

LOVE NOTES

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

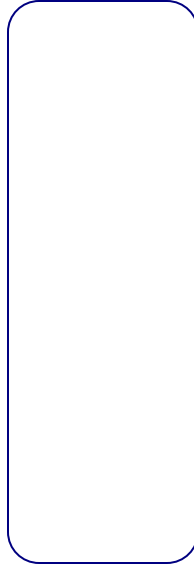
www.goodshepchurch.org



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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PRAISE + EXPERIENCE + SERVE + SHARE

Love Notes

Praising God | Experiencing God | Serving God | Sharing God
Advent and Christmas (December 2024)

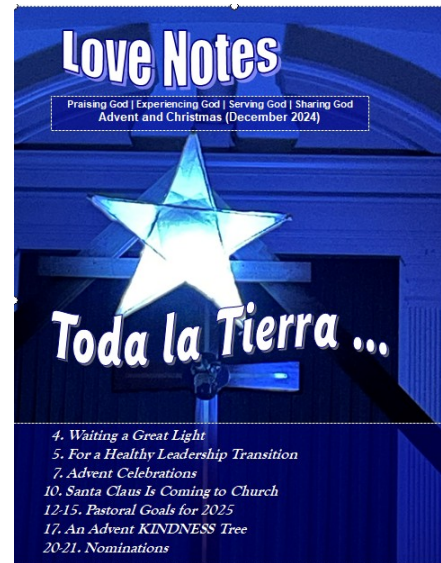
Toda la Tierra ...

- 4. *Waiting a Great Light*
- 5. *For a Healthy Leadership Transition*
- 7. *Advent Celebrations*
- 10. *Santa Claus Is Coming to Church*
- 12-15. *State of the Church*
- 20. *An Advent KINDNESS Tree*
- 24. *Nominations*

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, MD

©LOVE NOTES, newsletter
Advent and Christmas
(December 2024)

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.



Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, MD

Cover image: The Sanctuary with the Star

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off at Publisher's mail box.

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Theme for Next Issue:

"New Beginnings"

Epiphany and the Season after Epiphany

Articles due on December 22, 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!

Advent and Christmas

24/7 "Means of Grace" at Good Shepherd

**Small Group Gatherings
thru Zoom**

SUNDAYS

Celebration of Worship at 11:30 a.m.

only In-person

Youth Hang-Out at 7 p.m.

ID: 976-1877-7352; Passcode: 914966

Storytelling with Children at 8 p.m.

ID: 964-1021-2427; Passcode: 541602

The 30-Minute Bible at 9 p.m.

ID: 892-9866-0552; Passcode: 670113

MONDAYS

Coffee with the Pastor at 11 a.m.

ID: 821-7822-3118; Passcode: 208777

Christian Believer at 7:30 p.m.

ID: 894-6002-0490; Passcode: 045606

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

ID: 941-6327-7971; Passcode: 256442

TUESDAYS

Journey thru the Bible at 9p.m.

ID: 947-5619-4251; Passcode: 024529

WEDNESDAYS

High Noon Prayer at noon

ID: 409-666-503; Passcode: 581382

Jesus in the Gospels at 7:30 p.m.

ID: 875-9323-0354; Passcode: 528483

THURSDAYS

Meet the Pastor: Faith Talks at 11 a.m.

ID: 844-3191-0479; Passcode: 893616

Becoming Disciple thru Bible Study at 7:30p

ID: 961-6016-5713; Passcode: 716470

**Join the Wednesday Night Prayer
Conference Call
at 8-8:30 p.m.
Call 1-916-233-9790
Participant pin#: 672540**

Every 3rd Sunday, Rev. Park stays at Savage Campus of our parish until the end of fellowship hour. A guest preacher provides pulpit supplies. Savage Campus, was established in 1888 at the Historic town of Savage, Maryland.

Adult Sunday School at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.

You can worship there if you would like to have an early morning service with any conflict in the later hour. **Zoom link for Worship at Savage Campus: 857-2252-9072 with the passcode of 655638 at 9:30 a.m.**

Savage Campus



The order sheet is in the chancel area.

In Green Pastures beside Quiet Waters ...



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

Advent and Christmas Celebrations



CHURCH SAFF
Rev. Dr. DaeHwa Park, *Pastor*
(202) 277-8553 | daehwa@gmail.com
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(267) 231-9884 mses52025@gmail.com
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(301) 434-3331 | goodshepumc@verizon.net
Roberto Velazquez, *Custodian*

What's New

Primary Theme of This Issue:
Toda la Tierra Espera al Salvador

Inside this issue:

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WORSHIP & STUDY
9:30 a.m. Small Group Meetings
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
11:30 a.m. Celebration and Worship
Christian Believer, Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Jesus in the Gospels, Wed. 7:30 p.m.
Becoming Disciples on Thu. at 7:30 p.m.
See details on page 9

Waiting A Great Light ...

Dear Members and Friends:

Unlikely many other contemporaries of the world, the followers of Jesus begins a new year with Advent—a season of waiting! Decembers serve as a year to wrap up with a series of acknowledgements on those who dear to us. I bet you have your own ways to give thanks to God for all those contribute something good for you this year. - Thanks be to God!

Advent is a season of anticipation of the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-us. We celebrate the historic birth of Christ—Messiah, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate.

Thus, I would like you to join a series of celebrations on the coming of Jesus Christ—A Great Light to the world!

In his gospel, Matthew reminds his audience of an old prophetic proclamation of Isaiah, “the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

(Matt. 4:16). For Luke, Simeon’s response to the birth of Jesus is a must hear.

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” (Luke 2:29-31)



Greetings from the Pastor

This light refers to a fundamental element of new creation, as stated in Genesis.

“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.” (Gen. 1:2-4)

This Advent, you may wait for a gift, a reward and/or a prodigal. Come to the light at least each Sunday. Shine the light if you see any ones living in darkness. A good reason for a Christmas tree! More importantly, you can shine a light of Emmanuel for others from yourself.

Consider you as “the light of the world. ... let your light before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16) Please know that someone wait you as the light of the world. Your

good deeds—a kind piece of word, a gentle handshake, a smile on face, and a small room in your heart that embrace someone seeking an inn, like Mary and Joseph in their rough journey to their hometown of Bethlehem. Your kindness is the most important element for an act of worship. With it, you praise your Father in heaven.

Be the light of the world.
Merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Daethwa Park

Church Conference - Nov.

Leadership

United Methodist Men elect officers by UMM

President, Beresford Dakin-Davis
Secretary, Andre Small
Treasurer, Victor Cole

United Women in Faith (UWIF) elect officers by UMM

President, vacant
Secretary, vacant
Treasurer, Paulette Brown

Youth Council

President, Aanya Singh
Vice-President, Theodore Park
Treasurer, Shuvai Chivanga
Coordinator: Christiana Campbell
Members at Large: Alka Singh, YoungHoon Park
Josephine Parkinson

Children’s Ministries

Coordinator, Christiana Campbell
Missions, Paulette Brown
Hispanic and Latino: Irene H. Mendez
Members at Large, Naya Okoji,
Young Hoon Park, Pastor

Coordinators

Health & Wellness, Valerie Campbell
Communication, Neil Spiller
Native American Ministries, *vacant*
Prayer Coordinator, Bob Muller, Jr.



Resources and References for Effective and Faithful Leadership

The Holy Bible:
NIV (1984),
NRSV or ESV.
Book of Discipline,
2016
Book of Resolution,
2016
Baltimore Washington
Conference Policy and
Procedures
The United Methodist Hymnal, 1989
The United Methodist Book of Worship
Means of Grace that Shape Our Future:
Church Ministry Catalog, 2019
Esp. “9 Assimilation Tracks”
At the Altar, A Lay Leadership Manual.
Love Notes, Seasonal Newsletter



Christmas in July (from page 17)

SALT grows and changes each year based on the needs of their students, and they are excited to now provide different therapies to students, partially as a result of school lockdowns during COVID. We will be making a contribution to fund SALT for the 2024 -2025 school year.

It was a privilege to interact with our new point-of-contact at Enemy Swim Day School in SD, another American Indian school. Our funds were used to drop-ship school supplies (markers, scissors, and erasers) from their wish lists. (They look forward to more mittens and gloves for Christmas!) [LN]

Blessings,
GSUMC Missions Ministry Committee

Leadership Nominated for 2025

Church Council - 2025 (meet Quarterly)

Chair, Christiana Campbell
Lay Leader, Godswill Okoji
Lay Member , Christiana Campbell
Lay Servant, Bob Muller, Jr. (Prayer Coor.)
Rec. Sec: Leilani McConnell
Finance Chair, Andre Small
Financial Secretary, Idowoo Boss-Cole
Treasurer, Sunil Christopher
President of Trustee, *to be elected in January*
Staff Parish Relations, Chair, Godswill Okoji
Endowment, Chair, Paulette Brown
UMM, President, Beresford Dakin-Davis
UMW, President, *vacant*
Members at Large: Gladys Palmer;
Marcie Burroughs

Nominations/Leadership Development

Chair, Rev. Dr. DaeHwa Park
Class 2025: Gladys Palmer,
Suzanne Matthews-Williams
Class 2026: Paulette Brown, Valerie Campbell
Class 2027: Nathan Block, Hugh Holder
Ex Officio: Godswill Okoji, *Lay Leader*

Committee on Finance

Chair, Andre Small
Vice Chair, Avnish McGreger (Rep. of SPRC)
Financial Secretary, Idowoo Boss-Cole
Treasurer, Sunil Christopher
Rep. of Trustees: TBD
Head Counter, Philip Palmer, Jr.
Ex officio: Pastor, Lay Leader, Council Chair

Endowment Committee

Chair, Paulette Brown
Members: Christiana Campbell, Council Chair;
Godswill Okoji, Lay Leader; Philip Palmer, Sr.;
Carol Penne.

Pastor, Rev. Dr. DaeHwa Park
Amit Singh, Multi-Contextual Vision
Worship Chair, Sunil Christopher
Members (see page 7)
Discipleship Chair, Valerie Campbell
Members (see page 9)
Missions Chair, Leilanni McConnell
Members (see page 17)
Evangelism Chair, Augustine Roberts
Members (see page 19)
Art Ministries, Suzanne Matthews-Williams
Communication, Neil Spiller

*Notes: Members are expected to attend with
vote and voices. Non-members are welcome
to watch the conference without votes.*

Staff-Parish Relations

Chair, Godswill O. Okoji
Pastor, Rev. DaeHwa Park
Class 2025: Saundra Craig, Jackie Holder,
Amit Singh
Class 2026: Carolyn Brannon, Philip Palmer, Jr.,
Christiana Campbell
Class 2027: Avnish McGreger,
Andrew Zac-Williams

Trustees

President, to be elected in January
Class 2025: Marcie Burroughs, Stuart Coxic
Class 2026: Julius Campbell, Richard Wller
Beresford Dakin-Davis
Class 2027: Avnish McGreger, Eugene Maddy,
Augustine Roberts

**First Trustees' Meeting at Wesley Parlor
on Thursday
January 2 at 7 p.m.**
There will be an election of the President!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Thank you & Good Luck!

Rev. DaeHwa Park
Nominations and Leadership Development
Chair

One of the most important things we, especially those who serve as leaders during the season of Advent to bless one another. We give thanks to God for the faithful service of the leaders who retire or step down from a position. Without their service we cannot expect a bright future.

At the Charge Conference (a.k.a. Church Conference) last fall (Monday, October 14, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.). **At the Conference we nominated the leaders to serve the mission and ministries for the year of 2025** (see the full list on pages 20-21. United Methodists exercises the annual commitment of each leadership position.

On Sunday, January 22, we will have commissioning during worship. Leaders, both retiring and entering, please come and join the service. Before God and one another, we will acknowledge your service.

Before the end of the year, if you retire, please wrap all the unfinished business under your leadership, pass them to new leaders for the continuous works of the Lord. Many thanks! [LN]

Lay Leadership

Godswill O. Okoji, MD
Lay Leader



Happy Thanksgiving! This is the season to give thanks for our manifold blessings; For our lives, our marriage, our church, our children and may more.

One excellent habit I have come to learn is at the end of the day before we retire, we should think about three things to be thankful for – thank God for them, ponder them and off we go to bed knowing that it is by His Grace that we are Blessed. As in 1 Thessalonians 5:16 -18. “Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

It is also the time of Advent, the anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ; his life, his teachings, his sacrifice, the church and our own Advent. It is a time to rejoice as “those who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.” This is the time to prepare for the true meaning of life in Christ. May we be reborn in his light.

Thank God for the gift of Christ Jesus. God’s abundant blessings as we celebrate these wonderful seasons. God Bless you!



“Seeking Costly Discipleship”

“Toda la Tierra Espera al Salvador”

All earth is waiting for the Savior of the world. Have you not waited good tidings of hope and joy? Everyone needs the Lord. During Advent, Good Shepherd invites you and your beloved to “come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ new-born King!” Bring all earth to the presence of Emmanuel, God-with-us.



Pledge Sunday—Nov. 3

15 families (22 individuals) of 142 giving units pledged for \$ **88,735** (25.2% of the total budget for 2025, **\$351,657**) according to the Committee on Finance.

Pledgers as of Nov. 30, includes **The Kargabos, Leilani and Pat McConnell, Nana Opoku, Eunice Lake, Henry Ngala, DaeHwa & YoungHoon Park, Gwelda Hendrickson, Julius and Christiana Campbell, Andre Small, Robert Muller, Jr., Dycell Edwards, Nathan & Gloria Block, Sylvanus Scott, and an anonymous person.** Each person marked several other areas of giving of their **TIME and TALENTS!** Praise the Lord!

Please contact **Idowoo Boss-Cole**, Financial Secretary if your pledge is missing. You can pledge on Sundays during offering hour. Find form in the Upper Room. **And... Please pick up giving envelop for 2025.** Many thanks.

LOVE NOTES

Praising God...
Praising God...

❖ Liturgical Highlights ❖

+ Sun., Dec 1, First Sunday of Advent:

- 9:30 a.m. Small Group Study
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship
- 11:30 a.m. Celebration of Worship
- 12:45 p.m. Advent Fellowship

+ Sun., Dec 8, Second Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens

- 9:30 a.m. Small Group Study
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship
- 11:30 a.m. Celebration w. Praise Band

+ Sun., Dec. 15, Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Small Group Study
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship
- 11:30 a.m. Advent w. Handbell Choir

+ Sun., Dec 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Small Group Study
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship
- 11:30 a.m. Living Nativity

+Tue., Dec 24, Christmas Eve

- 8 p.m. Festival of Holy Nativity and Candlelight Service

+ Sun., Dec 29, First Sun after Christmas

- 9:30 a.m. Small Group Study
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship
- 11:30 a.m. Nine Lessons and Carols

+ Tue., Dec 31, New Year’s Eve Service

- 11 p.m.



Advent and Christmas

EVANGELISM

The Act of Justice (Action & Advocacy)

Augustine Roberts, Chair; **vacant**, French District; **Roberto Velazquez**, Hispanic/Latino District; **Bintu Murphy**, Fellowship & Hospitality; **Leilani McConnell**, Action & Advocacy; **Wendy Barrios**, Love Notes; **YoungHoon Park**, Greeters; **Selina Fitzjohn**, Communication_Women; **Hugh Holder**, Communication-Men. Do you want to join the team, contact Augustine at (703) 653-4091.

Evangelism Committee

Door Greeters

Psalmist sings, “Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper 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 **YoungHoon Park** at



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.



For Faithful Connection

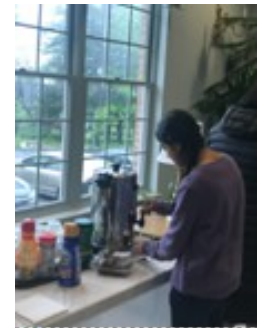
Grab literature for the mission and ministry opportunities. Get new devotionals. Pick up newsletters, old, new or special issues for your faithful connection in the life of the church. Each Love Notes includes many useful articles and guidelines for a spiritual journey at Good Shepherd. Check the liturgical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



Stop by an hour of fellowship with refreshments in the Upper Room at

10:30 a.m. prior to 11:30 a.m. worship service.

Now, we are looking for individuals, family and friends who would like to host fellowship hours. There will be NO luncheon meeting after the service unless a special event is set.



Bring a Friend to Church on Sundays, Christmas Eve, and New Year’s Eve

LOVE NOTES
Sharing God

Bring All People to Christ and His Church!

Weekly Sermon Outlines are available at Rev. Park's website at Journey-fortheBread.net. If you missed a Sunday or more, you can review the messages. Enjoy references that nourish your soul.

Recent Sermon Series:

One Green Kingdom - Our Common Home, during Kingdom-tide season 1
Ten Rules for Anthropocene, during Kingdom-tide season 2
Back to the Lord of Sabbath, season 3
Give to God What Is God's, annual Stewardship campaign message, Oct.-Nov.

Get Connected!

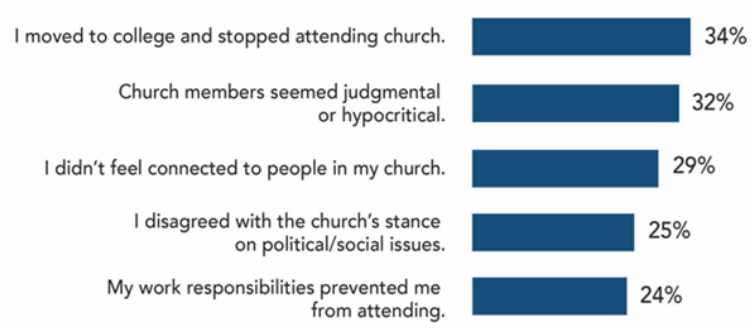
Catch up what you missed with other friends or Love Notes, if you feel disconnected from the ministerial updates of the church. Do not wait too long with assumption that someone will inform all you need. You can review the previous issues of Love Notes. And see a survey below.

Bring your friends on the **4th Sundays**. Become a most influential person for your friends and neighbors. Leading unchurched to Jesus is to lead them the way of salvation!



Share your faith journey and claim your placement here at Good Shepherd.

Among young adults (ages 23-30) who attended a Protestant church regularly for at least a year in high school:



Notes: Respondents were asked to select all that apply.

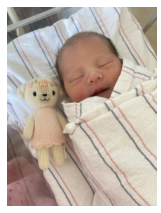
Advent and Christmas

The Act of Worship (& Music)

YoungHoon Park
Sub Dir. of Music & Organist

On behalf of Dr. Szu-Yi Li, taking maternity leave, I greet you to have good tidings of joy from God our Heavenly Father with Jesus Christ.

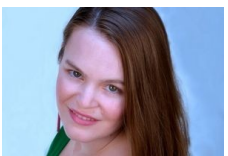
Congratulations on the birth of daughter, Aramei Tilley to Szu-Yi and Alan on November 1. Mom, Szu-Yi is well. If you haven't chance to congratulate Dr. Li, please reach her through her email address at szuyipiano@gmail.com or at 305 Frederick Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850.



Here is the music plan during Advent and Christmas Dr. Li worked with me under the guidance of the Rev. Park prior to her leave. And all of the musically talented, including Chancel Choir, Praise Band, and Handbell Choir continue to gather in preparation of the weekly service. I am so thankful for this help that made me continue the work led by Dr. Li without difficulty.

Come and worship! Bring your voices. Mark your calendar: Advent Celebrations with **Praise Band** on Sunday, Dec. 8. **Handbell Ringers** on Sunday, December 15, **Living Nativity** on Sunday, December 22, and join the **Festival of Holy Nativity and Candlelight Service** on Christmas Eve at 8 p.m. **Soloist Kelly Curtain** (see her brief curriculum vitae on page 15b) will sing Schubert's Ave Maria and O Holy Night.

Advent is a good season, you may want to explore your spiritual gifts in music to give.



WORSHIP

Each rehearsal is not merely a music class to learn a new piece of music, but a fellowship with worshipers in music. Come and join us. You can walk in.

Rehearsal Calendar

- + Praise Band Rehearsal on Weds, 11/24, 12/4 at 7:30 p.m.
- + Handbell Choir, Suns. 12/1, 1-4 p.m.; 12/22 at 1 p.m.
- + Chancel Choir on Thurs., 12/5, 12, 19 at 7:30 p.m.
- + **Living Nativity** rehearsal on Sun., 12/15, 1-4 p.m.
- Signup Sheet for Cast** in the Upper Room
- + Prep for Christmas Eve on Sun., 12/22, 2-4 p.m.

If you or your family lead a stanza of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 29, please contact YoungHoon Park. Beginning Sunday, December 29, Dr. Sze-Yi Li will return to serve from maternity leave. Praise the Lord!

Worship Committee

- Sunil Christopher**, Worship Chair
Szu-Yi Li, Organist & Dir. of Music
Carolyn Brannon, Altar Guild
Sandra Craig, Sponsor of Praise Band
Valerie Campbell, Media Ministries
Vera Davies, Head Usher
Milford Doughty, Crucifer
Bintu Murphy, Fellowship Coordinator
Abie Ngala, Acolyte Coordinator
YoungHoon Park, Greeter Coordinator (SMC)
Aanya Singh, Book Bearer
Alka Singh, Event Coordinator
vacant, Nursery Coordinator
Dunstan Thomas, Fellowship Coordinator

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. **New courses** offering this ministerial year of 2024-2025!



Becoming Disciple thru Bible Study
– Thurs. at 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 961-6061-5713
Passcode: 7164701



Give an hour of bible study with other companions in Christ for a journey

through the Bible. It is a short-cut to biblically inspired leadership for the works of the Lord. All who serve as church leaders are strongly recommended to take this study! Lead others with the biblical literacy.

Christian Believer: Knowing God with Heart and Mind

– Mons. at 7:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study.

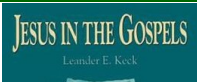
Zoom Meeting ID: 894-6002-0490
Passcode: 045606



This study helps the participants to explore what the church believes

throughout the ages. Join this study and learn the biblical, historical, and theological understanding of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, Church, Sacraments, and Christian Living with Eschatological vision.

Jesus in the Gospels
– Weds at 7:30 p.m.



Prerequisite: Becoming Disciple thru Bible Study

Meeting ID: 875-9323-0354
Passcode: 528483

Encounter Jesus testified by the four gospel writers in the New Testament. Both what were mentioned and what were not conveys significant messages for the church in various contexts. Read the scripture with your keen minds of biblical criticism and leave with confidence that the Lord tells you who you should be in your own context.

The 30-Minute Bible
– Sundays at 9 p.m.



Zoom Meeting ID: 892-9866-0552
Passcode: 670113

Are you too busy to read the bible? You don't have time for rest. Give half an hour for your souls. Hear God's Story from the Bible as you share your story with other companions in Christ.

The 5-Minutes Bible Study Tues. 5 a.m.

Youtube Live Streaming

Every morning you wake up, you have a choice to make. Read the scripture passages carefully for first 2 minutes. Understand the meaning of the word for next 2 minutes. Think about the application of what you have learned for next 45 seconds. The study ends with 15 seconds of prayer. This study helps you to write a weekly journal with the biblical insights.

The Act of Compassion (Missions Outreach)

OUTREACH

An Advent Kindness Tree

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32 King James Version)

Good Shepherd's Missions Committee joyfully anticipates the coming Advent season and encourages our church family to use this time to think about kindness. This past year has been one of division but we rejoice that Advent gives us opportunity to show love, respect, and charity for others. Continuing our tradition of hosting a tree in the Upper Room, Missions is preparing a special tree, one that encourages and acknowledges Christian acts of kindness.... the Advent Kindness Tree.



This tree will be available starting Sunday, December 1 and will be decorated with two kinds of ornaments: 1) those that suggest small acts of kindness any of us could perform (visit an elderly neighbor, pray for an ailing friend, pick up litter around the church, do a helpful chore for someone) and 2) blank ornaments for church members to describe (anonymously is okay) an act of kindness they have given or received.

We encourage all members of Good Shepherd to visit the Advent Kindness Tree and fill it with many ornaments that show our church's

Christmas in July 2024

The Good Shepherd congregation continues to answer God's call to help others; this year's "Christmas in July" 2024 project is such an example! The Missions Ministry Committee received \$1,735; a sincere thank-you to everyone for such generosity, even after more than 20 years!

School-related items were provided to three schools. Our local elementary school, Broadacres, needed gift cards the most. Children outgrow their clothes and some families are unable to buy new ones. Therefore, we donated gift cards to families. (Students will be attending a temporary school in Briggs Chaney and many will have new experiences, including first-time bus commutes. We pray for their safety in this new challenge.). Rehoboth Christian School in NM, predominantly Native American, needs our help as it continues the journey towards inclusive education for students with a variety of educational needs. Rehoboth's new Executive Director requested that we contribute to its "Students All Learning Together" (SALT) program.

(Cont'd on page 21)

Mission (Outreach) Committee

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

Food Pantry—Every Sunday!

You are truly invited to food pantry a hands-on ministry on Sundays. Come, join an act of charity as an extension of your act of worship in giving your time immediately after the service. Encounter our neighbors and bless them with food items you may bring on your way to the church: **Sugar, Flour, Rice, Beans, Tuna, Cooking Oil, Canned Meats (Spam, Sausage, Potted Meat) and/or gift cards (Giant or Safeway).** If you have nay questions, do not hesitate to call the church office at (301) 434-3331 or **Paulette Brown.**



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.

ADVENT SEASON IS ALMOST HERE

Thanksgiving is coming and Advent season will commence December 01. As we have done for years, Missions Ministry will once again be helping to bring Christmas cheer to **2 – 3 needy families from our local partner Broad Acres Elementary School** and a grandmother raising two children and **our two Indian schools,** Enemy Swin Day school in South Dakota and Rehobeth Christian School in New Mexico.

In the past the congregation has been wonderfully generous to help us in this effort and we ask you again to consider donating to this year's outreach. Also this year we are also partnering with Good Shepherd's Women of Faith (WOF) (formerly United Methodist Women) through whom donations will be processed.

If you can contribute, we are taking cash, credit gift cards or checks. Kindly make checks out to Good Shepherd UMW and designate "Missions Advent Project 2024". You may send donations to the church office, place them in the collection plate on Sunday or give them to Paulette Brown, UMW Treasure, or Leilani McConnell, Missions Chair.

We so appreciate your past support and know we can count on you again to make this outreach a success.

THANK YOU SINCERELY

The Act of Devotion



Everyone is invited to **Adult Bible Study.** Come, walk in **Wesley Parlor** and share manna on **Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.** Encounter companions in Christ. Questions? Contact

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.

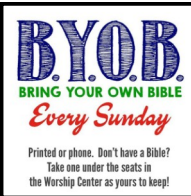
Meeting ID: 821-7822-208777
Passcode: 375637

The Holy Club - Mondays at 9 p.m.

Keep your 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: 893-3851-8031
Passcode: 659414

Bring your own bible on your way to church for worship, study, service and witnessing. It is a congregational campaign.



NURTURE

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

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: 844-3191-0479
Passcode: 893616

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

Join this reading plan, and you can read once through the Old Testament, twice through the Psalms, and twice through the New Testament. Beginning with a praise music, Rev. Park shares the annotated notes on each periscope of scripture, along with textual variants, insights for preaching and teaching, and life applications and prayers. Bring your own bible.

Meeting ID: 947-5619-4251
Passcode: 024529

Valerie J. Campbell, Discipleship Chair
Philip Palmer, Sr. Adult Bible Study
Jason Washburn, Spanish Fellowship
vacant, French Fellowship
Rev. DaeHwa Park, Facilitator of Assimilation
Christiana T. Campbell, Youth Coordinator
Andrew Zac-Williams, Young Adults Fellowship
Naya Okoji, Paulette Brown, Irene Mendez,
YoungHoon Park, Funday School Staff

Nurture (Discipleship) Committee

Growing Young Disciples in Green Pastures beside Quiet Waters ...

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, ... (1 Timothy 4:12)

Funday School of Good Shepherd invites children and youth to a **new curriculum**, called **The Story**.

The Story for Children isn't just another collection of Bible stories—it's The Story—the big picture of God's enormous love for his children! Through the Story, children will find the core teachings of God's love from the entire bible. This is curriculum especially designed for the biblical literacy. With the curriculum, your children will be able to remember what God is doing through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior as well as through the church, a saving station for God's Kingdom at work!



Youth (6th -12th) will use The Story: Teen version, which helps teenagers explore the entire bible story through

2-3 minutes of the weekly animated presentations, discussion questions, and weekly applications beyond Sundays. Do not miss the great chance for your children staying connected with the scripture.

Santa Claus is coming to church on Sunday, December 22! Time is unknown.



IGNITE is...

- A high-impact, life-changing weekend for youth in grades 6-12.
- High energy worship with powerful worship bands.
- A relevant, engaging message from nationally and locally known speakers.
- Interactive and inspiring exhibits and activities led by dynamic professionals.
- Build a diverse community both within and outside of your group
- Connect with God and grow spiritually with 2,000 young people from around the region.
- Taking place in Ocean City, MD.

Youths (6-12th) are invited to join this fun and fabulous event during Lent next year. **Valerie Campbell** sent out an email for the registration. Further information is available at the conference's website at igniteforyouth.com/about or bwcumc.org. Parents, do not miss the opportunity for your children to hang out with the young disciples of their ages.

Let Us Make a Difference!

Goal 4: Financial stewardship toward tithing and alternative funding

- At the moment of offering on Sundays, I will encourage the generous and joyous giving toward tithing.
- During Lent, I will enlist a tither circle that will affect others in faithful giving.
- During Easter-tide I will integrate the celebration of worship into joyous giving for the revitalization of the church.
- By the end of Easter-tide, fundraising strategies especially from property such as parking, grants and rentals will be explored.
- During Kingdom-tide, in conjunction with the annual stewardship campaign, legacy giving for the elderly and tithing for the young professionals will be encouraged.

Goal 5: for the discipleship of Children, youth, and young adults.

- Good Shepherd started "Funday School" in October 2021 to attract young disciples. So shall be at Savage.
- For Youth (Junior High and Senior High) a weekly Youth Hang-Out to be continued with rich program on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m.; Story-telling with Children at 8 p.m.
- During Lent, working with Funday school teachers, in-person Funday School on Sundays and home assignments for their faith life between Sundays to be executed. 12 Hour of Famine will draw children and youth to a "costly discipleship" on a Friday in March.
- During Kingdom-tide, children's church may be established in the sanctuary (or fellowship hall) assimilated with Sunday morning service.

Goals

Support the drama ministry at Savage came back since Advent of 2024. The weekly Holy Club for young professionals will be organized.

A Few Suggestions for Always New Members or Accidental Church Dropouts

If some of you feel overwhelmed by the pastoral goals listed here, you may have been "Always New Members" who stay away from church events as best as they can like the crowds in Jesus' public ministries. Or you do not OWN the ministries. Another reason can be your frequent absence at the church on Sundays. You never read Love Notes. You discover yourselves disconnected or alienated from the church.

The best way to find your place in the ministries begins with **your punctual attendance on Sunday morning worship**. Check your Sunday morning routines, if you arrive at the church at least half an hour earlier, you have a chance not knowing what's going on that week. If you do not sing hymns with good attentions, you may miss the weekly emphasis of the liturgical calendar. The weekly prayers give you so much precious opportunities for you to connect to the concerns of the community you belong. If you do not listen to 12 minute sermon, which is offered as a sermon series, you may feel strange with the church you belong. If you don't have the companions in Christ, you can be derailed from the mission, visions, values and beliefs of the church.

Pastoral Goals for New Year:

Beginning the Kingdom-tide GSUMC will provide Sunday morning crew - the liturgical and missional leaders from each pasture on each assigned Sunday. The weekly fellowship hour hosted by a family or a group of friends of each pasture. Forth Sundays will be assigned as "Bring a Friend Sunday." Fifth Sunday with Children and Youth led service. Savage will continue to provide members and neighbors with vibrant worship experience, along with missional outreach.

Goal 2: As a congregational level of assimilation process, I will grow spiritual leaders.

Each year, I facilitate a few Disciple study courses as fundamental guidelines to equip spiritual leaders. Now, 1) "Becoming Disciples through Bible Study" for biblical literacy on Thursday evenings, 2) "Jesus in the Gospels" for equipping lay ministers on Wednesday evenings, and 3) "Christian Believer" for calling of young professionals on Mondays are being offered. For the differential ministry for different age group, "Youth Hang-Out" at 7 p.m., "Story-Telling with Children" at 8 p.m., and "The 30 Minutes Bible" with adults at 9 p.m. on Sunday evenings are offered. For those who cry out "too busy to study the bible," a five minute bible is being offered on Tuesdays at 5 a.m. through Youtube Live.

Through the weekly "Response to the Word," worshipers are called and equipped to leadership and stewardship in their spiritual life.

During the season of Epiphany, the members and friends will explore the holy living through the book of Hebrew. During Lent, the congregation will examine the inevitable necessity of the costly discipleship with Jesus. Easter-tide the members and neighbors will overcome their life circumstances with God's triumphal act in Jesus Victor! During Kingdom-tide the faithful and effective United Methodists as The Milky Way disciples for climate church will be sent to community for the transformation of the lives of constituents.

Goal 3: Establish Multi-contextual Ministries

Both GSUMC and Savage will explore the spiritual needs of the community with rapidly increasing Spanish-speaking constituents
GSUMC starts the French-speaking fellowship in the church
Health and Wellness ministry at GSUMC now activates
The Holy Club – young adult fellowship activates.
By the end of Kingdom-tide, an after-school program, ESOL program will be explored for the culturally connected
Working with the clergy leaders and other interfaith group leaders, GSUMC and Savage will seek out the collaborative work to interdependent works of the Lord at Anthropocene.
Working with cluster churches, Good Shepherd and Savage will seek out the lost in the community.

Children and Youth at Good Shepherd

Children's Church Each Sunday at 11:30 a.m.



Parents, bring your children to The Upper Room for fellowship at 10:30 a.m. The children will gather at the Youth Room for Children's Church, as you enter the sanctuary for 11:30 worship.



Youth Orchestra plays on Christmas Eve. Mark your calendar!

Bring your instruments for the adoration of God. On Sunday, you can play hymns during worship. We be-

gan Youth Orchestra in July 2022. Currently, we play on the 5th Sundays only. Let us play one of 9 carols on Sunday, December 29.

If any one (K-12) would like to sing as vocals, please contact Dr. Szu-Yi Li.

Funday School

WANTED! Young Adult (19 years and older) or a parent for children's church. After Safe Sanctuary training in March through zoom, these volunteers will assist Rev. Park and Valerie Campbell, Funday School Superintendent. Please contact **Valerie Campbell** for sign up at valerie-jcampbel@gmail.com.

Nurture (Discipleship) Committee
Valerie Campbell, Chair & Funday School Superintendent
Philip Palmer, Sr. Adult Bible Study
Christiana Campbell, Children & Youth Min
Simeon Nomo, French Bible Study/
Fellowship
Andrew Zac-Williams, Young Adult Fellowship
Naya Okoji, Paulette Brown, Irene Mendez, YoungHoon Park, Funday School Staff
Rev. DaeHwa Park, pastor and facilitator of Disciple Bible Study

Sponsoring a child: Deybin of Honduras. With \$38, Deybin enjoys schooling for a month. Send Easter message to him. **Ask Pastor Park for details.**



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

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

Note: This is the annual pastor’s report submitted and highlighted in brief at Church Conference on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Rev. Dr. DaeHwa Park

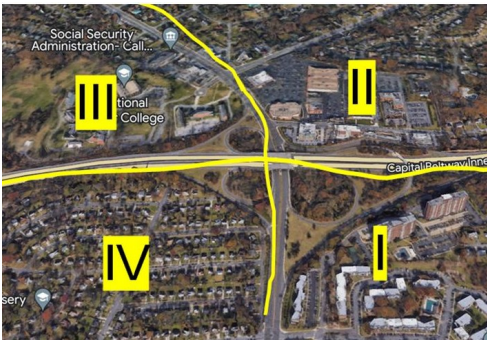
Through the ministry of the Word and Sacrament, I have provided the United Methodist of Savage ("Savage"), Savage, Maryland, and Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland with a vision to make the faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and empower them for the transformation of all of live. Savage is a part of Center Cluster of Annapolis District. Good Shepherd is a part of Prince George Cluster of the Greater Washington District.

Although each congregation has faced each own missional challenges - Savage with the unitary culture of white Caucasian dominant; Good Shepherd with the multi-ethnic culture with 24 different ethnic backgrounds, I have built an inclusive missional atmosphere through seven ministerial initiatives focusing on: 1) the faithful ordinance of the means of grace on Sunday mornings; 2) the assimilation of the spiritual leadership though the discipleship pathway; 3) the intergenerational relationship; 4) the edification of "a third-place"; 5) the glocal outreach; 6) the technological innovation for the proclamation of the gospel; and 7) interdependent works for all.



Both Savage and Good Shepherd recognize a few common **targeted groups** as the primary constituents of the ministry - **1) the Silver-Sophisticated; 2) the Culturally Connected, and 3) the Single Starters.** Savage has been experiencing visitation of the aliens. Good Shepherd has encountered the friends and relatives of the existing members. The ministry for the young disciples has been substantially declined. Currently, there is no Sunday school for children and youth at Savage. Good Shepherd launched "Funday School," with a modified Sunday School program and online ministries on Sunday evening.

The members and volunteers of each congregation work hard to "seek and save" many of the lost, including the inactive members and the newly moved. Savage started a bi-weekly game day on Fridays. All the recurring fellowship events have been held as community outreaches. Christmas in July this year aims at reaching the young parents with children. Good Shepherd has been working for the parish development for four sub-divisions of the parish. Good Shepherd is planning to equip 4 Lay Servants who will serve as a campus pastor of each area.



Goals

Let Us Make a Difference!



Upon the rapidly changing context, the Church Council under the leadership of Christiana Campbell has made a huge effort to launch Multi-contextual ministry since 2021. Over the last couple of years, Good Shepherd has been through ministerial transition from compromise to commitment. All the pastoral goals will focus on passion for the innovative outreach toward all God’s people, working with 1) the Single Starters, 2) the Culturally Connected, and 3) the Silver Sophisticated. Over the next 3 years GSUMC will work primarily on leadership transition – calling, equipping, and sending of young disciples to God’s vineyards! Hopefully, past three years of micro-managing pastoral leadership between two campuses (GSUMC of Greater Washington District and Savage of Annapolis District) turn to a fruit-bearing ministry that should be fun and fabulous as newly committed take leadership by the full support of the elders.

Goal 1: Heading toward the healthy transition, I will lead the congregation to move to "Ownership" phase of ministry, leaving beyond "Awareness" Phase. Our ultimate goal is to grow a congregation of multiplication, moving from declining or maintaining, to growing, not merely adding, but multiplying through the "Fruit-bearing" phase of next quadrennial.

By the end of January, GSUMC will commission new leadership of young disciples, particularly in the areas of

worship, discipleship and evangelism – making people with the gospel of Jesus Christ! Savage will find new leader in the area of discipleship.

By March 5, Ash Wednesday, GSUMC will organize greeters - a family or a circle of friends, will be organized to serve at the entrance of the church to welcome new visitors and their continuous settlement in their new church home. Savage will revamp a welcome table.

During the season of Lent, GSUMC and Savage will offer a pilgrim progress to neighbors – a ministry of interdependence. GSUMC in particular will develop four pastures as the parish of the church enlarged in the vicinity. Savage will develop a discipleship pathway to enhance the work of evangelism.

During Easter-tide of 2025, Savage will explore fellowship events on Sundays that attract the people from neighborhood, with "meeting of the pastor" on the Third Sundays. GSUMC will develop new Sunday morning hours with small group activities at 9:30 a.m.; fellowship hour at 10:30 a.m. and corporate worship at 11:30 a.m. that overcomes a congregation compromise tended to reduced the ministerial capacity only on Sundays over the last decade. During the Great Fifty Days of Easter-tide, both GSUMC and Savage will recommit to be the faithful congregation who "gives what is God’s" (Mark 12:17b)!

Pastoral Goals for New Year:

(from Annual Pastoral Goals submitted to Conference)

With the pastoral appointment of July 2019, Savage began to encounter a group of other ministerial partners at Good Shepherd of east Silver Spring, Maryland. Have sought Savage Renaissance since 2013, Rev. Dr. Park has served last quadrennial for a ground work of the vital ministry at GSUMC, for its path to “Renaissance” yet by virtue of ‘reformation,” not merely by repetition of the ministerial strategies of the golden days of GSUMC.

Savage campus will step into the Fruit-bearing phase with the congregational goals of Three Ms – 1) More Members; 2) More Mission; and 3) More Money! For the last decade Savage produced young disciples, their own children, called, equipped and sent to God’s Kingdom. Now, Savage seeks new laborers – their children of their neighbors for God’s vineyard. In the year of 2025, Savage will explore strategies to reach out the new members. She will experience growth from leadership transition. The Church will make extra effort to call and equip new leadership in the entire area of its ministry. The “brick” church of Savage established in 1888 will expand its missional boundary beyond the historic town of Savage, Maryland.

Good Shepherd is at the verge of a spiritual reformation of ministry to stay relevant to rapidly changing world. While the handful numbers of the legacy members of the church missing the golden days of its ministry of the 70s with a full house of many adult and young worshipers and wishing to be back to the days, the former leadership team made an inevitable decision for a temporary ministry with the part-time pastoral appointment

for the first time in the 70 years of its ministry, on account of financial in-sustainability from mainly sudden decline of the worship attendance, thought to be caused by UMC’s intentional effort on the ministry with full-inclusion on human sexuality. With the part-time pastoral appointment, for the time being – six month or less, District Superintendent and the leadership team of GSUMC of 2019 hoped to return to the full-time ministry with the arrival of a new “after-pastor.”

From the series of the one-on-one conversations with the lay leaders and other ordinary members who stay away from leadership, a year-long Disciple study with several core members of the leadership for last three years, and the pastoral observation on the works of church carried out by the existing leaders, an invisible elephant in the room of Good Shepherd began to come up to the surface of the works of the Lord.

The decision for the part-time pastoral appointment wasn’t simply from UMC’s emphasis on full inclusion, but from a compromise of core leaders inclined to fit for overwhelming context of the church that rapidly changes. Far earlier than 2019, Good Shepherd should have known that the congregation would face a series of rapid change with “white exodus.” The fast growing English-speaking West African immigrants found their new home at Good Shepherd. They began to encounter other English-speaking immigrants – the Caribbean and the Asians, beginning in the 21st century. During the last decade, Good Shepherd has been surrounded by **new majority of resident - Latinos**, who do not speak English. Now, French-speaking Africans come to church on Sundays.

Pastor’s Report

The administrative oversight has been given to each congregation, especially generate the faithful stewardship, in conjunction with the annual stewardship campaign with a theme of "Faithful and Effective Stewardship."

With a seasonal fellowship event, consolidated with fundraising events, Savage has created sufficient resources for the local and UM connectional ministry as paying 100% of the mission share. **Good Shepherd**, however, has had been three consecutive year of not paying 100% of the Mis-

sion Share. The primary reasons are due to the substantial drop of the property income, the annual mortgage debt of US 30,000 dollars, and outstanding expense for maintenance and repairs. Thus, under the leadership of the Council Chair, Christina Campbell, Good Shepherd is working hard to recover the financial sustainability.

As an ordained elder, I have participated in the **240th Annual Conference** and the General Conference for the sake of the faithful participation of the connectional ministries. From the pulpit and through newsletter (Good Shepherd), I have made efforts of each congregation engaged in global works of the Lord. Currently, I am serving as the coordinator of Center Cluster (12 congregations) of Annapolis District.

I am also working tirelessly for a fulltime ministry for Good Shepherd of the Greater Washington District.

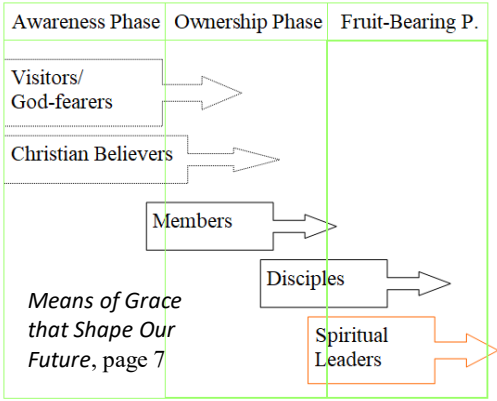
To a question about any need of updates of the pastoral goals, I would say “no,” yet continuous works in the year to come. There are no substantial changes for the current vision and mission goals (see details on pages 16-19). Working hard for **“the ownership phase” of the mission and ministries of the church matters most**. I am doing my best to call, equip, delegate and

send the spiritual leaders of the church. I hope that each congregation will start **the fruit-bearing phase** shortly.

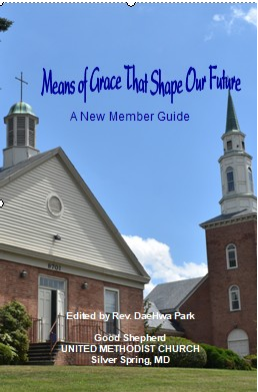
In the upcoming year, Savage and Good Shepherd shall reach out new people, especially the single starters - the divorcees, the widows, the widowers, the young professionals, as well as the culturally connected - immigrants, travelers, and new neighbors. For the financial sustainability, **Good Shepherd** will explore ideas and executions of **the property income**.

Goals

Good Shepherd helps people to find out a scriptural way of growth (sanctification) through a series of assimilation process.



of the pastoral goals, I would say “no,” yet continuous works in the year to come. There are no substantial changes for the current vision and mission goals (see details on pages 16-19). Working hard for **“the ownership phase” of the mission and ministries of the church matters most**. I am doing my best to call, equip, delegate and



State of the Church:

Savage will revamp the existing fellowship events to joyous giving opportunities for the expansion of God's Kingdom.

To lead and support the vibrant congregations, I have taken the annual continuing education - Exponential Conference in March. The participation of the General Conference of the UMC in April was an additional work this year. The objectives were to help the churches ready for changes of the denominational polity. In August, for pastoral leadership skill, I participated in Global Leadership Summit for the purpose of effective leadership. Exponential Conference and Global Leadership Summit for 2025 will be continued. I am thinking about Holy Land study tour in 2025, thanks to the financial support of SungHwa Park, my brother in a Korean Methodist Church serving as an Elder in laity, when the peaceful situation of the Middle East will be set.

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So What?

According to Sunil Christopher, our Treasurer, Good Shepherd is now facing financially hardship. He has amazed by the faithful giving of the members and friends from the weekly count sheet. Yet, this year, Good Shepherd lost substantial amount of property income, donated by Agape SDA, \$3,500 per month. Cottage rental never brought net income to its property tax and operational cost. Approximately \$6,000 total collection for mortgage never paid off the annual debt payment of \$30,000. We paid Mission Share (formerly known apportionment) just first two month. We must pay the remaining balance of \$ 27,417.80 before the end of the year. Worse was no air conditioning from June to November.

Idowoo Boss-Cole, Financial Secretary would bring verbal report on giving pattern of the church, "people who come to church are primarily givers." Godswill Okoji raised concerns about low attendance of each Sunday. At Church Council in September, the leaders of the church surprised at one of members who wanted to see how the Council works. She said, "I just said to my child that he can go to church once a month."

Under the leadership of Andre Small on Wednesday, December 4, Christiana Campbell, Sunil Christopher, and I (Rev. Park) had a marathon meeting for budget for 2025, and came up with \$351,657, 18,757 less than 2024 budget. This time, these four persons acknowledged 15 families (or 22 individuals) pledged 88,735, which is about 25% of the total budget.

"Nothing is Impossible with God"

Working closely with Trustees, Good Shepherd can generate up to 24,000 from Cottage rental. With 9,000 from Comforter's House Chapel, which can be changed with new contract, 121,735 was total measured revenue. Then, the remaining \$229,922 would be paid by 121 non-pledgers. The budget meeting set several targeted goals that would reach the goal:

- 1) 24,000 from Saturday rental;
- 2) 1,200 individual rentals
- 3) 5,000 legacy giving (bequest, etc.)
- 4) 8,000 fundraising events through fellowship
- 5) 10,000 individual donations

"Nothing is impossible with God." Mary responded in her *magnificat* (Luke 1:37). Rev. Park believed that Good Shepherd will end even this year in black if we give faithfully to God what is God's, as he reiterated the theme of Stewardship Campaign this year.

We have less than a month. Sunil generated a list of outstanding bills totaling 57,207.10 to be paid by the end of this month.

**27,417.80 Mission Share
9,109.80 Mortgage pay
8,000 Three paid staff payroll
3,216.72 Clergy Pension
3,093 Clergy Medical
2,400 Interim Dir. of Music
2,759.67 Property Tax
4,272.50 Insurance, and utilities.**

May God richly bless Good Shepherd, so that we may end this year in black. Thank you. [LV]

Goals



Soprano, Kelly Curtin, has been lauded for her "crystal-clear soprano" and the "lovely fullness" of her voice by Opera News and New York Classical Review, and her performance of Marie in La fille du régiment with St. Petersburg Opera in Florida was named "Best Opera Performance of the Decade" by Creative Loafing Tampa. She won "Best Leading Actress in a Musical" and "Best Supporting actress in a musical" from Theatre Tampa Bay for her portrayals of Marie as well as Zerlina in Don Giovanni with St. Petersburg Opera, respectively.

Ms. Curtin brought opera to the masses with Princess Cruise Lines as their Soprano Diva, singing selections of opera and musical theater in their Encore Production and in her own solo show on board the Crown Princess for most of 2023 and 2024. She performed with Maryland Opera at the Baltimore Flower Mart, Artscape, and Boordy Vineyards and returned to Shreveport Opera as Despina in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* earlier this year. She just returned from Montana after singing the soprano solos in Handel's *Messiah* with the Helena Symphony. Upcoming performances include workshops of a new musical and a new opera, and a reappearing with Shreveport Opera.

Meet Kelly at
[instagram.com/kellycurtinsoprano/](https://www.instagram.com/kellycurtinsoprano/)