fair and inclusive society. This was his inspiration in the wake of last year's murder of George Floyd and the protests it created.

So Mikah began a campaign called "Outside Safe Space", to "make the outdoors a little kinder and more welcoming for the next (racially inclusive) lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender person to pass through" (Bob Timmons, *Star Tribune*). The giant outdoor outfitter store REI hired Mikah to be part of its #OptOutside campaign. He wants to spread a symbol he created: the traditional gay pride rainbow re-calibrated into the form of a tree. He hopes the presence of such a symbol will tell people who have been discriminated against, such as himself, that in this place, they are accepted and welcome.

That's the hope of Church of the Good Shepherd, that as people see our traditional symbol of the Christian cross, and the rainbow we posted outside, they will know we are a safe place, a welcoming people, who embrace all of God's children, just as we ourselves have been embraced by our loving God.

Peace,
Pastor Steve



Online Worship

Facebook
Youtube
Website



www.goodshepherdoswego.org

JUNE 2021

From The Office:

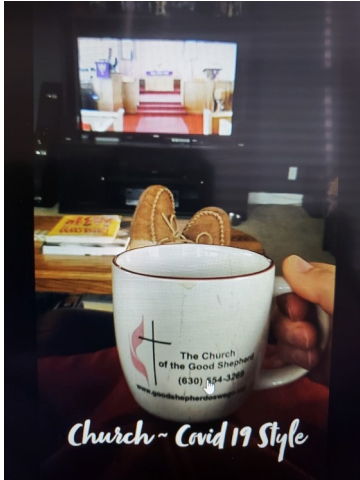


Photo by Debbie Klonowski

Our Church building remains closed until further notice. Please continue to stay safe at home. 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. While our building may be closed, our church and our hearts are never closed.

We have our worship service posted by 8:00 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



Online Giving

*Make a Secure Donation
Schedule Recurring Gifts*

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 also be found on our website under the giving tab. ~ Thank you!



THIS Sunday- June 6th at 10am!

Space is limited so please contact the office to reserve your spot. Social distancing and masks will be required.

Off site parking and bring your own chairs for our 1st in person parking lot worship service!

We will be taking a collection to help support India with their COVID crisis through the Heifer Project. Learn more about Heifer International: <https://www.heifer.org/our-work/index.html>

****We will also offer our regular online worship service t
the regular posted times****





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/

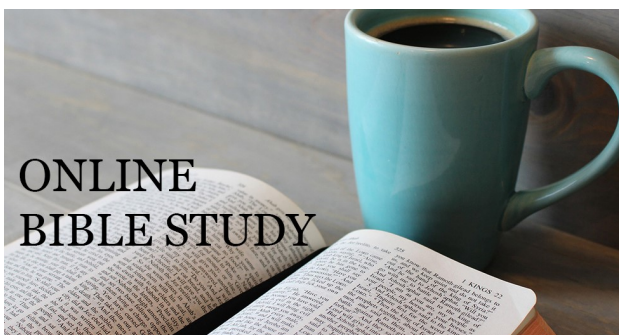
As our building continues to be open for more small groups to gather safely, please adhere to the cleaning and space limit guidelines that are posted throughout the building.



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



As the building continues to reopen, watch for updates on upcoming in person worship services in the next Eblast and on the website.



ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY: The Sunday morning Bible Study class led by Janet McCarty will not be meeting for the summer. Class will resume in September.



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@goodshepherdswego.org, or call Diane at (630) 554-3269.



- 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@goodshepherdswego.org with any questions.

U.M.M. Chili Drive-Thru Meal

Saturday, June 12th 5:00 – 7:00 pm



This meal will be a benefit event to support the Kendall County Food Pantry.

United Methodist Men will be preparing their delicious chili. Also included with the meal will be cheese, crackers, cornbread, and dessert.

Tickets are \$8 and are available from UMM members or the church office 630-554-3269.

No need to get out of the car. Drive into the church parking lot and the dinners will be delivered to your car.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please call or text Craig Mc Gregor at 630-346-2239 (c).



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



Hebrew 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

As we start to see more hope and light and the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we are once again able to gradually meet in person and reach out in person, what does that mean for Christians? We have the blessing of having the hope and light of Jesus Christ within us, but for many of us, that hope has been restricted to our homes and zoom.

Everyone around us has suffered some kind of loss, for some it has been the death of loved ones, others perhaps health. Jobs, in person school, proms, graduations, the ability to see one another at church on Sunday, family visits, all these things have changed. Some just didn't happen and some moved to our computer screens. So as a Christ loving people, what does moving forward look like?

Perhaps at the most basic level what our world needs now is a return to or a beginning of feeling safe and secure. For children who have spent much of the pandemic at their homes with a parent, this will mean learning to be ok going on their own to school again. Some will flourish in the opportunity and some will have anxiety. We must find ways to encourage them. One of my favorite sayings during the pandemic was "it's ok to not be ok". As Christ followers, we should be and make safe places for those children who don't feel like things are ok.

Many adults have lost their jobs due to closure of stores, restaurants and businesses, or even because of day care issues. Food insecurity has become a major issue in the US. The scripture is clear as Christ followers.

James 2:15-17 Suppose a brother or sister does not have any clothes or daily food and one of you tells them, "Go in peace! Stay warm and eat heartily." If you do not provide for their bodily needs, what good does it do? In the same way, faith by itself, if it does not prove itself with actions, is dead.

Let us work to show love and grace to all as our world heals and let us put our faith into action for those whom we can help.

Debi Blocker, Social Action Mission Coordinator

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 floodgates 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. INDIFFERENCE. 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.

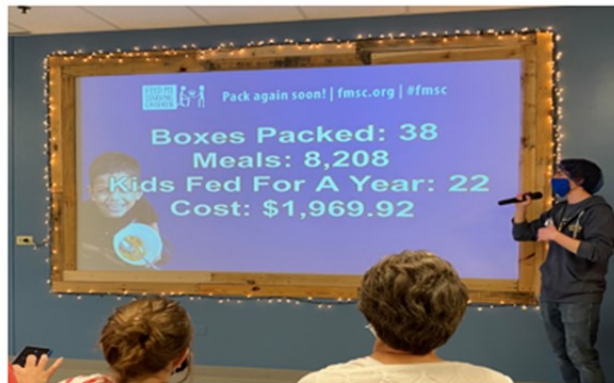
We may become overwhelmed. Where do we start? How can I ... one person ... fill all these needs? Often guilt accompanies these questions. What is God asking of us? According to the Apostle Paul, we are expected to give according to what we have. He was speaking here of monetary offerings, but his admonition 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!



Missions Minute: June 2021

Missions organized a small team of representatives from Good Shepherd to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora on Saturday, May 1. We were part of a larger group that packed a total of 38 boxes, which will provide a year's worth of meals for 22 children! Thank you to John, Keira, Aidan, and Steve for joining Sara in this mission opportunity.



We are now turning our attention to our upcoming mission trip to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham. Our team will arrive in Chatham the evening of June 6, work 2 1/2 days at MMDC building school desks, packing supply kits and cleaning kits, and working on any other projects the center has available to us. We will return to Oswego the afternoon of June 9.

The following church members are attending this trip:

Ally Hartness, Pam Hartness, Aidan Poniatowski, Sara Poniatowski, Sebbie Poniatowski, Steve Poniatowski, and Barb Schilling

Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare our hearts and minds for this service opportunity. We look forward to sharing with you all about our experiences at MMDC and we appreciate your support.



Summer of Service



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

The youth are helping out with the Kendall County Food Pantry Garden on Sundays. We are learning how to be good stewards to the earth and our community.

We also have volunteered for Christine's Dream Equestrian Camp for young people with Autism.

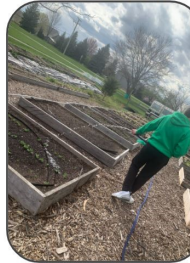
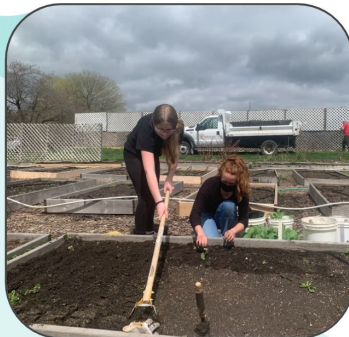
Our youth are showing that a little love can make a big difference in our communities:)

Seeds of Faith

The Community Garden at Prairie Point Park produced over 7,700 pounds of food for families in need last year.

1 Corinthians 3

7So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is important because [only] God makes it grow. 8The one who plants and the one who waters have the same goal, and each will receive a reward for his own work. 9We are God's coworkers. You are God's field. You are God's building.



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



June Birthdays

6/1	Ken Timmons
6/3	Wheeler Saka
6/4	Mark Steinke
6/5	Drew Nicholson
6/6	Matt Livingston
6/7	Steve Lundy
6/8	Lisa Randazzo
6/8	Craig Watson
6/9	Pamela Stutzman
6/9	Keith Wheeler
6/10	John Church
6/11	Joy Tierney
6/13	Paul Schilling
6/14	Joe Nicholson
6/15	John Peshia
6/16	Bob Weinke
6/16	JJ Leffel IV
6/16	Olivia Ports
6/17	Lindsay Wintermute
6/18	Mary McCannon
6/18	Dave Patush
6/22	Cliff Besch
6/22	Tracy Johnson
6/22	Julia Perez
6/26	Peggy Sutton
6/27	Erik Berlin
6/27	John Momich
6/29	Olivia Berlin
6/30	Kaitlyn Ferone
6/30	Dolly Flagg
6/30	Pamela Weaver



Sunday morning worship services are premiered Sunday mornings at 8am on Facebook, Youtube and our website.

Pastor Steve has also been offering Wednesday evening devotionals to get us through the week and story time for kids on Thursdays, and we have been posting videos of our musicians as well. Join us online!

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

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

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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

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:

little shepherdps@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

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.**

