



River Spirit

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

“The Good News”

Journalist Dawn Turner recently wrote a very insightful piece for those of us who have become so accustomed to “white privilege” that it has been difficult to see or understand the daily oppressions that our black brothers and sisters have to deal with. In the midst of protests and calls for reform, we are also called to raise our awareness and our empathy for those who are unfairly treated because of the color of their skin.

Turner has us look at our collective and individual experience of the pandemic, and the ways it has limited our lives. For each pandemic experience that has been new and temporary for many of us, she reminds us that the poor African American communities deal with these things on a daily basis.

She has us remember the plexiglass dividers that protect store cashiers in the pandemic. *“Their bullet-proof cousins have been mounted in stores in black communities for ages”*. She reminds us of the anxiety we have felt when we didn’t know what supplies were out of stock in stores, such as eggs, meat, cleaning supplies, or toilet paper. *“Poor people living in food deserts face scarcity all the time”*.

She reminds us of the unease we may feel, walking past boarded-up businesses. *“That’s what poor black people who live in blighted communities experience every day.”*

She has us remember the feeling of being stuck at home because it’s dangerous to go out, with so many people who could harm us. Think about the dilemma of wondering how to tell if you’re sick

enough or too sick to visit an emergency room. Ponder the feeling of losing income, purpose, and social connections, she says.

“If you take away nothing from this pandemic, I want you to remember how powerless and hopeless and disaffected this moment has made you feel. I want you to realize that for poor black people, this is not a moment. It’s the culmination of generations of indignities and disquiet.”

Change begins with understanding and empathy. As a people of faith who know that all are God’s children, equally valued and loved, let us humbly reflect on these things, as we seek to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Peace,

Pastor Steve

Online Worship

Facebook
Youtube
Website



www.goodshepherdoswego.org

JULY 2020

From The Office:

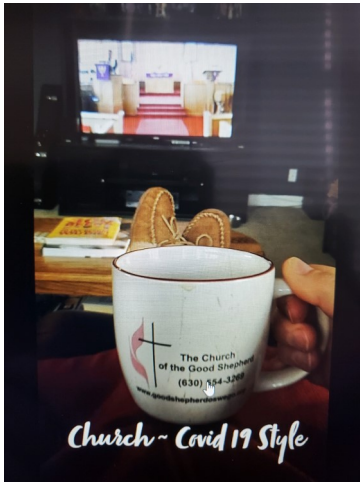


Photo by Debbie Klonowski

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

Unity Rally
for
RACIAL

community love justice empathy liberty
sister compassion civil rights brother
EQUALITY
unity diversity respect freedom
opportunity inclusion humanity

Saturday, July 11, 2020
1:00pm-2:00pm

Oswego Village Hall Grounds, 100 Parkers Mill

Sponsored by Oswego Presbyterian Church

Please wear a face mask
Photos will be taken and posted to social media

In response to God's call and the racial divide which has gripped our country, the Oswego Presbyterian Church is planning a community prayer rally to show the support of Christians throughout the Fox Valley area. The "Unity Rally for Racial Equality" will be held on Saturday, July 11, from 1-2 pm at Oswego Village Hall (rain or shine).

The purpose of this rally is to bring our community together and affirm the desire to be inclusive, respectful, faith-driven and peaceful in taking action toward racial equality. Speakers will include Oswego Village President Troy Parlier, Aurora's Main Baptist Church's Rev. Julian Spencer, and Oswego Presbyterian's Rev. Richard Shaffer.

**Please remember
to wear your mask and
practice social distancing
at the rally.**

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!



COVID-19 Response Update



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 congregation and 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).

The Health Team is developing a short survey which we will send to our congregation to learn of your needs and wants for the upcoming months. The survey will also serve to educate us further on the safety protocols that are required for our particular building/congregation. The team is working with our Board of Trustees to prepare for eventual return when it is safer.

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

Peace,
Pastor Steve



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.

Stewards of the Gospel

God wants all believers to be willing to tell others what he is doing in their lives. He exhorts us to proclaim the Gospel in our homes, neighborhoods, communities, and throughout the world. Each one of us is God's chosen instruments to reflect his power in and through us. As Paul wrote to the church in Corinth:

"You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

All believers have a testimony. Are you sharing it? What do others say your testimony is? God can help you become a person in whose life others can see that he is clearly working. He wants to make us vessels through which others see the character and nature of Christ.

Being a Steward through Influence

Story one:

In 1871, the *New York Herald Newspaper* sent Henry M. Stanley in search of David Livingstone, long overdue from his third trip into Africa. He found the missionary in Central Africa and spent four months with him. Stanley went to Africa a confirmed atheist, but Livingstone's influence ... his piety, gentleness, and zeal ... won him over. Stanley became a Christian, saying, "I was converted by him, although he had not tried to do it." Livingstone was a good steward of his daily influence.



Story two:

Centuries ago a young monk went on a preaching tour with the famed St. Francis of Assisi. But to the young monk's surprise, St. Francis simply mingled with the people without preaching a single sermon. His explanation, "my child, we were preaching as we walked and talked with people." The stewardship of influence!

Keeping Faith

A young pastor and his wife, having agreed that they would tithe of their income, had paid their tithe regularly and faithfully throughout a period of two or three years.

There came a day when hospital bills, and expensive cross-country move, and one or two other emergency situations produced a financial crisis. For the first time in their young married life they found themselves hard pressed for funds and faced a difficult decision: should they take the tithe out of their small salary as usual, or should they spend their pittance for their own needs and make an entry on their books that they "owed the Lord" the proportionate amount?

Years afterward, in telling of this experience, the young husband said, “Nothing gave us so much assurance of the companionship of God during those days as the sure knowledge that we had kept faith with him when all about us was dark.”

Devoted Stewards

Christian stewardship is more than being an agent or administrator of God’s property. As God’s stewards, Christ controls us and we live for him.

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

As stewards, we have a full time vocation and a full time calling. Thus, our stewardship calls for total devotion. It is a way of life that is expressed in conduct, character, and actions. Jesus places us in a position of high status. He said, *“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father, I have made known to you”* (John 15:15). We can be faithful in our stewardship because God gives us what we need in order to accomplish his purposes for our lives through us.

The Apostle Paul told us that our status is raised above a servant level in a Master-servant relationship. He wrote, *“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building”* (1 Corinthians 3:9). God uses us as his fellow workers. God’s purpose becomes our purpose. We work together with our heavenly Father to unite all people under the Lordship of Jesus. The Master and fellow worker partnership grows into a Father and son relationship.

“So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.”
Galatians 4:7



As sons, we become part of a family that works together, and we love one another. As part of a family, we are given responsibilities. As a family, we have common purposes and goals.

In his sovereignty, God has chosen to make us his stewards with all privileges and responsibilities of stewards. May God grant us the faith, strength, and wisdom to be the stewards he wants us to be.

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!



It is with a heavy heart that I write this article considering the state of our country. I was in the middle of reading the book *Pushout – The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique W. Morris when the news broke of George Floyd's death and the resulting protests. I had previously read the book *Born on Third Base* by Chuck Collins about white privilege. I am struggling to process this whole issue. Here is what Yvette Moore, Director of Public Relations & Marketing

for United Methodist Women, posted on June 1, 2020 on their website www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

United Methodist Women continues to grieve the extrajudicial killings of Black people in America. It has only been a few weeks since we [spoke out against the killing of Ahmaud Arbery](#), and in that time two more killings have shaken the country: the death of Breonna Taylor in her own home in Louisville and the death of George Floyd on a public street in Minneapolis. United Methodist Women grieves with the families of those who have been killed.

United Methodist Women condemns the culture of White supremacy and the racism it nurtures. We decry the criminalization of Blackness as it shows up in these most extreme, fatal cases *and* as it appears in the everyday harassment that disrupts everyday life—from coffee shop meetings to street corner catchups to, most recently, even solo birdwatching. Such racial harassment exhausts the mind, body and spirit of many in the family of God.

At times, United Methodist Women members and leaders have been complicit in this violence: When Ida B. Wells invited legendary lay leader Frances Willard to join in the antilynching movement, Willard said no, in a haunting refusal of solidarity under the false belief that lynching was “necessary” to protect White women. At other times, however, United Methodist Women—of all racial identities—have been inspirational leaders in the work of racial justice: 90 years ago, Jessie Daniel Ames helped found the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching; Mary McLeod Bethune, in addition to an incredible legacy of educational leadership, also campaigned actively against lynching and other forms of racial violence; and in the mid-20th century it was United Methodist Women members who led the struggle for the denomination's adoption of the Charter for Racial Justice even as their mission dollars helped finance bail funds for those jailed in the Civil Rights Movement. Then, as now, work for racial justice does not just come naturally; it is work against resistance, and therefore must be an active discipleship choice we make each day.

We are committed to choosing justice. We also realize that there is no easy fix. There exists no single, one-time action that can undo a multigenerational legacy of racist violence. But we at United Methodist Women commit to engaging in the ongoing work, guided by the promise that God's future is far brighter than the present moment.

Let's be informed. Here are some UMW recommended resources you might want to look into:

- ♦ *Trouble I've Seen* by Drew G.I. Hart
- ♦ *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo
- ♦ *Do All Lives Matter?* by Wayne Gordon & John M. Perkins
- ♦ *Holding up Your Corner* by F. Willis Johnson
- ♦ *Where Do We Go From Here* by Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ♦ *Deep Denial: The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life* by David Billings

“We cannot do everything. But we can each do *something*.” Wayne Gordon

Janet McCarty, UMW President



- Grab a coffee and join the UMM online Fridays at 7am!
The United Methodist Men just had their first ZOOM meeting this past Friday at 7:00 AM. The meeting went well. We even had Hank Kobulnicky on the call. 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.



FREE for our congregation!

Get ready to enjoy another delicious Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the Good Shepherd United Methodist Men. Fantastic homemade spaghetti sauce will be simmered for hours for your eating pleasure. The menu will also include salad, bread, and a slice of chocolate cake. No drink will be provided this time.

This year due to the virus, this event will be drive-thru pickup in the church parking lot. There is no

cost for the meal and the meal is open to all church members and church friends. The drive-thru will be open from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. The volunteers will be taking the necessary safety precautions.

If you could RSVP Craig Mc Gregor and let him know how many meals at 630-346-2239 or at craigscottmcgregor@gmail.com that would be very helpful.

Craig Mc Gregor
630-346-2239 ©

DRIVE THRU ONLY
SEATING AREA CLOSED

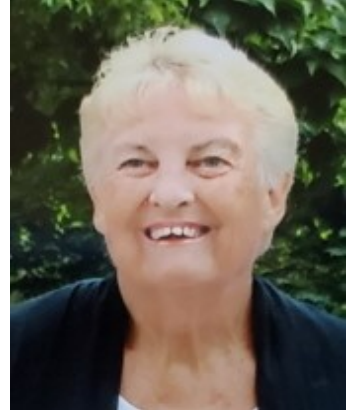


Dolores "Dodie" K. Blake, age 77 years of Oswego, IL passed away on May 11, 2020 at Bickford of Oswego in Oswego, IL. She was born August 5, 1942 in Kewanee, IL the daughter of the late Frederick J. and Florence R. nee Manthe Wiley.

She was a graduate of Kewanee High School Class of 1960, an engraver for the local trophy shop in Oswego, IL for 35

years, longtime member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, a former Mother of Twin Club, Brownie and Girl Scout Leaders and PTA.

She is survived by her four daughters, Pam (Jerry) Weaver, Diana (Shane Medzunas) Mewmaw, Donna (Greg) Mason, Debbie (Steve) Klonowski; five grandchildren Brittney (Tad) Keely, Becky (Scott) Stark, Stephanie Mewmaw, Abbey (David) Yoder, Chandler (Fiance Lexi Gonzales) Mason, one great grandson, Kobane Keely, a sister Marilyn Reiff and several nieces and nephews.



Memorials may be made to the Church of the Good Shepherd, P. O. Box 695, Oswego, IL 60543.



On Monday, May 25, 2020, Arthur E. DeVol Jr., loving husband, father of two, and grandfather of three grandsons, passed away at the age of 94.

Art was born in Tinley Park, IL on March 14, 1926, the last of eight children. In 1943 at the age of 17, he voluntarily joined the United States Navy with special permission from his parents. He was a medical corpsman in the USN through WWII, participating in the medical evacuation from Iwo Jima. Art was proud of his veteran status, and rejoined the Navy during the Korean War and worked stateside for the Navy. During his second deployment, he met his

future wife, Margaret (Peg) Shulze in Forest Park, IL. They married on November 8, 1952 and remained married throughout his life.

Art attended the University of Illinois undergrad and dental school on the G.I. bill, and opened his dental practice in Oswego, IL in 1960. Art and Peg built a life in Oswego, and became pillars of the Oswego community. In addition to his dental practice, Art became active in the Oswego Library Board, and is one of the driving forces between the expansion of the Public Library to its current size and design on Main Street in Oswego. He was an active member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Oswego for over forty years. Art loved sailing, cooking, reading, history (particularly military history), and he loved to tell a good story. He is known by many in Oswego for the meals served in the DeVol home to celebrate each New Year!

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Margaret (Peg) DeVol, son David DeVol of Aurora, IL, daughter Carol DeVol (Katy Fox) of Los Angeles, CA, and three grandsons: Lucas DeVol and Jacob DeVol of Yorkville, and Zachary Fox-DeVol of Los Angeles.



Robert William (Bob) Cully, age 75, of Montgomery, IL passed away on Wednesday, June 3rd at Rush Copley Medical Center in Aurora.

Bob was born on September 13, 1944 in Aurora, IL, the son of Charles "Ed" Cully, Jr and Helene Urban Cully.

He served in the Vietnam War, as a CH-47 helicopter gunner conducting search & rescue and in support of combat ground forces. He was awarded the Air Medal for his active participation in more than 25 aerial missions over hostile territory. Bob worked for the Kane County Judicial Center as a maintenance supervisor at the end of his career, after owning his own home improvement company for many years. He was a talented artist, wood worker and a long-time sailor on Lake Michigan.



He is survived by his son, Mark Cully of Romeoville; grandchildren, Connor and Ava Cully; and his brother, Charles Cully of South Elgin.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Sheri.



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	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



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

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

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.**

