VOLUME 57, NO. 49 WEEK OF DECEMBER 11TH, 2023



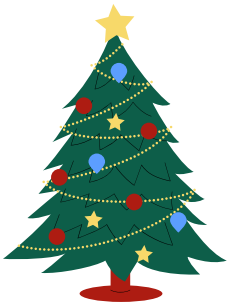
The Word
of the
Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

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 our Sanctuary
Broadcast Live at 10:00 a.m. to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG

Sunday, December 17th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

A Service of Lessons and Carols
Presented by the Chancel Choir with Guest Instrumentalists
Reflection: "A Fierce Joy," Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Sr. Pastor
The traditional Trek to the Tree will also take place during the service.
Coffee Fellowship after the service will also include hot cocoa, decorating of gingerbread cookies, and Christmas music!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal



Christmas is coming! The Christmas Eve Family Service at 5:00pm on Sunday, 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 17th from 11:15am-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.



Sunday, December 24th- Christmas Eve

- **10:00-11:00am** Morning Devotion Time in the Chapel. Please stop by any time during this morning hour for self-led devotion and prayer.
- **5:00pm** Christmas Eve Family Service with Nativity Pageant
- **9:00pm** Traditional Service with Choir and Guest Musicians
- **11:00pm** Chapel Service followed by Candlelight Closing Circle at midnight in the Courtyard

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for the following week's newsletter and should be emailed to **cgsarcadianewsletter@gmail.com.** The newsletter will not be published the last week of December and the first week of January.

Sarah Circle Had Fun!

Last Thursday evening 19 members of Sarah Circle joined for our Christmas meeting and fellowship. We feasted on wonderful appetizers, 4 different homemade soups, and great desserts! During our business meeting we voted to gift $1000 to each Foothill Unity Center, the Family Promise account at CGS, the USC Arcadia Chaplaincy Program, and Toberman House. Last November we also donated $1000 to Elizabeth House in Pasadena which they used to purchase grocery gift cards for the mothers in their service. We ended our evening with our annual Bunco game and presented prizes to many game winners and "losers." It was a fun time!

Our next meeting will be 7PM, Thursday, January 11th (not January 4th) for our annual program planning. All women are invited!

Shop for Gifts that make a difference at the Alternative Christmas Market!

Get your shopping done in one easy stop! Dedicate gifts that help people here and around the world. Church World Service offers a range of gifts from a shovel to books and Heifer Project offers those wonderful animals that help life people out of poverty. Concerned about the homeless situation? We have gifts to dedicate from Family Promise and Habitat for Humanity. Beautiful handcrafted gifts from cooperatives around the world will again be on display. Heavenly Treasures returns 100% of your purchases back to the artisans.

Online shopping lists are also now available on the Church Website. Shop at the market for the first three Sundays in December!

Wednesday Women's Book Group

The Book Group will have their annual Christmas potluck on December 13. Please RSVP to leskenan@gmail.com. We will not meet on December 20 or 27. When we resume meeting on January 3 we will finish discussing The First Ladies.

END OF THE YEAR GIVING TO CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Christmas Offering Letters have been emailed (or mailed to those w/o email or live out of state) and is included in the newsletter. The special offering envelopes will be placed in the pews. Reminder- your 2023 Tithes & Pledges, Special Holiday Offerings, and any other financial donations to the church should be submitted by Dec. 31st.

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, Dec. 31st after Worship…

…..to help the worship committee take down and store away the Christmas Greens and Advent Decorations. Coffee, hot cocoa, and cookies will be served!



Dear Church of the Good Shepherd Family and Friends,

Luke 2:10-11 tells of the Angel's message to the Shepherd, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." It is a passage that will be read during Christmas Eve Services, sung in our hymns, printed on greeting cards, and shouted as a proclamation on Christmas Day!

I invite you to take time to reflect on this powerful message. The Shepherds were surrounded by the glory of the Lord that shone upon them and they received words of comfort and the good news of the Savior's birth to focus on. Let us remember that each day we too are surrounded by God's glory and are asked to not be afraid, but instead focus on the good news of the Savior born on that holy night.

Let us gather to share the joyful news with each other during these upcoming Services:

- Sunday, Dec. 17th 10am Chancel Choir Concert of Lessons and Carols and Trek to the Tree, followed by gingerbread cookie decorating and refreshments in the Hall
- Sunday, Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Morning- the Chapel will be open for you to stop by anytime between 10am-11:30am for a time of self-guided prayer and devotion
- Sunday, Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Evening Services: 5:00pm Family Service with Nativity Pageant in the Sanctuary; 9:00pm Traditional Service with Choirs and Musicians in the Sanctuary; 11:00pm Chapel Service with Candlelight Closing at midnight in the Courtyard

As we near the end of the 2023 year, please know your stewardship is greatly appreciated. I invite you to consider a special Christmas offering, as well to help support our wonderful church ministries that continue to bring good news through faith, growth, justice, and service.
Your Christmas Offering can be submitted in any of the following ways:
1) In Person: On Dec. 17th during the Trek to the Tree time in worship; or placed in the Narthex offering box; or to the church office any day in December. The Christmas Offering Envelopes are in the Sanctuary & Chapel Pews, the Church Office, and the Narthex.
2) Mailed to the Church: In your own envelope to Church of the Good Shepherd UMC
(400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA. 91007).
3) Online: Using the church website (www.cgsum.org) by selecting the Online Giving tab from the main home page, enter payment info, and check Christmas Offering box.

May Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love be with you!
Pastor Eva
Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin 12.05.23

Upcoming Events and Education Classes from USC Arcadia Hospital

Free Blood Pressure Screenings - Tuesday, December 12th

Arcadia Community Center from 10am-11am
365 Campus Drive, Arcadia, CA // 626-574-5130

Monrovia Community Center from 9:30-10:30am
119 W Palm Avenue, Monrovia // 626-2568246

Asian American Expo - Saturday, January 13th & Sunday, January 14th

Pomona Fairplex from 10am-7pm
2705 Fairplex Drive, Pomona, CA 91768

USC Arcadia Hospital will sponsor the event and will provide health information at our table. Come and visit our booth at Hall #4 to learn more about our hospital services.

50+ Lecture: Understanding & Treating Head & Neck Ailments - Tuesday, January 16th
Liyang Tang, MD

Arcadia Community Center from 12:30pm-1:30pm
375 Campus Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007

Join us for a health lecture with Head and Neck Specialist Liyang Tang, MD from USC Arcadia Hospital. Dr. Tang is an otolaryngologist (ear, nose, and throat surgeon) who treats a variety of head and neck ailments. Dr. Tang will discuss thyroid disease and various health problems associated with the disease, as well as thyroid cancer, and will share how to detect early signs of disease and treatment options. She specializes in head and neck cancer surgery, as well as microvascular reconstruction, thyroid, and parathyroid surgery.

Health Lecture: Stay Active by Keeping Your Joints Healthy - Wednesday, January 17th
James O'Dowd, MD

Santa Anita Family YMCA from 8am-9am
501 Mountain Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016

Having healthy joints will allow you to run, walk, jump, play sports, and do the other things you like to do for decades to come. Join us for a health talk with Orthopedic Surgeon James O'Dowd, MD, from USC Arcadia Hospital and learn about tips for healthy joints, ways to reduce joint pain, and how to protect joints as we age. Dr. O'Dowd will also share the latest technology in joint replacement procedures.

City of Monrovia Health Fair - Thursday, February 1st

Monrovia Community Center from 10am-1pm
119 W Palm Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016

SoCal Women's Conference - Friday, March 22nd

Hilton Pasadena from 9am-4pm
168 S Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Once again, the hospital is a major sponsor of the conference. In addition to an information and resource booth, join us for a talk with Tammy Wong, MD, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Dr. Wong specializes in sleep medicine, and she will speak about types, causes, symptoms, and treatment of sleep disorders. Learn why sleep is important to our health and ways to improve your quality of sleep, daytime functioning, and well-being.

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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: Fanklyn Shen
Director of Music Ministry: Stephen Cook
Director of the Good Shepherd Children's Center: Linda Brown

Church of the Good Shepherd Mission Statement:
At Church of the Good Shepherd, 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.