VOLUME 58, NO.28 WEEK OF JULY 22, 2024



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, July 28 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Attendance pads are in the pews. The Offering Box is located in the Narthex.

Scripture Lesson: 2 Samuel 14:25-33
Sermon: "Confession"
Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Sr. Pastor, Preaching
Prelude: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. Leavitt
Postlude: "Postlude on "Coronation" arr. Livingston
Stephen Cook, Director of Music
Summer Choir: "I Love You Lord" by Laurie Klein
Kirk Averitt, Director; Stephen Cook, Accompanist

Sierra Service Project 2024

This summer marks the 33rd year of our participation with SSP! 14 Youth and Advisors will be helping in Chiloquin, Oregon from July 21 – July 26th. Members from the Klamath Tribes primarily live in the small town of Chiloquin, 30 miles north of the city of Klamath Falls. The Klamath Tribes include Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin. In Chiloquin, we plan to do home repair and community projects including painting houses and building ramps, decks and staircases.



The team has safely made it to Chiloquin, Oregon!

This year's participants are: (Youth) Isabelle Chan, Daisylin Lazaro, Katie Lee, Hannah Ng, Kathleen Ng, Amber Pattison, Rebecca Richardson, William Shen, Felix Veeraraj, and Sarah Veeraraj;

(Advisors) Sarah Reynolds, Franklyn Shen, Cindy Snavely, and Kevin Snavely

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.**

Angel Statue Dedicated



The long-awaited Angel and Infant statue was dedicated on July 10th in a ceremony in the Chapel Garden at USC Arcadia Hospital. The statue was donated through the kindness and generosity of the Women of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Arcadia UMC; Sree Neelina Garimella, M.C.; Castle Construction Services, Inc.; and Rev. Brenda Simonds. In her dedication blessing, Rev. Simonds said:

"We dedicate this place, this angel and baby statue to the healing of broken hearts and to comfort a grief that lasts a lifetime. May those who visit here and view this statue find hope and inspiration knowing that they are not alone. May this angel represent the holy and bear witness to their grief, bringing comfort to their spirits. The loss of a baby is the same heartbreak in all cultures and all faiths. All are in search of comfort. May this place provide one of those places the grieving may find peace."

The dedication was attended by several members of the Good Shepherd crafting group and United Women in Faith, notably Elaine Iverson, who spearheaded the donations from our women's groups. For over two years we have followed the progress of the creation of this statue from its conception and sculpting in China to its voyage to the United States and, finally, to its placement in the USC Arcadia Hospital Chapel Garden. It is hoped that this beautiful statue will bring comfort to all who are suffering loss.

Vacation Bible School 2024

VBS 2024 was one for the books!

Thank you so much to all of our volunteers and to our fearless leader, Cindy Ostry!













CGS Youth Construction Project

The CGS youth built sign stands with wheels as a project in preparation for a construction week at Sierra Service Project. The stands can be used to post signs and campus directions in various locations at CGS. The Youth worked under the guidance of Board of Trustees members Rueben Linder and Kevin Snavely.







Family Promise - Thank you Volunteers!
For Summer Hosting: August 4th - August 11th

"They don't have to leave," answered Jesus. "You yourselves give them something to eat!" "All we have here are five loaves and two fish," they replied...then he took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks to God... and the disciples gave them to the people. Everyone ate and had enough. -- **Matthew 14: 16: 20**

Thank you Summer Hosting Volunteers! You have filled all our volunteer needs to host our guest families in August. We have many new volunteers hosting for their first time.

Stay tuned for future reports about our Summer Hosting experience.

David Steinmeier
Family Promise Volunteer Coordinator
david@microjoining.com

Choral Workshop and Concert: Viatores Mundi

All are invited to attend a workshop and concert with international chamber choir Viatores Mundi on Wednesday, July 31 from 11am-3pm at Church of the Good Shepherd. The day's program will include:

- **11:00-11:30am:** Group Vocal Warm Up led by the choir (Choir Room)
- **11:30-12:15pm:** Croatian Folk Music with Jurica Petrač, Music Director of Croatia's National Folk Choir, LADO (Choir Room)
- **12:25-1:10pm:** Early Music and Gregorian Chant workshop with members of the choir
- **1:15-2:00pm:** Lunch (Jordan Hall & Courtyard)
- **2:00-2:30pm:** Organ Recital and Presentation with Aaron Shows (Sanctuary)
- **2:30-3:00pm:** Viatores Mundi performance (Sanctuary)

Anyone is welcome to attend the workshop! Please RSVP at the following link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrH_OXPV0dwA7bww00WgqJMhmxEnfJtpjhOUFK9TDljEhnSA/viewform if you would like to attend. In addition to the workshop and concert, Viatores Mundi will provide music for worship at Good Shepherd on Sunday, August 4.

About the Ensemble: Viatores Mundi is an esteemed international vocal ensemble comprised of highly skilled musicians hailing from diverse backgrounds worldwide. Focused on delving into the rich tapestry of choral music, Viatores showcases a repertoire of a cappella music that reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of its members. The ensemble has garnered acclaim through performances at prestigious venues such as the Bolsko Lito Summer Festival in Bol, Croatia, where they have been featured prominently since 2019. With a roster that evolves annually and has included over 20 singers representing 10 countries, Viatores Mundi continues to captivate audiences with its unique blend of talent, cultural exploration, and dedication to the choral arts.



COVID-19 is on the Increase

Article written by Lynne Rivera

We are experiencing a spike in Covid-19 infections. Many health experts have attributed the spike to indoor gatherings due to the hot weather, as well as increased travel and social gatherings during these summer months. These activities can lead to increased transmission.

Most of us already have several layers of immunity against the Covid virus through vaccinations, past infections or both. Therefore, if we are infected again, the risk of serious illness is much lower than it once was. However, catching Covid still carries the risk of developing long Covid. Many who are immunocompromised often have a diminished immune response to Covid-19 vaccinations, and therefore remain at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization, and death than the general population.

How can we protect ourselves?

The Centers for Disease Control recommends a booster shot for people 65 and older. Check your immunization card, or call your physician or local pharmacy to see if you need the booster. Probably due to the summer surge of Covid cases, increased numbers of people are getting vaccinated. So, your doctor or local pharmacy may not have the vaccine at the time you call. Be persistent. Call other pharmacies.

Know the signs and symptoms of Covid-19 infection. They can include sore throat, sneezing, nasal congestion, runny nose, headache, fever, chills, exhaustion, sore muscles, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, skin rashes, shortness of breath, loss of taste, or loss of smell. Covid illness can range from asymptomatic to severe.

Covid can feel different each time you have it, so do not assume that because your symptoms are not the same as last time that you are not infected. Additionally, many symptoms are difficult to distinguish from other infections without diagnostic testing.

Stay home if you are sick. Staying home when you are sick slows the spread of Covid-19, flu, RSV, and the common cold.

Test and treat. Test for COVID-19 and flu if you have symptoms. If you test positive, contact your health care provider and ask about prescription medications. Act fast, as most of these medications must be taken within the first 5 days of symptoms.

Consider wearing a mask. Wearing a mask can slow the spread of respiratory viruses. If you or your family member are at high risk for severe illness, consider wearing a mask, especially in public indoor or crowded spaces.

Wash your hands. Frequent handwashing, with soap and warm water—for at least 20 seconds—is an easy and effective way to stay healthy and slow the spread of germs. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Cover your cough or sneeze. Cough or sneeze into your elbow, arm, or a disposable tissue. Make sure to throw away your tissue then wash or sanitize your hands.

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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

UPCOMING MINISTRY AND WORSHIP EVENTS.....

- **July 20-27** Youth Sierra Service Project Mission Trip
- **August 3** Rancho Cucamonga Quakes Game with Shepherds & ROI Fellowship Groups
- **August 4** Heritage Sunday Worship Service and the Viatores Mundi Choral Ensemble
- **August 4-10** Family Promise Hosting at CGS
- **August 11** Special Mission Focused Worship Service with SSP Sharing; followed by a BBQ hosted by the SSP Youth!
- **August 18 and 25** Sunday Worship Services in the Chapel- more details to come!

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.