



River Spirit

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

“The Good News”

You don't have to leave a place or a people to appreciate the experience. But leaving does sharpen the senses. As I prepare for retirement, my brain reminds me to focus on what brings me joy today in my time at Church of the Good Shepherd. I feel joy in many ways: Being greeted by Jan Olson and her pots of hot coffee that she makes for the anticipated worshipers. The delicious smell of cooking in the Fellowship Hall wafting up to the sanctuary on brunch days. The cute kids from Little Shepherd Preschool walking single file as they gather for a “Pastor Chat” with me. Sunlight making the colors and images “pop” in our stained-glass windows. Conducting bible studies in the Gathering Room while the Handbells rehearse in the sanctuary, providing heavenly background music for our conversations. Listening to a moving song from the One Achord Choir or the Reborn Praise band. The honor of hearing someone's story told in their home, my office, or a local coffee shop. Preaching to an engaged crowd. Creating the online service with Jessie. Catching up with Diane in the office while I have a coffee (again, coffee?). My list of joyful moments is too long for this article, but you get the idea.

People say this about long journeys: “It's not a sprint, it's a marathon”. That's how I've felt about my 39 years as a pastor. Unlike a sprint, a marathon requires a pace that allows one to notice and appreciate one's surroundings. That's what I'll be doing on April 26th when I run the London Marathon.

Even when things get hard, I'll be keenly aware of what brings me joy along the way, for 26.2 miles. And among the thoughts that will cross my mind, is the joy I've had of being your pastor.

Peace,
Pastor Steve



www.goodshepherdoswego.org

**A
P
R
I
L
2
0
2
6**

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



Online giving is available for your convenience. 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.

We **have now switched all online giving to our Zeffy platform.** We are so thankful for everyone switching and reporting the ease of using the new account. Please visit our website to connect, or use the attached QR code shown.



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



Registration is now OPEN for our 2026-2027 school year



PUBLICATION DEADLINES: Reminder- **River Spirit deadline is the 15th of each month.** If you have an event later in the month that you would like included in the River Spirit– you may contact Jessie by the 15th to save space for your article.

publications@goodshepherdoswego.org

The deadline for weekly news is NOON on Wednesdays. Please submit your written announcements to

publications@goodshepherdoswego.org

Thank you ~ Jessie



Please contact Pat Rogerson for prayer requests or to be added to the email list to join our prayer warriors at who can be contacted for prayer needs by phone 630-220-1649 or prayerchaingoodshep-

HOLY Week



Hosanna! Palm Sunday is March 29th
Join Us during Our Regular Service Times: 8:30 & 10am



Join our Youth Group as our Maundy Thursday Seder Meal April 2nd at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Steve will lead us in the ceremony to commemorate the Passover when the Hebrews escaped their slavery in Egypt, recalling also that Christ has set us free from our slavery to sin.



This year's ecumenical Good Friday Service on April 3rd will be held at Wellspring United Methodist Church 1217 Wolf Rd, Oswego. Join us at 7pm at Wellspring!



Come celebrate with us on Easter Sunday April 5th at 8:30am and 10am





United Women in Faith

Did you miss it? The United Women in Faith's meeting on March 5th was a great opportunity to view the talents of our own Nancy Patush. She displayed her beautiful "non-traditional" quilts. She has turned pictures and drawings into amazingly detailed quilts. We thank her for sharing her gifts with us. It was a great evening.



Be sure to see what we have in store for our next meeting on April 9. Hope to see you there @ 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall!

Thank you to everyone who donated needed supplies to Mutual Ground. We appreciate your help in supporting local women and children in need. It always feels good to help others.

We would like to invite you to join us for dinner at Taco Dale on May 7th @ 5:30pm. A time to just fellowship together. Please RSVP to Sharmomich@gmail.com 630-567-4994 by May 3 so that reservations can be made.

The program this evening will be A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial with the theme, The Future Is Now: Invest in Our Children. We are children's caregivers and those who shape their environment, whether we have children or not and whether we are currently caring for children or not. Come and learn how UWFaith is helping children through the work of National Mission Institutions in our area. We will be taking a special offering for A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial.

If you have any questions about getting involved with UWFaith or suggestions for opportunities to get together with other women in our church - please let us know!



This month's book is *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Its main theme is creative generosity. Please join us for our discussion at Nancy Patush's home on Tuesday, April 21 at 1:00 p.m. Please call the church office if you need a ride. and we can arrange one.



- Grab a cup of coffee and join the Good Shepherd UMM online on ZOOM on Friday's at 7 am starting Friday, January 9th. If you desire to meet in person, contact Craig Mc Gregor at 630-346-2239 or email him at craigscottmcgregor@gmail.com. He will set up an internet connection in the church Gathering Room.

Join us to find out what is happening at the local, district, and the conference level and be spiritually inspired.

- 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 their monthly Men's Luncheon at Riverside Pizza & Pub, 1100 Douglas Road, Oswego on Wednesday, April 15th at noon. Please join us for a fine meal and fellowship.



Join us for Brunch April 12th 9:15-11am
Fellowship Hall ~ A free will offering will be taken.
April Fools Mystery Menu!

A free will offering will be taken.



Let's form a big team to participate in the May16th Global 6k walk for clean water for people around the world who must walk miles for water for their family that is often impure. Register for Team Good Shepherd Oswego by clicking the link in the eblast or go to <https://global6k.worldvision.org/teams/39947>.

The registration fee is \$50 per person.

Our 6k walk will begin in Oswego's Hudson Crossing Park with music by our Reborn praise band, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Breanna DeStefano at 99 am. Volunteers are also needed to set up 2 water aid stations and to hand out medals at the Finish Line. See Pastor Steve with questions or to volunteer (630) 608-7843



“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.”

Hesed House Family Center

Missions served a sloppy joe sandwiches and macaroni and cheese dinner at Hesed House Family Shelter, Monday, March 2. All appreciated the meal and were full and satisfied. Many thanks to Steve and Sara Poniatowski, Melody Watson and Barb Schilling for contributing the items we served. On-site servers were Roland Saka, Steve and Sara Poniatowski and Melody Watson. The next opportunity to join our mission at Hesed House is Friday, April 24. Watch the weekly email for information as to how you can help.



PROJECTS



HANDMADE ITEMS

For a list of items that can be handmade, and patterns, visit midwestmission.org/patterns.



BICYCLES

As part of our Micro Business program, we accept medium and wide-tire bikes of any size with minimal rust. (No 10-speed, road racing, or other thin-tire bikes.)



SEWING MACHINES

As part of our Micro Business program, we accept electric sewing machines in working order. All treadle machines accepted.



BLEACHER WOOD

Desks are made from reclaimed bleacher wood. Notify us of possible bleacher donations.

Midwest Missions Distribution Center

It is Spring cleaning time, and we can help you find a place for things you no longer need. We are collecting the items listed for MMDC. There will be a collection bin in the hallway by the coat rack. If you have any of the items to donate but are unable to bring them to church or items are too large for the bin, please contact Melody Watson 630.661.8891 mwatson_308@yahoo.com

ITEMS TO COLLECT



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

New and gently used folding walkers, crutches, canes, wheelchairs, shower chairs, and orthopedic supplies.



TOOLS

New and gently used brooms, hand tools, and metal garden implements (including shovels, rakes, and hoes)



EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT AND GEAR

Including fire gear and equipment, firetrucks, and ambulances. Fire gear can be expired.



UMCOR KITS

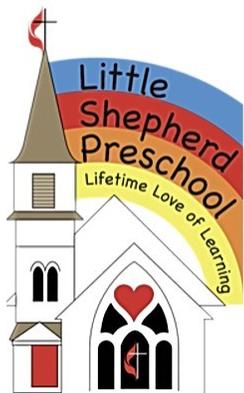
As a cooperating depot in the Relief Supply Network, we accept all UMCOR Kits and supplies.



SEWING NOTIONS

New or used: pins, pincushions, sewing scissors, tailor's chalk, tape measures, thread, thread snips, bias tape— see full list at midwestmission.org/collect-donate. New fabric (1+ yard)

Learn more and stay up-to-date on our current needs at midwestmission.org/collect-donate



Our Little Shepherds have had a very busy month of March. We hosted our second annual Donuts with Grown-Ups! A big shoutout to My Sisters' Lil Doughnut Shop right here in downtown Oswego for donating the donuts. It was a wonderful chance to spend time with the families and welcome them into our day.



The PreK class has noticed how our March weather keeps changing and the temperature keeps going up and down. We learned that Spring is a time of change, growth and new beginnings. With the crazy spring weather, we also practiced a tornado drill and

discussed the safest places to be at home. The kiddos thought it was pretty weird that the church's safest place was with the toilets!

This month Little Shepherd Preschool will be hosting our STEAM night. We would like to invite all of you to stop by and see what we are learning. There will be hands-on activities featuring Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. The fun family event will be on Thursday, April 16 from 6-8pm, downstairs in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!



2026 VBS Registration is Open!
June 15th-18th
9:30am- noon

We welcome all kids aged 3 (and potty trained) through entering 5th grade to register as participants. 6th grade and up are encouraged to register as volunteers.

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

Register on the website for both volunteers and participants or contact the office.



Repair the Harm Final Update

(the following article was printed in the March/April edition of "The United Methodist Reporter")

"Thankyou! Northern Illinois Conference collected 100 percent of our \$754,348 responsibility!"

The Boy Scouts of America settled a lawsuit related to accusations of sexual abuse of children. The United Methodist Church has chartered BSA troops or packs over the years and were assessed liability.

The denomination agreed to raise and contribute \$30 million over a three-year period to a fund created by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court to compensate survivors. The church also committed to supporting the healing of survivors and to continuing its work to end sexual abuse of young people. Of the \$30 million committed by the United Methodist Church, the amount allocated to the Northern Illinois Conference was \$754,348." Church of the Good Shepherd helped the effort by fulfilling our commitment of \$ 3,462.

April Birthdays

Cali Roberts	4/1
Jillian Perez	4/3
Mike Elliott	4/9
Riley Marple	4/10
Susan Rutsay	4/10
Jon Conover	4/14
John Frey	4/15
Christine Bielawski	4/18
Sally Smith	4/18
Mary Church	4/21
Pat Coleman	4/22
Genie Cross	4/23
Robert Leffel	4/24
Christine Conover	4/25
Barb Pearah	4/25
Daniel Conover	4/26
Debbie Klonowski	4/26
Judy Luytjes	4/27
Amanda Sidhu	4/27
Bob Mead	4/30
Marilyn Risch	4/30



www.goodshepherdoswego.org

The Church of the Good Shepherd



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



8:30a.m. Traditional Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Christian Education Hour

10:00 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
- 8:30AM 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.

