



# River Spirit

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

## “The Good News”

I'll never forget seeing all the sick children brought by their parents to the little clinic I was volunteering at in Mirebalais, Haiti. It was not uncommon for their illness to be caused by water-born disease, for many Haitians do not live in areas with good sanitation systems or access to clean water.

I also will never forget seeing women and children, years later, bringing their empty buckets to a community water pump and fill them to overflowing with clean water on the grounds of a Haitian Methodist church. A recent earthquake had caused great destruction to their village, but the access to clean water gave them life and hope in the midst of their struggles.

This year I learned about the people in Kenya who live in a village called Romataya, which means, “The Place With No Water”. They had to walk 10 miles round trip for water from a dirty swamp. Women sometimes carried up to 74 lbs of water for their family's needs. In the dry season they had to dig into the ground as deep as 30 feet to find water, and a long line waited their turn.

But since World Vision brought permanent access to clean water to their village, life has changed dramatically. The women have more time for other opportunities such as planting papaya trees and creating new income streams. The children have more time for school. One girl in the village, named Grace, is doing so well in high school that she is on track to become a doctor.

Having witnessed the life-changing effects of dirty or clean water, I am so encouraged by World Vision's excellent

How can you join this joyful “Kingdom of God” work? It's easy. **Click on the link provided** to register for team Church of the Good Shepherd (Team Captain Nicole Devine). Our Global 6k walk/run for water will be **Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> at Hudson Crossing Park in Oswego** (ignore the date that the World Vision site suggests). Your \$50 registration provides permanent access to clean water for one child. Ask others to sponsor you to raise more! Others are needed to help with the water aid station table at Violet Patch Park and to cheer on the participants along the trail. Thankyou for giving, walking, praying, volunteering, and cheering as we all help make God's Kingdom more visible in our world.

Peace,  
Pastor Steve



[www.goodshepherdoswego.org](http://www.goodshepherdoswego.org)

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## From The Office:



Our Church office are Tuesday—Friday by appointment. Please call ahead when visiting the office. Diane and Jessie continue to check voicemail and email regularly. Please let us know of any needs, prayer requests or requests for a pastoral phone call.

If you would like to have a zoom meeting with your group and would like us to set it up for you email

### Online Giving

Make a Secure Donation  
Schedule Recurring Gifts

**GIVING:** Online giving is available and is appreciated as we will still have our regular operating costs and bills. Please mail in your giving to P.O. Box 695 5 W. Washington St. Oswego IL 60543 or use our E giving for online giving

<https://giving.ncsservices.org/app/giving/goodshepherdoswego>

which can also be found on our website under the giving tab. ~  
Thank you!



### Contacting Pastor Steve:

For our newer congregants and for others who may have forgotten, Pastor Steve's contact information is always listed monthly on each issue of the River Spirit, online on our weekly Sunday bulletin, and in our church photo directory. For your convenience, you can also put his info in your phone's Contact List. For joys, concerns, needs, questions, appointments, or just a chat with the Pastor, call him on his direct church cell phone 630-608-7843 or email him at [pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto:pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org)



Registration is now **OPEN** for our  
**2025-2026 school year**



If anyone would like to be added to the List of Prayer Chain Members please contact

Pat Rogerson at [rogerson44@aol.com](mailto:rogerson44@aol.com)



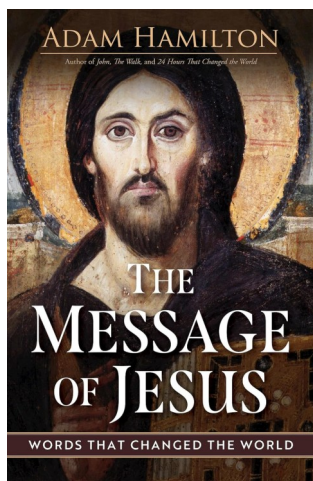
**We hope to see you at the event on Saturday, June 7th.** You can sign up to volunteer at the 6K on the sheets in the Gathering Room, and you can register to join our team and/or learn more by going to You can register for our Good Shepherd team here:

<https://global6k.worldvision.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=register.start&eventID=1831&teamID=38044>

\*\* Your receipt may give a different date but OUR walk is June 7th. Our team will be found under Church of the Good Shepherd, with the captain listed as Nicole Devine



**LENT BIBLE STUDY with Pastor Steve:** *The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World.* Pastor Steve invites you to sign up for a 6 week class every Monday night in Lent at 7:00 pm in the Gathering Room. We will study scripture using Adam Hamilton's new curriculum: "The Message of Jesus". "We will explore six of the most important themes in Jesus' teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The book explores Jesus' preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am "sayings in John, and more. Jesus' message is not only life-changing, but world-changing. Please purchase your own student book online (about \$15). Bring your bible to class or borrow one from the church. Please sign up in the Gathering Room (or contact the church office) and provide your email.



The class is offered Mondays through Monday April 14th.

## Help Decorate the Sanctuary for Our Easter Celebration!

We are taking orders for Easter lilies to beautify our church for Easter. Lilies will be available to take home after the 2nd service on Easter morning.  
(Lilies will have a green foil base)

\_\_\_\_\_ # of lilies @ \$16 each. Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



*In Memory of* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Honor of* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Celebration of* \_\_\_\_\_

*By* \_\_\_\_\_

**Dedications are due to the office by April 12th**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**BURRITOS ARE BACK!** The United Women in Faith will be taking burrito orders throughout the month of April. Watch for the order form in the Gathering Room. We will have frozen burritos ready for pick up on Sunday, May 3. In light of fluctuating grocery prices, cost for burritos is still being determined. More details to come - feel free to contact [sharmomich@gmail.com](mailto:sharmomich@gmail.com) with any questions.



**Join us for Brunch with a new start time!**  
**April 13th 9:15-11am**

Fellowship Hall ~ A free will offering will be taken.

Menu: Ham, green Bean Casserole, Cornbread Casserole, Baked Pineapple, Deviled Eggs, Fruit Salad, Fruit Trifle, Carrot Cake and more!



Our next selection will be *We Are Not Like Them* by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza. We will be discussing it on Tuesday, April 15 at 1:00 p.m. at Nancy Patush's home. Please join us! New members are always welcome!

If you are interested in joining us and need more information, please contact Judy McGregor at 630-373-2238.



"On behalf of the children and families in Kid's Above All's programs, thank you for your gift of \$200.

Kids Above All was founded in 1894 by Methodist Deaconesses who worked each day to alleviate suffering; eradicate injustice; and facilitate the development of the full potential. Your generosity continues that legacy of impact, building better lives for children and families facing poverty, violence, and injustice, ensuring that 4,540 youth and their families have every opportunity to achieve their goals through our early childhood education, safe supportive housing, and trauma-informed counseling services.

Dan Kotowski  
President and CEO Kids Above All



- Grab a coffee and join the UMM in person or online Fridays at 7am!
- The United Methodist Men are holding their coffee hour in person. For those who wish to attend via zoom, there will be an internet connection in the gathering room. Join us to find out what is happening with U.M.M. and the church.
- We are always looking for people interested in the UMM stocking of the Kendall Co. Food Pantry on Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm.

Please contact the church office at 630-554-3269 or office@goodshepherdoswego.org with any questions.



The United Methodist Men will be having their monthly Men's Luncheon at Lucky Ou Buffet, 684 W. Veterans Pkwy, Yorkville on Wednesday, March 16th at noon. Please join us for a fine meal and fellowship.

The NACP (National Association of Conference Presidents meeting was held from March 11 th to the 15 th , in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

A) The National Gathering event was announced from July 31st to August 3rd in St. Simons Island, GA. This will be a Men's and Scouting event.

B) GCUMM (General Commission of United Methodist Men) will be offering three free On-Line ZOOM classes. The classes are "Amending Through Faith", "Shaping Men in Midst of Chaos", and "A Man Must Stand" from 6:00 to 7:30 on different dates. These classes are available to all UMM.



Dave Holdeman: 12446 S. Van Dyke Rd. Room 207  
Plainfield, IL 60585



Mary Ann Stees: 1526 Parchment Cove  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308



*To the Good Shepherd Sunday School Classes: I thank you ALL so much for remembering me with a valentine. I taught 3rd grade Sunday School at Good Shepherd for many years. Now that I am a shut in, it was very special to know that you were thinking of me.*

*Thank you very much! God bless you all as well as your teachers.*

*~ Nancy Miller*



“The purpose of our Missions Team is, first and foremost, to serve others. We intend to fulfill our mission by connecting our congregation to the many ways the Church of the Good Shepherd can, and already is, serving others at the local, national, and global levels.”

The Mission Team met via Zoom on Wednesday, March 12. The team discussed how to distribute the funds (\$2,574.62) that the Finance Committee tithed to the Mission Team from 2024 monies. We will provide support and monies for the following: Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Grace Children’s Hospital in Haiti, UMCOR, Hesed House, Refugee One and World Vision Global 6K, along with various Special Sundays offerings which are designated by the Northern Illinois Conference. More information will be given as the activities and projects are scheduled.

The Mission Team continues to serve at Hesed House. Sara Poniatowski coordinates with Hesed House. Currently, Hesed House is asking that we be able to provide volunteers on an as needed basis. Sara will request assistance through the weekly e-blast, River Spirit and/or our FaceBook page.



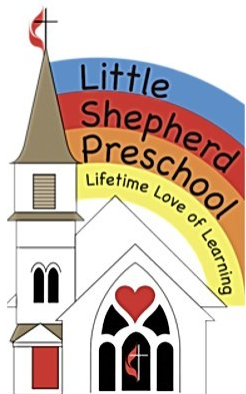
The World Vision Global 6K is being hosted by Good Shepherd on **Saturday, June 7th** at Hudson Park. If you are not a walker or runner, we can still use your help! We are in need of volunteers to work the aid stations, set up the race and cheer on the participants. Please talk with Pastor Good if you are able to help on race day. Also, please supporting the participants with a monetary pledge. You can register for our Good Shepherd team here:

<https://global6k.worldvision.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=register.start&eventID=1831&teamID=38044>

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One of the UMC Mission links is Mission Support. With the help of Good Shepherd’s United Women of Faith, we support Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim. Rev. Kim serves as a director of the Next Generation Ministries in the UMC of Tanzania, General Board of Global Ministries, based in Das es Salaam. She is the Founder and Director of Global mission Secondary School. Objectives of the Rev. Kim’s work include preparing pastors and lay leaders with skills in relating to young people and analysis of the youth ministries presently underway in each of the church’s districts. Rev. Kim, a native of South Korea, is a clergy member of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, ordained an elder in 1999. Rev. Kim frequently posts information and activities on FaceBook (search Young Seon Kim).



## Butter Braids Are Back for Easter!

Our popular Butter Braid fundraiser is back! Order your Butter Braids in the Gathering Room or here by April 4th!

<https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/SelectPProducts/ef110c98-f887-4c7c-a2d3-a90f24e0503d/3995456>

They'll be ready for pick up on 4-15 after 11:45. Please plan on picking up this day around noon. We don't have enough freezer space to store all the orders.



We still need substitute Sunday School teachers. LOW commitment but a HIGH reward. Please reach out to Ruth Frey at [Dozygit@gmail.com](mailto:Dozygit@gmail.com) if you are interested or have questions. Thanks!

**Our Easter program will be Easter Sunday, April 20th between services at 9:30 am.**



**VBS: SAVE THE DATE! Registration will begin soon for VBS.** Save the dates June 9-12! We will be looking for volunteers! Please contact Rachel Conover or the office if you can help!





## *Lenten Services*



Hosanna! Palm Sunday is April 13th  
Join Us during Our Regular Service Times: 8:30 & 10am



Join our Youth Group as our Maundy Thursday Seder Meal ,April 17th at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Steve will lead us in the ceremony to commemorate the Passover when the Hebrews escaped their slavery in Egypt, recalling also that Christ has set us free from our slavery to sin.



This year's ecumenical Good Friday Service on April 18th will be held at Wellspring United Methodist Church  
1217 Wolf Rd, Oswego.



Come celebrate with us on Easter Sunday  
at 8:30am or 10am



## April Birthdays

Cali Roberts	4/1
Jillian Perez	4/3
Mike Elliott	4/9
Susan Rutsay	4/10
Emma Gray	4/19
Jaslyne Kubelka	4/13
Jon Conover	4/14
John Frey	4/15
Christine Bielawski	4/18
Sally Smith	4/18
Charlie Farrow	4/20
Mary Church	4/21
Pat Coleman	4/22
Genie Cross	4/23
Connie Salems	4/23
Robert Leffel	4/24
Christine Conover	4/25
Barb Pearah	4/25
Daniel Conover	4/26
Debbie Klonowski	4/26
Judy Luytjes	4/27
Bob Mead	4/30
Marilyn Risch	4/30



[www.goodshepherdoswego.org](http://www.goodshepherdoswego.org)

## The Church of the Good Shepherd



**United Methodist**  
**5 W. Washington St.**  
**PO Box 695**  
**Oswego, IL 60543**

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**8:30a.m. Traditional Worship Service**

**10:00 a.m. Christian Education Hour**

**10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship**

Free childcare available during both services and Christian Education Hour

**Pastor: Pastor Steve Good**

[pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto:pastor@goodshepherdoswego.org)

**Youth Director: Rachel Conover: [jessicarc31@gmail.com](mailto:jessicarc31@gmail.com)**

**Executive Assistants: Diane Baum and Jessie Livingston**

**Church Office Hours: by appointment**

**Newsletter Editor:**

[publications@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto:publications@goodshepherdoswego.org)

**Office Email: [office@goodshepherdoswego.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdoswego.org)**

**Little Shepherd Preschool:**

[littleshepherdps@sbcglobal.net](mailto:little shepherdps@sbcglobal.net)

**Director – Amanda Sidhu Teacher: Jessica Exline**

**Teachers Aides: Vincenza Ferguson & Tracy Johnson**

**Choir Director: Jonathan Tatar**

**Custodian: Bonnie Kennedy**

**Organist & HandBell Choir Director: Cheryl Todd**

**Pianist: Sue Gilla**

**Reborn Praise Band: Jon Conover, Band Leader**

#### Everyone is Welcome!

- Wheelchair Accessible building
- 8:15 AM traditional and 10:30 AM contemporary services.
- Weddings dates available for our beautiful 1890's sanctuary and downstairs reception area. 630-554-3269.
- We practice open Communion, we honor the Evangelical tradition of using grape juice and bread and gluten-free
- Space available for weddings, parties, events and meetings. Alcohol not permitted.

