



River Spirit

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

“The Good News”

March 2023

A few weeks ago I spent a few days in Chicago at the National Leadership Gathering with several hundred World Vision volunteers from all over the United States. World Vision is a Christian organization who, among other things, is the world's largest provider of clean water outside of government entities.

What we had in common is our desire to serve Christ by serving the most vulnerable – which are the children and women who daily walk an average of 6 Kilometers (3.7 miles) to find a water source (usually dirty or disease-laden water) so they can carry a heavy bucket-full back to their family for drinking, cooking, washing, and bathing.

At break time, I would get a drink out of a water fountain and wash my hands at a sink, without even thinking if the water was clean, or if there was enough of it. I started to become more thankful for the safety of my water, for it's plentiful supply, and for the fact that I only need to walk a few feet rather than miles to get it. I started wondering, if I didn't have running water, how far would I have to walk to find a clean, reliable source of water? And how much could I really carry in one trip?

I realized that my efforts to transform the lives of others is what creates transformation in me. Jesus knew this when he asked his disciples “Do you love me?” And when their answer was “Yes”, he told them “Feed my sheep”. Jesus knew that in our giving and our receiving we are the ones who are the most transformed.

Church of the Good Shepherd is hosting a World Vision Global 6K walk/run in Oswego on Saturday morning, May 20th starting at Hudson Crossing Park downtown by the Fox River.

We would love to have you and your family/friends be part of this transforming experience for yourself and for children and women in need of clean, accessible, life-transforming water. It will be a fun morning to connect with others and enjoy the beauty of nature. It will be a memorable event where we can practice our faith by caring for those who can't care for us. It will be empowering for us knowing that, with our efforts to bring clean water, it creates an environment that also generates health, jobs, security, and hope for the future.

Water stations and portable toilets will be on the route as we go to Violet Patch Park and back. Our Reborn praise band will provide music before and after the walk/run. <https://global6k.worldvision.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=35215>

to register for the event. Your \$50 registration fee will give one child permanent access to clean water (\$25 registration for those age 18 and under). If you are not able to join us, you can still click the link to donate toward one of the walkers/runners.

Along with my co-captain Nicole Devine and our church Missions Committee, we thank you for helping Good Shepherd connect to the larger community with this positive, life-giving effort that can serve to transform our own lives as well.

Peace,

Pastor Steve



From The Office:



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 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

Online Giving

*Make a Secure Donation
Schedule Recurring Gifts*

GIVING: Online giving is available and is appreciated as we will still have our regular operating costs and bills. 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 2023-2024 school year!**

Butter braids are on sale Now!

<https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/SelectProducts/1daa14f4-2678-4365-9cb4-555a5edf2443/2392357>

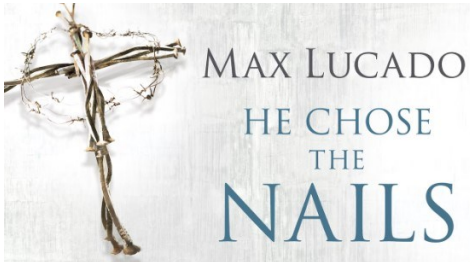


The handbell choir is in need of a couple of substitutes, male or female. If you haven't time to join as a full member, consider becoming a sub for when a current member is absent. Talk to Cheryl or any member if you are interested and can attend Monday night practice with little notice and/or play for services. It would be helpful if you can read music, but training is readily available. Cheryl Todd, Director (630-554-2102)



If anyone would like to be added to the List of Prayer Chain Members please contact Diane Clodi at dianeclodi@yahoo.com.

Lent IS A TIME TO GROW CLOSER TO JESUS



ACE Lenten Study – *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado –Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Meditation Room. Is your heart unsettled by the chaos of the world? Are you heavy-laden with bad moments, mad moments, or anxious moments? Today, rest in God’s self-giving love and leave all your troubles at the foot of the cross. Search the scene of the cross and listen for God’s gentle whisper, “I did it just for you.” Questions? Contact Janet McCarty.



ACE Lent Study Monday Nights: Pastor Steve will lead a lent study Monday nights at 7pm in the Gathering Room. The study will review *Luke - Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton. Sign up in the Gathering Room or contact the office.



Help Decorate the Sanctuary for Our Easter Celebration!

We are taking orders for Easter lilies to beautify our church for Easter.
Lilies will be available to take home after the 2nd service on Easter morning.
(Lilies will have a green foil base)

_____ # of lilies @ \$16 each. Total enclosed: \$ _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Celebration of _____

By _____

Lenten Services



Hosanna! Palm Sunday is April 2nd.
Our Joyful Noise Handbells will be performing.



Join our Youth Group as our Maundy Thursday Seder
Meal returns Thursday, April 6th.



This year's ecumenical Good Friday Service on
Thursday, April 7th, will be held at
Wellspring United Methodist Church
1217 Wolf Rd, Oswego.



Come celebrate with us on
Easter Sunday
with our Choir as we enjoy an Easter Cantata
at 8:15am
Or
10:30am with the Reborn praise band
and their Message in Music!



**More details to come on our Holy Week
Services and celebrations**



Our Little Shepherds have been exploring a variety of Fairy Tales, which helps us with rhyming, parts of a story, and similarities and differences between stories. We have been building castles, towers, and chairs for the Three Bears. We measured with the Giant's footprints and Rapunzel's braid. The preschool class worked together to create a giant pizza to go along with the book *Little Red Hen Makes A Pizza*. The PreK class planted lima beans to see if we can grow them as tall as Jack's Beanstalk.

Thank you for all of the support at our recent Portillo's night! We are still waiting on the official numbers to come in.

Registration is open for the 2023-2024 school year and we are excited to start planning summer camps again this year!

Blessings,
Amanda Sidhu



The Little Shepherd Butter Braid fundraiser is back! Order your Easter Butter Braids now and help support our little shepherds.

<https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/SelectProducts/1daa14f4-2678-4365-9cb4-555a5edf2443/2392357>



You're invited!
Please join us for Fellowship Brunch
March 12th 9:30-11am
In Fellowship Hall.
A Free Will Offering Will be Taken





United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith have been busy behind the scenes working on exciting new activities. We are looking into new fundraising ideas to help support our annual Mission Giving and encourage participation from the whole congregation.

Our next United Women in Faith Unit meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.m. The Faith Circle will be hosting a program focused on the church's stained glass windows. We will begin our meeting upstairs in the sanctuary and we invite all women of the church to join us for a night of fellowship. We hope to see you there!

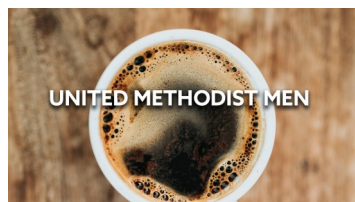
During the month of March, United Women in Faith will be collecting items for Mutual Ground. Mutual Ground is a safe place where people come together to break the cycle of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Mutual Ground is one of the state's largest domestic violence/sexual assault agencies. To learn more about this empowering agency, please visit <http://www.mutualground.org>. This year, Mutual Ground is asking for monetary gifts to help purchase more expensive security items for clients that have recently moved out. They are also looking for the following traditional collection items:

- Liquid hand soap
- Women's razors and shaving cream
- Paper towels
- All baby hygiene products
- Healthy snacks
- All types of gift cards
- Extra large bath towels and wash cloths (new)

A donation bin will be set up in the gathering room for item donations. Monetary donations can be placed in the marked box.

If you have any questions, or would like more information about what United Women in Faith do, please feel free to email me at amanda.nicole80@yahoo.com

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.



The United Methodist Men will be having their monthly Men's Luncheon at Riverview, 1420 SE River Road, Montgomery on Wednesday, March 15th at noon. Please join us for fellowship and a fine meal.



The Missions Team has been busy over the last month, and we're excited to share with you what we've been up to!

First, we were thrilled to receive \$50.00 collected by our generous Sunday School students and families during their January collection drive for **Grace Children's Hospital** in Haiti. That donation was matched by a member of the congregation, bringing the total to \$100.00 collected for this Mission Links project! Along with the donation, the Sunday School students made a variety of coloring sheets to send along to the children who are patients in the hospital. We are grateful to Ruth Frey and all the Sunday School teachers for promoting this and bringing joy into the lives of the children in the hospital!



We also decided where to direct the \$856.42 we were tithed from the Finance Committee. We did not take this decision lightly, as we know that we only have these funds because of the incredible generosity of this congregation. Ultimately, after some discussion, we determined that we would divide the money three ways:

\$285.48: UMCOR / Emergency Relief Project: Global Refugee/Migration Response. This is one of our Mission Links projects for the year. You can read more about this advance project here: <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/3022144/>

\$285.47: NIC District Project: Hesed House PADS. We selected this because it is one of our Mission Links projects this year, and we are building an on-going relationship with Hesed House through serving their Family Shelter throughout the year. You can learn more about Hesed House here: <https://www.hesedhouse.org/>

\$285.47: World Vision Global 6K for Water. We are thrilled to be walking as a Good Shepherd team this year on Saturday, May 20! For more information, to register to walk, and/or to donate to our team, please visit our team website here: <https://global6k.worldvision.org/team/ChurchoftheGoodShepherd>



We also held a fun contest to name our 6K walking team, and it sure was difficult for our Missions team to choose a winner! We had over a dozen suggestions submitted to the suggestion box, and each team member voted anonymously for their choice. The top vote-getters were:

Clean Water Walkers (submitted by Debby Ingram)
Rushing Mighty Wind (submitted by Rachel Conover)
Living Water Walkers (submitted by Janet Bornancin)
Oswego's Good Shepherds (submitted by the Watsons)

And our World Vision Global 6K for Water Good Shepherd Team name is: ***Living Water Walkers!***

Thank you to everyone who submitted a name suggestion! **We hope to see you at the event on Saturday, May 20.** 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/team/ChurchoftheGoodShepherd>.

If you register for the walk/ run before March 10th, use code WOMENSDAY through March 10 for \$10 off to celebrate International Women's Day. This discount is provided by the generosity of other donors. The organization will not lose any contributions.



WHO IS WORLD VISION?

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision is the largest non-governmental provider of clean water in the world bringing sustainable clean water to a new person every 10 seconds.

WHY IS IT A 6K INSTEAD OF A 5K?

Six kilometers, or 3.7 miles, is the average distance a person in the developing world has to walk to find water—water that is often not safe to drink or wash their hands with. We want to help you make that fact personal by covering that same distance so that someone else no longer has to.

WHY DOES THIS RACE COST \$50?

Through World Vision water projects, \$50 will provide clean water for one person. Your \$50 registration fee goes directly to that! That means every 6K for Water participant equals clean water for another person in a developing country. Kids 18 years and under can register for \$25.

WHERE WILL MY MONEY GO?

The registration fees and donations from *World Vision's Global 6K for Water* will help fund water projects, like hand-washing stations, in communities where World Vision works.

CAN KIDS PARTICIPATE?

Yes! We want families and children to participate in this event. Children of all ages can register as a participant to run or walk the 6K distance. Plus, kids 18 years and younger get to register for \$25!

March Birthdays

3/4	Tammy Mayfield
3/6	Beth Gray
3/9	Jeff Haltenhof
3/10	Isabella Zapfel
3/11	Kimberly Berlin
3/11	Marilyn Dobbin
3/11	Rick Spera
3/11	Cheryl Todd
3/15	Harper Zapfel
3/17	Janet McCarty
3/21	Connor Robinson
3/22	Gene Logston
3/22	Donna Nease
3/22	Suzi Randazzo
3/24	Dorothy Keefe
3/25	Kay Mareske
3/25	Abby Vlna
3/26	John Franz
3/26	Roland Saka
3/27	Audrey Vlna
3/28	Nancy Patush
3/28	Tom Reinert
3/29	Shirley LeClercq



Happy 90th Birthday
Dorothy Keefe!

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

The Church of the Good Shepherd



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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-Fri by appointment

**Newsletter Editor:
publications@goodshepherdoswego.org**

Office Email: office@goodshepherdoswego.org

**Little Shepherd Preschool:
little shepherdps@sbcglobal.net**

Director – Amanda Sidhu Teacher: Candace Kelty

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

