



River Spirit

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

“The Good Shepherd News”

Changes

To quote John C. Maxwell—Change is inevitable. Growth is optional.

Church of the Good Shepherd is experiencing a variety of changes. The calendar has turned a page to a new month, and a new pastor will be leading our congregation beginning in October.

A change that many may not be aware of is that there is a new Board Chairperson of the Little Shepherd Preschool. Rachel Conover took on the responsibility of leading the preschool staff as a volunteer into the 2026-2027 school year. Rachel, as we all know, also is the Youth Director for Good Shepherd and does an exemplary job in the position, leading group activities and Bible studies for the young people of our church. She, as well as Tracy Johnson, Jessica Exline, and Vinnie Ferguson have spent countless hours organizing materials and classrooms to create an atmosphere of warmth and caring for the 3- and 4-year-olds who are attending LSPS this year. Their dedication to serving as teachers and leaders for preschool is an example of how change continues to enhance the feeling of care and connection that LSPS has always been known for. We, as a church, are so appreciative and thankful to Rachel and the preschool staff for their hard work and look forward to seeing what great things are in store for the young ones enrolled for this next school year.

Changes have also been occurring in the Sunday School hallway and classrooms, thanks to Ruth Frey, Sunday School Superintendent.

New rugs in classrooms and new hallway displays are just a few of the things that greet Sunday school children this year. Thanks to Ruth for her dedication and time to also create that same warmth and caring atmosphere.

Let's all look forward to the growth that we hope to see at Church of the Good Shepherd in the coming year.

Melanie Bonham

Church Council Chairperson



Online: by 6am Sundays

In Person: 8:30 and 10:00am

Website, Facebook, Youtube

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

October 2026

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, 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.



Please consider joining at the link provided, <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/donate-to-support-church-of-the-good-shepherd-umc>

Zeffy will save Good Shepherd a few thousand dollars per year in fee... monies we can allocate to our many ministries and expenses!

Note: Zeffy asks for donations for their service to us, but this is absolutely optional. They will offer a suggested donation to them when you are setting up your contribution, but just scroll down to choose none, if you opt not too.



Please mark your calendars for our annual Church Conference with District Superintendent Wendy Hardin Hermann. Thurs. Nov. 5th. 6:30 for SPRC and 7 pm for the Congregation





The Power of Play

Our 3's program is off to a great start! Our youngest learners are learning the power of cooperative play. Mrs. Johnson helps our students navigate how to work with others through fun classroom crafts and free play. Foundations of communication, teamwork and resilience are

building blocks to life long learning. Enrollment for this program is still open.

Mrs. Exline's Pre-K learners are getting back into the swing of being in a classroom. They continue to develop social skills and build on our values of kindness and cooperation. While having fun with friends as they are becoming Kindergarten ready. This year will empower them to take their next step from our preschool with confidence in themselves and what they know.



Blessing of the Backpacks was held on September 20th at our 10 am service. Pastor Steve blessed the backpacks and every student went home with a backpack clip to remind them that Jesus loves them. Congratulations to all of our Sunday School Students and have an amazing year full of God's blessings!

Ruth Frey
Sunday School Superintendent

Registration is still open
Scan the QR code



Our next book will be ***The Woman Who Smashed Codes*** by Jason Fagone. It is a library discussion kit so **please see Nancy Patush if you are interested in joining.** We will meet on Tuesday October 20th at 1:00. Everyone is welcome! Please contact the office if you need a ride.



FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH is the 2nd Sunday of the month.
Our next brunch will be October 11th 9:15-11am.
Come enjoy Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Waffles, Fruit, Donuts, and more!



It's not too late to join the Bible study on Questions Jesus Asked. We will be doing Chapter 2 - Why Are You Afraid on Oct. 1, in the Gathering Room at 7 pm.



United
Women
in Faith

Food Collection for Kendall County Community Food Pantry during October

The United Women in Faith had two great events in September.
First, fellowship and food was shared at our Annual Salad Supper on Sept. 3.



Second, we hosted a wonderful UWFaith Sunday on Sept. 6th. Gayle Haas gave a moving presentation on the importance of Forgiveness with her portrayal of Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch Christian Holocaust survivor.

"Forgiveness is a decision we make. Forgive as Christ has forgiven you."
If you missed it, check the online service on YouTube.

October is already looking busy for us as we plan to collect needed food supplies for the Kendall County Community Food Pantry and raise funds for mission groups with a Bake Sale on Oct. 18th @ 9:30-11:30 (or until we sell out - so don't wait too long). Read more about these on the weekly eblasts.

As I shared on Sunday, UWFaith wants to help the women of the church serve the Lord. Let us know what interests you. Let's work together to be the hands and feet of Christ.

sharmomich@gmail.com or [630-567-4994](tel:630-567-4994)



Below is a list of high-demand/impact items that we are in continuous need of.

- ♦ **Food – non- perishable items**

- ♦ Canned foods (soups, vegetables, fruit, meals, tuna, chicken, etc.)
- ♦ Bottled items (drinks, juices, condiments, sauces, etc.)
- ♦ Boxed goods (pasta, cereal, oatmeal, etc.)
- ♦ Cooking ingredients (flour, sugar, oils, etc.)
- ♦ Nothing fresh or frozen

- ♦ **Children's items**

- ♦ Diapers – all sizes (especially sizes 4 and 6)
- ♦ Baby food – formula, jars, boxes of dry food
- ♦ Children's medicine – cold, cough, cough syrup, etc.

- ♦ **Adult goods**

- ♦ Depend-type items (no tabs, all sizes)
- ♦ Healthy drinks (like Ensure)
- ♦ Feminine products – pads, tampons (all sizes)

- ♦ **Pet food and items – dog and cat**

- ♦ Dry foods – all types
- ♦ Wet/canned foods – all types
- ♦ Kitty litter
- ♦ Animal sweaters, coats, toys, etc.

- ♦ **Household and personal items**

- ♦ Cleaning supplies, dish soap, liquid hand soap, shampoos, toothpaste, etc.

- ♦ **Monetary donations**

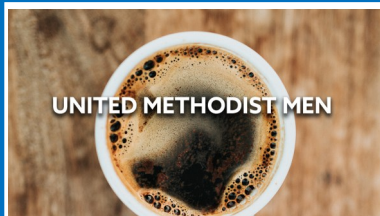
- ♦ With our network buying power, for every \$1 donated we can purchase up to \$8 in food and household items



My heart was deeply touched by your sincere messages of appreciation and farewell on my last Sunday with you as your pastor. The music, the hugs, the smiles, the tears. It was good for you to share and good for me to receive. The reception with sweets and stories was awesome, and the monetary gifts for the Tree of Life and for Kari and I was humbling. What an encouraging way to leave 39 years of pastoral ministry and enter a new life in retirement. Kari and I will have many warm memories of you to recall as we lounge on our front porch rocking chairs and contemplate our new life together. Gratitude is the order of the day.

Peace,
Pastor Steve

PS: Two days after my final Sunday at Good Shepherd, I received word that the Boston Athletic Association officially accepted me as a runner in the 131 st Boston Marathon on April 19, 2027.



- 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.



Good Shepherd Men's Luncheon - Wednesday, October 21st at Noon

The United Methodist Men will be having their monthly Men's Luncheon at The Oaks Grille at 2245 Kennedy Road, Bristol on Wednesday, October 21st at noon. Please join us for fellowship and a fine meal.



“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.”

Blanket Sunday – Sunday, October 4



A special offering will be taken to support Blanket Sunday. A display promoting Blanket Sunday is in the Gathering Room. For over 75 years, Church World Service has been helping people of faith bring God's hope and healing to those in need in the U.S. and around the world. When challenging times arise, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That is why the CWS Blankets program was created – to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Special offering envelopes for this Mission are located in the Gathering Room. You may also use the usual offering envelopes by writing Blanket Sunday on the envelope.

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. This mission event connects our congregation and deepens discipleship. Hosting our on-site event is just like going on a mission trip without the travel. Together, we will be a bright light of hope and bring some joy to all 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. Set up is planned for Saturday, October 17, with kit assembly on Sunday. We will provide in-service individuals for the easy tasks. Please consider this as we need people to oversee the assembly. Please contact Melody Watson at 630.661.8891 or mwatson_308@yahoo.com if you can help the Mission Team with set up and/or overseeing the event.

Please watch the attached video to see how easy it is to participate in assembling the kits.

<https://youtu.be/j2L5-9GPX4w?si=s14edzhCDBt0q3Fb>



Sunday, November 2 will be a special offering. The offering is taken on this Special Sunday to support and advance the education of our children with scholarships for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs for United Methodist students. Supporting United Methodist students provides both financial and spiritual boosts, showing them the church's confidence in their potential. Contributions to the

United Methodist Student Day offering send young leaders into the world with wisdom and understanding. One hundred percent of the funds collected on United Methodist Student Day are used to fund over 70 scholarships. The scholarship program awards members of the church who are pursuing higher education, from incoming college freshmen through doctoral level students. With the general online application, a student may be considered for any of the scholarship programs.

October Birthdays

10/2	Kendal Carty
10/2	Peyton Elliott
10/2	Celeste Kobulnicky
10/2	Judy Loch
10/5	Kathy Kazda
10/8	Brad Giffin
10/8	Grace Ingram
10/9	Jacob Merrill
10/9	Aiden Poniatowski
10/10	Ed Duntelman
10/10	Will Robinson
10/11	Linda Kolloff
10/11	Nancy Lane
10/11	Diane Smith
10/12	Sherrilyn Camper
10/13	Rich Gilloffo
10/14	Judy Johnsen
10/15	Carolyn Besch
10/15	Bob Constantine
10/16	Tom Hartnett
10/18	Jennifer Gilloffo
10/19	Alex Mendez
10/20	Pat Lundy
10/21	Leanne Schilling
10/24	C. Gregory Bentley Jr
10/24	Melanie Bonham
10/25	Diane Clodi
10/25	Jessie Livingston
10/26	Glenda Tifrea
10/27	Tim Roberts
10/29	Pat Harmon
10/29	Jacob Perez
10/29	Jordan Perez
10/30	Becca Johnson
10/31	Judy Franz



FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH

Great Food, Faith, Fellowship, and Fun!

Join Us at the Table!

Come and share in a morning of fun, reconnecting with friends, previous guests, and making new acquaintances at our church. Join us as we come fall together for the brunch.

On the Menu

- Fluffy Scrambled Eggs & Savory Sausage
- Fresh Waffles & Assorted Donuts
- And More!

Date: Sunday, October 11th
Time: 9:15 AM – 11:00 AM
Location: Fellowship Hall — Church of the Good Shepherd

*A free will offering will be taken.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." — Acts 2:46

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
- 8:30 AM traditional and 10:00 AM contemporary services.
- Online Worship service combines the best of our traditional and contemporary worship.
- 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 Eunbae Doh

pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org

Youth Director: Rachel Conover: jessicarc31@gmail.com

Executive Assistants: Diane Baum and
Jessie Livingston

Church Office Hours: Tues– Friday by appointment

Newsletter Editor:
publications@goodshepherdoswego.org

Office Email: office@goodshepherdoswego.org

Little Shepherd Preschool:
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