



River Spirit

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

JULY 2026

“The Good News”

It really happened this way: On a recent Saturday I was looking out my window, listening to the chorus of birds in my yard while thinking “I love summer!”. It’s true, I thought, summer is my favorite time of year. It’s good for lounging in my hammock, grilling out, running with friends, listening to the Cubs game on the radio, tending my garden, going to the Farmer’s Market, paddling my kayak, eating meals in the backyard, taking swings in the batting cage, and talking to the neighbors walking their dogs.

Just then, interrupting my summer daydream, I heard the clear sound of a bell. Not a recording of a bell, a real one operated by hand. That could only mean one thing: The Ice Cream Truck! This was even better than my daydream. I hurriedly grabbed a few dollars and waved down the slowly cruising vehicle.



Photograph by Heidi Geldhauser

I had a frozen treat on my mind, but that quickly took a back seat to the couple who drove the truck. John and Tracy shook my hand and said they were glad to see me again (repeat customer).

Twenty six years in business in the same truck, they proudly told me. I asked about the bin of dog biscuits they kept up front– dogs are sometimes afraid of their bell, they said, but the treats break down that barrier quickly. They showed me a photo of their own dogs who were like their own children. The 2-dollar transaction for a fudgsicle was almost an afterthought. Then we wished each other well and off they went to give

summer memories to someone else.

It was a reminder to me how much more important relationships are than transactions. Electronic transactions are clean but sterile. The transaction is important, but when a person is involved, its good to engage with that one as a real person who has ups and downs just like you. Treat them with respect, listen to the sound of their voice, look them in the eye, bless them with a kind word and a thank you. As we humanize the other, our own humanity will come alive as well.

Thank God for loved ones and friends but thank God for the kindness of strangers too.



Join Us for Worship
Online: by 6am Sundays
In Person: 8:30 and 10:00am

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

From The Office:



Our Church office are Tuesday—Friday by appointment. Please call or email 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.

office@goodshepherdoswego.org

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



GIVING: Zeffy.com which is a 100% free service for not-for-profit organizations like Good Shepherd. (You do NOT need to leave a tip- it is optional.

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



The Endowment Fund Committee is happy to announce the 2025-2026 Grant Program. \$4,928.76 are available for special needs and committee ministries. \$2,730.58 are available for capital improvement care, i.e., interior, or exterior improvements, or additions to, or construction of physical facilities. Grant applications are available in the office and via email thru July 1st. **Applications will be due by July 15th, 2026** and the committee will announce the grant recipients shortly thereafter.



BOOK CLUB: Watch for upcoming book title and a meeting date for July.





United
Women
in Faith

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SCHOOL SUPPLY SALES!

UWFaith will be collecting school supplies for the Kendall County Community Food Pantry.
(More information to come.)

Janet McCarty attended the UWFaith Assembly 2026: “Dream It! Believe It! Do It!,” at the Indianapolis Convention Center from May 15-17. This is her report.



This was my third Assembly since moving up here in 2014 and as always, the singing moved me once again – 3,000 ladies in one place with a Praise Band leading (four ladies and one man). The Assembly ended by singing, *Here I Am, Lord*, my theme song. The Assembly was divided into two daily general sessions followed by workshops and town halls all led by powerful women leaders. Our UWFaith CEO Sally Vonner, challenged us to meet people where they are and be aware of situations that affect those who are poor or marginalized. Andrea James, who led the workshop, Ending the Incarceration of Women & Girls, actually started her work when she was in prison. Rev. Dr. Trip Lowery from General Board of Higher Education led the workshop, Everyone Belongs. Everyone Benefits. His presentation was very informative and gave us helpful ideas on how to work with others on church committees. In a moving ceremony, 24 new deaconess/home missionaries were consecrated bringing back memories of my consecration back in 1998. Sunday worship ended with communion by intinction. Here are a few quotes from different speakers that challenged me or really made me stop and think:

- ◆ We're the most incarcerated country in the world.
- ◆ Jesus cared about everyday people.
- ◆ Listen to others, **really listen**.
- ◆ Racism is alive and well in the church today.
- ◆ Faith is a shield to protect, not a sword to strike.
- ◆ There is not a single person in this room that can do what you can.
- ◆ Jesus asked us to be followers, not admirers.



- 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.



The United Methodist Men will be having a Special Men's Luncheon at Taco Dale Cantina at 123 W Washington St., Oswego on Wednesday, July 15th at noon. It is our way to show our appreciation for Pastor Steve Good's years of service at Oswego Good Shepherd UMC. Join us for this day to honor him and enjoy the fellowship and a fine meal. All men are invited. Please RSVP to Craig Mc Gregor at craigscottmcgregor@gmail.com or call 630-346-2239 so we can get a correct count.



Youth Group Summer

We meet twice a week on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Sunday Meeting at 11:30 am -12:30 pm

This is our family-friendly day and different age groups are welcome to attend and join in a relaxed and fun meeting with games and projects. This is meant as a way for young people to build friendships and connections in a safe and encouraging environment.

Wednesdays Meeting at 5:30 -6:30 pm our classes have been very interesting, and our class size is growing. This is our Bible Study focused group for our youth that are middle school, high school or college aged. Parents are welcome to attend and join us as we look to scripture to help us navigate our modern world.



“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.”



African American Heritage Center – Through the special offering on May 24, for the African American Methodist Heritage Center, we supported the mission with \$292. Thank you to Aidan Poniatowski for his presentation to the congregation about the African American Heritage Center. The African American Methodist Heritage Center (AAMHC) was organized and incorporated in 2001. The African American Methodist Heritage Center provides research, preserves artifacts and other memorabilia, and protects and promotes the stories of African American people in Methodism.



Bishop's Appeal – Through the generosity of our congregation, Good Shepherd collected \$2340 for the 2026 Bishop's Appeal, **Education for Central Conferences**, which supports two key initiatives: a high school in Tanzania led by NIC missionary Christina Kim, and broader theological education efforts identified by the Council of Bishops.

Gently Used Bibles – In support of an ongoing mission at Midwest Mission Distribution Center, we continue to collect gently used Bibles. If you are willing to donate a Bible you no longer use, you will be placing God's Word directly into the hands of someone who deeply needs it. A designated collection bin is in the Gathering Room. Pastor Steve delivered the ones already donated to Midwest Missions at the annual conference.

Vacation Bible School

Thanks to all of our VBS volunteers, we had a great week! Our flock of 35 VBS students had a wonderful time and so did our Youth! It was so great to see so many happy young faces in the church. We hosted the 4 day program downstairs and it worked out really well even with needing to move games inside for 1 day.



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 & 10:00 AM IN PERSON WORSHIP
ONLINE WORSHIP AVAILABLE ANYTIME

office@goodshepherdoswego.org

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.



Pastor: Pastor Steve Good Phone #: 630-608-7843
pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org

Youth Director: Rachel Conover: jessicarc31@gmail.com

Executive Assistants: Diane Baum and Jessie Livingston

Church Office Hours: Tues, Thursday & Fri 10am-3pm 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: Jennifer 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