



River Spirit

Church of the Good Shepherd
Oswego, IL

September 2025

“The Good News”

It's the fall season, and Good Shepherd is anticipating some wonderful events and ministries that we will share with each other. They will be experiences of compassion, justice, and mercy – faith, hope and love.

Rally Day is September 7th, the day when our Sunday School teachers will welcome their students for a new season of learning and growth. Our One Achord Choir and the Joyful Noise Handbells resume their rehearsal and singing/playing schedule. We look forward to more people on Sunday mornings to sing, pray, and grow with. Our Fellowship Team resumes it's delicious monthly Sunday brunch in the Fellowship Hall on Sept. 14th, the same day that our Sunday School will offer the Blessing of the Backpacks. In October our Missions Committee will invite us to gather downstairs to assemble Personal Dignity Kits to be shared with those in need through the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Our Little Shepherd Preschool is starting their new school year.

These are the experiences that inspire us to help create and participate in the Beloved Community known as the church. These are opportunities to live out our biblical learnings to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Rev. Adam Hamilton calls these expressions the “major chords” of biblical teaching. The church being the church as we seek to follow God's will as understood through scripture, tradition, experience, and reason (the “quadrilateral” of Methodist teachings).

Pastor Adam contrasts this with the “minor chords” of scripture, that is, troubling verses that have been historically used to support slavery, suppress the leadership role of women, harm children, and deny full inclusion to people in the LGBTQ+ community. The number of bible verses used to promote these things are very small, and do not line up with the larger themes of scripture, including the teachings of Jesus himself. They are often seen to reflect societal customs or the culture of ancient times rather than being a reflection of God's will. Nonetheless, these “minor chords” have been used throughout history to hurt or harm people in irreparable ways.

When we lean into the major chords of biblical truth, we support one another, we listen, forgive, lend a hand, show compassion, pray, make right, offer hope, practice healing, love one another, and grow in Christ. Let's take a big breath and dedicate ourselves to living out these principles of our faith this fall, and remember to tell one another – welcome! It's good to see you again.

Peace,
Steve

Online: by 6am Sundays

In Person: 8:30 and 10:00am

www.goodshepherdoswego.org

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, call him on his direct church cell phone

630-608-7843 or email him at 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.



RALLY DAY!!

Sunday School classes begin Sept. 7th at 10am! Please contact Ruth Frey for more info— Dozygit@gmail.com.



Please mark your calendars for our annual Church Conference with District Superintendent Wendy Hardin Hermann. Tues. Nov. 4th. 6:30 for SPRC and 7 pm for the CC

The Art of Advent

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm. Good Shepherd has been invited to a special presentation, "The Art of Advent", by Christian art historian Rev. Daniel Cochran, which will take place at the Wellspring UMC, 1217 Wolf Rd in Oswego. Rev. Cochran regularly leads groups to Italy to see and study Christian works of art. Please let Pastor Steve know if you are Interested. Open to the general public at no cost.



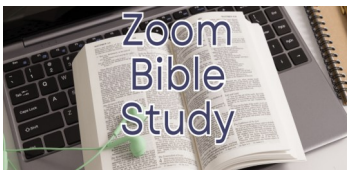
Joyful Noise Handbells: Handbell practice resumed Mondays at 6:30pm. New members are always welcome! Please contact Cheryl Todd with any questions. cheryljtodd@sbcglobal.net



One A 'Chord Choir: Choir resumed on Tuesdays. Rehearsals are at 7 pm downstairs in the choir room. New members (Ages 16 and up) are always welcome! Contact Jonathan Tatar or the office with any questions. jonathan.w.tatar@gmail.com



Our next book is ***Frozen River* by Lawhon**. We will meet at Nancy Patush's house on Tuesday, September 23 at 1:00 p.m. Join us if you can. Let the church office know if you need a ride.



Bible Between BYTES: The Bible Study group known as Bible Between Bites now meets on Zoom every Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM. Our name has changed to Bible Between Bytes. We would love to have you join us. We are now finishing up Amos a minor prophet. Then we plan to study Peter 2 starting September 10. This book bears Peter's pastoral heart,

calling believers to recall genuine apostolic teaching, remain unwavering in their faith, and eagerly await the fulfillment of all God's promises. Please call or text Pat Steele at 630-465-6437 to add your name to the Zoom list



Blessing of the Backpacks September 14th during Sunday School hour

Have your children bring their backpacks to Sunday School!



Our monthly brunch returns September 14th!
Brunch is available the 2nd Sunday of the month 9:15-11am
in Fellowship Hall
We will have Pancakes (apple topping), Scrambled Eggs, Sausage,
Apple Sauce, Apple Squares, Fruit, Apple Cider Donuts and more!
Please join us!

A free will offering will be taken.



Our United Women in Faith will be hosting our annual Salad Supper on Thursday, September 4th at 6pm. Bring a salad to share and an appetite for good food and fellowship.

We welcome all women of the church and their teenage daughters to this supper. Beverages and dessert will be furnished by the UWFaith Mission Team. We look forward to seeing you there!

Dream it! Believe it! Do it!

**Get ready for Assembly 2026, happening May 15-17 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
Registration opens September 1, 2025.**

What is Assembly?

Assembly 2026 is a once-every-four-years gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. It's a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith, and brings you together with an unstoppable sisterhood.

What awaits you at this empowering event?

- **Inspiring Speakers:** Hear from women leaders who will spark your passion and energize your purpose.
- **Powerful Worships:** Experience deep reflection, renewal, and connection in faith.
- **Workshops:** Gain tools to create meaningful change in your life and your community.

Sisterhood: Connect with women from around the world who share your commitment to justice and Soul Care.

Past keynote speakers at Assembly have included:

- Nobel Peace Prize winner **Leymah Gbowee**
- *The New Jim Crow* author and *The New York Times* OpEd writer **Michelle Alexander**
- Children's Defense Fund founder **Marion Wright Edelman**
- Former Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**
- PBS NewsHour host **Judy Woodruff**
- Worldwide YWCA General Secretary **Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda**

Grammy award winner **CeCe Winans**

It's time to talk, time to dream, and time to build because when women of faith put our love into action, we are unstoppable. This only happens once every four years. Don't miss your chance to grow in faith, find inspiration, and take action!

Visit for all things Assembly 2026! uwfaith.org/assembly

We look forward to seeing you there!



- 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 office@goodshepherdswego.org or 630-554-3269 or with any questions.



The United Methodist Men will be having their monthly Men's Luncheon at **McBride's North**, 2340 S. Eola Road, Aurora on Wednesday, September 17th at noon. Please join us for fellowship and a fine meal.



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE
UNITED METHODIST MEN'S
SPIRITUAL CONGRESS

September 12 — 14, 2025

Conference Point - On Beautiful Lake Geneva
300 Conference Point Road
Williams Bay, Wisconsin

Ephesians 2:4-10 Peter 4:10-11

- * Welcome and Introduction of the Theme: Rev. Dr. Char Hoffman
- * Jesus' Call to Create Disciples (by video): NIC Bishop Dan Schwerin
- * Forging Men Around the World: Bishop James Swanson
 - * Forging Men in Your Church: Rev. Dr. Norval Brown
 - * View from the Pew: Paul Dreiske
- * Getting it Done: Rev. Dr. Audrea Nanabray

Music by: Four Heaven's Sake

The Spiritual Congress will also feature the movie "The Forge," opportunities for prayer and worship, the annual UMM awards ceremony, updates on local, conference, and national UMM initiatives, a service project with Midwest Mission Distribution Center making food Blessing Bags, an update on Scouting, excellent food, and time for camaraderie on the shores of Lake Geneva.

Come for one, two, or all three days with overnight accommodation on site. Enjoy the recently refurbished historic Conference Point on the shores of beautiful Lake Geneva. See the website for additional details and costs.

Register Now at: www.nicumm.org



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.”

Blanket Sunday – Sunday, October 4, 2025, a special offering will be taken to support Blanket Sunday. A display promoting Blanket Sunday will be 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.



Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) – Good Shepherd’s Missions team is excited to host another on-site mission event for MMDC. It is coming to Good Shepherd on Sunday, October 19. We will assemble 100 Personal Dignity Kits after both church services. **Please add this to your calendar to help for an hour or two.** This mission event connects our congregation and deepens discipleship. Just like going on a mission trip, hosting our on-site event creates a space where walls are torn down, community is shared, and memories are made, all while actively being the hands and feet of Jesus; being part of the mission. Our event will affect those all around the world, and around the corner. 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 18 at 6:00, with kit assembly on Sunday. We will provide in-service for individuals to help with the easy tasks. Please consider this as we need at least 7 people to oversee the assembly after each church service. Please contact Melody Watson at 630.661.8891 or mwatson_308@yahoo.com (which is mwatson underscore308) if you can help the Missions Team with set up and/or overseeing the event.*

Love Packages – Thank you to everyone who donated Christian materials to Love Packages. As you can tell from the pictures, we had many boxes for Mr. Rapp, their representative, to pick up. He will deliver our donations to their warehouse in Butler, IL. This will now be an ongoing project with the collection bin located in Room 7. If you box materials yourself, the weight limit is 35. Direct any questions to Janet McCarty, 630-636-7233 or jmmccarty70@gmail.com.





The 2025 Church Picnic was a tremendous success! We were blessed with beautiful weather, warm fellowship, and plenty of delicious food. Pastor Steve and the Reborn Praise Band filled the day with inspiring music, creating a joyful atmosphere for all who attended. What a wonderful time of community and celebration! A special thank you to the Fellowship Team for their hard work planning and organizing the day.





Youth Group will begin meeting Sundays at 11:30am and Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm in the Youth Room.
All kids grades 6-12 are welcome~ Bring a friend!

Celebrating Families in Our Church Community

Family groups are at the heart of our church, and we want to celebrate and strengthen those bonds! Throughout the year, we'll be hosting special events designed to bring families together, including game nights, potlucks, and meaningful projects that create lasting memories. Mark your calendars—event dates will be posted starting in September. We can't wait to grow, laugh, and share life together as one church family!

Introduction

We're excited about the renovation of the youth room! This summer, our youth have been hard at work repainting, adding a mural wall for handprints, and turning it into a space that connects generations.

With the generous help of Corey Marple and the support of family groups, we aim to complete the project by September 7th, just in time for the new Sunday School season.



Project Goals



Our main goal is to create a welcoming atmosphere for the youth. The new mural wall will allow members to leave their handprints, symbolizing the love and support of our church across generations. We want this space to reflect the legacy of our faith and community.



Thanks to Laura and Elaine Green for carrying 1,200 pounds of flooring in from my SUV!
The Kids and parents helped bring it all to the youth room.



The youth of all ages have helped and worked hard to bring their vision to life



Congregate Involvement



We're thrilled about the support from family groups during our renovation project! Their help with painting, organizing, and contributing ideas has been invaluable.

This collective effort not only strengthens our community but also makes the youth room a true reflection of everyone's love and dedication.

We appreciate every volunteer's hard work in bringing this project to life!

September Birthdays

9/1	Gail Ford
9/1	Jorie Higen
9/2	Judy Schurman
9/3	Pat Rogerson
9/5	CJ Mattern
9/6	Wanda Abell
9/7	Jean Prince
9/8	Beth Carter
9/8	Clark Seabold
9/10	Isabella Mendez
9/11	Kathy Gonzales
9/11	Randy Wood
9/12	Morgan Elliott
9/13	Michael Curran
9/14	Becky Weaver
9/15	Kathleen Norris
9/15	Jan Olson
9/17	Dylan Bielawski
9/19	Keith Johnson
9/20	Kim Mattern
9/20	Gerry Weaver
9/21	Carol Bradley
9/21	Dave Holdeman
9/21	Janet Reardon
9/22	Ed Bradley
9/23	Rev. Steve Good
9/23	Brice Robinson
9/25	Pam Hartness
9/26	Hayden Bielawski
9/28	Ruth Frey
9/29	Judy McGregor
9/30	Sherri Sharp



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
- 8:30AM 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.



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:
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