



River Spirit

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD,
UNITED METHODIST OSWEGO, IL 60543

“The Good News”

A recent interfaith candlelight prayer We have entered the season of all things pumpkin. Pumpkin pie, pumpkin cookies, pumpkin latte, pumpkin air freshener, pumpkin Fill in the Blank. This time of year people can't get enough pumpkin, it seems.

Is there such a thing as too much of a good thing? I suppose it depends who you ask.

We've got plenty of good things this month at Good Shepherd (some of which may involve pumpkin flavoring). We have Holy Communion, Blanket Sunday, Oswego's downtown Fall Fest, Presentation of 3rd grade bibles, weekly Youth Group, Assembly line hygiene kit production for missions, United Women of Faith Sunday, Trunk or Treat, and so much more (keep reading the River Spirit for details).

Experience as much as you can! I think you'll find it to be just the right amount of goodness.

Peace,

Pastor Steve



Online: by 6am Sundays

In Person: 8:30 and 10:00am

Website, Facebook, Youtube

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

October 2025

From The Office:



Please call or email ahead when visiting the office.

office@goodshepherdoswego.org

Diane and Jessie continue to check voicemail and email regularly.

If you would like to have a zoom meeting with your group and would like us to set it up for you, or need an announcement added to our weekly or monthly news, contact Jessie at

publications@goodshepherdoswego.org

For joys, concerns, needs, questions, appointments, or just a chat with the Pastor, call him on his direct church cell phone

630-608-7843 or email him at pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org

See our website for a contact list of all church committee leaders.

Please note our NEW Sunday worship times: 8:30am and 10am.

Online Giving



We'd like to introduce our new Online Giving platform at Zeffy.com which is a 100% free service for not-for-profit organizations like Good Shepherd.

Please consider joining at the link provided, or switching your current online giving as soon as possible:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/donate-to-support-church-of-the-good-shepherd-umc>

Zeffy will save Good Shepherd a few thousand dollars per year in fee... monies we can allocate to our many ministries and expenses!

Note: Zeffy asks for donations for their service to us, but this is absolutely optional. They will offer a suggested donation to them when you are setting up your contribution, but just scroll down to choose none, if you opt not too.

Thank you in advance for choosing Zeffy/Church of the Good Shepherd UMC online giving and do not hesitate in contacting us if you have any questions, or need assistance!

Diane/ Good Shepherd Finance Committee



Please mark your calendars for our annual Church Conference with District Superintendent Wendy Hardin Hermann. Tues. Nov. 4th. 6:30 for SPRC and 7 pm for the CC

The Art of Advent

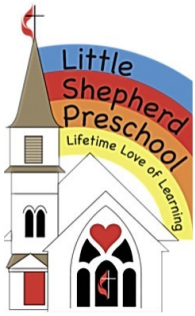
Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm. Good Shepherd has been invited to a special presentation, "The Art of Advent", by Christian art historian Rev. Daniel Cochran, which will take place at the Wellspring UMC, 1217 Wolf Rd in Oswego. Rev. Cochran regularly leads groups to Italy to see and study Christian works of art. Please let Pastor Steve know if you are Interested. Open to the general public at no cost.



Sundays 10am

You can easily register your child or share for others!





September brought us lot of new friends and experiences. We're learning class routings and getting to know each other a little better.

Our Ice Cream Social was a wonderful chance for us to meet other families while enjoying the beautiful weather.

October promises to be full of fall fun, including a trip to the pumpkin patch!

Thank you so much to our church family for all of the donations. Every little bit helps.



We are having our first fundraiser of the year with our Little Caesars Pizza Fundraiser. There will be an order form in the Gathering Room, orders are due by October 12. To order online: <http://www.pizzakit.com>,

go to products, click on shop, select ship order to the group, our fundraiser ID# is 47628. Pizza orders will be delivered to the church the week of October 27. In the past, this has been a great fundraiser for us as a way to update our classroom materials. Thank you for considering a purchase.

Blessings,

Amanda Sidhu



Blessing of the Backpacks was a great day for our Sunday School Program to receive Backpack Blessings! Wishing all of our Sunday School students a safe and successful year!

Sunday, October 5th will be the presentation of the bibles during the 10am service.



The October book selection is The Corn Stalker by K.C. Rhoads. We will meet at Nancy Patush's house on Tuesday October 14 at 1:00pm.

If you enjoy reading, please join us!



FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH is the 2nd Sunday of the month. Our next brunch will be October 12th 9:15-11am.



United
Women
in Faith

Food Collection for Kendall County Community Food Pantry during October

Welcome Fall! God's presence is undeniable in this season. We will soon see vivid fall colors as the leaves turn from green to yellow, orange, gold, and brown. Days will grow shorter and the air will be cool and crisp. The saying "frost on the pumpkin" comes from the 1890 poem "When the Frost is on the Punkin" by James Whitcomb Riley, and it refers to a chilly autumn day when the first frost appears on the ground and pumpkins, signaling the harvest is complete and cold weather is approaching.

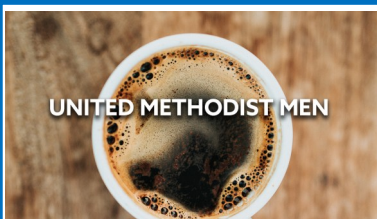
Our fall unit meeting of United Women in Faith was held on September 4th in Fellowship Hall. We enjoyed delicious salads and desserts, that were provided by our ladies. A meeting followed. Gail Ford discussed an article on corporal punishment in schools which still exists in 20 states. Janet McCarty gave information on Assembly 2026 which happens only every 4 years. It will be in Indianapolis, Indiana May of 2026. Registration begins Sept 2, 2025.

Donations for KKCFP will be ongoing the month of October. A bin will be placed in the gathering room, along with a list of their most urgent needs.

UWFaith Sunday is scheduled for both services October 19th. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kay Bonebrake

UWF President



- Grab a coffee and join the UMM in person or online Fridays at 7am!
- The United Methodist Men are holding their coffee hour in person. For those who wish to attend via zoom, there will be an internet connection in the gathering room. Join us to find out what is happening with U.M.M. and the church.
- We are always looking for people interested in the UMM stocking of the Kendall Co. Food Pantry on Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm.

Please contact the church office at 630-554-3269 or office@goodshepherdoswego.org with any questions.



Good Shepherd Men's Luncheon - Wednesday, October 15th at Noon

The United Methodist Men will be having their monthly Men's Luncheon at Paradise Pancake House, 400 E. South St., Plano on Wednesday, October 15th at noon. Please join us for fellowship and a fine meal. Craig Mc Gregor 630-346-2239

Nursery Update



Three scouts from Girl Scout Troop 2053 have been hard at work over the summer refreshing and updating the nursery. After a fresh coat of paint and a thorough carpet cleaning, the girls set to cleaning, organizing and decorating. New cordless blinds were installed along with a new tv and dvd player. They reused some wall hanging and also created some new ones.

Another noted change is that the existing door has been made into a dutch style door to allow for easier communication while having a little more security. As part of this project the girls also worked on making sustainable resources for new nursery attendance and families wanting to use the child care. Additional nursery attendants are needed to help fill the gap in the church's desire to welcome young families. To learn more and to sign up to volunteer please check out the [childcare page](#) on the website.



Child Care after Sunday School

If you would like your child who is age 8 or younger to go to the nursery after Sunday school, please let your Sunday school teacher(s) know. A [nursery registration](#) will need to be on file with the nursery.

Nursery Attendant Sign Up

Help build our nursery back to fully operational by signing up at <https://www.goodshepherdoswego.org/childcare> to volunteer. Please be sure to check out the new policies so you are familiar with what to expect. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Tracy Johnson, tdlang989@gmail.com.



Thankyou for my prayer blanket Pastor Steve brought to me. It is deeply appreciated.

Robert Constantine

*Thank you for the beautiful bouquet in honor of our 75th wedding anniversary
~Bob and Marilyn Constantine*



“The purpose of our Missions Team is, first and foremost, to serve others. We intend to fulfill our mission by connecting our congregation to the many ways the Church of the Good Shepherd can, and already is, serving others at the local, national, and global levels.”

Hesed House –

Missions served a chili dinner to approximately 30 guests at the Hesed House Family Shelter on Saturday, September 20. In addition to chili, guests enjoyed salad, cornbread, Texas cake, cookies, and lemonade. This dinner was generously provided by Craig and Melody Watson, Pat Rogerson, Shar Momich, and Sara and Steve Poniatowski. Thanks for preparing a wonderful meal! Thank you also to Roland Saka and Steve and Sara Poniatowski for serving the meal. We will serve again on Saturday, November 15. Please be on the lookout for additional details.



Blanket Sunday – Sunday, October 5



A special offering will be taken to support Blanket Sunday. A display promoting Blanket Sunday is in the Gathering Room. For over 75 years, Church World Service has been helping people of faith bring God's hope and healing to those in need in the U.S. and around the world. When challenging times arise, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That is why the CWS Blankets program was created – to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Special offering envelopes for this Mission are located in the Gathering Room. You may also use the usual offering envelopes by writing Blanket Sunday on the envelope.



SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) – Our on-site mission event is coming to Good Shepherd on Sunday, October 19, when we assemble 100 Personal Dignity Kits after both church services. Please add this to your calendar to help for an hour. This mission event connects our congregation and deepens discipleship. Hosting our on-site event is just like going on a mission trip without the travel. Together, we will be a bright light of hope and bring some joy to all of our lives by serving together.

*****The Mission Team is looking for individuals who would like to help with the set up of the event as well as assist with the overseeing of the assembling of the kits. Set up is planned for Saturday, October 19 with kit assembly on Sunday. We will provide in-service individuals for the easy tasks. Please consider this as we need at least 7 people to oversee the assembly in the morning and afternoon. Please contact Melody Watson at 630.661.8891 or mwatson_308@yahoo.com if you can help the Mission Team with set up and/or overseeing the event.

September 18, 2025

Church of the Good Shepherd
5 W Washington St PO Box 605
Oswego, IL 60543-0605

Thank you!

Dear Friends of RefugeeOne,

We're deeply grateful for your gift of \$500.00 advance special given through the Northern Illinois Conference.

RefugeeOne continues to serve hundreds of newcomers who arrived before the current federal resettlement program suspension, as well as dozens of new walk-in clients, many of whom are Afghan allies. Your generosity ensures refugees in Chicago have the support they need to learn English, find jobs, recover from trauma, succeed in school, build community, and so much more.

We expect continued challenges under the current presidential administration. But one thing we know—with the support of community members like you, we're committed to fighting for the doors of welcome to remain open.

Our nation has a longstanding tradition of welcoming those in need of a safe place to call home and we are proud to be part of it. Refugees and immigrants bring enormous personal value, as well as economic and sociocultural benefits to our communities. We are honored to call newcomers our neighbors, colleagues, and friends.

Thank you for standing with newcomers at this moment. Your support is of such importance.

Sincerely,

Jean Bosma Goodwin

Jean Bosma Goodwin
Assistant Director of Development



The Salvation Army

Founded in 1865 by William Booth

DOING THE MOST GOODSM

Aurora Corps

Lyndon Buckingham
General

Evie Diaz
Territorial Commander

Jonathan Rich
Lt. Colonel
Divisional Commander

Joaquin & Gabriela Rangel
Majors
Corps Officers and Pastors

September 09, 2025

Dear The Church Of The Good Shepherd United Methodist

It is a blessing to receive generous gifts from dear friends like you who selflessly support our ministry. Your gift will help us continue touching the lives of many people in the greater Aurora community.

Each day we serve desperate individuals and families who come seeking assistance from The Salvation Army. Many are hard- working people who have lost their jobs while others are finding it difficult "to make ends meet" for their families.

The Salvation Army through its food pantry, utility, prescription and rental assistance strives to ease the burden of these struggling families. **However, we cannot do it alone!** That is why your generous donation is so important and so very much appreciated. Your partnership allows us to reach out to so many. **Thank you for you continue support and prayers...**

Thank you for your gift of \$120.00 Check# 15244 from 08/31/2025.

2 Corinthians 9:11 NIV

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Rangel
Corps Officer

*Thank you so much,
Many blessings!*

It is fully understood your generous gift is not in exchange for any services rendered or goods received; it is given as a charitable donation to carry on the ministry to the needy in the usual, efficient and effective manner for which The Salvation Army is known.



Church of The Good Shepherd
TRUNK OR TREAT
AND HAUNTED HALLWAY



SATURDAY

October 25th

5 West Washington
St, Oswego Il

10 am - 2 pm

Food, Fun and Treats!



Scan Code to
Register your Trunk



October Birthdays

10/1	Nancy Schroeder
10/2	Kendal Carty
10/2	Peyton Elliott
10/2	Celeste Kobulnicky
10/2	Judy Loch
10/5	Kathy Kazda
10/8	Brad Giffin
10/8	Grace Ingram
10/9	Aiden Poniatowski
10/10	Ed Duntelman
10/10	Will Robinson
10/11	Don Byrd
10/11	Linda Kolloff
10/11	Nancy Lane
10/11	Diane Smith
10/12	Sherrilyn Camper
10/13	Rich Gilloffo
10/14	Judy Johnsen
10/15	Carolyn Besch
10/15	Bob Constantine
10/16	Tom Hartnett
10/18	Jennifer Millen
10/19	Alex Mendez
10/20	Pat Lundy
10/21	Leanne Schilling
10/22	Ron Mallec
10/24	Chuck Bentley Jr
10/24	Melanie Bonham
10/25	Diane Clodi
10/25	Jessie Livingston
10/26	Glenda Tifrea
10/27	Tim Roberts
10/29	Pat Harmon
10/29	Jacob Perez
10/29	Jordan Perez
10/30	Becca Johnson
10/31	Judy Franz



www.goodshepherdoswego.org

The Church of the Good Shepherd



United Methodist
5 W. Washington St.
PO Box 695
Oswego, IL 60543

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Everyone is Welcome!

- Wheelchair Accessible building
- 8:30 AM traditional and 10:00 AM contemporary services.
- Online Worship service combines the best of our traditional and contemporary worship.
- Weddings dates available for our beautiful 1890's sanctuary and downstairs reception area. 630-554-3269.
- We practice open Communion, we honor the Evangelical tradition of using grape juice and bread and gluten-free
- Space available for weddings, parties, events and meetings. Alcohol not permitted.



Pastor: Pastor Steve Good

pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org

Youth Director: Rachel Conover: jessicarc31@gmail.com

Executive Assistants: Diane Baum and
Jessie Livingston

Church Office Hours: Tues– Friday by appointment

Newsletter Editor:
publications@goodshepherdoswego.org

Office Email: office@goodshepherdoswego.org

Little Shepherd Preschool:
[littleshepherdps@sbcglobal.net](mailto:little shepherdps@sbcglobal.net)

Director – Amanda Sidhu Teacher: Jessica Exline

Teachers Aides: Vincenza Ferguson & Tracy Johnson

Choir Director: Jonathan Tatar

Custodian: Bonnie Kennedy

Organist & HandBell Choir Director: Cheryl Todd

Pianist: Sue Gilla

Reborn Praise Band: Jon Conover, Band Leader