VOLUME 57, NO. 2 WEEK OF JANUARY 16TH, 2023



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

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, January 22nd, 2023
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Please enter the Sanctuary worship through the double doors off the parking lot. Name tags and check-in are not needed. Attendance pads are in the pews. Masks are no longer required, but are encouraged for those who have high risk factors.

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 9: 1-4, Matthew 4: 12-23
Sermon: "Starting the Year With a Better Soul", Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin Preaching
Prelude: Meditation on "How Great Thou Art" arr. Carter
Postlude: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" arr. Jordan
Stephen Cook, Director of Music
Chancel Choir (Kirk Averitt, Director): "Sunshine in My Soul" arr. Hewitt and Sweney;
"Abide With Me" arr. Schrader; and Garrison Holder, Solo
Children's Choir (Diane Lucas, Director): "I Am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N"
with Janice Clark, Accompanist

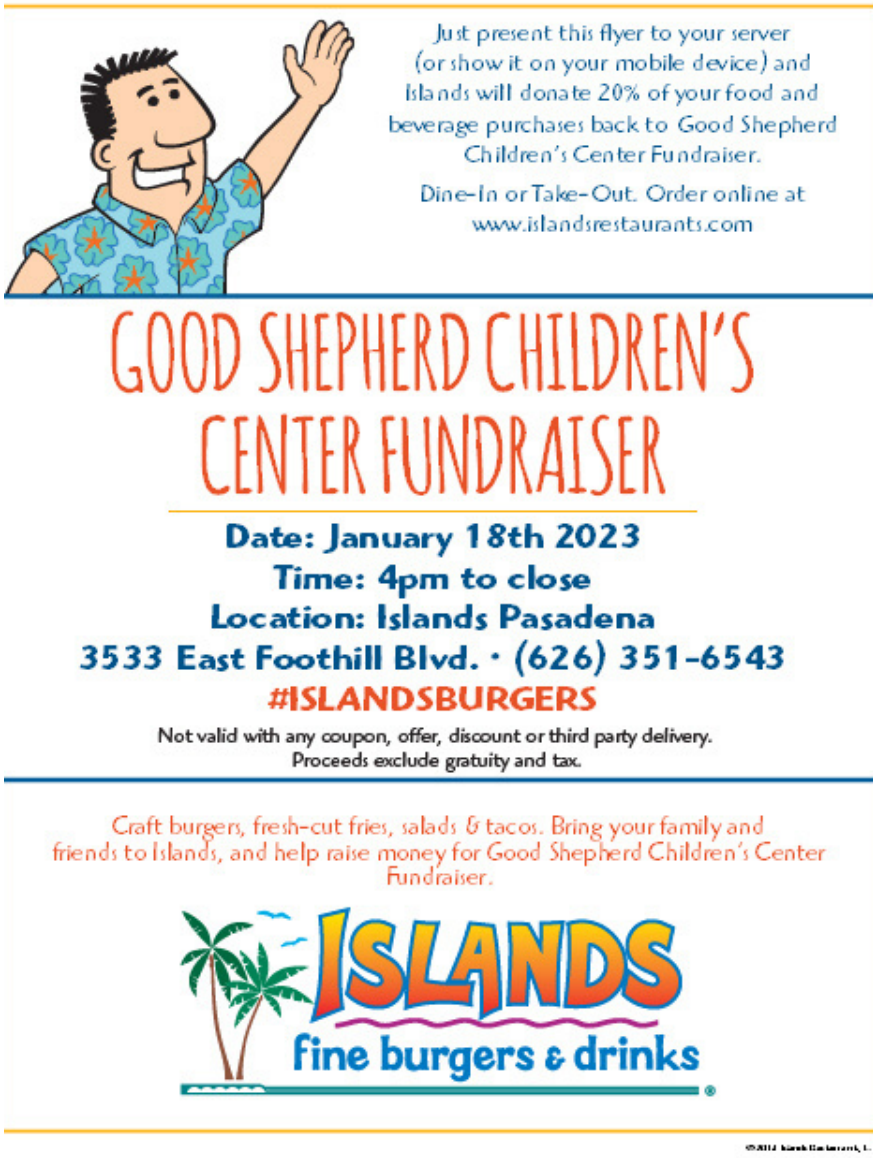


Church Administrator, Linda Doran Retires After 30 Years of Dedicated Service!

Linda Doran has retired after 30 years of dedicated service as Church Administrator. She was hired by Rev. James Dallas in 1992. She has worked for and supported many clergy over the years including Rev. Dallas, Rev. Dr. Phil Wood, Rev. George Hooper, Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, and many Associate Pastors. We are grateful for her friendship and devotion to our staff and members. We wish her health and happiness during this new chapter of her life.

Save the Date for a Retirement Reception for Linda after worship on Feb. 5th. SPRC will provide more details in next week's newsletter.

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



Come Support the Church's Children's Center Fundriaser this Wednesday, January 18th at Islands Pasadena!

Just present this flyer to your server (or show it on your mobile device) and Islands will donate 20% of your food and beverage purchases to Good Shepherd Children's Center Fundraiser. Extra printed flyers can be found in the church office. Dine-In or Take-Out. Order Online at www.islandsrestaurants.com

Pledges by the Numbers and 2023 Pledge Update

Year 2021 - 110 Pledges submitted & total contribution received $347,041
Year 2022 - 95 Pledges submitted & total contribution received $320,595
Year 2023 - 60 Pledges submitted as of Jan. 8, 2023 for $227,112 to be received

Church ministries rely on the financial support from the congregation. Each financial gift is treasured and part of our commitment to the Church. Thank you to those who have submitted your 2023 pledge card. For those who have not been able to do so yet, there is still time. Pastor Eva and Shepherds Flock volunteers will be checking in with individuals later this month. We pray that 2023 will be a blessed year as we commit financially to the Church together and grow in faith! And **Save the Date:** Jan. 29th (11:30-12:15) Forum on Finances - see info on next page.

Did You Know that you can give online anytime through the Church website: www.cgsum.org. Click on the GIVE tab on the top right corner of the homepage and you will be directed to the online giving options that include 2023 pledge, Altar Flowers, Sierra Service Project, Foundation, UMW, Music, and more!

The 2023 Flower Chart

Sign up for Sunday Altar Flowers by calling the Church Office **(626 - 447 - 2181)** to give flowers "in honor of" or "in memory of" loved ones or in celebration of a special event like a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or other accomplishment.

The cost of the flowers is now $60 (payable to 'Church of the Good Shepherd'). Please submit the check to the church office (write "Altar Flowers" on the memo line), OR online through the Church website. Flowers will be ordered from Zuzu's Petals of Arcadia and your personalized message will be announced in Worship by Pastor Eva on the appropriate Sunday as well as in the Sunday bulletin and the Newsletter.

After the Worship Service, you may take your flowers home with you or let us know and we will have them in the Church Office on Monday Morning after 9:00 a.m. Thank you for helping to beautify our Sanctuary!

Welcome Conference Bishop, Rev. Dr. Escobedo-Frank!

Bishop Escobedo-Frank has been on the leading edge of church vitalization and transformation. She has served the church and community in progressive roles including founding a church Farmer's Market, and working with immigrant populations. The Conference will hold an Installation Service for Bishop Escobedo-Frank on Sunday, January 29th at 3:00 p.m. at First UMC of Pasadena. Please contact Pastor Eva if you would like to attend.



Remember The Forum?

For a number of years John and June Fee organized, scheduled and hosted a Church of the Good Shepherd Speakers Series titled The Forum. The speakers were drawn from academics at local universities, scientists, politicians, business people and experts in a number of fields. The talks were interesting, thought-provoking and provided another dimension of Christian education.

Inspired by the Fees, the Finance Committee is interested in sponsoring a series of financial presentations on topics of interest to the congregation. You'll recall we did a survey of possible topics last year, and on **Sunday, January 29th after worship** we'd like to share the survey results with you along with the details on the first financial Forum presentation.

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

open hearts,
open minds,
open doors

Prayer for the Week: Freedom in Christ (UM Hymnal #360)
Gracious God, make me sensitive to all the evidence of your goodness,
and may I, trusting in you,
free myself of the terror of death,
and feel free to live intensely and happily the life you have given me. Amen.

Among the Church Family: Please continue to keep everyone previously mentioned in your prayers. Contact the church office if you would like a prayer included in the newsletter or the church prayer email chain.

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.