VOLUME 59, NO. 47 WEEK OF DEC 14TH, 2025



The Word

Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA 91007 || www.cgsum.org || 626-447-2181
Join us for Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December Twenty First - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Attendance pads and cards are in the pews.
The Offering Box and Christmas Offering Envelopes are in the Sanctuary entryway.

Scripture: Isaiah 7: 10-16 and Matthew 1: 18-25
Sermon: Advent is Love: To Show Righteous Love
Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Sr. Pastor
Prelude: "The First Noel" Traditional, arr. by A. Urbanowicz
Isabel Chan, Violin
Postlude: "Joy to This Jazzy World" arr. by Michael Sorg
Franklyn Shen, Piano
Youth Choir: "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" arr. Dorothy and Tom Christopherson;
"Christmas Joy" by Roger Emerson;
Janice Clark, Director; Franklyn Shen, Accompanist
Choirs and Congregation: "Peace, Peace/Silent Night" by Rick and Sylvia Powell



Trek to the Tree in Worship & Christmas Offering *Sunday, December 21st*

The Christmas Offering Letter is printed in this newsletter and the Christmas offering envelopes are available in the church office or sanctuary entry- way. Your generous Christmas offering can be returned in person on Sunday, Dec. 21st during our traditional Trek to the Tree event in worship. If you are unable to attend in person, feel free to drop off or mail the offering by December 31st.

Please note there will not be printed versions of the newsletter the week of December 21st and December 29th.



December 28th Christmas Hymn Sing
Sunday Service In the Chapel!

The service will be filled with special readings and the singing of favorite Christmas hymns. The AV crew will have the day off so the service will not be live streamed. All are encouraged to wear Christmas clothing (sweaters, ties, red or green colors).



REMINDER TO FULFILL YOUR 2025 PLEDGE BY 12/31/25

As we near the end of the year, just a friendly reminder to fulfill your annual pledge contribution for 2025. Your financial generosity is a blessing to the church. Contact Pastor Eva (626) 447-2181 or PastorEva@cgsum.org if you questions. Online giving is also available: www.cgsum.org (select the GIVE tab).

Kitchen Project Update

Good news! The contractor completed his construction work in November. Now we must complete one final test, and then the city will complete a full review of the project. We anticipate all this will be completed by January at the latest.

Again, we thank everyone who had to work around the kitchen closure for the past 8 months for their patience. This has not been a straightforward process, and we all want to be able to move back into our new kitchen as soon as possible. In case you have not yet peeked through the windows, we are including some photos of our finished kitchen.

Thanks again to those of you who have so generously donated to the construction fund that made this possible. Thanks to the Foundation for their large contribution. Soon, there will be an opportunity for everyone to consider buying items needed for the kitchen. Watch for more information in the Word.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all,
David and Joann Steinmeier
Co-managers, The Kitchen Project







And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.” -Luke 1: 46-48

Dear Church of the Good Shepherd Family and Friends,

In this Advent Season we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas! But often our lives suddenly become filled with holiday shopping, decorating the home, travel plans, gatherings, work tasks to be completed, and end of the year resolutions. With all the business of the month the true meaning of Christmas can get lost.

For me personally, when this happens, I turn to one of my favorite passages, Mary’s Song of Praise from Luke 1:46-38. I invite you to take time to pause during the business of the season, and reflect on the Hope that Mary received as a lowly servant chosen by God; her Love for the Lord as her soul magnified the Lord; her Joy as her spirit rejoiced; and the Peace that settled upon her. May Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace be present in your lives as well.

I also invite you to lift up in your prayers our church and its mission and ministries made possible by the generosity of members and friends. We hope you consider giving as you are able in the remaining days of this year and also through the special Christmas Offering envelope. They were mailed out to previous donors, and are also available through the church office and in the Sanctuary. The Christmas Offering envelope can be given in person at the special Trek to the Tree Event in worship on Sunday, Dec. 21st; or placed in the offering box in the Sanctuary entryway, or mailed or dropped off to the church. Online Christmas Offering can also be made through the church website (www.cgsum.org) and select the GIVE tab at the top of the home page that leads to the donation portal and check the Christmas Offering box.

Your valuable contribution supports the vital ministries and church needs throughout the year. These are the gifts we humbly offer up to the Lord as we receive the gifts of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace through the Christ Child this Christmas Season.

May God’s Grace and Blessings Be with You!

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin and the Finance Committee

December 5, 2025

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Ministers: Members of the Congregation
Resident Bishop: Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank
District Superintendent: Rev. Moonyoung Lee
Pastor: Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries: Franklyn Shen
Director of Music Ministry: Stephen Cook
Director of the Good Shepherd Children's Center: Linda Brown

Lord In Our Prayers We Lift Up....

- The family of Jack Hallin, who passed away on Dec. 2nd. Marian and family will set a Celebration of Life Service at Good Shepherd at a later to be set date.
- The family of Fran Syverson, who passed away on Nov. 29th. The church is waiting for information from the family about the Memorial Service date & location.
- Carolyn Iga who continues to recover from her stroke.
- For the health of other church members: Ila Harris, Warren Hassler, Norma Link, and Richard Vethamani.

Send your prayer requests to: **cgsprayerchain2@gmail.com** and please note that this is a NEW email as of Dec. 5th to replace the previous one.

Church of the Good Shepherd Mission Statement:
God calls us to welcome all to a vibrant community on a continuing journey of Faith, Growth, Justice, and Service in the image of Christ.