

PRAISE + EXPERIENCE + SERVE + SHARE

Love Notes

Praising God | Experiencing God | Serving God
2021 Advent & Christmas (November - December)

A Journey from

- 5. Advent Green
- 7. Advent Celebration
- 10. Christmas with Children
- 12-16. Disciple/shift in the World
- 18. Mission Outreach to the World
- 26. Amazing Year

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

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

Influenced 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 15:6), 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. 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.

Global (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!

A Daily Journey with the Holy Word

Good Shepherd offer a daily reading guide for those who read the whole bible. Begin each day with a gospel lesson and you will be able to complete reading of the entire bible and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and admonishing. Every man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every work of ministry.

Month of December

Date	Morning	Evening
28	Acts 10:1-23	Job 17, 18, & 19
29	Acts 10:24-48	Job 20 & 21
30	Acts 11	Job 22, 23, & 24
Dec. 1	Acts 12	Job 25, 26, & 27
2	Acts 13:1-25	Job 28 & 29
3	Acts 13:26-52	Job 30 & 31
4	Acts 14	Job 32 & 33
5	Acts 15:1-21	Job 34 & 35
6	Acts 15:22-41	Job 36 & 37
7	Acts 16:1-21	Job 38, 39, & 40
8	Acts 16:22-40	Job 41 & 42
9	Acts 17:1-15	Psalms 1, 2, & 3
10	Acts 17:16-34	Psalms 4, 5, & 6
11	Acts 18	Psalms 7, 8, & 9
12	Acts 19:1-20	Psalms 10, 11, & 12
13	Acts 19:21-41	Psalms 13, 14, & 15
14	Acts 20:1-16	Psalms 16 & 17
15	Acts 20:17-38	Psalms 18 & 19
16	Acts 21:1-17	Psalms 20, 21, & 22
17	Acts 21:18-40	Psalms 23, 24, & 25
18	Acts 22	Psalms 26, 27, & 28
19	Acts 23:1-15	Psalms 29 & 30
20	Acts 23:16-35	Psalms 31 & 32
21	Acts 24	Psalms 33 & 34
22	Acts 25	Psalms 35 & 36
23	Acts 26	Psalms 37, 38, & 39
24	Acts 27:1-26	Psalms 40, 41, & 42
25	Acts 27:27-44	Psalms 43, 44, & 45
26	Acts 28	Psalms 46, 47, & 48
27	Romans 1	Psalms 49 & 50
28	Romans 2	Psalms 51, 52, & 53
29	Romans 3	Psalms 54, 55, & 56
30	Romans 4	Psalms 57, 58, & 59
31	Romans 5	Psalms 60, 61, & 62

Your word is a lamp to my feet

LOVE NOTES

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thropocene with Us



Good Friday "Hybrid" Service



Proud Graduates



Multi-Contextual

Year of 2021



with the Pastor



In-Person Choir Sings



International Dinner



Choir Appreciation



Staff Appreciation

merge of The Methodist Church and The United Brethren in
 United Methodist Church. As a part of UM connection, we
 ddom of God and His Righteousness (Matthew 6:33). Green
 God's Kingdom like "green pastures" to be unfolded as we
 shade of the cross is consisted of the first two Greek letters
 the living water (John 7:38) the gathering of the faithful disci-
 psalm 1:3; 23:2; Galatians 5:22-23; Revelation 22:1-3). This
 rist, the starting point of our faith journey. Shepherd crook
 Good Shepherd! (John 10:14) - Rev. DaeHwa Park

Advent & Christmas

Spotlights in Ministries



Greening of the Church



Children with Storytelling



New Handbell Choir



Advent Cantata - Dec. 19

Church Staff

Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor
 (202) 277-8553 | daehwa@gmail.com
YoungHoon Park, Interim Director of Music/Organist
 (301) 633-8429 | yhoon12p@gmail.com
Wendy De La Roca Barrios Secretary
 (301) 434-3331 | goodshpumc@verizon.net
Peter Ayok, Custodian
 (240) 765-4608

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LOVE NOTES

Greetings from the Pastor

Don't you expect something to receive from someone as you live a season of gift-giving. I bet each one of you will get one true gift from God, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior particularly at the end of your own journey from afar. You may hear a voice from God, heard from a Christmas Carol I sing most at this season of



Advent.

*Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight over all the earth;
You who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching over your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:*

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:*

*Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord,
descending, in his temple shall appear:*

*Come and worship
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King!
(James Montgomery, 1816)*

Glory in the highest and Peace on earth!
Merry Christmas,

Rev. DaeHwa Park

Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor

Advent & Christmas

Please watch Montgomery Public School's opening and closing updates. All the church meetings may be canceled by MCPS weather inclement.



Recurring Events

Sun.

8-1:30 a.m. *The Comforter's House Chapel* Rm 8

8:45 a.m. *Adult Bible Study* Library

10 a.m. *Chancel Choir Rehearsal* Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. *In-Person/ digital Worship* Sanctuary/zoom

TBA *Fellowship* Lewis Hall

7p.m. *Youth Hang-Out* Zoom

Mon. Office Hours, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

9:30 a.m. *Staff Meeting* Zoom

Tuesday, Rev. Park works at Savage Campus

Wednesday: Church Office Hours 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

12 p.m. *High Noon Prayer (Zoom)* Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. *Praise Band Rehearsal* Sanctuary

8 p.m. *Prayer Conference Call* (515) 603-3157
(Access Code: 809996, #1)

Thursday

11 a.m. *Meet the Pastor* Zoom

Friday: Church Office Hours 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday - In-person Services are cancelled

10-12 p.m. *Agape SDA Worship* zoom

5-7 p.m. *Agape SDA Worship* zoom

Join the Wednesday Night Prayer Conference
Call

at 8-8:30 p.m.

Call 1-515-603-3157

Access code 809996,

option #1



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LOVE NOTES

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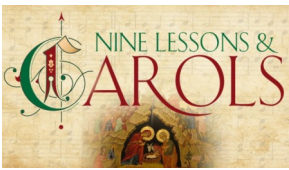
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Advent & Christmas

Advent Greetings

Godswill O. Okoji, MD
New Lay Leader

There are many wonderful reasons to be thankful: we are open; after a dreadful almost two years of COVID pandemic. The body of Christ that is us remains intact. We sing, we pray, we console each other and we rejoice together.



In this season of Advent let us remember our call to spiritual connectedness with Christ. Let the birth of Christ be a reminder that we are His: warts and all.

We must strive to Love the Lord and we must continue to love each other. Let us give of ourselves: our shekels, our talents, our time - the all of us. Our Lord reminds us in the gospel of Matthew 22:37-39 of the writings in the Hebrew Bible Deuteronomy 6:5. "Thou shall love thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul."

May this season and the New Year bring about our own rebirth. May we continue to be the true shepherds, tending the Lord's sheep. Happy Thanksgiving!



Wendy Barrios, secretary; Peter Ayok, Custodian, YoungHoon Park, Interim Director of Music & Organist; Rev. DaeHwa Park, pastor

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LOVE NOTES

Praising God
Praising God

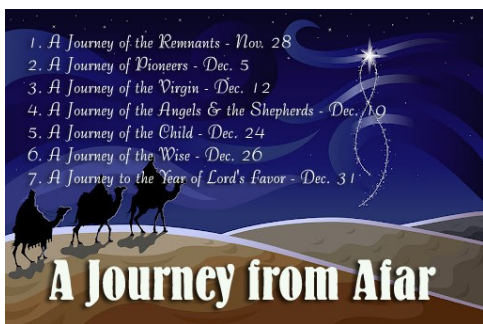
Celebration of Worship thru Zoom

On Sundays at 11 a.m.

Meeting ID: 566-965-650

Password: 900361

For facebook view, please request friends at Facebook.com/DaeHwa.Park



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+ Special Thanks to Liturgists:

- Nov. 24: *Admire Russell*
- Nov. 28: *Bintu Murphy*
- Dec. 5: *Philip Palmer, Jr.*
- Dec. 12: *Christiane Taca*
- Dec. 19: *Christiana Campbell*
- Christmas Eve: *Gideon Park*
- Dec. 26: *TBD*
- Watch Night Service:
Christiana Campbell

We contribute \$28,274 for Mission Share; \$136,240.83 for pastor and staff; \$69,300.13 for Church operation that includes maintenance, utilities, and repairs. \$11,921.88 was given for the programs that transforms lives of the members and friends. We paid 22,774.48 mortgage this year. Our net income is -4,721.70. This is the year with good designated giving of \$7,112.00. May God continue to bless us, so that we may accomplish the works of the Lord and His people. [LN]

Advent & Christmas

I was fascinated the other morning by watching a Disney-like dance of fallen leaves that had been picked up by a vortex of wind.

On one corner I pass frequently was a bed of black-eyed-Susans that bloomed nearly all summer. I regularly walk through the little undeveloped wooded lot down our hill that connects our street with the one to the east. (where I usually saw the deer). One day I was stopped by an elaborate spider web (and its creator) across the path so I had to invent a detour. I wonder how the spider gets the first strands connected from one end to the other, sometimes more than a foot apart. Do they jump? Do they swing? I may ask Wikipedia.

It has been hard not to be anxious or deeply depressed by the Covid and its effects on families and businesses and the stress of the recent election. Reading stories of lives well lived I see in the Washington Post, the outpouring of care and concern so many offer in response to the pandemic. has helped. I try to find something to laugh at or celebrate every day.

I am closer (via ZOOM) to my nieces and nephews and brother – we “see” each other Sunday evenings. We have plenty to eat, a steady retirement income, a house and access to books and picture puzzles and TV movies to amuse us. We have had need of medical help this year and are grateful for being able to access it and to the care and concern we received from those professionals. We lost a sister / sister-in-law and a few friends to eternal life but are grateful for their long lives and our place in them. And we are grateful for having church every Sunday.

IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Broad Acres families via gift cards rather than gifts.

While the women did not meet, I did attend two Church Women United events via streaming service, most recently on Nov. 06, "World Friendship Day". Items will be collected for Central Union Mission in DC and the Crossways Community in Kensington. (See reference after this article.)



We we have been mostly staying at home since March except for grocery or pharmacy runs, and we have stayed in touch with family and friends by telephone and ZOOM, and emails and snail mail.

I walk the neighborhood most days and have met lots of folks and their dogs who live near by. We all are frustrated by being inside so much and many who work are doing so from home. The teenagers we hired to do mowing are schooling at home, too.

I have gotten to know the streets of my community much better and I enjoy the colorful mail boxes and landscaping. Lots of Black Lives Matter signs and political signs (for only one of the candidates) and recently some cleverly carved pumpkins. We finally got some color in the trees before they lost their leaves. In summer I saw our small herd of deer quite often and on occasion red foxes.

Some days it is so quiet, just the odd twittering birds. More often the beltway noise and lately leaf blowers remind me we live in an urban area. I enjoy pondering the wet spots left on the tarmac after rains – they are like a Rorschach tests and my imagination is challenged.

Advent & Christmas

"The Road to Bethlehem"

By YoungHoon Park
Interim Director of Music

It is my pleasure to praise God this season of waiting of the Lord. With the theme of this Advent, "A Journey from Afar," I have put several carols.



We have faithful chancel choir members. They love to bring a gift of praise to our Lord, Jesus Christ, upon His birth.

On behalf of the church, I give big hands to each choir member. This year, featuring several selections, we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, who journeyed toward people - you and me. Here are the carols.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Words by 9th Century Latin
Music by 15th Century French Melody

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

African American Spiritual

Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach
Arranged by Wallingford Rigger

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

The Road to Bethlehem

Words by Isaac Watts, Lloyd Larson, & French Carol; arranged by Lloyd Larson incorporating ANTIOCH by G.F. Handel, MENDELSON, by Felix Mendelsohn, and GLORIA, Traditional French Carol

Emilie Flores and Andy Garcia, who played at our joint service during the Pandemic will bring Advent music.

Mark your calendar! Come. Come with your family and friends. Let us lift up our voices on our journey to Bethlehem.

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LOVE NOTES

Experiencing God
Experiencing God

a Difference

of Christian discipleship. **Knowing God**, Bible Study
in our faith, which enables us to claim the Gospel for



Come and stop by Pastor's Study

Advent & Christmas

The Act of Justice and Evangelism

The primary task of Evangelism is to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the children of God of all ages. We have a variety of media to reach out the seekers in our community. We send out a pastoral letter to new residents each season. Post card and Community Newspapers are also the other media. The survey shows that the word of mouth and the demonstration of our examples as the hands and feet of God.

Inviting Others

In keeping with our commitment to invite others into a loving, prayerful relationship with God, Good Shepherd is becoming more intentional about reaching out others and receiving those who respond, relating them to God, nurturing them in faith, and sending them to serve.

Our Evangelism team leads ways in developing necessary tools and welcoming habits, and have undertaken bold new initiatives to increase the visibility of our church in the broader community and to develop a culture in which more of our members are actively reaching out and receiving others into the church. Reaching out to others in the name of Christ is the responsibility of every Christian.

Invite others for worship, study and service opportunities. No greater evangelism than **the word of mouth**, which may be required for your own ownership of the mission and ministries of the church.

LOVE NOTES

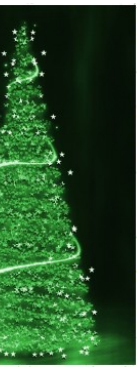


New Members



Find out lost sheep and bring them to the manger. There will be a heavenly banquet that we can sing carols and hear the stories of Christmas of new members. The invitation to this annual lunch with the Pastor is extended to people who would like to join as professing members. There are ROOMS in our inn. Bring your friends and neighbors.

Evangelism



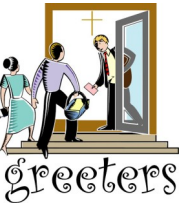
Offer a gift of Christmas for those who are away from God's love this season of good tidings. You can send this postcard with 40 cents of postage for a postcard. You may enclose it with your own Christmas card. Please feel free to scan it and send it to your love one if you prefer electronic version of it. Whatever method you would take, bring the gospel of Jesus Christ will be a great gift for your friends. Merry Christmas,

Evangelism



Welcome Table Coordinator Wanted

Evangelism & Witness temporarily find a location for the welcome table. Thank you for Trustees. This will be an information booth with welcome bags, and ministry guidelines. Please contact **Elizabeth Sawyer** if you would like to be on duty on Sunday mornings.



Advent & Christmas

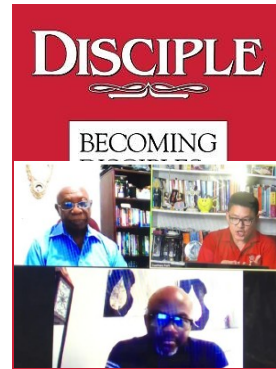
Thru DISCIPLE Study launch Assimilation Tracks

Join small group study for biblical literacy that equips for a fellowship adventure at Good Shepherd!

Advent Adult Group Study at 8:45 a.m.

Dive deep into the history of the birth of Christ. Advent is not only the perfect time to read the story of the birth of Jesus; it's also a great time to dive deeper into biblical texts that surround the event. In *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine shows how the Gospel narratives connect to the Old Testament; highlights the role of women in first-century Jewish culture; and emphasizes the importance of Mary's visitation, the census, the stable, the star of Bethlehem, and the flight to Egypt. **Meet Philip Palmer, Sr. the facilitator.**

Zoom Id: 961-6061-5713
Passcode: 716470

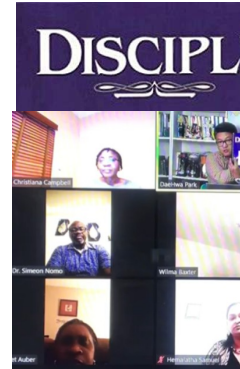


AT111: Prerequisite Course for All Leadership Tracks

Monday s at 7:30 p.m.

Enrolled Disciples:
Philip Palmer, Sr.
Dr. Simeon Nomo
& 7 Facebook Friends

Zoom Id: 875-9323-0
Passcode: 528483



AA201: Action and Leadership Track

Wednesdays at 7:30

Enrolled Prophets:
Janet Auber;
Wilma Baxter;
Christiana Campbell;
Hemalatha Samuel;
Carol Penne;
Colleen Sampson;
& 11 FB Friends

School

- Nov. 28, session 1. Nazareth
- Dec. 5, session 2. Bethlehem
- Dec. 12, session 3. The Shepherd's Field
- Dec. 19, session 4. The Shepherd's Adventure
- Dec. 26, session 5. Our Findings

Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam. Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam . . . Which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don't have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our chaos. God breaks into our noisy disorder and is made known in Jesus Christ. Christmas and confusion—weren't they intimately connected at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget that. That's what this study is about—how Christ breaks into our chaos and confusion and brings Christmas—how Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam.

Children's Study contains five lessons that delve into the Luke account of Jesus's birth through an Adventure to find Bethlehem. They will have opportunities to really experience the story of Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, the shepherds, and Jesus. The guide is simple to use, and includes reproducible activities for each lesson. Children, begin your journey to Bethlehem.



Make to send a monetary donation to bring his Christmas. As we give thanks to God this month, we've sent Deyonta to support this project. GSUMC: Sponsoring a donation as your giving to the bell.

Advent & Christmas

The Act of Compassion (Mission Outreach)

Christ invites us to a life of service after His example of faith in response to the love of God. By serving our community and the world, we experience God at work in our neighborhood. Because of God's prior love, acceptance, forgiveness of us, we are called to respond with acceptance, 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. Chair: Leilani Moore

The primary service projects follow:

Service to Local Communities

- Broadacres/ JoAnn Lelecki Elementary School
- Tabitha Pantry—3rd and 4th Tuesday at 10-11
- 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**

Service to Global Communities

- UMCOR
- Support Our Troops
- Shoebox Christmas
- P.E.T.
- Hazel Black Mitten Tree
- Rise against Hunger
- Others



Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Your generous extra giving makes possible to reach those in need. Rev. Park meets with you. If you are willing to share, payable to Good Shepherd's **Discretionary Fund**. 100% at the discretion of the pastor. If you have been kept in the office.



LOVE NOTES

Serving God

Missions started collecting supplies such as personal care items, socks, warm hats, gloves or mittens, crayons, coloring books, small toys, hair care items, etc. via this box. It would be wonderful if you could add to it. What's collected will be used to create a family gift bag full of goodies. Missions is also collecting warm throws and blankets which will be shared with Advent Families and also with the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center in Milwaukee and the two Indian reservation schools we support.

Missions greatly appreciates your support and contributions to the annual Advent Families drive. Please make all contributions by Sunday, December 19.

“Outstanding Person ...” from page 17



He has served as a trustee for many years. Also he is on call from his wife when his help is needed on UMW or Mission issues or the church kitchen. Regarding the latter, he has

attended classes to be a certified Food Handler for the church along with his wife. He routinely delivers the Bulletins for mailings on Wednesdays. In sum, he is one of our most loyal “on-call” guys and he loves doing it. But mostly he loves the church family of which he is proud to be a part. (Leilani McConnell)

The Outstanding Person of the Year 2021 is: PAT McConnell. Pat, please come forward! [LN]

Advent & Christmas

Hi, young disciples, you are invited to our **Youth Hang-out on Sunday evening** at 7 p.m.

Our meeting begins with News and announcements that connect you to the life of the church. During the season of Advent and 12 days of Christmas, we will have special sessions with a short movie, **The Gift of Magi** on Sunday, December 5. We are looking for a night fieldtrip for viewing of Christmas Tree in front of the White House on Saturday, December 18 after watching “**Merry Tubachristmas**” in the JFK Performing Art Center at 2 p.m. This year, NICE youth may receive a **special Christmas gift** on Christmas Eve.

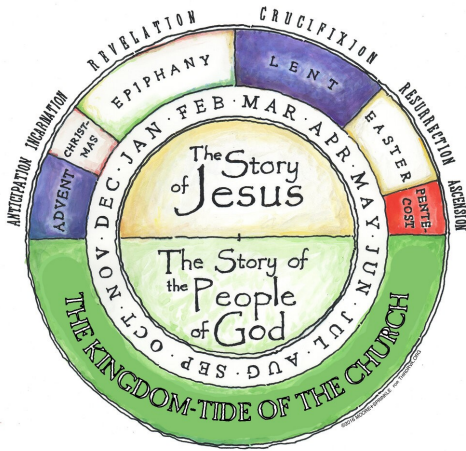
Encounter Rev. Park, sharing his faith journey as he has learned from his own life journey. Don't miss many useful tips about how to succeed in teen's life.

Christiana Campbell facilitates the gathering with greetings, words of encouragements, and prayer.



Youth Hang-Out
Sun. at 7 p.m.
Zoom ID: 976-1877-7352
Passcode: 914966

LOVE NOTES



The Land of Goshen for Good Shepherd in the 21st century might serve as a comfort zone, in which we entertain ourselves as comfortable epicureans of God. But, God calls us to go toward the Promised Land where true milk and honey flows.

Some people may raise a question why we shall pass through the dangerous, dirty, and difficult road. The wilderness is the providential gift of God who would like to discipline His people as the instrument of His Kingdom.

Let us not excuse our journey through the wilderness as someone else's job. Let us not consider this journey as what our parents must have done for their beloved children. Every generation faces a tough journey one way or the other.

As we spent time with the Holy word of God for our journey toward Anthropocene during the Kingdom-tide last year, we will face new challenges, a new normal and many unexpected realities.

Advent & Christmas

Outstanding Person of the Year

Laity Sunday
October 17, 2021

"This person exemplifies one who is indeed a 'follower of Christ'. Over the last 19 years, when I first joined Good Shepherd, I have observed him as he has worked diligently behind the scenes, with his wife, to ensure that equipment is working well, to ensure that there are no leaks, that the lights and heating are all as they should be. All this done in a quiet manner without drawing attention to the fact that he is the one who does these things. He is a long standing Chancel Choir member who welcomes us all and makes each of us feel special. During the pandemic he has been steadfast inspite of the many limitations placed by the pandemic and any personal issues." (Peggy Andrews)

He is a truly dignified man of substance. He does not wait to be on the podium to always give his best even after the spotlight is turned off. He is a symbol of dedication and love for his community, Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. (Elizabeth Sawyerr)

He is a godly man. A hard worker and someone you can look up to. He knows his way around the church and there is nothing you want to know about GSUM-CHURCH that he cannot tell you. I always admire his pleasant attitude and smiles and above all his humility, kindness and he is always ready. He deserves to be nominated. (Gladys Palmer)

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LOVE NOTES

Church Budget

(Proposed)

Committee on Finance will present a proposed budget for 2022 on Leadership Team Meeting (a.k.a Church Council) on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Programs (Ministries)

Education	2,100
Missions	7,500
Stewardship	500
Staff Parish Relations	500
Worship	3,451
Evangelism	1,393
Music incl. Praise Band	4,988
Annual Conference	500
Youth Ministries	3,407
Young Adult Ministries	950
Multi-Contextual Min.	2,400
Pastoral Internship	2,400
Subtotal	<u>30,089</u>

Pastor and Staff

<u>Salary and Benefits</u>	<u>132,876</u>
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Operations

Utilities	45,000
Maintenance & Repairs	40,000
Taxes & Insurances	15,000
Administrative	20,000
Subtotal	<u>120,000</u>

Connectional Ministries

<u>Apportionment</u>	<u>35,668</u>
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<u>Mortgage Payment</u>	<u>30,000</u>
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<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>348,633</u>
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May God provide resources for the mission and ministries that transform the lives of all God's people. Alleluia! [LN]

Advent & Christmas

Some may say that there is nothing in the wilderness: no water, no food, no electricity, no internet services, no smart phone, and so forth. Lack of all these devices on which we have depended on will lead us to fully rely on God (FROG).

In the wilderness we will encounter God who says "I am your God." This voice from the wilderness will immediately recognize who you are. "You are my people." There will be transformation of our lives in the wilderness. **Disciples will be shifted. During Lent Good Shepherd will be invited to a Lenten Study on Disciple/Shift in the wilderness.**

Remember how Jesus began his ministry. **NOW**, when he saw the crowds, Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples come to him, and he began to teach them, saying "Blessed are the poor in spirit for there is the Kingdom of heaven. ... (Matthew 5:1ff). No dependent enables us to fully depend on God.

While passing through the wilderness, the poor will find rooms to be prosperous. The mournful will find comfort and joy. The hungry and homeless will satisfy. The people with a generous heart will share their means with a cheerful heart. The merciful will love to forgive those who harm them. The peacemakers will appear as the messengers and children of God.



The Way of the Lord ...

The Son didn't excuse to detour the wilderness journey on earth, where people inclined to evil. When he saw the afflicted and the sick, he didn't display countless reasons why he shall avoid his journey in the wilderness. With sinners in the world, he offered forgiveness. For the 5000 hungry people, he satisfied.

The gospel writer Mark never misses what causes Jesus to jump in the ministry of feeding of the hungry not only with bread but also with the gospel.

"The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then because so many people were coming and going that they didn't even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest. So, they



went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.' But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them" (Mark 6:30-33).

Here, the readers (you) might say, "See, Jesus doesn't want you [apostles or pastors, or the members of the church] to get exhausted. Self care is important."

Do not miss what Mark observes. "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. ..." (Mark 34ff). Later, he fed all of them there at least 5,000.

Advent & Christmas

Yes, God so loved the world and you and me. He sent his one and only Son for the salvation of you and me.

It was compassion - genuine empathic love that was sufficient enough God came down to earth on Christmas.

Christiana G. Rossetti wrote a poem in 1885.

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
Star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the God-head,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token;
Love be your and love be mine;
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gifts and sign.*

Friends, you are truly invited to Advent Journey. This journey is not simply an annual repletion of holiday. It shall be a journey that we set out in a wilderness.

The journey will not be an excursion on a cruise ship. It will be our voyage to the Promised Land on a Noah's Ark, rescued by God's mercy and expectation of His creation to be continued.

Check out. The wilderness story didn't start if with Moses. So was Joseph. God sent me ahead of you to prepare for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance (Genesis 45:7). Today's who you are might be what God caused it to happen.