VOLUME 59, NO. 45 WEEK OF NOV 30TH, 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, December Seventh - Second Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens and Communion Sunday

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

Scripture: Isaiah 11: 1-6 and Matthew 3: 1-8
Sermon: "Advent is Peace: To Prepare the Way"
Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Sr. Pastor, Preaching
Prelude: "The First Noel" arr. Cherwien
Postlude: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" arr. Lani Smith
Stephen Cook, Director of Music
Chancel Choir: "We'll Dress This House" by Alfred Burt
Kirk Averitt, Director; Stephen Cook, Accompanist
Youth Choir: "A Gospel Noel" by Greg Gilpin
Janice Clark, Director; Franklyn Shen, Accompanist
Combined Ringers: "People Look East" arr. Helman; Carolyn Noonchester, Director
Children's Choir: "Advent Celebration" by Patterson
Diane Lucas, Director; Janice Clark, Accompanist

Christmas Pageant



Christmas 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.

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.**

Craft Boutique Proceeds

The Crafters thank our Church family for a very successful Craft Boutique in November. We were able to earn $1,922.75 during our two-day sale. We are donating $400 from the proceeds to each of the following missions and charities:

- Elizabeth House for unwed mothers
- David and Margaret Youth and Family Services of the San Gabriel Valley
- Foothill Unity Center
- Pasadena City College Student Food Bank.

The remaining funds will be given to UWIF/Sarah Circle for donation in December. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated.

The Book Group

The Book Group is having their annual holiday potluck on Wednesday, December 10th at 11:30am. RSVP to Leslie at leskenan@gmail.com.

Save the Date - Young Adult Dinner

The Young Adults annual diiner will be held on Sunday, December 21st at 6pm at BJ's in Arcadia. Contact Franklyn Shen (fnjshen@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Photos from Sunday, November 30th







Thank you to all our volunteers who helped decorate our Church for the Advent season!



REMINDER TO FULFILL YOUR 2025 PLEDGE BY 12/31/25

As we near the end of the year, just a friendly reminder to fulfill your annual pledge contribution for 2025. Your financial generosity is a blessing to the church. Contact Pastor Eva (626) 447-2181 or PastorEva@cgsum.org if you questions. Online giving is also available: www.cgsum.org (select the GIVE tab).

Nov. 30th Advent Cookie Decorating...

was enjoyed by children and youth during Sunday school (photos) and the adults after worship! Thank you to Leanne Baroldi for making the cookies and the set up.





Alternative Christmas Market Dec. 7th & 14th After Worship

The Dec. 7th ACM will feature opportunities to support church and local ministries through Youth SSP Bake Sale, Crafter's Holiday Mini Boutique for UWF Mission Projects, and Gift Cards in honor or memory of loved ones for the Foothill Unity Toy Drive. The Dec. 14th ACM will feature the Crafter's Holiday Mini Boutique, along with options to self donate to other organizations (Foothill Unity, Heifer Project, Union Rescue Mission, etc). VOLUNTEERS are needed to help set up and collect donations for the 14th- please contact Pastor Eva (626-447-2181) for more info.



On-line giving is available through the church website: www.cgsum.org. Click the GIVE tab on the home page to get to the giving portal and check the Christmas Offering box.

Trek to the Tree in Worship on December 21st

The Christmas Offering Letter is printed in this newsletter and the Christmas offering envelopes are available in the church office or sanctuary entry- way. Your generous Christmas offering can be returned in person on Sunday, Dec. 21st during our traditional Trek to the Tree event in worship. If you are unable to attend in person, feel free to drop off or mail the offering by December 31st.

December Worship Services

Dec. 7th Hanging of the Greens Service & Holy Communion
Dec. 14th Lessons and Carols Service with Choir and Guest Musicians
Dec. 21st Trek to the Tree Service
Dec. 28th Hymn Sing Service in the Chapel



And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.” -Luke 1: 46-48

Dear Church of the Good Shepherd Family and Friends,

In this Advent Season we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas! But often our lives suddenly become filled with holiday shopping, decorating the home, travel plans, gatherings, work tasks to be completed, and end of the year resolutions. With all the business of the month the true meaning of Christmas can get lost.

For me personally, when this happens, I turn to one of my favorite passages, Mary’s Song of Praise from Luke 1:46-38. I invite you to take time to pause during the business of the season, and reflect on the Hope that Mary received as a lowly servant chosen by God; her Love for the Lord as her soul magnified the Lord; her Joy as her spirit rejoiced; and the Peace that settled upon her. May Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace be present in your lives as well.

I also invite you to lift up in your prayers our church and its mission and ministries made possible by the generosity of members and friends. We hope you consider giving as you are able in the remaining days of this year and also through the special Christmas Offering envelope that is enclosed. The Christmas Offering envelope can be given in person at the special Trek to the Tree Event in worship on Sunday, Dec. 21st; or placed in the offering box in the Sanctuary entryway, or mailed or drop off to the church. Online Christmas Offering can also be made through the church website (www.cgsum.org) and select the GIVE tab to use the online payment portal and check the Christmas Offering box.

Your valuable contribution supports the vital ministries and church needs throughout the year. These are the gifts we humbly offer up to the Lord as we receive the gifts of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace through the Christ Child this Christmas Season.

May God’s Grace and Blessings Be with You!

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin and the Finance Committee

November 30, 2025

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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

Lord In Our Prayers We Lift Up....

The family of Fran Syverson, a longtime church member who passed away on Nov. 29th; Carolyn Iga who continues to recover from her stroke; and for the health of other church members: Ila Harris, Warren Hassler, and Richard Vethamani. Please send your prayer requests to: cgsprayerchain@gmail.com

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.