VOLUME 59, NO. 44 WEEK OF NOV 23RD, 2025



The Word

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 the Sanctuary

Sunday, November 30th - First Sunday of Advent

Attendance pads and cards are in the pews.
The Offering box and Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes are in the Sanctuary entryway.

Scripture: Isaiah 2: 1-5 and Matthew 24: 36-44
Sermon: "Advent is Hope: To Expect the Unexpected"
Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Sr. Pastor, Preaching
Prelude: "Trio for Flute, Oboe, and Piano - 11 Andante Simplice" by Madeline Dring
Laura Argenbright, Oboe; Catherine Baker, Flute
Postlude: "Postlude on "Ash Grove"" arr. Martin
Stephen Cook, Director of Music
Chancel Choir: "Come, Promised One" by John D. Becker;
"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. Heather Sorenson;
Kirk Averitt, Director; Stephen Cook, Accompanist
Special Music: "Just Another Christmas" by Laura Story; Carolyn Noonchester
And stay after worship for cookie decorating and hot chocolate!

The Nov. 23rd Altar Flowers were given in remembrance of Ed Lucas's birthday by Craig Lucas.



Advent Decorating <u>this Saturday, NOV. 29th (1-4pm)</u>
Calling all volunteers to help spread festive cheer as we decorate the Sanctuary, Hall, and other spaces for Advent!

REMINDER TO FULFILL YOUR 2025 PLEDGE BY DEC. 31ST
As we near the end of the year, just a friendly reminder to fulfill your annual pledge contribution for 2025. Your financial generosity of tithes and offerings (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter) are a blessing to the church. Contact Pastor Eva (626) 447-2181 or PastorEva@cgsum.org if you have questions. Online giving is also available via www.cgsum.org (select GIVE tab for the portal).



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.**

Christmas Pageant



SChristmas is coming! The Christmas Eve Family Service at 5:00pm on Wednesday, 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 21st from 11:15-1:00pm. 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.



2026 Pledge Update

- 84 Pledges were received for the 2025 year
- The church's 2026 goal is 90 Pledges! 46 Pledges have been received as of Nov. 23rd
- Help us reach our goal of increasing the number of pledges from last year!
- Pledge Cards are available in the church office or Sanctuary
- Return them to the Sanctuary offering box or to the office



Advent Events at Good Shepherd

- **Nov. 30th** 1st Sunday of Advent with *Cookie Decorating and Hot Cocoa* after Worship!
- **Dec. 7th** Hanging of the Greens Service & Communion and Alternative Christmas Market- more details to come
- **Dec. 14th** Chancel Choir's Lessons and Carols Service and Alternative Christmas Market- more details to come
- **Dec. 21st** Trek to the Tree Service
- **Dec. 24th** Christmas Eve Services (5pm, 9pm, 11pm)



Adopt an Angel this Holiday Season

Foothill Unity's Angel cards have arrived. Pick one or 2 or more up from the office or Santuary entryway. Purchase new toys, books, gift cards (Amazon or Target) and place in the large collection box in the Sanctuary or drop off to the church by **Friday December 5th** before the Foothill Unity pick up.

It's Time to Order Poinsettias!

Church of the Good Shepherd has a tradition of decorating our altar and chancel area with beautiful poinsettias at Christmas time. We are pre-selling 6" potted red poinsettias for $22 each to be used in the sanctuary for services beginning Sunday, December 14th.



Plants may be picked up at church after the 9pm Chirstmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24th. The remaining plants will be donated for delivery by our team of volunteers to more home-bound church members.

To order, visit our table after Church services on November 30th, or fill out this order form and drop it off with your payment at the Church Office (400 W Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA 91007).

Poinsettia Order Form

Your Name(s): _____ Phone Number: _____

The number of plants to be ordered: _____ x $22/plant = _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Will you pick up your plants on Wednesday, Dec. 24th after the 9pm service? _____

Will you donate your plant/s? _____

Are you able to assist with the delivery of plants to our home-bound members? _____

Your check should be made out to Church of the Good Shepherd for $22 per plant. Write "poinsettia" on the memo line. **The last day to order is Sunday, November 30th.**

If you wish to be on our volunteer delivering team, let the Church Office know! We'd love to have you!

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

Save the Dates

- 11/24 Thanksgiving Chapel Service **(MONDAY at 7:00pm)**
- **11/29 Deck the Halls (SATURDAY at 1:00pm)**
- 11/30 1st Sunday of Advent and Cookie Decorating after Worship
- 12/7 Hanging of the Greens Service and Communion (Alternative Market after worship)
- 12/14 Lessons and Carols Service (Alternative Market after worship)
- 12/21 Trek to the Tree Service
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Worship Services (5pm, 9pm, and 11pm)
- 12/28 Hymn Sing Service
- 12/31 Last Day to Fulfill 2025 Pledge Commitment

Church of the Good Shepherd Mission Statement:
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.