VOLUME 59, NO. 46 WEEK OF DEC 7TH, 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 Fourteenth - Third Sunday of Advent
Lessons and Carols Service

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

Pastor's Reflection: "Advent is Joy!"
Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Sr. Pastor
Prelude: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Carter
Postlude: "Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Paige
Stephen Cook, Director of Music
Chancel Choir: "Lessons and Carols"
Kirk Averitt, Director; Stephen Cook, Accompanist;
Featuring the Syrinx Wind Quintet

Lessons & Carols: Music, Poetry, and the Promise of Advent



We invite you to join us this Sunday at the 10am service for our annual Lessons & Carols service as we celebrate the Advent season. This special service brings together scripture, thoughtful readings, and music from the Chancel Choir, a professional string quintet, and the Syrinx Wind Quintet. You'll hear classical Christmas Carols along witih works by Jan Dismas Zelenka, Rosephanye Powell, and Will Todd.

This is a meaningful and welcoming service for all ages. Come and enjoy an hour of beautiful music and a time to focus on the hope of Advent - and consider inviiting a friend who might enjoy this special service as well.

All articles, photos, and announcements are **due by 3:00 p.m. Friday** for the following week's newsletter and should be emailed to **cgsarcadianewsletter@gmail.com.**

DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR

GOOD SHEPHERD CHILDREN'S CENTER

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH | 4-8PM
400 S BALDWIN AVE, ARCADIA, CA, 91007

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **N8G3PZR**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

CHIPOTLE

For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. $150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.


A Service of
Lessons and Carols
Music, Poetry, and the Promise of Advent
Sunday, December 14
10:00 am
Music of Jan Dismas Zelenka, Rosephanye Powell,
and Will Todd + Traditional Carols
All are welcome.
Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist
400 W. Duarte Road
Arcadia, CA 91007
M. Archibald



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).

Alternative Christmas Market Dec. 14th After Worship

The Dec. 14th ACM will feature the Crafter's Holiday Mini Boutique, along with options to self donate to other organizations (Foothill Unity, Heifer Project, Union Rescue Mission, etc) that the church has sponsored. VOLUNTEERS are needed to help with the tables and donation cards this Sunday- please contact Pastor Eva (626-447-2181) or PastorEva@cgsum.org to sign up..



On-line giving is available through the church website: www.cgsum.org. Click the GIVE tab on the home page to get to the giving portal and check the Christmas Offering box.

Trek to the Tree in Worship on 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.

Christmas Pageant



Christmas is coming! The Christmas Eve Family Service at 5:00pm on Wednesday, December 24th is almost here. Children's Choir, Youth Choir, and Youth Bells will also be participating. We will have one rehearsal for the Pageant on Sunday, December 21st from 11:15-1:00pm. Lunch will be served. if you are not able to attend the rehearsal, please let Cindy Ostry (childcenter@cgsum.org) or Franklyn Shen (fnjshen@sbcglobal.net) know and we'll save a costume for you! All children, youth, young adults, and adults are welcome to participate.

The Book Group

The Book Group's last meeting in 2025 will be at our annual Christmas potluck on December 10th. Join us on January 7th when we discuss Miss Buncle's Book.



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 Fran Syverson, a longtime church member who passed away on Nov. 29th; Carolyn Iga who continues to recover from her stroke; and for the health of other church members: Ila Harris, Warren Hassler, and Richard Vethamani. Please 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.