



# River Spirit

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

## “The Good News”

All churches want younger people to be active participants in their faith community, but not all churches understand the unique characteristics of younger generations. According to Pew Research Center, the generations can be understood as the Silent Generation (born between 1928-1945), the Baby Boomers (born between 1946-1964), Generation X (born between 1965-1980), Millennials (born between 1981-1996), and Generation Z (born between 1997-2012). They say Gen Z is the most racially and ethnically diverse generation in US. history.

Earlier this year I took a workshop from a seminary in Indiana that focused specifically on Gen Z (current 11–26-year-olds), led by Allison McFarland. Though sociological generalizations don't describe each person in a group, it can open up some windows of understanding. Here's a sampling of what I learned:

Members of Gen Z want firm and clear beliefs. They have evolving views about sexuality. They spend an average of six hours/day online (but they recognize the negative effects) and spend less time with traditional media. Gen Zers are the first generation that has had devices since infancy, yet, it's interesting that Gen Zers prefer face to face communication (rather than texting). They spend more of their leisure time alone (as opposed to Millennials who tend to congregate). They view parents as protectors (not friends). They often tend to the needs of others, to the detriment of self (they need help setting healthy boundaries). Gen Zers are more likely than Millennials to question orthodoxy

and faith traditions. They are unlikely to regularly attend religious services.

YET, 81% of Gen Z youth and 74 % of Gen Z adults say they're curious about scripture.

We are so blessed to have Rachel Conover and her colleagues to intentionally minister to this age group in our church. But all of us can play a role in the way we support our ministry to youth and engage with the adults in that generation. If we see a Gen Z person at a church event, make a point of warmly welcoming that person and showing interest in them. They just might come back.

Peace,

Pastor Steve



**Online: by 6am Sundays**

**In Person: 8:15 and 10:30am**

Website, Facebook, Youtube

[www.goodshepherdoswego.org](http://www.goodshepherdoswego.org)

October 2023

## From The Office:

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Photo by Debbie Klonowski

Our Church office remains on limited hours. 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 call or visit.

We have our online worship service posted by 6:00am on Sunday mornings.

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

Jessie at [publications@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto:publications@goodshepherdoswego.org)

[www.goodshepherdoswego.org](http://www.goodshepherdoswego.org)

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THANK YOU: *Thank you Good Shepherd Congregation and Staff Parish Committee for recognizing me during the September 3rd worship services. It has been my honor to serve with so many of you these past twenty years and I am truly touched by the giant card, cake and flowers and so very blessed to know you all. ~ Diane*

THANK YOU: *Thank you to Bob Mead for sprucing up our Good Shepherd sign and outdoor trim & pillars with some fresh paint. Thanks for all you do!*

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## PRAIRIE CENTRAL FALL 2023 LAY ACADEMY

**Sat., Nov. 4th**

**8:30 am to 4 pm**

**Sat., Nov. 11th**

**8:30 am to 4 pm**



**Cost \$40**

**Include materials and lunch.**

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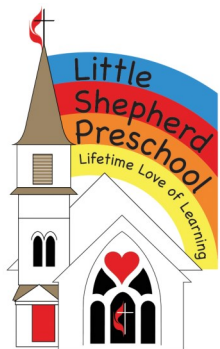
**Schaumburg: Our Redeemer's UMC** 1600 W. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg

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Class list and registration [here](#).

Other Lay Academy offerings:

- **Lake South:** Oct 7 & Oct 14, Dolton Faith: UMC
- **Prairie South:** Oct. 21 & 28, Mount Morris: Disciples UMC
- **Prairie North:** Oct. 28 & 29, Rockford: Beth Eden UMC



Our Little Shepherds spent the month of September getting to know one another, learning about our families, and sharing what makes each of us unique. We have fallen into a good school routine and had our first family event of the year, an Ice Cream Social! We enjoyed spending time together outside of school.

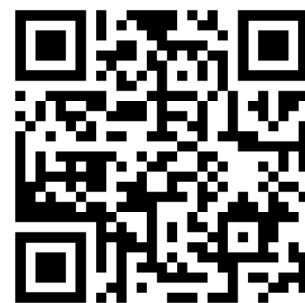
October brings us to our first field trip, Heap's Giant Pumpkin Farm! We look forward to learning the life cycle of pumpkins and riding on the tractor.

We will be having our Little Caesar's fundraiser this month as well. More information will be coming soon! Thank you all for your continued support of Little Shepherd Preschool.

Blessings,  
Amanda Sidhu



**You can easily register your  
child or share for others!**  
QR code or [dozygit@gmail.com](mailto:dozygit@gmail.com)



We celebrate with three of our grade school students from Sunday School who officially received an NIV Action Bible from Superintendent Ruth Frey and Church of the Good Shepherd during the 10:30 am worship on September 24th. The students are: Matthew Prosser, Kendal Carty, and Oliver Johan Green.

Don't forget to come and visit the Sunday School classrooms to see all the work the kids have been doing! The first week of every month is Bring a Friend day. Please mention our wonderful program to your friends and family.





United  
Women  
in Faith

## **Food Collection for Kendall County Community Food Pantry during October**

Our United Women in Faith are happy to be back together and as busy as ever! We had a wonderful Salad Supper in September and enjoyed the fellowship of old and new friends. We brought out our artistic side as we painted prayer rocks.

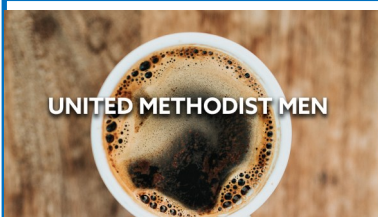
On October 8, the United Women in Faith will be hosting both services. We will have a guest speaker from the Kendall County Community Food Pantry joining us. He will share with us ways that we can help the community, as well as the resources available to those in need. I am very excited (and super nervous) about speaking in front of all of you, but I hope to see all of you there!

During the month of October, we will be collecting items for the Kendall County Community Food Pantry. A few of the high demand items are: soups, chilis/stews, chili/stew seasoning (dry mix), dried potatoes (scaloped, mashed, etc), rice side dish (boxes or pouches), mac & cheese, canned sloppy joe, baked beans, peanut butter, and jelly. Collection bins will be in the Gathering Room.

Our next Unit Meeting is Thursday, November 2 at 7pm. I look forward to seeing the ladies of the church there!

Blessings,  
Amanda Sidhu





- 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](mailto:office@goodshepherdoswego.org) with any questions.



### **Good Shepherd Men's Luncheon - Wednesday, October 18th at Noon**

The United Methodist Men will be having their monthly Men's Luncheon at Oswego Family Restaurant, 69 Main St., Oswego on Wednesday, October 18th at noon.

Please join us for fellowship and a fine meal. Craig Mc Gregor  
630-346-2239





**Missions served a pasta dinner at the Hesed House Family Shelter on Monday, August 21.** THANK YOU to Becca Johnson, Janet McCarty, Craig McGregor, and Steve Poniatowski for joining me to serve the meal, and additional thanks to Becca, Janet, and Mary Ann Stees for contributing items to the meal. The food was a hit with the 40+ guests who were served.



**We are serving another meal on Wednesday, October 11 at 5:30pm.** We will be serving a chili supper for about 45 people, and are looking for donations of the following items:

- Chili
- Garden salad
- Bottle of ranch and/or Italian dressing
- Corn bread
- Cookies (4 dozen; any varieties)
- Country Time (or similar) powdered lemonade drink mix

Please contact Sara at [poniatowski@att.net](mailto:poniatowski@att.net) if you can help with any of these items. Thank you

**Sunday, October 22 is Blanket Sunday!** We will be holding a special collection that day to support the Church World Service (CWS) Blanket program. To learn more about the program and watch a brief video about the great work supported by your contributions, visit <https://cwsblankets.org/>.



**Update on the Special Collection for Maui:**

Thank you to all who have contributed to the collection to provide UMCOR with funds to support relief efforts in Maui.

The Church of the Good Shepherd has collected **over \$1,100** through mid-September!



**JOYFUL NOISE HANDBELLS** practices on **Mondays at 6:30** in the sanctuary. New people are always welcome. You do not have to be able to read music or carry a tune to join. We practice weekly and play for church services, usually on the third Sunday of the month. Please consider joining us and having lots of fun learning to play a new instrument. You may call Cheryl Todd at 630-554-2102 if you have any questions.





**Trunk or Treat**– October 21st 12-3pm. 12-1pm will be for our church and preschool family and we will open to the public from 1-3pm. The youth will run the haunted hallway for trunk or treat this year. The youth have pointed out that it engages many age groups in the community and can attract youth to our programs. Youth will provide games, bozo buckets, games and crafts.

Thank you to the Fellowship team for helping supply extra candy for the trunks.

Volunteers are needed! If you would like to have a trunk or help plan or run an activity you can follow the QR code on the flyer or contact Rachel Conover or the office.

**The youth are heading to Six Flags on Oct. 1st for some much earned fun and fellowship.**

**Church of The Good Shepherd**

# TRUNK OR TREAT!

Join us for an afternoon of treats, games, cake walk and our **Haunted Hallway!!**

**OCT. 21 1PM-3PM**

Use Code to volunteer

Saturday, October 21st  
1pm - 3pm  
5 West Washington Street,  
Oswego  
Free Entry



**Oct. 8th**

**OktoberFest Menu**

9:30am to 11am

- Kielbasa Sausages with Sauerkraut
- Soft Pretzel Bites
- Egg Casserole with Hashbrowns
- Apple Cider Donut Cake
- Fresh Fruit
- Pumpkin Bars
- Assorted Pastries
- Apple Cider and Root Beer

## October Birthdays

10/1	Louis Randazzo
10/1	Nancy Schroeder
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 Dunteman
10/10	Will Robinson
10/11	Linda Kolloff
10/11	Nancy Lane
10/11	Diane Smith
10/12	Sherrilyn Camper
10/14	Judy Johnson
10/13	Rich Gilloffo
10/15	Carolyn Besch
10/15	Bob Constantine
10/18	Jennifer Gilloffo
10/19	Carrie Dieter
10/20	Pat Lundy
10/21	Jason Kubelka
10/21	LeAnn Schilling
10/22	Ron Mallec
10/24	C. Gregory Bentley Jr
10/24	Melanie Bonham
10/25	Diane Clodi
10/25	Jessie Livingston
10/26	Glenda Tifrea
10/27	Tim Roberts
10/29	Preston McElhaney
10/29	Pat Harmon
10/29	Jacob Perez
10/29	Jordan Perez
10/30	Becca Johnson
10/31	Judy Franz





[www.goodshepherdoswego.org](http://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
- 8:15 AM traditional and 10:30 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](mailto:pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org)

Youth Director: Rachel Conover: [jessicarc31@gmail.com](mailto:jessicarc31@gmail.com)

Executive Assistants: Diane Baum and  
Jessie Livingston

Church Office Hours: by appointment

Newsletter Editor:  
[publications@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto:publications@goodshepherdoswego.org)

Office Email: [office@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto: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