



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
UNITED METHODIST OSWEGO IL 60543

“The Good News”

The baptism of a child, a youth, or an adult always brings joy to not only the baptized one and their family, but to the whole congregation. For us, baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event. People wear their finest. Relatives sometimes travel many miles to be there. Words are proclaimed, vows of faith are publicly taken, heads are bowed, water is poured, God's love and grace are received. It is a big deal, as our ritual reminds us: “. . . we are initiated into Christ's holy church. . . incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit.” God's generous gift.

Author Gayle Carlton Felton reminds us that United Methodists believe baptism is not just a remembering of God, but an actual experience of God's grace, God's loving and saving activity in our lives. John Wesley emphasized that our experience of baptism is part of a lifelong journey that informs and matures our commitment to Christ.

At Church of the Good Shepherd in 2025, we have participated in 6 baptisms so far, with at least 3 more scheduled this summer. In addition, 6 of our teenagers confirmed their baptismal vows after completing their Confirmation Class. Events such as these signal a spark of God's activity among us. Witnessing the baptism of others causes us to reflect on our own faith journey and seek to experience God's grace in significant ways. God's Spirit is moving among us and stirring our people to acts of faith, hope and love. Do you feel it? Come and See.

Peace,
Pastor Steve



Online: by 6am Sundays

In Person: 30 and 10am

Website, Facebook, Youtube

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

AUGUST 2025

From The Office:



Our Church office hours are Tuesday, Thurs, Friday 10-3pm and Wednesdays 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: 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!



**Sunday School returns on
September 7th!**

**You can easily register your child
with the QR code or**

email Ruth with any questions or to register at

dozygit@gmail.com





Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist
5 W. Washington Street/PO Box 695 Oswego, IL 60543
www.goodshepherdoswego.org
(630) 554-3269
office@goodshepherdoswego.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

July 2025

Here is an update on how the church General Fund finances stand through the first half of 2025.

To date, contributions to the General Fund, which pays all regular expenses, are about \$10,000 behind last year, a decrease of about 6.6%. This is nearly 14% below the contributions planned for in the annual operating budget. These results are disappointing and have an impact on the timely payment of some expenses as shown below. It's important to note that the people at Good Shepherd continue to respond to special humanitarian needs with significant donations for specific causes like the recent appeals for assistance for the Pens family and UMCOR relief for victims of the Texas floods.

Total payroll and other normal operating and administrative costs (after our property insurance prepayment) are about 3.6% higher than last year, slightly better than the 4.5% increase anticipated in the budget. Due to the significantly lower level of contributions, funds from the 2024 surplus have been utilized to stay current on payroll and other bills. Our apportionment obligation is 3 months behind and some of what has been paid required use of additional 2024 surplus funds. At this point, about 95% of the 2024 excess has been utilized, leaving us about \$1,200 for use later this year. The increases in various expenses are likely to continue as we progress through 2025. We are hopeful that we will see significantly increased regular contributions soon which will allow us to stay current on all regular bills and get up to date on apportionment too. Our outstanding staff, along with all church committees, continue to be very cost conscious in everything they do. This gives us great assurance that we will be able to stay well within our budgeted costs as we move through the second half of 2025.

As new opportunities for the church beyond conducting regular weekly worship services arise, we must be ready to provide adequate support. Our history gives us confidence in the ability of the church to support all of its various programs in every way needed. As activity grows, more people from the community that are seeking to build a relationship with the Lord will also be drawn to the church and contributions will grow from there.

The contributions that you make to the General Fund in person, through the mail, and through e-giving are needed and very much appreciated. Some may want to utilize a portion of their required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA to provide funds to contribute to the church. If you are doing this, consider having your IRA custodian submit it directly to the church as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) which could potentially reduce your federal tax obligation. Have your financial planner contact the office for deposit instructions for a QCD. You can get an updated contribution statement showing your progress in supporting the church by contacting the office as well. Please prayerfully consider continuing, or even increasing, your contributions as your personal finances allow. With everyone's help, your Church will stay up to date with all its expenses, continue to retain our valuable staff, and continue to bring the Lord's message to everyone.

Yours in Service to the Lord,

Ed Bradley, Finance Committee Chair



United
Women
in Faith

Thank you to all who donated to our school supply drive for the Kendall County Community Food Pantry!

Our next Unit Meeting will be a salad supper on **Thursday, September 4th**. Unit meetings and Circle meetings take a break during the summer months. If you have not joined us or attended a meeting lately, please consider coming to our September meeting. We are a friendly group that desires to serve God and others. Also, delicious desserts are served.



- 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 their monthly Men's Luncheon at Sunfield's Restaurant, 382 E. Veterans Pkwy, Yorkville on Wednesday, August 20th at noon. Please join us for fellowship and a fine meal.



Our next book will be *The First Gentleman* by Bill Clinton and James Patterson. We will meet on August 19th at 1:00 at Nancy Patush's house. All readers are welcome!



“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) – Good Shepherd will be hosting an on-site mission again this year to assemble Personal Dignity Kits. Please mark your calendars – our date for assembly is Sunday, October 19. More information and details to come as the date



Northern Illinois Conference – During the NIC, Mission Team members, Janet McCarty and Melody Watson, met and spoke with 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).



CHURCH PICNIC: August 17th at 12:30pm at the Prairie Point Park Pavillion. All are welcome! Please sign up in the Gathering Room or email the office to RSVP and bring a dish to pass. Main dishes, drinks, plates, and cutlery will be provided by the Fellowship Team. (in the event of bad weather, the picnic will move to Fellowship Hall.)



Brunches return Sunday, September 14th 9:15-11am in Fellowship Hall. The September brunch theme is Back to School which means Apples!

If you are interested in joining our Fellowship team, contact the office for information.



Little Shepherd Preschool has spent the summer enjoying various camps, including Science, Eric Carle and Pirates!

We have also been busy getting the classrooms ready for a new school year. We are excited to welcome our Tuesday/ Thursday class back into rotation and Mrs. Johnson has been working hard all summer taking classes to become teacher qualified!

Please consider helping us continue to grow and thrive by checking out our Giving Tree in the Gathering Room. Our first day of school is August 25 and we can't wait!

Blessings,
Amanda Sidhu



Sunday School returns with Rally Day on September 7th!

Blessing of the Backpacks will be September 14th. Please have your kids bring their school backpacks on this day!



Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2025! We are blessed to celebrate this important step in the faith journey of Owen Evert Butkus, Katrin Belle Johnson, Stella Audrey Lamb, Riley Nicole Marple, Cole Michael Carty and Kendal Elizabeth Carty.

They are a wonderful group of young people. Throughout our classes their thoughtful questions about faith and Christ's teachings deepened their understanding of what it means to be a Christian. They valued respectful conversations on complex topics. I hope they carry that skill throughout their lives as they search for answers that don't always come easily or quickly in our messy world. I pray they can remember our classes and the time they spent studying the book of Job (that took 3 weeks longer than planned due to exceptional questions and conversation). So, when life inevitably hurts and they remember that God is always there. Even when we hurt, even when we are mad at him or don't understand his ways. God is with us through it all and gave us Christ to carry the load when we aren't able. As always, I learn more from the Confirmation students than I could ever teach them. My faith grows with them and so does our wonderful church family!

Rachel Conover

Youth Director

(not pictured:
Cole & Kendal Carty)



August Birthdays

8/2	Dan Gonzales
8/2	Roy Wackerlin
8/4	Barb Kayer
8/4	Heather Lumbert
8/5	Becky Latimer
8/5	Christian Mattern
8/5	Adam Zapfel
8/7	Timothy Johnson
8/7	Timothy Rutsay
8/8	Kiera Frey
8/8	Diylani Saka
8/11	Janet Bornancin
8/12	Edie Hard
8/14	Mary Stees
8/16	Robert Good
8/17	James Was
8/20	Emily Livingston
8/22	Catherine Gatton
8/22	Bonnie McGraw
8/23	Rob Wood
8/24	Randy Wood
8/26	Bella Rodriguez
8/27	Judith Nott
8/29	Matthew Butkus
8/29	Sue Gilla
8/29	Katrin Johnson
8/29	Hank Kobulnicky
8/29	Barb Wood
8/31	Suzanne Jessup



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
- 8:15 AM traditional and 10:30 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: Tues, Thurs. & Fri 10am-3pm and
by appointment

Newsletter Editor:

publications@goodshepherdoswego.org

Office Email: office@goodshepherdoswego.org

Little Shepherd Preschool:

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