



River Spirit

Church of the Good Shepherd Oswego, IL
A United Methodist Congregation

September 6-20-2020

“The Good News”

So much has happened in 10 years: births and deaths, illnesses and miraculous comebacks. So many of you have shared your stories with me and allowed me and the church to be part of that story. For that I am so grateful.

As you know, as of October 1st I am concluding my pastoral ministry at Church of the Good Shepherd after 10 years. I am also concluding my work as a full-time United Methodist pastor after 39 years of serving 5 different churches. As I approach my retirement, I have been keenly aware of the last times I'll experience things as a pastor at Good Shepherd: Christmas, Holy Week/Easter, Teaching Bible Studies, pastoral care, sacraments, funerals, weddings, etc...

There is a finality to saying goodbye to a pastor that is similar to a death, with obvious differences. Abiding by United Methodist policy for former pastors, I will no longer be able to worship and fellowship with you, or be asked to do a baptism, a funeral, or a wedding. It may take some time to find peace with that, for all of us, but this is what Good Shepherd has done for 60 pastors before me and I trust you will respect this tradition for me as your 61st pastor since our church was founded in 1861.

I know you will continue to thrive as a church, partnered with your new shepherd, Pastor Doh (#62). He will work with our other church leaders to continue to create a beloved community of faith where you already call home.

In the meantime, if you are wondering, you can imagine Kari and I enjoying retired life together. For me, this will certainly include traveling, canoeing, visiting family, playing my banjo, climbing mountains, and running marathons.

I will certainly be remembering you.

With a full heart, in Christ's love,
Pastor Steve



Online: by 6am Sundays

In Person: 8:30 and 10:00am

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

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 Sunday worship times:

8:30am and 10am.



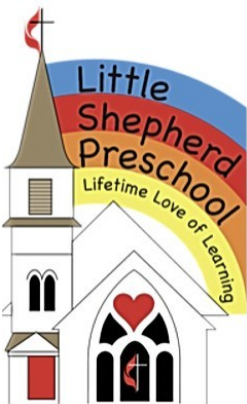
RALLY DAY!!

Sunday School classes begin Sept. 13th at 10am! Please contact Ruth Frey for more info— Dozygit@gmail.com.



Blessing of the Backpacks September 20th during Sunday School hour

Have your children bring their backpacks to Sunday School!



Preschool Classes Have Resumed! It is great to have our little shepherds back.

Classes are in session :

Mon, Weds, Thurs & Friday mornings 9:15-11:45am

Mon, Wed, & Friday afternoons too 12:45-3:15pm

NO TUESDAY CLASSES &

NO CLASSES THURSDAY AFTERNOONS



Joyful Noise Handbells: Handbell practice will resume Mondays at 6:30pm. New members are always welcome! Please contact Cheryl Todd with any questions. cheryljtodd@sbcglobal.net



One A 'Chord Choir: Choir resumes on Tuesdays beginning September 1st. Rehearsals are at 7 pm downstairs in the choir room. New members (Ages 16 and up) are always welcome! Contact Jonathan Tatar or the office with any questions. jonathan.w.tatar@gmail.com



As a group, we decided to read ***The Calamity Club* by Kathryn Stockett**. It is a long book so we decided to give everyone more time to read it and not be pressured as we enjoy the rest of summer. We will meet **September 22nd** at our usual time of 1:00.

Everyone is welcome! Please contact the office if you need a ride.



NEW BIBLE STUDY will start on Thursday, September 10th, at 7 pm in the Gathering Room for an hour led by Janet McCarty. We will study the book, *Questions Jesus Asked* by Magrey R. De Vega. What does Jesus want to know about us? Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am? In this study we

will explore six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves. Having the book will enhance your learning. It is available through Amazon, Cokesbury, or Christianbook.com or Janet is willing to order it for you. Contact her by cell 331-588-0064 or email jmmccarty70@gmail.com.



Our monthly brunch returns September 13th!
Brunch is available the 2nd Sunday of the month 9:15-11am
in Fellowship Hall

A free will offering will be taken.



United
Women
in Faith

**We invite all women of the church to come
have fellowship with each other.
Bring a friend and your favorite salad to share.
UWFAITH will provide drinks and desserts.
Thursday, Sept. 3 @ 6pm in Fellowship Hall**



The United Women in Faith thank everyone for their donations of school supplies. The children in our community have been blessed by your generosity.

We hope you are reading this in time to join us for a very special UWFAITH Sunday Service on September 6. We will have a special presenter who will share the story of Holocaust survivor, Corrie Ten Boom. It truly is a service you don't want to miss.



‘A Visit with Corrie’



September 6, 2026

8:30 and 10am services

Corrie ten Boom, (April 1892-April 1983)

**was a Dutch Christian Holocaust survivor who aided many Jews to escape
the Nazis during WWII.**

Be inspired through Corrie's dramatic monologue,

portrayed by Gayle Haas,

as she shares her experiences growing up

in Haarlem, Holland,

her family's commitment working

with the Dutch Resistance movement,

and her powerful message of love and forgiveness.



- 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 office@goodshepherdoswego.org or 630-554-3269 or with any questions.



The United Methodist Men will be having their monthly Men's Luncheon at Sunfield's Restaurant at 382 E. Veterans Pkwy, Yorkville on Wednesday, September 16th at noon. Please join us for fellowship and a fine meal.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE
United Methodist Men's
Spiritual Congress

September 11 - 13, 2026
Conference Point – On Beautiful Lake Geneva
300 Conference Point Road
Williams Bay, Wisconsin



Walking each day with HOPE
(ISAIAH 40:31)

- **Welcome and Introduction of the theme (by Video): Bishop Dan Schwerin, Northern Illinois Conference**
- **From Church to Club to Community Presence (By video): Rev. Dr. Rick Vance**
- **Holy Communion and Message": Rev. Dr. Norval Brown**
- **Friday Night Opening Message with HOPE: NACP President Mark Dehority**
- **"Let's change the world - TOGETHER": UMMF Mark Lubbock and Steve Nailor**

Music by: Alleluia Quartet

The Spiritual Congress will also feature the "Soul on Fire" movie, opportunities for prayer and worship, the annual UMM awards ceremony, a service project with Midwest Mission Distribution Center packing dry food Blessing Bags, an update on local, conference, national UMM initiatives and Scouting, memorial service for NIC men who have passed away recently, bonfire, excellent food, and time for camaraderie on the beautiful shores of Lake Geneva.

Come for one, two, or all three days with overnight accommodation on site. Enjoy the recently refurbished historic Conference Point on the shores of beautiful Lake Geneva. See the website for additional details and costs.

Register Now at: www.nicumm.org

Registration Deadline: September 4, 2026



Missions Team

“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.”

Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) – Our on-site mission event is coming to Good Shepherd on Sunday, October 18, when we assemble 100 Personal Dignity Kits after both church services. **Please add this to your calendar to help for an hour or two.** This mission event connects our congregation and deepens discipleship. Just like going on a mission trip, hosting our on-site event creates a space where walls are torn down, community is shared, and memories are made, all while actively being the hands and feet of Jesus; being part of the mission. Our event will impact those all around the world, and around the corner. 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. We will provide in-service for individuals for the easy tasks. Please consider this as we need at least 7 people to oversee the assembly that Sunday morning. Please contact Melody Watson at 630.661.8891 or mwatson_308@yahoo.com (which is mwatson underscore308) if you are able to help the Mission Team with set up and/or overseeing the event.*

Spotlight on Missionary Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim - With the help of Good Shepherd's United Women of Faith, we support Rev. Seon. She serves as a director of the Next Generation Ministries in the UMC of Tanzania, General Board of Global Ministries based in Dar es Salaam, of which she is the Founder and Director of Global Missions Secondary School. Objectives of the Rev. Kim's work include preparing pastors and lay leaders with skills in relating to young people and analysis of the youth ministries presently underway in each of the church's districts. Rev. Kim, a native of South Korea, is a clergy member of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, ordained an elder in 1999. Rev. Kim frequently posts information and activities on FaceBook (search Young Seon Kim) profile link <https://www.facebook.com/yskim2>

From Rev. Kim's Facebook: **Growing Together Through AI in Education**



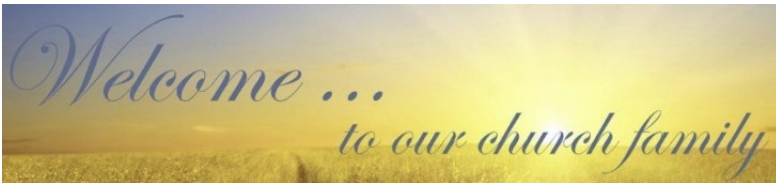
On July 30, our teachers and I had a wonderful opportunity to attend an AI Training in Education program at United African University of Tanzania (UAUT). It was a meaningful time of learning and growth. We learned how to use AI effectively, responsibly, and ethically in our educational environment, and how it can help us better prepare lessons, plan learning, and support our students. It was only a one-day training, but it was a valuable, inspiring, and applicable experience for us. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn, grow, and prepare ourselves for the changing world of education. A special thank you to the parents who volunteered as One-Day teachers so that our teaching staff could attend the training. Your support made this possible! We are also deeply grateful to UAUT for providing such a meaningful learning opportunity and sharing these valuable resources with local teachers. We look forward to learning more, growing together, and using every opportunity to better serve our students. Faith and Learning grow together!

Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) – Another opportunity to serve for Midwest Mission Distribution Center is available Monday, January 18 and 19, 2027. Wellspring Methodist Church plans to send a team of volunteers to the MMDC site in Pawnee IL. Good Shepherd members who would like to go to the mission site are able to join Wellspring's team. Wellspring has participated in this mission over the Martin Luther King holiday the last several years. Anyone from Good Shepherd who is interested in joining this mission, please contact Melody Watson, 630.661.8891.



The 2026 Ice Cream Social was a tremendous success! A special thank you to the Fellowship Team for their hard work planning and organizing the day.





A warm Good Shepherd welcome to new members Billy Leleika, Janice Leleika, and their children Nolan (age 7) and Harper (age 5). They gave their membership vows during worship this summer and are happy to be part of the Good Shepherd family of faith. Nolan and Harper were regulars in Sunday School last season and Pastor Steve baptized them on August 30th.



Billy works as a teacher for the Oswego School District and enjoys working on cars and small engines, spending time with the kids, and following hockey, especially the Blackhawks.

Janice is employed as a medical assistant and enjoys painting, hiking, crafting, and dancing.

The Leleika family usually worship at the 10 am service. We are so blessed to have them among us as our newest members! Please be sure to welcome them.



Meet New Members Kelly DeStefano and her daughter Brianna DeStefano. They moved to Oswego from Elk Grove Village. Kelly now works for the Oswego Chamber of Commerce. She has enjoyed our worship services and bible study. In her spare time Kelly likes to play golf. kelly@oswegochamber.org

Daughter Bri is a student at Oswego High School, with an emphasis on music. At Good Shepherd, Bri sang in our Christmas Cantata. She also sang the National Anthem for us before the start of our Global 6k walk/run for Clean Water at Hudson Crossing Park.

We're so glad to have Kelly and Bri among us!



We officially welcome Rachel Conover and Laura Galindo Sanz as new members of Good Shepherd as of August 9th. That is also the day that their 4-year-old daughter, Aniyah, was baptized during worship. Rachel and Laura were married on June 16, 2017 and have been involved at Good Shepherd for many years. Rachel has served on our staff as our Youth Director, establishing a safe place for our youth to be accepted, to grow and to flourish. She also has been instrumental in leading Vacation Bible School and most recently as the Board Chairperson for our Little Shepherd Preschool.

Laura works as an App/Product designer. She helps with various ministries at Good Shepherd, including the Missions Committee, Nominations Committee, 10 am worship liturgist, and assisting with the youth group.

They enjoy traveling, hiking, cooking, and gardening.

Rachel, Laura, and little Aniyah enrich us in so many ways – we are glad you're with us!

September Birthdays

9/1	Gail Ford
9/1	Jorie Higen
9/2	Judy Schurman
9/3	Pat Rogerson
9/5	CJ Mattern
9/6	Wanda Abell
9/7	Jean Prince
9/8	Beth Carter
9/8	Clark Seabold
9/10	Isabella Mendez
9/11	Kathy Gonzales
9/11	Randy Wood
9/12	Morgan Elliott
9/13	Michael Curran
9/14	Michele Songer
9/14	Becky Weaver
9/15	Kay Norris
9/15	Jan Olson
9/17	Dylan Bielawski
9/19	Keith Johnson
9/20	Kim Mattern
9/20	Gerry Weaver
9/21	Carol Bradley
9/21	Janet Reardon
9/22	Ed Bradley
9/23	Rev. Steve Good
9/23	Brice Robinson
9/25	Pam Hartness
9/26	Hayden Bielawski
9/28	Ruth Frey
9/28	Karen Kobernus
9/29	Judy McGregor
9/30	Sherri Sharp



WELCOME BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

- Rally Day- September 13th 10-11 a.m.
- Blessing of the Backpacks September 20th
- Register at the QR code below!

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
- 8:30AM 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

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)

Teachers: Jessica Exline & Tracy Johnson

Teachers Aide: Vincenza Ferguson

Choir Director: Jonathan Tatar

Custodian: Bonnie Kennedy

Organist & HandBell Choir Director: Cheryl Todd

Pianist: Sue Gilla

Reborn Praise Band: Jon Conover, Band Leader