



River Spirit

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

“The Good News”

At Church of the Good Shepherd, we join with all United Methodists to celebrate diversity among God’s people as a key theological truth, stemming from the biblical teaching that ALL people are made in God’s image. We remind ourselves of that value and truth in our baptismal and membership rituals when we confess Jesus as our Savior, *“who we promise to serve, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races.”* Indeed, our UM Social Principles state: *“We likewise urge governments, businesses, and civil society organizations to renounce statements, policies, and actions aimed at promoting exclusion, discrimination, and violence.”*

Enter the United States Marine Band. This patriotic and honorable band has literally been the house band for the White House since 1798. The “60 Minutes” TV show reports that the band had invited an intentionally diverse group of young people that include black, Hispanic, Indian, and Asian teenagers to participate in a memorable concert, mentored by and performed with the US Marine Band. The 30 youth had entered and won a contest created by the Marines. The teens of color came from all walks of life, their common ground being their love of music and their excellent proficiency with their instruments. The concert was all planned, the students and their Marine Band mentors ready, but they were suddenly forced to cancel due to an executive order from the White House that rescinded all diversity programs.

Enter the retired U.S. military veteran musicians. They filled the gap by volunteering to play with the teen contest winners and reinstate the canceled concert. Though the teens felt the sting of rejection from the executive order, their hearts were warmed by this creative solution from the retired vets.

Originally, the canceled concert would have been seen by hundreds of people. Because “60 Minutes” decided to air them on their CBS broadcast, the revamped concert was seen by millions. *(You can see the broadcast by copying this link—*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhwS06U1SnA>)

The image of God was beautifully seen in the diversity of those teenaged musicians.

In a harsh world of hatred and exclusion, this is a moment to celebrate.

Peace,

Pastor Steve



www.goodshepherdoswego.org

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From The Office:



Our Church office are Tuesday—Friday by appointment. Please call ahead when visiting the office. Diane and Jessie continue to check voicemail and email regularly. Please let us know of any needs, prayer requests or requests for a pastoral phone call.

If you would like to have a zoom meeting with your group and would like us to set it up for you email

Jessie at publications@goodshepherdoswego.org



Contacting Pastor Steve:

For our newer congregants and for others who may have forgotten, Pastor Steve's contact information is always listed monthly on each issue of the River Spirit, online on our weekly Sunday bulletin, and in our church photo directory. For your convenience, you can also put his info in your phone's Contact List. 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



Online giving is available and is appreciated. Please mail in your giving to P.O. Box 695 5 W. Washington St. Oswego IL 60543 or use our E giving for online giving

<https://giving.ncsservices.org/app/giving/goodshepherdoswego>

which can also be found on our website under the giving tab. ~ Thank you!



Registration is now OPEN for our

2025-2026 school year and our popular Summer Camps!



SUMMER MUSIC: People who are interested in performing special music during our summer services in June, July, and August for the 8:30 service? Please sign up in the Gathering Room or email the office and we can help get you signed up! You may contact Jonathan Tatar or Sue Gilla for assistance with music. jonathan.w.tatar@gmail.com



Save the Date for the Church Picnic.

Sunday August 17th at 12:30

at Prairie Point Park.



We hope to see you at the event on Saturday, June 7th. You can sign up to volunteer at the 6K on the sheets in the Gathering Room, and you can register to join our team and/or learn more by going to: <https://global6k.worldvision.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=register.start&ventID=1831&teamID=38044>

When people search for our team, it will be found under Church of the Good Shepherd, with the captain listed as Nicole Devine (Your receipt may list a different date but we are walking on June 7th)



Our presence in nearly 100 countries enables us to quickly provide immediate support in all types of disasters and humanitarian crises—and we are committed to long-term support, staying to help children, families, and communities recover and rebuild. In 2021 alone we responded to 72 disasters and humanitarian emergencies in 52 countries, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic in over 70 countries. 629.02

The Global 6K is great because you can do it anywhere! Walk, run, or roll 6 kilometers and be part of this global movement to change lives.

When you and thousands of others around the world walk, jog, or stroller-run your way to 6K on **June 7th, 2025**, you'll empower children in need with lasting clean water. Now more than ever, clean water is essential to protect vulnerable children and families. **Will you join us?**



– Did you know that our church library has two different locations: the area in the corner of the Gathering Room and also in Room 7 across from the office? The Gathering Room library basically contains fiction and nonfiction books whereas Room 7 generally has reference books. However, **all** books are allowed to be checked out. Here are some of the books available in Room 7:

- The Interpreter's Bible
- Bible Dictionaries
- Illustrated Bible Encyclopedia
- Bible Concordance
- Atlas of the Bible
- Bible Commentary
- William Barclay Daily Study Bible Series – a complete set of the New Testament books and some from the Old Testament

Room 7 also has some historical documents that can be looked at but not checked out including past newsletters (River Spirit and The Last Word) and past bulletins. Contact Carolyn Besch or Janet McCarty with any questions or suggestions regarding the library.



United
Women
in Faith

Happy Mothers Day



Our spring unit meeting of United Women in Faith was held in Fellowship Hall. We had a guest speaker from the Kendall County Community Food Pantry and we learned about their new Door Dash Program!

Our next Unit Meeting will be a salad supper on Thursday, September 4th. Unit meetings and Circle meetings take a break during the summer months. If you have not joined us or attended a meeting lately, please consider coming to our September meeting. We are a friendly group that desires to serve God and others. Also, delicious desserts are served.



The Fellowship Team provided a wonderful Easter Brunch in April with Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans and more! Thank you to all who participated. **Due to Mother's Day, our May brunch will be held on the 3rd Sunday, May 18th.** Join us in Fellowship Hall 9:15- 11am.



Our book club selection for this month is Orphan Train by Christina Kline. Diane Clodi will be leading the discussion on **Tuesday, May 13 at 1:00 p.m.** at Nancy Patush's house. Please join us!



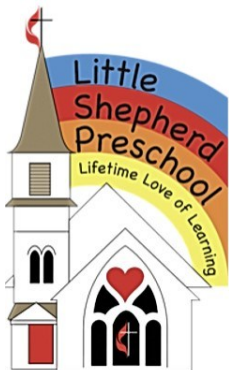
- Grab a coffee and join the UMM in person or online Fridays at 7am!
- The United Methodist Men are holding their coffee hour in person. For those who wish to attend via zoom, there will be an internet connection in the gathering room. Join us to find out what is happening with U.M.M. and the church.
- 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.



MEN'S LUNCH: The UMM Men's Luncheon at Yorkville Cafe (Formerly Silver Dollar), 102 Stage Coach Trail, Yorkville on Wednesday, May 21st at noon. Please join us for fellowship and a fine meal.

Craig McGregor 630-346-2239




Thank you all so much for your support at with the Butter Braid orders! These fundraisers help us keep our learning materials up to date.

Summer camp registration is open! We will be hosting 3 summer camps this year for ages 3-6.

In April, we hosted a Donuts with Grown Ups event.

Blessings,
Amanda Sidhu





Join Us!
Monday June 9th
through
Thursday June 12th

9:30 am -Noon

We welcome all kids aged 3 (and potty trained) through entering 5th grade to register.

A fee of \$10 per child due upon registration payable with cash or check. \$11 if paying online.






“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.”

The Salvation Army

A thank you was received from The Salvation Army for Good Shepherd’s donation of \$200.00. They appreciate our generosity and continued support of their services and mission with our monetary donations and prayers.

Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Good Shepherd received a heartfelt thank you from Midwest Mission Distribution Center for a recent gift of \$200.00. This gift, along with gifts from others, allows MMDC to reach upwards of 3 million people every year. Know that our generosity helps MMDC to help a country care for their people, teach new skills, and create futures for the coming generations is such a blessing. They are grateful for our belief in their work and our investment in their mission.



During the 185th Northern Illinois Annual Conference, Good Shepherd will be participating in **FILL the TRUCK**, Mission Challenge Collection Drive for Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Our Mission Team will provide a collection bin in the Gathering Room during May for donations. The donations will be taken to the Annual Conference to be “loaded on the truck”!

Midwest Mission currently has an urgent need for the following: **Adult Bicycles** as well as

Home Care Kits

- Liquid Household Cleaner, 54 - 80 oz. (no spray bottles)
- Liquid Dish Soap, 42 - 64 oz.
- Liquid Laundry Detergent, 100-150 oz.

- Scrub Brushes
- 5 Gallon Round Buckets with Resealable Lid

Personal Dignity Kits

- Hand towels (no kitchen towels)
- Washcloths (no dish towels)
- Toothbrushes (no multipacks)
- Bars of soap, 3 – 4 oz.
- Shampoo bottles 12 – 19 oz
- Deodorant 2 – 3 oz (stick, roll on or pump)

- Bottles of lotion 8 – 10 oz
- Gallon resealable plastic bags

If you prefer to make a financial contribution

Send a check or bring it to AC (Annual Conference) written to the Northern Illinois Conference with the Advance #50000150 in the memo section of the check. Give to Midwest Mission #50000150 through the online apportionment process.



Dear Pastor Steve and the congregation of Good Shepherd UMC

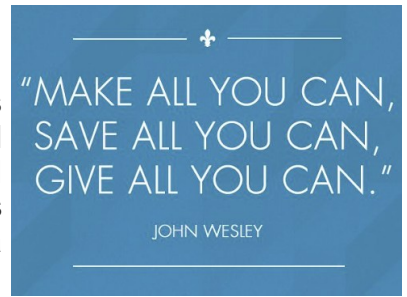
Such deep gratitude for your connectional support through the 100% apportionment payment in 2024! We are so grateful for your faith, your generosity, and your commitment. Your witness to God's abundance helps share the good news of Jesus Christ, as we share across Northern Illinois Conference and the greater United Methodist Church! Thankyou, too, for your over and above gift to the Repair the Harm fund.

*In Christ,
Wendy*

Rev. Wendy Hardin Hermann
Prairie Central District Superintendent

Dear Steve,

It is with immense joy and deep gratitude that I share the exciting news with you: the generous congregation of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church has been honored with the 2024 John Wesley Award for Highest Per Member Giving to Missions. This recognition celebrates the faithful and tireless commitment of Good Shepherd UMC to serve a world in need, not just in words, but in meaningful action.



We give thanks to the Lord for the profound impact Good Shepherd UMC continues to have in its mission, and we praise God for the hearts and hands that work to spread His love.

The award will be presented at the Mission Links Luncheon during our Annual Conference on Tuesday, June 10th.

May the ministry of God's Spirit at Good Shepherd UMC continue to transform lives, and may their example inspire us all to serve with such passion and purpose.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Shirley Pulgar Hughes
Secretary of Global Ministries
Northern Illinois Conference



Our Sunday School Students put on a fantastic Easter play and then had an egg hunt before classes began! Come join us in the fun! Sunday School is at 10 am every Sunday! Thanks to Rachel Conover for arranging not only the play but the set! They also did a great job with the Palm Procession during the 10am service on Palm Sunday.



Check out our Children's Library located in Sunday School Room 5. A HUGE thank you to Ruth Frey for all her hard work creating this wonderful space!





Congratulations to Our 2025 Good Shepherd Graduates!

Morgan Elliott will graduate from Oswego East High School
Matthew Hartness will graduate from Oswego East High School
Sebby Poniatowski will graduate from Oswego High School

We wish all of you the best in your future plans!

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

April-May 2025

Church of The Good Shepherd, Oswego IL



Cooking Classes

We will offer family cooking classes this spring/summer. Join us the last Sunday of each Month from noon-2pm for a fun culinary adventure. This past month the youth made pizza from scratch and learned about yeast dough fermentation. They even had time for Legos and tree climbing while waiting for their dough to rise :)



The Church of The Good Shepherd Summer VBS
Monday, June 9th - Thursday, June 12th

We welcome all kids aged 3 (and potty trained) through entering 5th grade to register.

A fee of \$10 per child due upon registration payable with cash or check. \$11 if paying online.



Good Shepherd VBS 2025-Discovery on Adventure Island
Sign up today for this event! You can register your kids or sign up to volunteer. Thursday Field Day location is still to be determined!
vbspro.events



3W. Washington St.
PO Box 095
Oswego, IL 60543

Join Us For VBS
June 9th-12th

Use the Link or QR
Code to register
your child or to
volunteer to help
out!



Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist
5 W. Washington Street/PO Box 695 Oswego, IL 60543
www.goodshepherdoswego.org
(630) 554-3269
office@goodshepherdoswego.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

April 2025

With the 1st quarter of 2025 behind us, here is an update on the church finances.

In looking at regular General Fund contributions so far this year, we find that January and February were about 1% below last year. Although March contributions this year were marginally above January and February, they were more than 25% below last March, which was an exceptionally good month. This results in year-to-date contributions to the General Fund standing about 12% behind the same time last year. After a great finish in 2024, it is understandable and yet disappointing to fall behind! With this shortfall in General Fund income, we ended March with some unpaid obligations as shown below. This is a position that we can't stay in for very long. We pray that the trend will show an upswing very soon and continue in an upward direction as the year progresses. This will allow us to get current and then stay current on all regular bills and our monthly apportionment obligation.

From an expense standpoint, our total normal operating and administrative costs are currently about 1% above last year. This is substantially less than the 4.5% increase that the operating budget expected for these costs. The conference lowered our apportionment requirement by about ¼ of 1% this year. One significant savings this year is the trustees negotiating a one (1) month premium discount on the property insurance renewal in exchange for prepayment. This amounts to a reduction of over 8% in this major expense. Even with our costs being under great control, the current significant shortfall in General Fund contributions left us with insufficient General Fund cash to pay some of our regular monthly bills at the end of March. In early April, the Finance Committee met and, after discussion, decided to utilize some additional money from the 2024 excess to get everything paid with the exception of March apportionment. With this action, we have now utilized over one half of the operating fund excess from 2024 to keep up to date with our current bills and we're still one month behind on our apportionment obligation. Our outstanding staff, along with all church committees, continue to be very cost conscious in everything they do. This gives us great assurance that we will be able to stay well within our budgeted costs throughout the year.

We continue to see new faces at our weekly services and at other church activities and have recently welcomed several new members. Hopefully, as the year progresses and various activities draw more interest, more people from the community that are seeking to build a relationship with the Lord will also be drawn to the church and contributions will grow from there.

If you need to receive an updated contribution statement to see your progress in supporting the church, just contact the office and they will get it to you. The contributions that you make in person, through the mail, and through e-giving are needed and very much appreciated. Please prayerfully consider continuing, or even increasing them as your personal finances allow. With everyone's help, your Church will soon be up to date with all its expenses and stay up to date. We will be able to continue to retain our valuable staff and continue to bring the Lord's message to everyone.

Yours in Service to the Lord,

Ed Bradley, Finance Committee Chairman

Welcome New Members!

On April 13th, we welcomed five brothers and sisters into the membership of Church of the Good Shepherd. Learn about them and do what you can to welcome them into our fellowship!

Rob and Phyllis Wood first met in Fort Meyers, Florida and our thrilled to be part of our Good Shepherd community. Rob enjoys collecting rocks and admiring flowers. Phyllis, who once lived in Nashville, enjoys being creative with décor. She comes out of the Baptist faith tradition. They live at 35 Beau Meade Rd., Oswego 239-246-4482



Elizabeth Adeofe is a retired RN who has been a United Methodist since her school days at a Methodist Mission High School and church in her homeland of Nigeria. Elizabeth enjoys reading, music, and travel. She lives with her husband, Leke, at 101 Fox Chase Dr in Oswego. 630-850-0461

Jason and Jenna Seabold bring their two children to Sunday School and enjoy worshipping with us. Their son Clark is 10 years old in 4th Grade and their daughter Cora is 8 years old in 2nd grade. Jason is a chemist and Chief Product Designer, while Jenna works in college administration. He enjoys travel, hiking, science, and following baseball, especially the Cleveland Guardians. Jenna enjoys travel, reading, podcasts, and hiking. They transfer to us from First Presbyterian in Aurora. They live at 212 Fox Chase Dr. N in Oswego 419-308-9205





Easter Lily Dedications



IN MEMORY OF:

BY:

My Husband, Walt Bieritz

Our Parents

Ellen Butkus

Our Parents

Alvin & Anita Skyles

Everett & Bodie Blake, Al Klonowski

Ed Bregman and Elva Mendez

Bert Nease

Lydia Carpenter and Don Olson

My Parents: Bill & Dorothy White

Madison Williams and Nathan Williams

Our Parents, Daughter and Daughter-in-Law

Judy Bieritz

Ed & Carol Bradley

Alan Butkus and family

Robert & Pamela Dodson, Sr.

Dawn Skyles Johnson

Steve & Debbie Klonowski

The Mendez Family

Donna Nease and Family

Jan Olson

Pam Rhoads

Mom, Amanda Sidhu

Barb & Randy Wood

IN HONOR OF:

BY:

Family

Good Shepherd Church

My Grandsons, Chris & Matthew Prosser

Sue Gilla

Dave & Nancy Patush

Janet McCarty



May Birthdays

| | |
|------|----------------------|
| 5/2 | Nancy Logston |
| 5/2 | Ervin Tifrea |
| 5/3 | Linda Johnson |
| 5/4 | Diana Bonebrake |
| 5/4 | Natalie Vlna |
| 5/10 | Judy Burkhart |
| 5/10 | Tom Cross |
| 5/10 | Linda Hagan |
| 5/11 | Sebby Poniatowski |
| 5/11 | Jay Ragsdale |
| 5/12 | Brooklyn Taylor |
| 5/13 | Amy Nicholson |
| 5/17 | Gabriel Rodriguez |
| 5/20 | Owen Taylor |
| 5/21 | Scott Vlna |
| 5/24 | Bob Dodson |
| 5/24 | Deanna Steinke |
| 5/24 | Allison Taylor |
| 5/25 | Durwood Hafenrichter |
| 5/26 | Jason Seabold |
| 5/28 | Rebecca Saffold |
| 5/29 | Aaron Green |
| 5/29 | Matthew Hartness |
| 5/29 | Ralph Smith |
| 5/30 | Megan Arison |
| 5/30 | Joel Randazzo |



A Prayer of Remembrance:

God of ages past and hope to come,
we offer our gratitude for those who have gone before,
we offer our hope for those yet to come.
As we honor the past, help us dream of a future of love and peace.
Comfort us in our sorrow.
Strengthen us for the journey.
Guide us on the path of justice.
We remember with sadness those we have loved and lost.
Let us not glorify the conflicts and violence that tear our loved ones from us.
Let us, rather, give glory to God, who calls us to use our freedom peaceably.
O God, who is a God of all nations and peoples, help us to remember:
Help us to remember the sacrifices bravely made in which one has given life for another and for all...
Help us to remember those that stand in the breach where there is trouble and in which conflict threatens to undo your good creation...
Help us to remember that we look for the day when every sword will be replaced by a plow, that all may be fed and live in your peace...
And in our remembrance, help us live as your people, that others may see and remember your wisdom and truth living in us.
Forgive us every sin that makes for division and for war, and bring us all into your kingdom on earth as in heaven.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



www.goodshepherdoswego.org

The Church of the Good Shepherd



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

10 a.m. Christian Education Hour

10 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Free childcare available during both services and Christian Education Hour

Pastor: Pastor Steve Good

pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org

Youth Director: Rachel Conover: jessicarc31@gmail.com

Executive Assistants: Diane Baum and Jessie Livingston

Church Office Hours: 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

Everyone is Welcome!

- Wheelchair Accessible building
- 8:30 AM traditional and 10:00 AM contemporary services.
- 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.

