



# River Spirit

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

## “The Good News”

While listening to our wonderful Handbell musicians in worship recently, it occurred to me that much more than music was happening in those moments. In addition to counting the beats and ringing the proper notes in the proper sequence, the musicians had to pay attention to each other. That’s right, being aware of the contributions of the other members of their team was crucial to the success of their goal. They anticipated when others would ring even while paying attention to Cheryl, their director, to stay in rhythm.

It occurred to me that the task of our congregation is very similar. We all have our own interests and time commitments and preferences. But as we worship, learn, and serve, it is crucial that we intentionally pay attention to one another too. When we pay attention, we notice when someone is absent and may need a call. When we pay attention, we notice when another person seems sad, or fatigued and needs some care. When we pay attention, we notice when someone has a gift to share but is not sure how to offer it. When we pay attention, we will notice someone’s positive impact, and we celebrate it together.

Let’s pay attention to one another, friends, not in negative ways that only focus on perceived flaws, but in positive, life affirming ways that build up the Body of Christ.

In these ways, we are living out the Advent call to Watch. As we pay attention to one another, we will be rewarded to see the Christ in our midst, who comes to us in humble form.

May you be rewarded with such an experience this season, my friends.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Steve



2020  
reborn  
December

## From The Office:

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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.

We have our online worship service posted by 6:00am on Sunday.

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](mailto:publications@goodshepherdoswego.org)

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### 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](mailto:pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org)

(By the way, he enjoys a cup of coffee at the Village Grind now and then!)

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### The next ornament in our Good Shepherd Ornament Sales has arrived!

Sales will start Dec 2: 4:30-8:00 during the Christmas Walk and will be for sale between services while supplies last.

Ornaments are **\$10.00** and proceeds support Good Shepherd UMC.

Ornaments may also be purchased through the office.

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Light Up Churches! Be sure to stop by the gathering room and visit our Sunday School Fundraiser of light up Christmas Churches!. Pick one out you love and pay what you think is fair! Monies raised will benefit our Sunday School mission projects!

**There will be no Sunday School classes on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.**

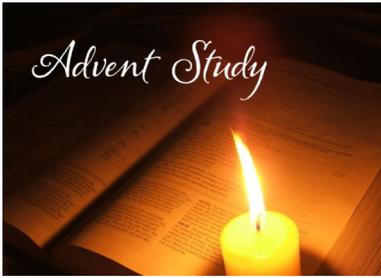
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### Online Giving

*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>

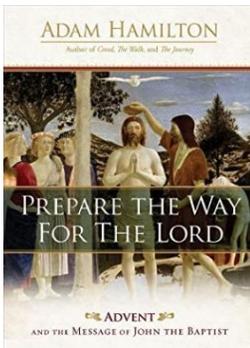


**ADVENT STUDY: *The Wonder of Christmas: Once You Believe, Anything Is Possible*** By: [Ed Robb](#), [Rob Renfroe](#) is an Advent experience that explores the wonder of Christmas through the lens of four elements from the Christmas story: a *star*, a *name*, a *manger*, and a *promise*. Each chapter contains the reading, reflection questions, Scriptures for meditation, and a prayer. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for this study starting Sunday, November 27 at 9:30 am, led by Janet McCarty. The book is available at Amazon or [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com).



**MONDAY NIGHT In-Person Advent Study with Pastor Steve**

“Prepare to receive Christ this Advent with the message of John the Baptist and best-selling author pastor Adam Hamilton in *Prepare the Way for the Lord*. For centuries, Christians have turned to the story and message of John the Baptist in the weeks leading up to Christmas. In this study, we will explore the Advent themes of John’s life and ministry, and how John calls all followers of Jesus to prepare our hearts for his coming. “



Pastor Steve will lead this class in the Gathering Room on Monday nights at 7 pm Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19. You can purchase your book through Cokesbury or Amazon online (*Prepare the Way for the Lord* by Adam Hamilton). No other cost for the class. A video segment of the author will be included each evening. Please sign up in the Gathering Room or by contacting the church office. Come together and prepare for Christmas!



**Poinsettia Orders!**

Help decorate our sanctuary and dedicate a poinsettia.

Our regular poinsettia order for \$15 and you may pick up your poinsettia after Christmas Eve or Christmas day service We will have the dedication list in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Orders may be mailed to the church , sent electronically or dropped off by Sunday, December 18th.



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration Of \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 purchase and pick up     
  Dedication only & free will offering

Please return orders and payment to the Church of the Good Shepherd, UMC, PO Box 695, Oswego, IL 60548-0695. Or you may email it to the office. Thank you!

**Must be received by December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
 Call or email the office at [office@goodshpherdoswego.org](mailto:office@goodshpherdoswego.org) or 630-554-3269



JOIN US!

Church of the Good Shepherd

5 W. Washington St. Oswego

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd

Oswego Christmas Walk

Chili Supper & Homemade Pies

4:30-7:30pm

Chili, Chili dogs, Chips, Brownies, Cookies,  
And of course, our famous homemade pizza!

Nativity Scene Show

5-7:30pm

Nativity Sets of all sizes and types on display

In our beautiful and historic sanctuary!

Enjoy live music of the season provided by

Fox River Academy of Music & Art





# Breakfast with Santa!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd**

Church of the Good Shepherd

9am-12pm

**Pancakes, Sausage,  
hot chocolate bar and more!**



Take your own Santa  
photo included

\$10 per adult

\$5 Children 3-12

\* 2 and under are free

**5 W. Washington St.  
Oswego**





United  
Women  
in Faith

# Merry Christmas!

Our annual Chili Supper is back after a two-year shut-down. Please join us on **Friday, December 2, from 4:30 – 7:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall for chili, chili dogs, hot dogs, chips, homemade fruit pie, coffee or soda pop. Bring your friends and enjoy good food and fellowship. Take advantage of viewing the display of nativity sets in the sanctuary also.

The following week, ladies join us again in the Fellowship Hall for our Unit Meeting of United Women in Faith on **Thursday, December 8, at 7 pm**. We will install our officers for 2023 followed by a Christmas theme program presented by Covenant Circle.

At the end of the year, United Women in Faith always empties the treasury by donating to ministries that uplift women, children and youth. Thanks to all of our ladies and to the wider congregation for supporting us on our United Women in Faith Sunday in October, we were able to donate \$1,050 to the following ministries:

Mission Links – Missionary Support	\$150	Mutual Ground	\$100
Kendall County Community Food Pantry	\$100	CASA	\$100
United Women in Faith Legacy Fund	\$100	Salvation Army	\$100
Lifespring Ministry	\$100	Red Bird Mission	\$100
Good Shepherd Youth	\$100	The Bridge Haiti	\$100

For our commitment to Mission Links (formerly Rainbow Covenant), we support Helen Roberts-Evans, a missionary of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, serving as director of the Department of General Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church in Liberia. Helen was born in Liberia and her return as a missionary was a lifelong dream. The Bridge Haiti has programs for spiritual development, continuing education, mental health and emergency services. Our own Debi Blocker has been involved with this ministry.

An update on the food collection for the Kendall County Community Food Pantry from October: Because of your generosity we took two loads of food to the Food Pantry. Thanks to Steve Poniatowski for delivering the first load and thanks to Gail Ford for going with me with the second load. We also donated 48 older books from our UMW library. The books and food were blessed during our November Unit Meeting.

May the meaning of the birth of Christ be at the center of your celebrations this Christmas with family and friends.

Janet McCarty  
United Women in Faith President





- 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](mailto:office@goodshepherdoswego.org) with any questions.



**MEN'S LUNCH:** The United Methodist Men will be having their monthly Men's Luncheon at Select Restaurant, 29 Boulder Hill Pass, Montgomery on Wednesday, December 15th at noon. Please join us for fellowship and a fine meal.

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**Nativity Scene Display:** We are excited to announce that the Nativity Scene Display will be back this year for the Oswego Christmas Walk on Friday, December 2. As you unpack your Christmas decorations, please consider letting us borrow your Nativity set for our display in the sanctuary. We take special care with your sets. A signup sheet and dates for drop-off of the sets will be in the Gathering Room at a later date. We will not be able to accept them until Sunday, November 27th as we do not have a secure storage area until then. Please label with your name and phone #. Any questions, please call Pam Dodson at 630-554-1203.

**CHILI SUPPER RETURNS DEC 2: 4:30 - 7:30.** is in need of volunteers for different shifts on Friday, Dec. 2 from 1:30 – 7:30 pm. We also need more pie bakers. Sign up to volunteer or to bake pies in the Gathering Room. Pies should be brought to the church on Friday, Dec. 2 from 1 – 3 pm. Thanks for supporting the United Women in Faith with this fundraiser!

**BREAKFAST with SANTA Dec. 3rd 9am– Noon** Our youth group will be hosting a breakfast with Santa during the Downtown Oswego Cookie Walk from 9am-12pm on Saturday December 3rd. If you would like to volunteer to help at this event, please contact Rachel Conover or the office. \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 3-12 and free for ages 2 and under. The Cookie Walk tins are available for purchase at downtown stores and sell out quickly so grab one early if you are interested in participating in the annual Cookie Walk.

## Missions Minute

**Missions Fair** -- Thanks to everyone who attended the Missions Fair on Sunday, October 23 in the Gathering Room! We were thrilled to see so many people, including new faces in the congregation, and to have the opportunity to talk about the wide variety of mission activities our church supports, locally and around the world.



***Essential Needs Donations for Refugees*** -- Our Northern Illinois Conference Refugee

Coordinator tells us "In the past few weeks, more than 750 asylum seekers from Central and South America have arrived in the Chicagoland area. These people have nothing but what they have carried with them on their long journey." Below is the list of essential needs that you can put in the Gathering Room bin for refugee relief:

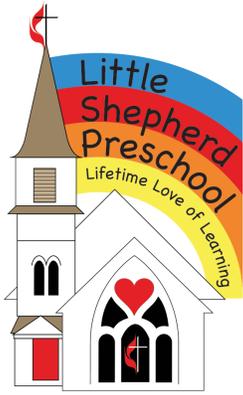
- Small size clothing (especially socks and underwear/sports bras)
- First Aid kits (Band-aids, bandages, etc.)
- Medications for adults and children (Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, etc.)
- Personal Hygiene items (toiletries, feminine products, etc.)
- Duffle Bags/Small suitcases

***Hesed House Dinner Service --***

Thank you to everyone who donated food for the meal we had the privilege of serving at the Hesed House Family Shelter on Monday, October 3. Mona, Pat, Carol, Judy B., Steve P., and Barb, your contributions were enjoyed and appreciated by all, and many of the guests had seconds, thirds, and even fourths! Thanks also to Pastor Steve and Amanda and Ronny Sidhu for helping to serve the meal. To all who reached out to help, thank you, and please know that we look forward to making this a more regular service opportunity throughout the year.



If you're interested in joining the Missions Team, please contact any of our current members or Sara at [poniatowski@att.net](mailto:poniatowski@att.net). Thank you!



November brought together our Little Shepherds and their families at our first Thanksgiving Feast! We enjoyed a taste of dishes that other families share at their Thanksgiving tables, spent time in fellowship, and were led in prayer by Pastor Steve. We look forward to continuing this tradition next year.

We collected food donations for the Kendall County Food Pantry and spent time discussing what we are thankful for.

Our Little Caesars fundraiser was a big success and we raised over \$300! We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with our classmates, participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree project, and performing at our Christmas program. Merry Christmas and thank you for all of your support.

Blessings,

Amanda Sidhu



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**STAFF GIFTS:** On December 4th and 11th members from Staff Parish will be outside the sanctuary door before and after services collecting for Christmas gifts for Pastor and our Good Shepherd staff. Thank you for your generosity!

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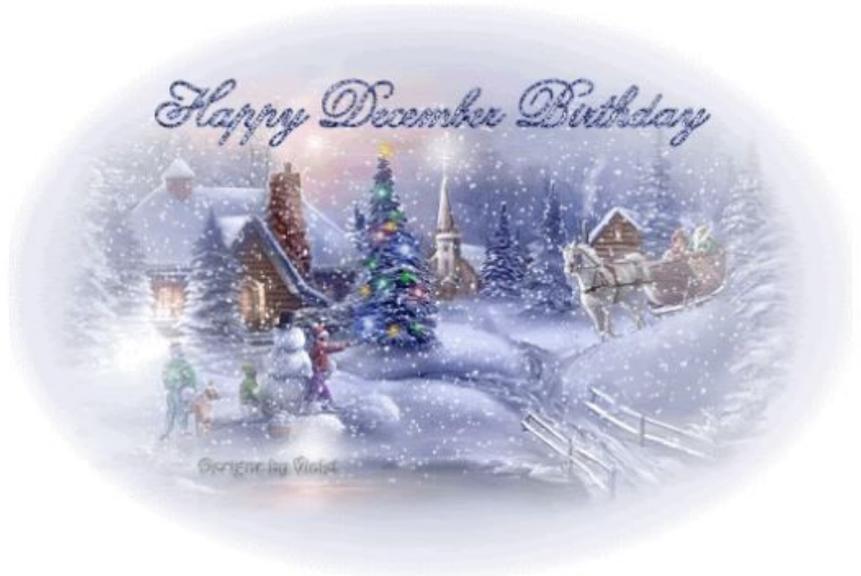
All gifts will need to be returned to the church on Dec. 4th (unwrapped) so that there is plenty of time to organize the gifts and get them to the families in time for Christmas.

We hope that you will share your blessings this year and send good cheer to those in need. If you know that you won't be able to attend on 11/20 or 11/27, feel free to reach out to Shar Momich at 630-567-4994, [sharmomich@gmail.com](mailto:sharmomich@gmail.com) and she will help you with participating. Contact Shar with any questions.

Be the hands and feet of Jesus and feel the true joy of giving!

## December Birthdays

12/1	Ric Kayer
12/3	Chris Martin
12/4	Peg DeVol
12/4	John Momich
12/5	Don Snyder
12/6	Sherry Gillofo
12/9	Justine Farrow
12/9	Craig Logston
12/10	Phyllis Wagner
12/12	Ann LeClercq
12/13	Donna Mason
12/13	Diana Mewmaw
12/14	Isaac Zilvitis
12/15	Lucietta Saka
12/18	Bob Baker
12/19	Trent Roberts
12/20	Karen Pleskovich
12/21	Lukas Dobbin
12/22	Margaret Wackerlin
12/23	Carol Dodd
12/25	Maggie Giles
12/28	Jaycee Fourmont
12/28	Nick Randazzo



Please notify the church office if you have a special life event that you would like included in our next newsletter. Email us by the 15th of the month at [publications@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto:publications@goodshepherdoswego.org) Thank you.



**Join Us In Person at 7pm for contemporary and 11 pm for traditional on Christmas Eve for our Candlelight Services.** Our online Christmas Eve service will be available all day on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.

**We will have one service on Christmas Day at 9:30am.**

**\*No Sunday School on Christmas Day.**



[www.goodshepherdoswego.org](http://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](mailto:pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org)**

**Youth Director: Rachel Conover: [jessicarc31@gmail.com](mailto:jessicarc31@gmail.com)**

**Executive Assistants: Diane Baum and  
Jessie Livingston**

**Church Office Hours: By appointment**

**Newsletter Editor:  
[publications@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto:publications@goodshepherdoswego.org)**

**Office Email: [office@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdoswego.org)**

**Little Shepherd Preschool:  
[littleshepherdps@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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**

#### **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.**

