VOLUME 57, NO. 51 WEEK OF DECEMBER 18TH, 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 24th - Christmas Eve
4th Sunday of Advent

10:00am - 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
Youth Bells: “Angels and Shepherds” arr. Hollander;
Daisylin Lazaro, Narrator; Carolyn Noonchester, Conductor
Children’s Choir: “Do You Hear What I Hear?” by Regney & Shayne;
Janice Clark, Piano; Diane Lucas, Director
Youth Choir: “Christmas Joy!” by Emerson
Franklyn Shen, Piano; Janice Clark, Director
Combined Choirs: “Sing We Now of Christmas” arr. Becki Slagle Mayo;
Franklyn Shen, Piano; Diane Lucas, Conductor

9:00pm: Traditional Service with Choir and Guest Musicians
Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-11
Sermon: “A Love That Transforms,” Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Sr. Pastor Preaching
Chancel Choir: “What is This Lovely Fragrance?” by Healey Willan;
“What Child is This” arr. John Fenstermaker, featuring Mana Tatsuki, violin;
Stephen Cook, Accompanist; Kirk Averitt, Choir Director
Chancel Choir Section Leaders: “O Holy Night”
Carillon Ringers: “I Wonder as I Wander” arr. Howland

11:00pm: Chapel Service followed by Candlelight Closing Circle at Midnight in the Courtyard
Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20
Sermon: “A Light That Shines” Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Sr. Pastor Preaching

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for the following week's newsletter and should be emailed to **cgsarcadianewsletter@gmail.com.** The newsletter will not be published the last week of December and the first week of January.

Please note: Sunday School and Nursery Childcare will not be offered on Sunday, December 24th, but will resume on Sunday, December 31st.

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.

As we near the end of the 2023 year, please know your stewardship is greatly appreciated. If you have not done so already, I invite you to consider a special Christmas Offering 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. 24th during any of the Christmas Eve Services, 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.

Wednesday Women's Book Group

We will not meet on December 20 or 27. When we resume meeting on January 3 we will finish discussing The First Ladies.

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!

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE CHURCH STAFF!

Kirk Averitt, Francisco Acero, Linda Brown, Janice Clark, Stephen Cook, Garrison Holder, Susan Holder, Bryan In, Kenny Landaverde, Jenny Lee, Diane Lucas, Carolyn Noonchester, Cindy Ostry, Karen Schaefer, Caitlyn Shen, Franklyn Shen, Stephanie Shen, Suzanne Wright, and Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin

JOY TO THE WORLD!

CGS HAD A WONDEFUL SUNDAY WITH THE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE, CHRISTMAS MARKET, AND GINGERBREAD COOKIE DECORATING!

Thank you to the Chancel Choir, Choir Director Kirk Averitt, the Syverson Music Fund, Music Director Stephen Cook, Leanne Baroldi for the cookies and decorations, and Sunday Coffee Fellowship Servers.













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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.