VOLUME 60, NO. 1 WEEK OF JANUARY 5TH, 2026



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
Sunday Nursery Care available starting at 9:30am
Broadcast Live at 10:00 a.m. to Facebook/CGSUM and to CGSUM.ORG

Sunday, January 11th - Baptism of the Lord Sunday and 1st Sunday after Epiphany

Attendance pads and cards are in the pews.
The Offeratory Box is located in the Narthex.

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 43:5-9 and Matthew 3:13-17
Sermon "The Power of the Light"
Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Lead Pastor Preaching
Prelude: Prelude on "Fairest Lord Jesus" arr. Young
Postlude: "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" by J. S. Bach
Stephen Cook, Director of Music Ministries
Introit: "Light of the World, We Hail Thee" by William Walker
Anthem: "Jesus, the Light of the World" arr. Evelyn Simpson Curenton
Music by the Chancel Choir; Kirk Averitt, Director; Solo by Michel Von Loh

*Chancel flowers on Sunday, January 4th were given: In memory of **Frances Syverson**, longtime member of the church and the choir, who passed to eternal life on November 28, 2025. A **Celebration of Life** will be held at Westminster Gardens, where she lived the final 16 years of her life, at 1420 Santo Domingo Ave., Duarte at 1:00pm on Sunday, Jan. 11th.*



The Joy of Epiphany Event Sunday, January 11th (4-6pm) at Sierra Madre UM Church

RSVP to (PastorEva@cgsum.org or 626-447-2181) and sign up to bring soup (vegetarian chili) and hygiene kit donations (revised to toothbrushes and bar soap). See flyer inside for more info.

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.**

START THE NEW YEAR OFF BY ENRICHING YOUR MIND AND JOIN US FOR ANY OF THESE BIBLE, BOOK, AND STUDY GROUPS!

Sundays- Adult Sunday School (9:00am in the Library)
Sundays- Children and Youth Sunday School Classes (10:15am)
Wednesdays- Women's Book Group (11:30am in the Library)
Thursdays- Men's Study Group (7:30am online via Zoom)

Sarah Circle- January 8th at 6:30pm

Happy New Year! Sarah Circle will begin 2026 with our meeting on Thursday, January 8th, at 6:30PM in Jordan Hall. We ask members to come with program ideas and potential projects/fundraising ideas for 2026. We will also collect toothbrushes and bar soap donations for the January 11th Mission Area Event. All women are invited to join us!

Shepherds Fellowship- January 13th at 6:00pm

The Shepherd's Fellowship Group (Adults age 55+) will meet on Tuesday, January 13th at 6:00pm for a Soup and Salad Potluck! Please RSVP to Lynne Whitaker before January 10th. We will also collect toothbrushes and bar soap donations for the January 11th Mission Area Event. Contact the church office (626-447-2181)for more info.

Word from the Finance Committee - 2026 Pledge Update

As we begin the activities of the new church year, we want to update you on the pledges received for 2026. As of the end of December, we have received 66 pledges. The GOAL FOR 2026 is 90 PLEDGES. We need just 24 more pledgeds to meet this goal. Pledges make up the biggest part of our revenue and pledges are the basis of our budget. Please send in your pledge card if you have not yet done so. If you need another pledge card, please contact the church office (626-447-2181) and we will mail or email you one, or you can come by the church office (Mondays thru Thursdays 9am-3pm) to pick one up. Thank you!

Scenes From the First Sunday Worship of the New Year







Thank you James Lee for the photos: Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin during the Children's Message, the Congregation receiving Holy Communion, and Lay Reader Ken Blair.

The Joy of Epiphany!

Greater San Gabriel Mission Area Gathering
January 11, 2026 (Sunday 4:00-6:00pm)
Let us gather together and celebrate the guiding light that brings hope, wisdom, and new beginnings!
Program with a Reflection by DS Rev. Lee Assemble
UMCOR Hygiene Kits; Potluck Soup & Salad Dinner
and music by The Rhythm Ducks w/Stephanie Lan
at Sierra Madre UMC 695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

RSVP TO PASTOR EVA (pastoreva@cgsum.org)
and for potluck and hygiene kit donations to bring.



The Revised Wesley Covenant Prayer by Rev. Jeremy Smith

John Wesley, the Founder of the Methodist Church, wrote a Covenant Prayer he adapted from the Puritan tradition that was so important to his parents. It informed his theology and preaching. He encouraged people to pray this prayer at the beginning of each new year as a way of renewing their baptismal covenant. Here is the Revised Prayer (for 21st Century Christians) that Pastor Eva read in her Sunday, January 4th Sermon.

I am not my own self-made, self-reliant human being. In truth, O God, I am Yours.
Make me into what You will. Make me a neighbor with those whom You will.
Guide me on the easy path for You. Guide me on the rocky road for You.
Whether I am to step up for You or step aside for You; Whether I am to be lifted high for You or brought low for You; Whether I become full or empty, with all things or with nothing;
I give all that I have and all that I am for You. So be it.
And may I always remember that you, O God, and I belong to each other. Amen.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
THE WORD, Church of the Good Shepherd
400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA 91007

Periodical Postage Paid
at Arcadia, California
USPS 592-700

The WORD
(USPS 592-700)
Published weekly except the last week of
December and the first week of January by & weeks of 5/30 & 7/4
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United Methodist
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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

Lord In Our Prayers of Joys and Concerns 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.
- For the family of Frances Syverson who passed away on Nov. 28th. Her Celebration of Life service will be held Jan. 11th at Westminster Gardens at 1pm.
- For the health of church members: Ila Harris, Carolyn Iga (update- continues to improve and has been moved to an acute rehab facility), Warren Hassler, Norma Link, Richard Vethamani, and for church staff who are recovering from flus/colds.
- For Janice Clark who had successful hip surgery and continues to heal well.
- For members of Rosemead Mission Community UMC as they join us for worship after the recent closing of their church. Let us welcome them to Good Shepherd.

Send prayer requests to: **cgsprayerchain2@gmail.com** (note that this is a new email).

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.