VOLUME 57, NO. 46 WEEK OF NOVEMBER 20TH, 2023



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

The Church of the Good Shepherd

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, November 26th - Thanksgiving Sunday

Masks are no longer required, but are encouraged for those who have high risk factors.
The Offeratory Box is located in the Narthex.Attendance pads are in the pews.

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 4:2-3
Special Message of Faith Sharing by Cathy Raymond Wilson
Prelude: "We Gather Together" arr. by Phil Hamm
Postlude: "Blessed Assurance" by Phoebe Knapp, arr. by Phil Hamm
Franklyn Shen, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Youth Choir: "Soli Deo" by Herbert Beuerle; "A Closing Prayer" by Don Besig;
Janice Clark, Director; Franklyn Shen, Accompanist
Youth Bells: "For the Beauty of the Earth" arr. by Hurlbutt;
Carolyn Noonchester, Director
Youth Choir & Youth Bells: "Give Thanks to God" by Lloyd Larson

The Nov 19th Chancel Flowers were given in celebration of Florence Kovacic's 101st Birthday by her family.



Upcoming Thanksgiving Events!

- **Nov. 20th,** Monday at 7:00pm Arcadia Interfaith Service at Holy Angels Catholic Church (370 Campus Dr.) with Pastor Eva and the Noonchesters participating in the story of "Stone Soup". Bring canned food donations for Foothill Unity.
- **Nov. 22nd**, Wednesday at 7:00pm Chapel Thanksgiving Eve Service with Short Reflection, Communion, and Youth Choir.
- **Nov. 26th,** Sunday at 10:00am Thanksgiving Sunday Service with Special Guest Cathy Raymond Wilson delivering the Message, and Youth Choir and Youth Bells performing!

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.**

2023 Christmas Pageant



Christmas is coming! We need animals, shepherds, magi, and angels for the Christmas Eve Family Service at 5:00pm on Sunday, December 24th. Children's Choir, Youth Choir, and Youth Bells will also be participating. We will have one rehearsal for the Pageant on Sunday, December 17th from 11:15am-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.

Alternative Market

Ever consider why we put so much pressure on ourselves to find and give the perfect gift? Church World Services offers gifts that are priceless treasures making a difference in the lives of others...it's food for the hungry, water for the thirsty...It's kindness and compassion that offers hope, love, joy, and peace. CWS blankets offer warmth for the homeless, refugees, and those in natural disasters. For the first time we are allowing CWS to offer four chickens for a family to raise. You can get your chickens through the Heifer Project or CWS. Both organizations have lovely cards and inserts to offer as meaningful Christmas gifts! Shop at the market for the first three Sundays in December!

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 $17, each to be used in the sanctuary for services beginning Sunday, December 17th.

Plants may be picked up at church after the 9pm Christmas Eve service on Sunday, 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 26th and December 3rd, or fill out this order form and drop it off with your payment at the Church Office (400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA, 91007).

Your Name(s): _____ Phone Number: _____

The number of plants to be ordered _____ x $17/plant = _____

In Memory Of _____

In Honor Of _____

Will you pick up your plant/s on Sun, 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 $17 per plant.
Write "poinsettia" on the memo line. The last day to order is Sunday, December 3rd.

NEW THIS YEAR FOR THE SPECIAL THANKSGIVING OFFERING
Letters have been emailed out (or mailed to those with out email) and also printed in this week's newsletter. The Thanksgiving offering envelopes have been placed in the church pews and can be dropped in the narthex offering box any Sunday from Nov. 19th to Dec. 10th. Additional Thanksgiving Offering envelopes are available in the church office and by the narthex offering box.

Commitment Sunday Words of Appreciation!

Thank you to all who attended the November 19th Commitment Sunday Worship Service and Luncheon. Your 2024 Pledge Cards and financial gifts are greatly appreciated. 2024 Pledge cards can still be submitted. The delicious fellowship meal of soups, salads, and rolls was catered by Poppy Cake Baking Co. in Sierra Madre (with a 2nd location on Foothill Blvd. in Arcadia). The Good Shepherd Foundation provided funds for the lunch. And thank you to Karen Schafer, Caitlyn Shen, MacKenzie Rios, Hannah Ng, John and Leslie Kenan, Neil and Karen Conrad, Craig and Diane Lucas, Ken and Margaret Blair, and others who helped set up, serve, or clean up.

Holiday Angels from Foothill Unity Center



This year the angels have no names or wishes on them. Instead they will come with a flyer listing things the Center will work with to make Christmas special for 1,200 families. Please return your Angel and your gifts to Jordan Hall on or before Sunday, December 10th. If you bring them during the week please drop them off in the Church Office. Don't forget to bring your UNWRAPPED angel gifts to the office or Jordan Hall!

Join Us for our Annual Advent Decorating on December 2nd Saturday 3:30-5:30pm!



The Worship Committee invites you to help prepare the Sanctuary, Jordan Hall, and Courtyard for the Advent Season. Join us on Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 3:30 for a fun time of decorating our spaces with Christmas Trees, bows, holly, wreaths, and banners. Cookies and hot cider or hot cocoa will also be served. December holds many wonderful events at church: Children's Center Christmas Program, CS Arts Festival, the Women's Holiday Fellowship Events, A Lessons and Carols Sunday Service, 3 Christmas Eve Services, and more!



Dear Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving, let us be grateful to our Heavenly God who provides for us. He is the Giver, the Creator, and the Sustainer of life for all!

I invite you to attend Church of the Good Shepherd's Thanksgiving Eve Service on Thursday, November 23rd at 7:00pm in our beautiful chapel. The service includes Holy Communion, Youth Choir, Scriptures, and a Thanksgiving Reflection. Please join us and extend this invitation to your family, friends, and neighbors.

I also invite you to pray for the church finances. The church is thankful for your financial contributions throughout the year. We also hope you will consider giving a special Thanksgiving Offering as well. Your generosity assists the church in meeting its ministry budget needs.

Your Thanksgiving Offering can be submitted in any of the following ways:

1) In Person: Any day in November by using the Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes that are available in the Church Office, Sanctuary Narthex and Church Pews.

2) Mailed to the Church: In your own envelope to Church of the Good Shepherd UMC (400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia, CA. 91007).

3) Online: Via the church website (www.cgsum.org) by selecting the Online Giving tab from the main home page, enter payment info, and check Thanksgiving Offering box.

May God richly bless you and your household in this Season of Thanksgiving!

With a Grateful Heart ,

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin

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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
From July 1st District Superintendent: Rev. MoonYoung Lee

open hearts,
open minds,
open doors

Ephesians 4:2-3 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

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.