

LOVE NOTES

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
9701 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20903

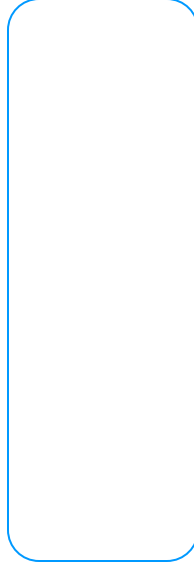
www.goodshepchurch.org



Scan this QR code with your smart phone camera to explore the mission and ministry of our church, Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. Free QR Readers are available in the app stores for your phone.



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Love Notes

Praising God | Experiencing God | Serving God | Sharing God
The Season after the Epiphany (Jan.-Feb. 2023)



- 5. *"A New Adventure with Christ Alone"*
- 7. *Encountering Rev. Hun Choi & Rev. Samuel Honnappa*
- 8. *Small Group Studies*
- 10. *New Year's Resolutions for Kids*
- 12-14. *"The Kingdom of God within Us"*
- 20. *Farewell to Brian and Charity*

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, MD

LOVE NOTES is the newsletter published by Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland. It aims at faithful connection of the followers of Jesus Christ.

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20. Farewell to Brian and Charity.

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Cover image: The Day We Had Snow.

LOVE NOTES Editors

Publisher: Rev. DaeHwa Park
Proofreading: Marcie Burroughs
Layout and Design: Rev. DaeHwa Park
Senior Writer: Leilani McConnell
Photographer: Vacant
Printing and Mailing: Wendy Barrios

How to submit an article:

Submit any article with Microsoft Word document by email at good-shepumc@verizon.net or mail to LOVE NOTES Editor at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, at 9701 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20903 or drop off at Publisher's mail box.

Church Fax No. (240) 670-8157

Next Issue: 40 Days of Lent (February 22-April 8)

Theme: Be Perfect!

Articles due on Sunday, Feb. 12, noon

SEVEN MINISTRY INITIATIVES

Sunday Morning

Good Shepherd celebrates Sunday morning as a Sabbath to the Lord and keeps it holy as a day of new beginnings. We would like to begin the first day of the week with the celebration of "Means of Grace" that shapes our future! From the faithful ordinance of Sunday morning, we shape the vital household of God.

Assimilation

We help one another to be more like Jesus Christ. Assimilation is an ongoing effort to call, equip and make disciples of Jesus Christ for God's Kingdom. There are 8 assimilations tracks Good Shepherd develops for the joyous work of the Lord, making people blessed. It is a significant part of our Spiritual Journey.

Intergenerational

Blessed by the rich heritage of Good Shepherd for more than 60 years, we would like to continue to develop intergenerational relationship among the members and friends. Honoring each generation, Silent, GI, Boomers, X, Millennials, and post-Millennials. We include all generations for their faithful discipleship and leadership to all the aspects of mission and ministry of worship, study, service and sharing.

Technology

Good Shepherd would like to take advantage of the cutting-edge technology to bring the Gospel of Christ for all, to enhance faithful connections of the members and friends of the church, and to bring forth God's Kingdom in our midst. This includes traditional methods of communication for those heavily dependant on papyrus, paper, audio and wired media.

Third Place

Good Shepherd is a third place, like "a city of refuge" (Numbers 35:6), built and consecrated by God for the people of God. It is a place like an oasis with living water. It is a house of prayer for all God's people (Isaiah 56:7). Modern sociology demands many of a desperate need of this space, which is missing from home, the first place and from work, the second place.

Glocal (Global & Local)

Outreach from Good Shepherd is not limited to a particular location in the community where it serves. Charity begins at home. At the same time we value the mission and ministry to "the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Accommodation

Good Shepherd seeks out all people just as they are. Everyone is welcome in the name of Jesus Christ—"Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World." (John 1:29b). With radical hospitality we would like to be more like Christ, who healed the sick, ate with the sinners, and sought out the lost. Good Shepherd is a household of God that Christ has opened to the children of God of all ages, classes, genders, nations, and races!

24/7 "Means of Grace" at Good Shepherd

Small Group Gatherings thru Zoom Meetings

Sundays

Celebration of Worship at 11 a.m.

Meeting ID: 566-965-650

Passcode: 900361

Youth Hang-Out at 7 p.m.

Meeting ID: 976-1877-7352

Passcode: 914966

Storytelling with Children at 8 p.m.

Meeting ID: 964-1021-2427

Passcode: 541602

Mondays

Coffee with the Pastor at 11 a.m.

Meeting ID: 631-887-165

Passcode: 375637

The Holy Club (Young Professionals) at 9 p.m.

Meeting ID: 941-6327-7971

Passcode: 256442

Tuesdays

Journey thru the Bible at 7p.m.

Meeting ID: 947-5619-4251

Passcode: 024529

Wednesdays

High Noon Prayer at noon

Meeting ID: 409-666-503

Passcode: 581382

Under the Tree of Life at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 875-9323-0354

Passcode: 528483

Thursdays

Faith Talks at 11 a.m.

Meeting ID: 953-5226-0028

Passcode: 014740

Becoming Disciple thru Bible Study at 7:30p

Meeting ID: 961-6016-5713

Passcode: 716470

Alternative Service? No! Both Services!

Good Shepherd-Savage Charge has **two campuses**: one in the historic town of Savage and the other in west Silver Spring. Rev. Park serve both campus. **Savage Campus (est. 1888)** gathers disciples from Savage, Laurel, Columbia, Jessup, Ellicott City, and Hanover, MD. **Good Shepherd Campus** brings people from Baltimore, Columbia, Jessup, Bowie, Glendale, Beltsville, Hyattsville, Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, Lanham, College Park, Takoma Park, Langley Park, Silver Spring, White Oaks, Hillandale, Oakview, Rockville, Wheaton, Aspen Hill, Derwood, Olney, Gaithersburg, German Town, Clarksburg, Fort Washington, MD, Washington, D.C., Manassas, Chantilly, VA. You can join worship service in either site. **Zoom link for Worship at Savage Campus: 857-2252-9072 with the passcode of 655638** at 9:30 a.m. Join one or both!

Savage Campus



9050 Baltimore Street
Savage, MD

Join the Wednesday Night Prayer

Conference Call

at 8-8:30 p.m.

Call 1-945-218-0115

Access code 6778316#

To Green Pastures and Quiet Waters ...



"Last Christmas, I gave you my heart; but the very next day you gave it away; I'll give it to someone special ..."
George Michael



Red flames signify the historic merge of The Methodist Church and The United Brethren in 1968, which gave birth to The United Methodist Church. As a part of UM connection, we would like to bring for the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness (Matthew 6:33). Green shade of the flames indicates God's Kingdom like "green pastures" to be unfolded as we do ministry together. The blue shade of the cross is consisted of the first two Greek letters of Christ, Xp. Through Christ the living water (John 7:38) the gathering of the faithful disciples shall bear fruits that last. (John 15:16; Psalm 1:3; 23:2; Galatians 5:22-23; Revelation 22:1-3). This vision of God's Kingdom comes from Jesus Christ, the starting point of our faith journey. Shepherd crook symbolizes our commitment to Jesus Christ—Good Shepherd! (John 10:14). Rev. DaeHwa Park

Spotlights in Ministries



Peace in Ukraine
Jan. 29, 2023



Primary Theme of This Issue:
"In Christ Alone"

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Church Staff

Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor
(202) 277-8553 | daehwa@gmail.com
Szu-Yi Li, Director of Music/Organist
(267) 231-9884 mses52025@gmail.com
Wendy De La Roca Barrios Secretary
(301) 434-3331 | goodshepumc@verizon.net
Peter Ayok, Custodian

WORSHIP & STUDY

11 a.m. Celebration and Worship
Adult Sunday School on Sun. 8:45 a.m.
Under the Tree of Life on Wed. 7:30 p.m.
Becoming Disciples on Thu. at 7:30 p.m.

See details on pages 6-8

Greetings from the Pastor

A New Adventure with Christ Alone

Friends,

Happy New Year! DaeHwa Park, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Dr. Godswill Okoji, Lay Leader, to the holy and faithful members and friends in Christ at Good Shepherd:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have known your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth (cf. Colossians 1:1-6).



Praise the Lord! How natural it is that I just re-wrote what the Apostle Paul had written to his contemporary Christian brothers at Colossae in the first century. Dr. Okoji and just use it as our season’s greetings. Why? Just because we walked through the Pandemic faithfully. I feel abundant blessings from God throughout the year of 2022.

I remember every single gathering on the days of the Lord and other days between Sundays. Without your dedication of presence for the act of worship, of devotion, of compassion, and of justice, the mission and

ministry here at Good Shepherd would not be easy. You have “carried each other’s burdens, and in this way we have fulfilled the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). Therefore, I am so thankful for you.

This year, we continue our spiritual journey from the first day of the year. Come, and join our new adventure from New Year’s day. This year, we celebrate **the 70th anniversary** of our church. On October 4, 1953, thirty-three members of Lewis Memorial Methodist Church gathered in an upper room in the Hillandale Volunteer Fire Station on New Hampshire Avenue. (from “Good Shepherd UMC—A History, from 2022 Pictorial Directory).

I pray that you and I grow this year with faith and love of God in Jesus. Over the last few years, we talked about the ownership of the works of the church. I was glad some inactive members returned as new visitors settled here at Good Shepherd as their new church home.

The bible has rich imagery of Church as an ark, a vehicle that rescues its passengers and bring them to destinations. I give thanks to God for our rough voyage during the Pandemic era with currents.

Come on aboard. It’s time to move on. Let us set out another adventure with Jesus Christ our Lord as Captain of the ark. Join us.

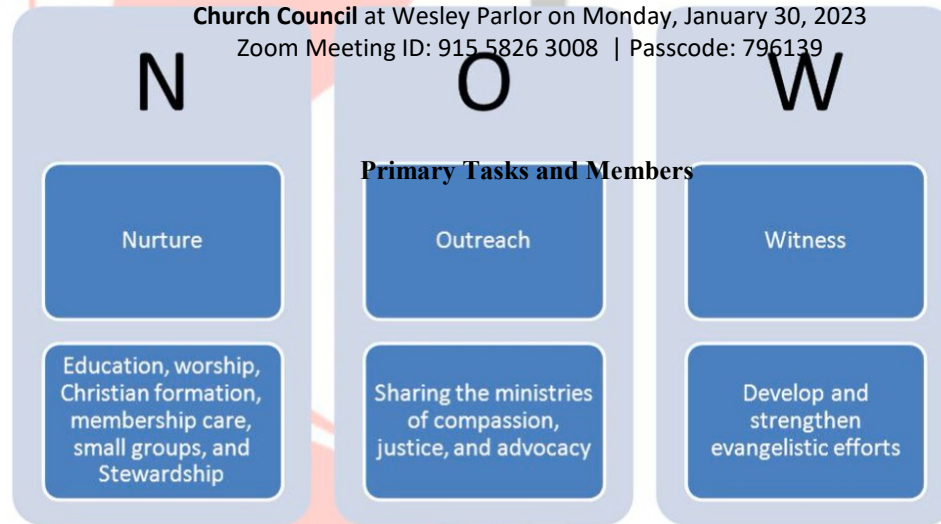
Rev. DaeHwa Park

Rev. DaeHwa Park
Pastor

Get Connected

Church Council

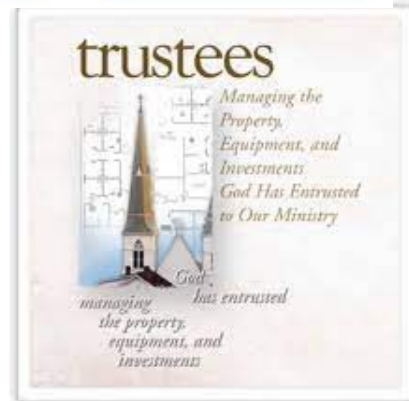
Church Council at Wesley Parlor on Monday, January 30, 2023
Zoom Meeting ID: 915 5826 3008 | Passcode: 796139



Mrs. Ruth Witt says a hello to the whole church! Christiana and Valerie visited her on Sunday, January 15.

Virginia Bacon, from Annapolis called several times during Advent, Christmas and New Years, to say a hello to you the church!

We are saddened by the sudden passing of **Charity Okorie**, 68, on December 11, 2022 from heart disease. Charity sang in the choir for years. She has been a faithful member of Good Shepherd since July 26, 1986. You may keep **Queenette Joy Chidinma**, her daughter in prayer as she mourn with the death of lovely mother.



First **Trustees** meeting at Wesley Parlor on Sunday, February 12 immediately after Sunday worship.



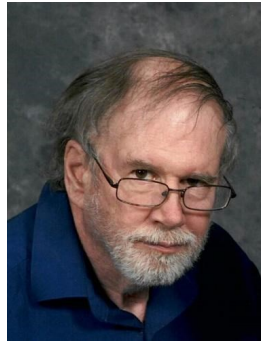
Committee Chairs or Coordinators, do you want a meeting through zoom? Call Rev. Park for an arrangement.



My Thoughts on Brian - Lovely Husband and Soul Mate

Carolyn Brannon

I first met Brian in 1988 when he was the manager at the Peoples Drug Store in Plaza del Mercado on Bel Pre Rd. I worked at the bank next door. We started dating when he was transferred to the Olney store and became engaged on December 22, 1988. He was a basketball referee for IAABO Board 12 and a lot of our dates revolved around going to his games. He was also a baseball umpire so I would attend some of those games during baseball season. We were married in this very church on July 1, 1989 by Rev. Bill Heslop. My most vivid memory of that day, other than the church being full of family and friends, is that of hoping that Rev. Heslop would make it through the ceremony. He was waiting to undergo a hernia operation and was hurting. I was almost relieved when I saw one of our past ministers was attending the ceremony. Rev. Ed Amos stopped by to wish me well before the ceremony. He was wearing his usual collar. He said he was going to wish Brian good luck as well. I was a little nervous about this because Brian had grown up Catholic. I had asked him if he wanted a priest to co-officiate. He said no. I was a little afraid that he would think I double crossed him when he saw Rev. Amos in his collar. If he did he never said anything.



He loved sports in general especially kids' sports. Unlike most boys, he didn't play sports himself but learned to officiate sports. He told me he became a baseball umpire around the age of 12 and continued to umpire all ages of kids' baseball until 2007. He also refereed all ages of basketball from the late 1970s until 2004. Around 2000 he and a couple of his friends started their own umpiring association, Potomac Umpires Association of which Brian was the assigning commissioner. He recruited and trained the umpires as well.

His basketball officiating career ended with his first back surgery although he yearned to go back. His baseball officiating ended with his first heart attack in May 2007. He tried several times to start that back up but the heat was too much for him.

He loved dogs. He had grown up with dogs so soon after we were married, we got our first puppy. Our preferred breed was Shih Tzu. I am sure our deceased dogs all met him at the Rainbow Bridge. Our two present dogs miss him greatly as do [LN]

In Memory of Brian Brannon, Carolyn and the family appreciate your donations toward purchasing **new sanctuary piano**. Please make a check payable to Good Shepherd UMC, wrote note: **Brian Brannon Memorial Fund**.



In the season after the Epiphany



by **Dr. Godswill Okoji**
Lay Leader
Godswill O. Okoji, MD,
FACP

Christ is born! Our Savior is born and rises in us.

The Magi bring presents to declare him king and ruler, the presence of God amongst us. What an Epiphany – Christ with us, within and around us. The delivery of these sacred gifts reminds of Jesus Christ's Kingship (Gold), the infant and our own divinity (frankincense) and his and our own mortality(myrrh). May this season bring to focus these three attributes of our Lord and our own.

May this season also lead to a resurgence of evangelism; to promote the love that Christ teaches us and the oneness of our physical and divine presence. May we continue to remain in good health through our actions and prayers. Let us continue in the physical and spiritual discipline of exercise and meditation. Let us receive immunization against Influenza and covid - protecting ourselves and the vulnerable – as gift of God through science and not be consumed by worldly politics of unfounded negative news. Yes, Vaccines work, my friends! They have for centuries protected Man against the scourges of disease.

Remain Blessed and continue in our humble service to humanity.

Leadership

Dear Committee Chairs and Program Coordinators,



Thank you for your dedication of service as spiritual leaders of the church. We would like you to schedule the meetings for your own small group meetings and let the members and friends of Good Shepherd know. You can report your meetings at Church Council.

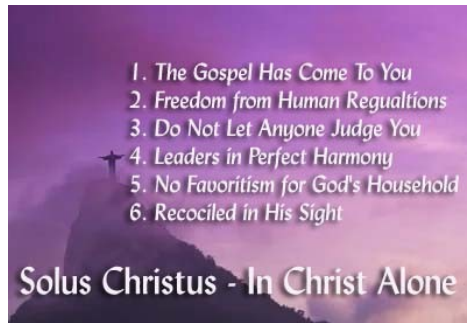
In the "Procedures and Policy of the Baltimore-Washington Conference" you can find out a **parliamentary procedure** for your meeting. Here is a brief tip:

1. Begin meeting **with prayer and devotion** pertinent to the main agenda.
2. Secretary may have **roll call** with voting procedure. Most cases at the Committee level determine with a simple majority in favor of any recommendations.
3. Any recommendations can be discussed after **motioned by a member, seconded by the other**.
4. Committee chair may **hear 1 or 2 opinions** in favor of the recommendations of in opposition prior to vote.
5. No other action can disturb the discussion of agenda than **the point of information** of the same matter in discussion.
6. No need to attempt an unanimous decision. **Upon decision, the members must support for the decision as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.** [LN]



“Solus Christus” - In Christ Alone

Let us begin New Year in the house of worship. “Live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light” (Colossians 1:10b-12). The children of God at Good Shepherd never stop doing the will of God. Do not miss our journey from the first day of New Year. Sing that Love Has Come Down. Set your hearts on things above. Have a good start. Praise the Lord.



❖ Liturgical Highlights ❖

- + Sun., Jan. 8, Baptism of the Lord**
 - Renewal of Baptismal Vow
 - Celebration with Praise Band
- + Sun., Jan. 15, Second Sun. after Epiphany**
 - Multi-Contextual Ministry Sunday
 - Human Relations Day (\$)
- + Sun., Jan. 22, Third Sun. after Epiphany**
 - Commissioning of Spiritual Leaders
- + Sun., Jan. 29, Fourth Sun. after Epiphany**
 - Cries of Milky Way Disciples
 - Testimony of Missionary from Ukraine
- + Sun., Feb. 5, Fifth Sun. after Epiphany**
 - Holy Communion
- + Sun. Feb. 12, Sixth Sun. after Epiphany**
 - Celebration with Praise Band
- + Sun., Feb. 19, Transfiguration Sunday**



The Imposition of Ashes will be on the First Sunday in Lent, February 26 at 11 a.m.

+ Special Thanks to Liturgists:

- Jan. 8: Bintu Murphy
- Jan. 15: Gideon Park
- Jan. 22: Augustine Roberts
- Jan. 29: Ernest Okie
- Feb. 5: Christiana Campbell
- Feb. 12: Neil Spiller
- Feb. 19: Marcus Davies

Welcome Two Pastors in our pulpit

On Sunday, January 29, we will have special testimony from **Rev. Hun Choi**, a Methodist Missionary to Ukraine. He and his wife **Anna Choi** have served in the several cities in Ukraine. Recently, they decided to stay with the Ukraine even at the outbreak of Russian invasion in Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

While Rev. Park leaves for family care for Rev. and Mrs. KukWon Park in February, **Rev. Samuel Honnappa**, a retired elder of BWC will provide pulpit supply. Honoring retired pastors matter to all the church regardless its denominational background. Let us welcome Rev. Honnappa one of faithful servant leader served in several churches of Baltimore-Washington Conference and around the world.

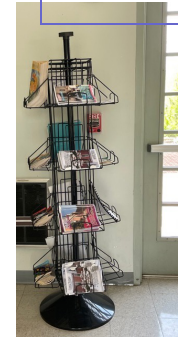
EVANGELISM

The Season after Epiphany

The Act of Justice (Action & Advocacy)

Augustine Roberts, New Chair; **Simeon Nomo**, French District; **Roberto Velazquez**, Mexican District; **Bintu Murphy**, Fellowship & Hospitality; **Leilani McConnell**, Action & Advocacy; **Wendy Barrios**, Love Notes; **YoungHoon Park**, Greeters; **Selina Fitjohn**, Communication_Women; **Hugh Holder**, Communication_Men.

Do you want to join the team, contact Augustine at (703) 653-4091.



For Faithful Connection

Grab literature for the mission and ministry opportunities. Get new devotionals. Pick up newsletters, old, new or special issues for your faithful connection in the life of the church. Each Love Notes includes many useful articles and guidelines for a spiritual journey at Good Shepherd. Check the liturgical highlights, sermon outlines, and prayer concerns through the weekly Sunday bulletins.

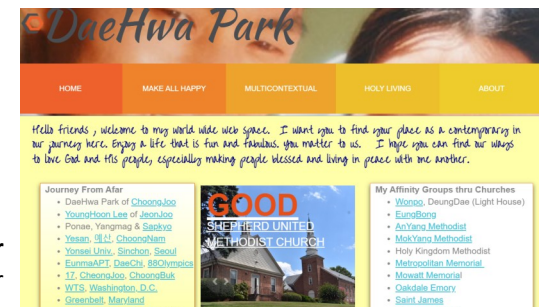


Stop by a refreshment table in the Upper Room opening before and after 11 a.m. worship service. This table is primarily for the liturgical ministers, such as acolytes, altar guild, book bearer, crucifer, communion stewards, liturgist, ushers, media specialists, choir members, liturgical dancers, hand bell choirs. At the end of the service, this table fellowship is shared with worshippers on their way home. Now, we are looking for volunteers who will set it up at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays.



Questions? Contact **Neil Spiller** Webmaster & Communication Coordinator

JourneyfortheBread.net is Rev. Park’s personal website. It gets you connected with his affinity group and life-time study. You can find season’s greetings, sermon series he delivered for a decade, streams of Eastern and Western thoughts, and the churches and communities he served.



Bring People to Christ and His Church!

Door Greeters

Psalmist sings, "Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked." (Psalm 84:10). A family with children can welcome people at the door. If you want to serve as door greeters, contact **Young-Hoon Park at yhoon12p@gmail.com.**



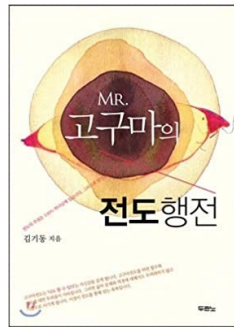
A greatest gift for your friends is to offer Christ. Advent and Christmas is a gift-giving season. Invite your loved ones—family members and friends come to faith. If there is anyone who is away from faith journey, Advent and Christmas season is the best time for them to reengage in faith.

Begin with your children and spouse. You may or may not change them. God can change. Your job is to bring them to the presence of God! **Every 4th Sunday is "A Bring a Friend Sunday."**



Potato Evangelism on the Way!

Say to your love one, "Do you believe in Jesus?, Just as poking a potato with a fork. See how your targeted individuals respond to your question. If he or she reject you, consider the potato isn't cooked. With the simple word, you sow a seed of the Gospel. The name of Jesus means "the one who saves." Let God grow the seed. Praise the Lord!



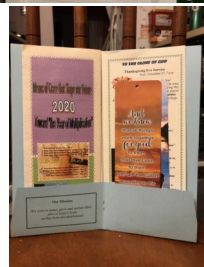
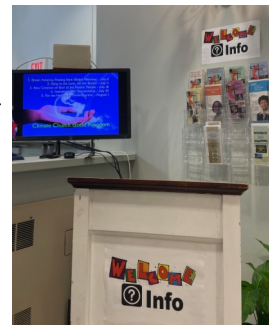
Welcome Table

Please come to the welcome table and find out what you need for the ministries and mission of the church.

Welcome table coordinator (s) prepare welcome bag with the information of the church's ministry and programs.

If you want to serve as a volunteer receptionist on Sunday please contact Wendy in the office.

We need volunteers who can prepare the welcome bags for visitors. You can do that.



The Season after Epiphany

The Act of Worship (& Music)

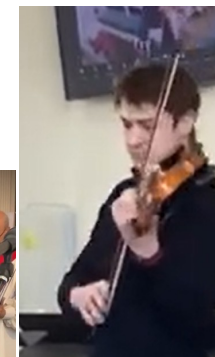
Sunil Christopher, Worship Chair
Jackie Holder, Communion Steward
Carolyn Brannon, Altar Guild
Milford Doughty, Crucifer
Aanya Singh, Book Bearer
Vera Davies, Head Usher
Stacey Matthews, Nursery Coordinator
Abie Ngala, Acolyte Coordinator
John Knox, Media Ministries
Bintu Murphy, Hospitality
Dunstan Thomas, Fellowship Coordinator

Worship Committee

Giving is an Act of Worship 93% to the Budget

171 givers gave faithful offerings of tithes, thanksgiving, and special giving. With rental income, we brought **\$326,957.39 to the annual budget of 348,633.** This year we brought 26,451.46 more than the last year. Praise the Lord! **However, we spent 109,276.88 for the church's operations, \$35,764.55 more than that of 2021. We still collected 1/3 of Mortgage. We had 2/3 of mission share with UM Connection this year. With faithful and shrewd stewardship, we would love to find resources for the full capacity of our mission in 2023. Many thanks.**

You can hear again!
 Chinwe and choir, O Holy Night at <https://youtu.be/h7ypmEUDTbk>
 Alan Tilley (Violin), What Child Is This? at <https://youtu.be/awt10H1AmxI>



WORSHIP

by Szu-Yi Li
 Director of Music

Dear Good Shepherd,

I would love to take this opportunity to say **thank you to all who participated in our Christmas Day Service.** What a lovely way to celebrate Christmas, telling the story of Jesus with great music! I was pleased to listen to all the playing and singing from our congregation. I really appreciate the dedication from our volunteers: Jeremy Park (violin), Theodore Park (piano), Velarie Campbell (piano), Sandra Craig and Simeon Nomo (vocal duet), Nathan, Pat and Hugh (vocal trio).

Thank you, **handbell choir**, for your diligent practice starting in late November. We made huge improvements over the past few months, and I know you all enjoy the heavenly chimes.

Thank you, **chancel choir**, for your wonderful singing on the harder version of *O Holy Night*. Thank you for coming to church for an extra rehearsal to rehearse with our lovely soloist, Chinwe Enu. Special thanks to our soloists, soprano Chinwe Enu, and violinist, Alan Tilley, for sharing their musical talents with us.

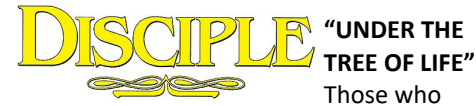
Making music is a lovely way to connect with each other. **Join us Wednesday at 7:30pm for praise band practices if you are interested in contemporary praise songs. Every Thursday at 7:30pm, the chancel choir rehearses to prepare for anthems and communion pieces for the services.** The handbell choir meets irregularly, so contact me if you are interested in joining us.
 God bless,

Digital Studies Equip Spiritual Leaders

Study is one of the defining dimensions of Christian discipleship. Knowing God, Bible Study and theological inquiry help us to grow in our faith, which enables us to claim the Gospel for ourselves and share it with others.

Thru DISCIPLE Study launch Assimilation Tracks ... Join small group study for biblical literacy that equips your discipleship adventure at Good Shepherd!

Disciples are "learners" of the gospel of God in Jesus Christ.



"Becoming Disciples through Bible Study" calls, equips, and strengthens the children of God of all ages to engage in their scriptural path to discipleship. This Fall, we have young adults in class. Valerie Campbell, Kevin Zac-Williams, Kayla, and Augustine Roberts. Join a small group of companions in Christ. Walk through the Bible with your friends like the followers of Jesus for your discipleship. Live out the marks of disciples. "Becoming Disciples through Bible Study" meets on Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 870-9910-8977

Those who complete "Remember Who You Are" returned to this 30-week study that equips as spiritual leader with the writings of the Hebrew scriptures and the Johannine literature and general letters of the New Testaments. Wilma Baxter (Savage), Christiana Campbell, Carol Penne, and Colleen Sampson attract more than a dozen of Facebook friends. During Advent, the participants study Ecclesiastes and Psalms. The class is offered on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 875-9323-0354
Passcode: 528483



A New Congregational Study will be offered during Lent. Through Climate Church,

the participants will learn a new way of a missional works of the church at the verge of Anthropocene.

Rev. DaeHwa Park, Facilitator

Date & Time: Mondays beginning February 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Complex block containing French text 'La vérité nous rend libres.' and English text 'We proclaim the gospel in French and in English. Come to Shepherd Nook on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. Meet Rev. Simeon Nomo. Questions? Contact him at snomo48@yahoo.com.'

You can join any study now. Use the zoom links and passcode to join each study. Surprise other participants with your insights.

The Season after Epiphany

The Act of Compassion (Mission Outreach)



Mission (Outreach) Committee

Leilani McConnell, Mission (Outreach) Chair; Eleanor Newman, Idowoo Boss-Cole, Carol Penne, Marcie Burroughs, Vernice Lee, Phylomena Black, Elizabeth Sawyerr.

Christ invites us to a life of service after His example, living out faith in response to the love of God. By serving others in the community and the world, we experience God at work in our neighborhood.

(tentative) Committee Mission Statement: Because of God's prior love, acceptance, and forgiveness of us, we are called to respond with acts of love, justice, and mercy toward others, honoring the dignity of all persons. The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to manage the charitable donations of the church and to provide opportunities for volunteer service.

The primary service projects we did follow:

- Broadacres/ JoAnn Lelecki Elementary School
Tabitha Pantry—3rd and 4th Tuesday at 10-11 a.m. (Now on hold)
Shepherd's Table - 1st and 3rd Friday
No Hungry Kids
Christmas in April
Sew-What Sewing Group
Collections
Hunger Projects
Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless
Advent Family Projects
UMCOR (Disaster Relief)
Support Our Troops
Shoebox Christmas
P.E.T. Projects of Fla
Hazel Black Mitten Tree
Rise against Hunger

(from "Means of Grace that Shape Our Future," New Member Guide.



If you want to join Mission Teams, please do not hesitate to keep in touch with Leilani McConnell, chair.



Special thanks to Elizabeth Sawyerr, Leilani McConnell, Christiana Campbell, Carolyn Brannon, and Vernice Lee for greening of the Church on Thanksgiving weekend and during Advent and Christmas. These women of faith help us get connected with the first Christmas at Good Shepherd. We also thank Pat McConnell and Hugh Holder, hidden figures—great helping hands and photographers.

To Our Sisters and Brothers in Ukraine

During Sunday worship on January 29, Good Shepherd will listen to vivid testimony from Rev. & Mrs. Hun Choi a missionary couple to Ukraine. Rev. Choi graduated Yonsei University, Seoul Korea and planted a church in Naepan, Jochi-won, and served at First Korean Methodist at SamHo in the late 1970s. He studied at the University of Münster, West Germany, and served MokYang (“Tending Sheep” Methodist Church, served as director of Seomyeonhoe, a Children’s Choir affiliated in World Vision, and Korean Methodist Church in Georgia, prior to his missionary works in Odessa and Kyiv. Rev. Choi started his missionary work as he supervised and supports two scores of new churches being planted. He also planted new churches in Ovidiopol, Bilgorad, Mykoliv. His ministry include teaching Korean language and culture. He also trained clergy candidates at seminary. In the churches he planted Rev. Choi appointed pastors native Ukraine. At Kyiv, he supervised and sponsored small churches.

Mrs. Anna Choi was a professional Fine Artist, majoring in Art Craft and studied in



Łódź Poland. She has supported Rev. Choi in ministry while teaching at a college. Now, she teaches the Korean language and culture for hundreds of the Ukrainian young adults who would like explore their



callings and improve their careers in life in Ukraine. With the Russian invasion on February 24, 2022, the couple made a decision to lay down their lives for the remnants of the war.

Recently, Anna inspired many teenagers and young adults and published their memoir, entitled *My Journal in Spring 2022*. This memoir is powerful voices from the margin written by 27 students of nearly three hundreds others whom she have taught. May God protect them in their works!

Six special Sundays are celebrated by United Methodists with churchwide offerings:

- **Human Relations Day** - Sunday before the observance of MLK Jr. Birthday. January 15, 2023.
- **UMCOR Sunday**, 4th Sunday in Lent, March 19.
- **Native American Ministries Sunday**, 3rd Sunday of Easter, April 23.
- **Peace with Justice Sunday**, 1st Sunday after Pentecost, June 4.
- **World Communion Sunday**, 1st Sunday in October. October 1.
- **United Methodist Student Day**, last Sunday in November, November 26.

Pastor’s Discretionary Fund

Your generous extra giving makes it possible to relieve life burdens for those who are in need. Rev. Park meets our neighbors in a desperate situation. If you are willing to share your monetary gift. Make a check payable to Good Shepherd UMC and write a note: **Pastor’s Discretionary Fund**. 100% goes to our neighbor at the spiritual discretion of the pastor. All the disbursement records have been kept in the office. Do good for the least! Praise the Lord.

The Season after Epiphany

The Act of Devotion



Nurture (Discipleship) Committee

Christiana Campbell, Discipleship Committee Chair
Philip Palmer, Sr. Adult Sunday School;
Jason Washburn, Hispanic Ministries
Rev. DaeHwa Park, facilitator of Disciple, Assimilation Tracks
Valerie Campbell, Youth Coordinator;
Andrew Zac-Williams, Young Adults Fellowship

Everyone is invited to **Adult Sunday School**. Come, walk in **Wesley Parlor** and share manna on **Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.** Encounter companions in Christ. Questions? Contact **Philip Palmer, Sr.**

NURTURE



Coffee with Pastor - Mondays at 11 a.m.

Take advantage of this time with a cup of coffee. Meet the pastor for your own prayer concerns, comments on church’s mission and ministries. Those who come to the meeting get a coffee mug with our church logo and Rev. Park’s name on it as souvenir.

Meeting ID: 631-887-165 Passcode: 375637



The Holy Club - Mondays at 9 p.m.

Keep you flames of faith with covenant discipleship like the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ and the young people at Oxford who started the Methodist society. This is a weekly session for Good Shepherd Young Professionals. Join this Monday church.

Zoom Meeting ID: 631-887-165 Passcode: 716470



Meet the Pastor (Faith Talk) - Thursdays at 11 a.m.

weekly faith talk on Thursdays for Advocacy and Actions! Helps the participant explore the biblical, rational, traditional, and experiential positions of the people called Methodists. A good faith talk for mom’s morning out. **Meeting ID: 953-5226-0028 Passcode: 014740**



Journey Thru the Bible - Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

As we begin a new liturgical calendar, Savage would you to master the knowledge of salvation from the Bible this year. Join this reading plan, and you can read once through the Old Testament, twice through the Psalms, and twice through the New Testament. One of ways for the reading the entire bible begins with brining your own Bible. Praise the Lord!

Meeting ID: 947-5619-4251 Passcode: 024529

It's new year! Time for thing some thing NEW! Jesus made all things new for His followers according to the evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, especially John in his letter to the seven churches, Revelation. Young Disciples are expected to thing new things in their life. Good Shepherd Funday School would like you to start a new adventure.

last year's highlights

Favorite place I visited: _____

Favorite movie I saw: _____

Favorite time I spent with family: _____

goals for this year

One way I'll be healthier: _____

How I'll be a nicer person: _____

What I plan to accomplish at school: _____

#1

Super!

A+

my new year's resolutions

<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Resolve to have fruit instead of dessert (at least twice a week) <input type="checkbox"/> Take a walk after dinner every other day <input type="checkbox"/> Find a volunteering opportunity, and commit to helping out a minimum of 6 months <input type="checkbox"/> Rent movies from the library instead of ordering them <input type="checkbox"/> Pack a healthy lunch to work/school every day	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Clean room & make bed every day <input type="checkbox"/> Break one bad habit (slouching, biting nails, watching too much tv) <input type="checkbox"/> Cut down on soda (or in your case, coffee) <input type="checkbox"/> Read a least one new book a month <input type="checkbox"/> Give at least one compliment every day <input type="checkbox"/> Recycle and compost <input type="checkbox"/> Take up a new hobby
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TheChicSite.com

Bring your New Year's Resolution to the church on a Sunday during the Season after the Epiphany for a nice present.

Name: _____

February is Black History Month!



No matter your heritage, culture, or racial background, Black history is EVERYONE's story.

Here are 29 ways you, your family, and your congregation can celebrate and participate in Black History Month.

1. Patronize a local or online Black-owned business.
2. Attend church, Bible study, or worship at a historically Black church and experience the Gospel from another vantage point.
3. Sing hymns or songs during worship by a composer from the African diaspora.
4. Include the history of the song or hymn in the church bulletin or on your website.
5. Attend or co-host a Black history or Black culture event in your community, in partnership with a Black congregation.
6. Take a church family field trip to a Black history site or museum in your area.
7. Learn more about "Black Harry" Hosier (c. 1750-1806), an African-American Methodist preacher and evangelist.
8. Research other Black United Methodist leaders from our church's heritage.
9. Fearlessly learn more about how racism has and still affects Black people around the world and start confronting racism.
10. Donate to a Black nonprofit or empowerment organization in your community.

11. Watch a film by and about the heritage and lives of Black people. Titles to consider: "Antwone Fisher," "Malcolm X," "If Beale Street Could Talk," "Hidden Figures," "The Hate U Give," and "One Night in Miami."
12. Watch and discuss documentaries one about the Civil Rights movement and other series on the challenges and triumphs of Black people. Suggestions: "Eyes on the Prize," and Henry Louis Gates' recent series, "The Black Church: This Is Our Story. This Is Our Song."
13. Visit a landmark about the lives of local Black heroes in your area.
14. Read a contemporary book by a Black author.
15. Read a story featuring a Black hero to your children, grandchildren, or to a local school class.
16. Seek out and talk with a Black elder (75 or older) about their experience in your community.
17. Study one of the 54 nations on the continent of Africa, including the language, culture, current events.
18. Donate to one of the 12 United Methodist-related historically Black colleges and universities in the United States and Zimbabwe.
19. Learn about an unsung hero of Black history.
20. Attend shows featuring local Black artists, actors, poets, local musicians, or dancers. ...
29. Register and vote. (from "Resource UMC" at <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/29-ways-to-participate-in-black-history-month>) [LN]

Fleeing from the present life in whatever circumstances does not necessarily bring them to a heaven.

Therefore, what Jesus of the gospel of John talks with Nicodemus is so true. "No one can see the Kingdom of God, unless he is born again (John 3:3)" Further, Jesus mentioned: "No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. So, you must be born again" (3:5-6). Jesus wants everyone born of the Spirit (3:8c). So do I as a pastor tending a flock gathering here at Good Shepherd.

Here is a point I would like to make. **You are invited to the Kingdom of God here at Good Shepherd**, not only in the building and its sacred ground located in west Silber Spring, Maryland, but also where the gospel of Good Shepherd UMC reaches.



This year, I would like to see many adventurers for God's Kingdom, having been established and grown. Some of you would prefer watching to weaving in the Kingdom at Good Shepherd. I am pleased with the awesome and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, "learners" who understand this idea of the Kingdom and live in it, while other spectators yield this great invitation with their own priorities.

You may say this: It's an option for everyone. Listen again to Jesus. "So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

In some cases, rarely, some individuals oppose the idea of the works of the Kingdom to be postpone in a later time in their life. I have seen with my own eyes these individuals never enter the Kingdom. Unfortunately, some of them turned to believe the establishment of the Kingdom as a distant reality or someone else's job.

Some folks would like to bargain the cost of the Kingdom. Remember what Jesus said:

"Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, **he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels" (Mark 8:34-38).

The Kingdom of God is with us, here and now. Come, join the works of the Kingdom. Tell your spouse and children to become a part of the Kingdom. Invite your next door neighbors and co-workers to join your spiritual journey here from Good Shepherd. Let the whole world know that Good Shepherd is a holy mountain where they hear the good news of the gospel that changes their life. More importantly, make sure that you are the part of this work. [LN]

Youth Orchestra on Sunday, January 29

Bring your instruments for the adoration of God. On Sunday, you can play hymns during worship. We began Youth Orchestra in July



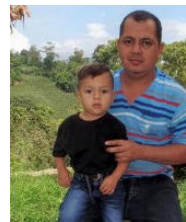
2022. Currently, we play on the 5th Sundays only. If any one (K-12) would like to sing as vocals, please contact either Ms. Christiana Campbell or Ms. Szu-Yi Li for more information.

Apply UM Student Scholarship - No later than Sunday, February 27.

Now, you can apply UM scholarship for college and seminaries. Please find details in application at <https://www.bwcumc.org/administration/local-church-resources/scholarships/>. For **endorsement**, please contact **Christiana Campbell**.



www.bwcumc.org/administration/local-church-resources/scholarships/. For **endorsement**, please contact **Christiana Campbell**.



Deybin and his family of Honduras give thanks to God for our partnership. With \$38.00 per month, we can send Deybin to an elementary school. If you want to support this project, please make a check payable to GSUMC: Sponsoring a Child. All the donations will be acknowledged as your giving to church. During the Pandemic year we supported Deybin with \$494. Questions? **Call Christiana Campbell.**

Faithful Connection of Children and Youth at the Post-Pandemic Era!

<p>Funday School For Kids Now with Kids Sunday Bulletins! Available on Sundays</p>	<p>Youth Hang-Out Sundays at 7 p.m. ZoomID: 976-1877-7352 Passcode: 914966</p>	<p>Storytelling with Children Sundays at 8 p.m. ZoomID: 964-1021-2427 Passcode: 541602</p>
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Funday School



Children, have a good start of your adventure with Jesus Christ. Like Jesus, grow in wisdom and stature. Come and **take a seat in the middle of the sanctuary. Your seats are reserved!**



Parents, bring up your children with faithful observance of the Lord's Day. Let your children sit together with other pals. **We will encounter and offer children's message there.** Children will be surrounded by other worshippers.

The Kingdom of God within You

by Rev. DaeHwa Park

The oldest and foremost core faith in Judeo-Christian faith is derived from the concept and reality of the Kingdom of God. Though the Hebrew bible, (a.k.a. the Old Testament) lacks its expression, the entire Bible indicates its hidden reality deeply in the mind of believers as alternative realities, such as the Garden of Eden in Genesis, the Promised Land in the early legacy of the Israelites from Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, 1 & 2 Samuels, 1 & 2 Kings. The prophetic writings envisions the establishment of God's Kingdom throughout the ages.



For example, Isaiah envisages it in his vision of a "Holy Mount" (Isaiah 65:17-25).

Interestingly, the Gospel of Matthew, which describes the appearance or the birth of Jesus as "light shining for the people living in darkness," unfolds the core earthly public ministry of Jesus in a mount, which is familiar to many students of the bible, as "The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)." For Matthew, the inaugural speech of Jesus of Nazareth, should sound an realization of the Holy Mount, mentioned by the Prophet Isaiah.

When we read the gospel of Matthew in the church, especially during Sunday worship, which actually the lectionary reading of this season after the Epiphany this year of 2023, allows the hearers of the gospel to engage in their 21st century church life as the spiritual

adventure with the Jesus of Nazareth on a holy mountain here where they gather. In our case, Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on a hill, a highest summit of Montgomery County, as Nathan Block, former SPRC chair, tells, shall be a holy mountain where the gospel of Jesus has been spoken at least last seven decades.

In his book, *The Kingdom of God*, John Bright, one of the most prominent biblical scholars of

the 20th century, argues that the entire bible implicitly indicate the presence of the Kingdom throughout the age.

All the candidates of the

ordained ministry in the United Methodist Churches have to grasp the theological understanding of the Kingdom of God. The failure of this idea might derail their ministries in the local churches where they are sent. The disciplinary question about "the Kingdom of God," especially for the clergy candidates are raised: "What is your understanding of the Kingdom of God, resurrection, and the eternal life?"

You can answer that question as you explore the Kingdom of God you seek in your own spiritual journey. For someone it can be a church home, settled from a long journey. It can be a dream land a migrant arrives after a rough travel. It can be a moment in life with a mountaintop experience. This is a profound question that allows Christians to grasp the knowledge of salvation.

2023 Goals

The Kingdom of God here in the question is closely related to the resurrection and the eternal life. Without faith in the resurrection the Kingdom of God can be futile.

The Kingdom of God is the heaven you can enter after death as many people think. Jesus in the gospel of John says anyone can enter it even before death (John 3:15-16). With Jesus Christ, especially trusting His resurrection, anyone can enter the Kingdom. By entering to the Kingdom, the mortal live eternal life in celestial heaven as well as in the earthly heaven, just as Enoch, who walked with God (Genesis 5:23).

However, without resurrection, the Kingdom of God will be understood as a temporary reality for the living, perhaps a happy and healthy life in a specific life circumstance. Some may feel fortunate with their being born in a safer or prosperous country. Others might keep migrating until they find a land, flowing "milk and honey" (Leviticus 20:24; Deuteronomy 26:9).

The Kingdom of God gives us temporal and local understanding of its own reality. It is a place you can go, enter in, move in, settle in, stay in it, and/or leave from or in a worse case be lost or expelled involuntarily.

With resurrection, the Kingdom is expanded as eternal presence. This understanding grants people the Kingdom is not merely a place we occupy. It exists in time and beyond time.

So what the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians is so important: "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost" (1 Corinthians 15:17-18).

The Jesus demands little further works to be done for Christians who would like to follow their master - not simply making an effort to enter the Kingdom, but to serve as Kingdom-builders.

I would like each and every member of Good Shepherd to find the Kingdom of God within us, expand (widen) it with others.

Should anyone of you have been away from the Kingdom of God, come back, join us. Hear Jesus of Nazareth, crying out "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near (Matthew 4:17)."

"To repent" in Hebrew means "to return" or "to turn around." Jesus wants his followers



simply turn around from their path that leads to sin and death. Jesus loves all. He really does. He came to lead all to the Kingdom of God!

Some may argue that the Kingdom has not yet to come! The Kingdom may be established some time in a distant future or after death of one's life. Some believe that the Kingdom has already begun with the creation of God. Others adopt an idea that the Kingdom is present with them, "here and now."

Such understandings shape life styles of people in an interesting all but more likely in a dangerous way; for some individuals opt for a quick way to the Kingdom by ending of their lives or by isolating themselves from their present realities.