



# River Spirit

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

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## “The Good News”

As we prepare for our October 1<sup>st</sup> pastoral transition, I thought you'd like to know more about Pastor Doh (pronounced like “dough”). I gleaned some of his life story from his own writings. He has had a very full life as a pastor, husband, and father.

Eunbae Doh has always known the life of a pastor – his father was a Korean Methodist minister in Korea for 50 years! Eunbae followed in his father's footsteps and earned a Master of Theology degree at Methodist University in Seoul. Later, he earned a Master of Arts in Religious Communication at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio (a United Methodist school founded by the father of the Wright Brothers!)

Pastor Doh is also a Certified Conflict Mediator, “a credential that reflects my belief that the church, at its best, is a place of reconciliation.”

He also learned about life outside of the classroom. Pastor Doh served for three years as a chaplain in the Republic of Korea Army, “ministering to soldiers who were young, often far from home, and carrying burdens no one should have to carry alone. . . I sat with men in their grief, counseled families in crisis, and offered the sacraments in places that were anything but sacred in appearance. I learned that pastoral care is not a program – it is a presence. You show up. You listen. You stay.”

After his army service, Pastor Doh served a 10,000 member Methodist church in Korea, leading their Christian Education ministry responsible for 1,500 children and 200 volunteer teachers.

For over two decades in Northern Illinois, Pastor Doh has pastored United Methodist churches in St. Charles, Stockton, Arlington Heights, Channahon, and Naperville. He says, “I am a storyteller by nature . . . For me, the Gospel has never been abstract. It is always about people. . . Every story matters. I am always ready to listen to your story.”

Pastor Doh is blessed with a loving family: his wife Sunghee, his three adult children, and their dog Sadie. In October, Pastor Doh and Good Shepherd will be a blessing for each other.

Peace,

Pastor Steve



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## 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

Jessie at [publications@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org)



**ONLINE GIVING:** Zeffy.com which is a 100% free service for not-for-profit organizations like Good Shepherd. (You do NOT need to leave a tip- it is optional. <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/donate-to-support-church-of-the-good-shepherd-umc>

Please contact the office if you have any issues. Thank you!



The Endowment Fund Committee is happy to announce the 2025-2026 Grant Program. \$4,928.76 are available for special needs and committee ministries. \$2,730.58 are available for capital improvement care, i.e., interior, or exterior improvements, or additions to, or construction of physical facilities. Grant applications are available in the office and via email thru July 1st. Applications will be due by July 15th, 2026 and the committee will announce the grant recipients shortly thereafter.



"The 2026 Bishop's Appeal is for Education for Central Conferences, supporting two key initiatives: a high school in Tanzania led by NIC missionary Christina Kim, and broader theological education efforts identified by the Council of Bishops. This year's appeal is not about charity; it is about justice, empowerment, and partnership. As a connectional church, we believe that every child deserves an education, and every community deserves well-trained spiritual leadership." A special offering will be taken on Sunday, June 7 during both services. **Gifts should be designated for "Bishop's Appeal" (checks should be payable to Church of the Good Shepherd).**

More info can be found at [umcnic.org/2026BishopsAppeal](http://umcnic.org/2026BishopsAppeal)



**SUMMER MUSIC:** People who are interested in performing special music during our summer services in June, July, and August for the 8:30 service? Sign up in the Gathering Room or contact Jonathan at [jonathan.w.tatar@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.w.tatar@gmail.com).



The memorial service for Rev. Phil Dripps will be on Saturday June 6th at 10:30 am, Baker Memorial United Methodist Church, 307 Cedar Ave., St. Charles, Illinois.  
 Pastor Dripps, who died on April 15th, was the pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd 1984-1992.

Notes of sympathy and care may be sent to  
 The Dripps Family  
 c/o Maria Dripps Paulson  
 42W545 Seavey Rd.  
 Sugar Grove, Illinois  
 60554



Thank you for  
 your Donation

From "Kids Above All"

Hello Pastor Steve, we are grateful for your church's giving. Thanks to Church of the Good Shepherd for being a mission partner through your \$200 gift (Dec. 2025).

Peace,  
 Deaconess Catherine Inserra  
 Kids Above All



The Fellowship Team hosted their final brunch of the first half of 2026 on Sunday, May 18th. We celebrated mothers with a lovely brunch featuring assorted varieties of quiches, finger sandwiches, assorted breads, fresh fruit, and more! We will be meeting in June to start making plans for the summer and into the fall, including the church picnic in conjunction with the United Methodist Men, a farewell reception for Pastor Steve in conjunction with staff parish, some type of fellowship event to welcome our new minister in October, and the monthly themes and menus for our September through December brunches which will resume on Sunday, September 13th, as well as setting dates for various other events we assist with throughout the year, including the distribution of Advent Boxes.

We would welcome the involvement of some additional members to our team as we currently only have about 8-9 members actively participating in feeding 60-85 people each month. We would love to have some additions to our current team to continue to make the brunches a fun time of fellowship and help reduce the burden on those who have been and continue to be so dedicated to making the brunches happen each month by assisting with set up, decorating, cooking, serving and clean-up. It is a lot of work so a few more hands would make the load lighter for all. A huge thank you to Kim Mattern, and daughter Charlotte, who so faithfully serve as our dishwashers each month. We truly appreciate their service.

If anyone has any suggestions or ideas for future brunch themes or menus, or any of our upcoming events this summer and/or fall, and/or wants to get involved, please contact Crystal Robinson, the office, or any member of our committee.



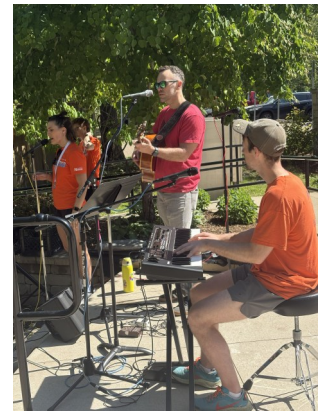
*Family of Liars* by E Lockhart is the next pick for our book club. We'll meet at Nancy Patush's house on Tuesday, June 30th at 1:00 p.m. Please join us! Please call the church office if you need a ride.



## Thankyou for supporting our Global 6k for Water

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, under warm blue skies, 23 walkers/runners and 8 volunteers enjoyed the fellowship and common cause as they moved along the beautiful Fox River trail to raise money and awareness for people who need permanent access to clean water around the world. Guitar, keyboard, and vocals were heard from Jon Conover, Tom Hartness, and Elaine Green. We removed our caps for a moving rendition of The Star Spangled Banner from Good Shepherd's Brianna DeStefano. Smiling volunteers at two water aid stations kept us encouraged and hydrated. We raised over \$2,000 so that women and children would not have to walk miles from home to retrieve a heavy load of water in buckets, often from unclean sources. Through the Christian organization World Vision, wells are drilled, natural springs are capped, water is piped, and sanitation stations are created. As a result, children don't have to skip school, women have time to earn a living, and family members stay protected from water-borne diseases.

We were part of a larger effort that took place in towns all across the U.S. that day, totaling 440 events, made up of 14,337 participants, who raised \$1,652,636.00 to provide access to clean water for 33,053 people. Praise God for such a joyful and effective ministry!





- 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 The Oaks Grille at Blackberry Oaks Golf Course, 2245 Kenny Road, Bristol on Wednesday, June 17th at noon. Please join us for fellowship and a fine meal.



**Youth Group Times**

**We meet twice a week on Sundays and Wednesdays.**

**Sunday Meeting at 11:30 am -12:30 pm**

This is our family-friendly day and different age groups are welcome to attend and join in a relaxed and fun meeting with games and projects. This is meant as a way for young people to build friendships and connections in a safe and encouraging environment.

**Wednesdays Meeting at 5:30 -6:30 pm our classes have been very interesting, and our class size is growing.** This is our Bible Study focused group for our youth that are middle school, high school or college aged. Parents are welcome to attend and join us as we look to scripture to help us navigate our modern world.



**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.





## 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.”

**Hesed House** - Missions served dinner to approximately 25 guests at the Hesed House Family Shelter on Friday, April 24. Guests enjoyed burgers, chips, salad, Texas cake, and lemonade. This dinner was generously provided by Becca Johnson, Roland Saka, Jackie Herhalt, Pat Rogerson, Craig and Melody Watson, and Steve and Sara Poniatowski. Thanks for preparing a wonderful meal! Thank you also to Roland Saka, Becca Johnson, and Steve and Sara Poniatowski for serving the meal. Gratitude to the Good Shepherd congregation for continued support of this mission.



**Bishop’s Appeal** – “The 2026 Bishop's Appeal is for **Education for Central Conferences**, supporting two key initiatives: a high school in Tanzania led by NIC missionary Christina Kim, and broader theological education efforts identified by the Council of Bishops. This year's appeal is not about charity; it is about justice, empowerment, and partnership. As a connectional church, we believe that every child deserves an education, and every community deserves well-trained spiritual leadership." A special offering will be taken on Sunday, June 7 during both services.

**Gently Used Bibles** – In support of an ongoing mission at Midwest Mission Distribution Center, we will be collecting gently used Bibles. Many individuals and churches have Bibles that are no longer used, sitting on shelves but are still in great shape. If you are willing to donate a Bible you no longer use, you will be placing God’s Word directly into the hands of someone who deeply needs it. A designated collection bin will be in the Gathering Room. We will be collecting the Bibles through September, taking the first donations to MMDC at the annual Conference in June.



### Celebrating our Good Shepherd Family Graduates for 2026! You did it!

- Nancy Lawrentz (Masters in Social Work, Aurora Univ)
- Gabe Rodriguez (Bradley Univ)
- Peyton Elliott (Dental School)
- Riley Marple (Oswego High School)

- Clark Channel, Grandson of Ed & Carol Bradley (U of C, Boulder, BFA degree)
- Sara Marcinkus, Granddaughter of Ed & Carol Bradley (U of Wis, Milwaukee, BS )

*As your classes and grading are now complete, may you strive toward excellence in all you do.  
 As the speeches conclude, may your voices rise up to pronounce justice and peace in the world.  
 As the fanfares cease, may you sing of joy, even in the dark and lonely places.  
 As the applause quiets, may you celebrate and lift up those around you.  
 As you graduate, may your achievements grow and cause growth in your communities.  
 And may we all know of the overwhelming blessings of the One who created all things.*

## June Birthdays

6/3	Wheeler Saka
6/4	Mark Steinke
6/5	Drew Nicholson
6/6	Matt Livingston
6/8	Craig Watson
6/9	Keith Wheeler
6/10	John Church
6/11	Joy Tierney
6/12	Katie Giffin
6/14	Joe Nicholson
6/16	Bob Weinke
6/16	JJ Leffel IV
6/18	Dave Patush
6/22	Cliff Besch
6/22	Tracy Johnson
6/22	Julia Perez
6/26	Peggy Sutton
6/27	Erik Berlin
6/27	Danielle Fita
6/27	John Momich
6/29	Olivia Berlin
6/30	Kaitlyn Ferone
6/30	Dolly Flagg
6/30	Pamela Weaver



<https://www.facebook.com/gschurchumc/>

[www.goodshepherdoswego.org](http://www.goodshepherdoswego.org)

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## The Church of the Good Shepherd



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

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service**

**10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship**

Free childcare available during both services and Christian Education Hour

#### Everyone is Welcome!

- Wheelchair Accessible building
- 8:30 AM 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](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: Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am-3pm or 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: 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**