Advent & Christmas at The Good Shepherd

This year we will be looking at Advent and Christmas through the lens of the stories, scriptures, and traditions that have been passed down from *generation to generation*. Lifting up the line from Mary’s song of protest and praise that says, “God’s mercy flows from... *generation to generation*.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Preacher</th>
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</table>
| November 27| 1st Sunday of Advent         | *There’s Room For Everyone*  
Matt 1:1-17, Isa 2:1-5 | Rev. Randy Mayer   |
| December 4 | 2d Sunday of Advent          | *God Meets Us in Our Fear*  
Lk 1:26-38, Isa 11:1-10 | Rev. Randy Mayer   |
| December 11| 3d Sunday of Advent          | *We Can Choose a Better Way*  
Matt 1:18-25, Isa 35:1-10 | Rev. Rebecca McElfresh |
| December 18| 4th Sunday of Advent         | *We See God in Each Other*  
| December 24| Christmas Eve 7:00 pm        | *Carols, Communion, Candles* | Rev. Randy Mayer   |
| December 25| Christmas Day 10:00 am       | *We Tell This Story*  
| January 1  | New Years Day 10:00 am       | *Cosmic Praise*  
Psalm 148               | Rev. Randy Mayer   |
The Good Shepherd
United Church of Christ

Senior Minister:  Rev. Randy J. Mayer
Minister of Pastoral Care & Spiritual Growth:  
Rev. Rebecca McElfresh
Director of Faith Formation for Children & Youth:  
Alejandra Rosas
CWS Immigration Organizer:  Rev. Noel Andersen
Commissioned Minister of Faith & Money:  
Nancy Ackley
Music Director:  Keenan Elijah Dolan
Music Director of the Band:  Larry Worster
Pianist:  Rada Neal
Pianist Emeritus:  Kay Jean Moore
Custodian:  Severo Rivas
Administrator:  Amy Dillemuth
Webmaster:  Leslie DeGrassi
Newsletter Editor:  Mary Chapman

Executive Committee
Moderator:  Dennis St John
Moderator elect:  Kathy Babcock
Treasurer:  Rick Irvin
Council Secretary:  SuEllen Shaw

Administrative Area Facilitators
Facilities:  Nancy Bowen
Stewardship:  Hathaway Cornelius

Program Area Facilitators
Welcome and Inclusion Team:  Linda Redfield
Intentional Caring Team:  Linda Redfield
Mission Service and Justice Team:  Mike Nagle
Spiritual Growth Team:  Susan Hill

Talking Circles

During the month of November, we offered the opportunity to discuss our experiences with the Covid pandemic including the grief and losses we have experienced as well as some of the unexpected joys we found. Folks who joined these circles enjoyed hearing from one another during these meaningful conversations. And so, we will continue to offer "Talking Circles" during the month of December with the exception of Christmas Day. Topics for discussion will vary from week-to-week based on the ideas and interests of those who attend. We will meet in rooms 5 and 6 on the far side of the back patio.

Rebecca

Taizé

Taizé will be on December 14. It's a busy time of year but an opportunity to take a deep breath as we ease into the last couple of weeks before Christmas. It was a nice turnout in November so come and bring friends.

Basic Bible Study

Basic Bible Study Will meet Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 then will resume after the first of the year

Each week's lesson stands on its own. No need to buy a book. Small groups are a great way to get to know people and grow in faith. Questions? Janet Carter 715-252-6875 wisconsinjanet@yahoo.com

Newsletter Deadline
JANUARY 2023 ISSUE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022
Send items to Mary Chapman at mchapman15@cox.net
Javarita Coffee House
Desert Christmas Extravaganza
Friday, December 9, 2022, 7pm

Come to a magnificent celebration with a variety of music and performers, as well as some Mexican Hot Chocolate, Christmas Treats and some fun arts and crafts for the young and young at heart. tix $10

Circle of Friends Dinners

Circle of Friends dinners are like a mini-potluck in someone’s home. The purpose is to become better acquainted with Good Shepherd people in a small social comfortable setting. You simply sign up on the sheet on the narthex bulletin board and specify to be a host or guest. If you are a host, you plan the main course and phone the guests to ask if they would bring an appetizer, vegetable, salad or dessert. If you are a guest, you prepare one part of the meal.

We are trying something a bit different by giving the host a range of dates rather than one specific day which we hope will give more flexibility and allow more people to get involved. If you would like to form your own group rather than have people assigned to you, you can do that. Just let one of us know who you have invited.

The 2022-2023 dates are:
- December 2022 week of the 4th
- January 2023 week of the 15th
- February week of the 19th
- March week of the 19th
- April week of the 16th

Please do plan to join in the fun. Either sign up to be a host or a guest.

If you have questions call Mary Ferland 520-398-7178 or Flo Mayer 406-459-2749

Stewardship Message:

“From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving” - our Stewardship theme for this coming annual campaign by which we express our commitment in Faith through our pledges of Giving to fund our Church’s operations and initiatives for 2023. Over this Summer and Fall your Stewardship Team has provided a number of vivid testimonies of Faith that our team members have witnessed in their Christian lives. Presently, our Church is planning to conduct a Congregation-wide strategic conversation in February designed to construct our future through collaboration, shared understanding, and a commitment to action, or SOAR - Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results. We anticipate that out of this constructive dialog will come ideas and objectives that will entail funding by an energized assembly of Faith.

The Eucharist, or Communion, is an observance of the Christian church that comes out of the Jewish Passover. Communion gained important additional meaning from meals Jesus had with his disciples after the resurrection. In fact, Communion in the early church was anticipation of the future messianic feast, not just remembrance of the crucifixion; hence, its mood was one of joy. The Acts of the Apostles presents the early Christians as meeting for “the breaking of bread”. The Eucharist has long been a central part of Christian life and worship.

“From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving” makes the connection between our experience of God and our generosity as disciples and followers of Jesus. Please continue to develop your thoughts as to how you can express your commitment of Faith through your Giving as we come nearer to our Celebration Sunday in January.

For your Stewardship Team,
Hathaway Cornelius
Estate & Patio Sales News

We Are Merging!

Who works on the Women’s Fellowship estate sales? Women AND men.

The coordinating committees of both the estate sales and the patio sale decided to be more efficient, get with the times, and join forces by merging into one: The Good Shepherd Estate Sales/Patio Sale group. The coordinating committee of the new group will manage the funds raised in the estate sales and annual patio sale, under the auspices of the church financial system. The monies raised (minus expenses) will continue to be disbursed annually to local non-profits.

So regardless of your gender, you are invited to participate in the work of the Estate Sales/Patio Sale group. Experience levels can be from vast to none. On the “job” training is always available.

This is a great way to get to know others. Come join the fun!

Storage Space Needed!

Do you have storage space in your garage? The Estate & Patio Sales team needs space from now until the Patio Sale in March. Many Estate Sale clients want their items leftover from their sale to go to the Good Shepherd for the Spring Patio Sale and we urgently need more storage space.

If you can help, call Tom Buinicky, 603-477-1370, or Rick Adshead, 508-735-2561

Meal Train

Many thanks to Susan Hill who has been serving those in need of temporary assistance with meals by contacting those who can prepare a meal or two for someone who is ill. This has been a most appreciated and helpful way to reach out to those among us who are in need. At this time, Susan needs to allow someone else to take over this responsibility going forward. If this seems like a way you are able to be helpful and feel called to this work, please contact Rebecca.

Many thanks also to Bonnie Sondrol who has similarly helped by contacting those who might have a temporary need for a ride to a medical appointment or other location.

Nominations Committee

Fellow Members and Friends,

It’s never too soon to start thinking about our upcoming 2023 Church Year! At our March Annual Meeting we’ll be electing our officers and committee team members. Our Church is a lot like a co-op: volunteer leadership and participation. Our impact on our congregation and wider community are only as effective and lasting as the collective effort we put into them. Might I talk you into serving?

For this coming year there are many opportunities to serve. Outreach to our wider community? Help make a positive impact in our world. ‘In-reach’ to our Congregation? Support spiritual growth within our Good Shepherd community. Church operations? Our Finance and Facilities teams enable our Church to continue to provide resources for both our Congregation and to our local community. Church administration? Like the Marines, we’re always looking for a Few Good People to find and procure the people and funds necessary to operate our Church and to provide support for our greater community. A listing of the spots & slots your Nominating Team is looking to fill for 2023 include:

- Mission, Service and Justice Team (MS&J) - at least two
- Extravagant Welcome and Inclusion Team (EW&I) - at least three
- Finance Team - at least two
- Facilities Team - at least five
- Stewardship Team - at least one
- Nominating Team - at least two.

We hope to hear from you! For your Nominating Team, Hathaway Cornelius (541.921.4792; neu-nelf@fastmail.net) and Judy Holcomb (608.214.6832; revjudyh@gmail.com)
Spark Studio: Spiriting Creative Community

Our new studio space has been well used this month as classes began in the areas of visual art and writing. LJ Menzel is leading a class that will continue through the month of December called "It's Time to Say What You've Always Wanted to Say." Award winning poet, Marge Saiser, will offer an open writing studio in which participants can elect to bring their own writing projects or utilize writing prompts that Marge will offer. She says, "If you've never written a bit—great!—you are welcomed with open arms! If you are in the midst of a big writing project—great!—we'll give you encouragement and space." Carol St. John has offered a course on creativity that she has called "Play School," indicating her wish that we explore our creativity with the wonder of playful spirits of kindergarten children. Rebecca McElfresh has offered a class on collage, a technique that requires no drawing skills, only the ability to use scissors and paste. Then, our wonderful quilting group meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings beginning at 9:30 am. They are making quilts for the families at the La Casa shelter in Nogales.

All our studio facilitators are delighted that folks have joined us to explore the creative arts. We will continue to offer various classes throughout the season and we will also explore the ways in which this studio space can provide a safe place to grow and learn. These opportunities offer meaningful conversations, fellowship, and lots of fun too!

New classes will be offered during the winter months. Be sure to keep an eye on the weekly email, the Sunday bulletins, and Sunday morning announcements for future offerings. As of this writing, Gail Frank will offer a class called, "Your Story Matters: Writing from the Heart." It will be offered Fridays from 9:30-Noon on January 6, 20, 27 and February 3rd. There will be no class on January 13 due to Common Ground on the Border. She describes the class this way: Storytelling can help us make sense of our lives and develop confidence in our own voices. Over a four-week period, we will have the honor of witnessing each other's stories unfold as we share and dig deeper while exploring the power of the pen. Open to all writers, even those who have always wanted to capture their tales, through brief 10-minute writes, whether memoir snippets, personal essays or travel vignettes, you will become inspired and confident in leaving a trace through the stories only you can tell. Please email Gail at gailbarbara@me.com if you would like to participate.

Your voice is required to help create our future together. Come join us Saturday, February 18th, 2023, for a lively day!

The Good Shepherd is doing well, and we need your input on determining what you appreciate about the church now, what you want more of, and how we can move forward from our great accomplishments to a continuing future filled with added commitment and action. Lunch will be served, but only if you sign-up in the Narthex or via the Eventbrite invitation!

Thanks: The Administrative Team
MISSION GIFT FAIR ~ DECEMBER 4, 2002

The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ Annual Alternative Gift Mission Fair coming December 4, 2022. The Annual Mission Fair is our opportunity for our church to support organizations in our region that share our mission and values and who serve the people of our community. This year we have three (3) well-deserving charities from which to choose. On December 4th representatives from each charity will be at The Good Shepherd in the classroom area to explain and answer questions about the work of their organization. Don’t Miss It!

Amado Youth Center  https://facebook.com/amadoyouthcenter
The Amado Youth Center began as a place to help give kids in our rural community something to do with their time. It has quickly, through the generous support of volunteers and community partners, become a busy hub of activity. From gardening to earning a red belt in martial arts, the youth center offers opportunities at every age group and is continually growing in its understanding of area youth and how to best meet their needs.

Casa De La Misericordia y de Todas las Naciones  https://facebook.com/Casa-De-La-Misericordia-y-de-Todas-las-Naciones-1045724705512316/
The House of Mercy for All Nations is a place of refuge for migrants from anywhere waiting to make the passage through to the United States. It is a place of learning for migrant children. It is a place of hope for people who ought to be hopeless but aren’t. Randy Mayer and many Good Shepherd folks have volunteered here often throughout the years. The mission is what keeps the migrants alive and in good spirits as they wait.

The Probigua Scholarship Fund  http://www.probigua.com/about.htm
Their vision is a world lit by learning. Their mission is to develop our students’ communicative competency in Spanish, doing so in the most effective, personalized, flexible and affordable ways that modern teaching theories and technology make possible - then leveraging this to provide work for our maestras and learning opportunities for our children in rural areas of Guatemala. Good Shepherd has contributed to Probigua for many years under the leadership of the late Dee and Pres Johnson.
The Christmas Fund
For the Veterans of the Cross
And the Emergency Fund

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 18, 2022

Overwhelmed with Joy
Matthew 2:9-10

The [Magi] set out and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.”

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities & health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Three Ways to Give:

* Drop into the collection basket

* Mail to: The Good Shepherd UCC 17750 S La Cañada Drive Sahuarita, AZ 85629

* Donate directly and securely: https://support.ucc.org/donate-now#

(Please select The Christmas Fund on drop down menu and fill out the UCC Affiliation on the following page. We are the Southwest Conference).

As always, thank you for your generous donation,
The Mission, Service and Justice Team
Mike & Margie, Tom & Patti, Linda, Jean, and Carol
### Best Wishes for a Happy Birthday!

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Myrna Simon</td>
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<td>Kay Jean Moore</td>
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<td>Linda Tukenmez</td>
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<td>Dawna Thomas</td>
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<td>Mark Sanders</td>
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<td>Peggy Poulin</td>
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<td>Michael Plotnik</td>
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<td>Rozanne Plotnik</td>
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<td>Larry Menefee</td>
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<td>Noell Reinhiller</td>
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<td>Diane Royce</td>
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<td>Richard Mayer</td>
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### Congratulations on Your Anniversary

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<td>Bill &amp; Marge Kinkead</td>
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<td>Bernie &amp; Kendra Kuehn</td>
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If you have not seen your special day (birthday/anniversary) in the newsletter, please contact Amy if you would like to update your record.

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### Common Ground on the Border

It is now time to register for the 10th annual Common Ground on the Border event to be held at The Good Shepherd January 12-14, 2023. We will enjoy the storytelling in song of our musicians in residence, Sparky and Rhonda Rucker on Friday night and then they will lead a workshop on Saturday afternoon. Our artist-in-residence, Rev. Brenda Grauer, will work with us on Friday afternoon. Brenda is a fiber artist who has designed and produced liturgical designs for our UCC General Synod for a number of years. She will also spend some time with our own quilting group. Our border lectures will be offered on Saturday morning, their usual time slot. We will welcome Jen Budd, former Border Patrol agent and Rev John Fife. Rev. Fife served as a minister for 35 years at Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson, a church with a strong focus on social justice issues and forever connected to the Sanctuary Movement. In retirement John has stayed active in humanitarian work along the border.

Join us for a very meaningful time together as we explore the people and issues of the borderlands through the lens of the arts. Field trip opportunities bring participants experiences with the peoples and the cultures present here.

Look for more details as well as the registration page here: [https://commongroundontheborder.wordpress.com/](https://commongroundontheborder.wordpress.com/)

Registration includes one field trip, all programming on Friday and Saturday, two concerts and two evening meals.
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>7:00pm Java Coffeehouse</td>
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<td>Christmas Day</td>
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Printed: 11/08/2022 9:53am
Administrative Team Minutes  
October 11, 2022 – 3:00 – 5:00

Members present: Rebecca McElfresh, Nancy Bowen, Rick Irvin, Kathy Babcock, Dennis St. John, Randy Mayer, SuEllen Shaw

1. Rebecca McElfresh gave the opening prayer.

2. The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

3. Rick Irvin reported our finances remained stable in September. Total income for that month was $21,150 and total expenses were $27,600. YTD total income was $333,356 and expenses were $289,827. The undesignated cash position of the church as of September 30, 2022, was $176,170.

4. Nancy Bowen, reporting for the Finance Team, noted the church’s financial position is strong.

5. Dennis St. John updated us on facilities: The courtyard is now locked. The railing painting is nearly complete. Patio paver repair is delayed because a paver saw is not readily available, but the plan is to have all completed by Oct. 20.

6. Other committee/team updates:
   a. Rick Irvin said the Kitchen Team is in place and operating—the cleaning is complete; knives have been sharpened.
   b. Rick noted the upcoming anniversary of Cafe Justo, Nov. 4th and 5th. Response has been limited so far.

7. Old Business:
   a. The schedule for SOAR Strategic planning was reviewed. The Oct. 26 meeting has been cancelled. The announcement of the full congregational summit, Feb. 18, 2023, must be put on the calendar, in the monthly newsletter, and church bulletin.
   b. Regarding a Google docs or other electronic file for storage of important church documents, Mary Martin is willing to work with Amy on establishing such electronic archive storage.

8. New Business:
   a. Dennis questioned whether TGS has ever applied for or received money from Neighbors in Need. Randy emphasized that TGS has received lots of money from the national church organization, including stipends for support of interns, such as Thomas.
   b. Kathy urged that we do more to raise awareness of the church’s mission work with both The Samaritans and Cafe Justo. Randy will write a post for both the newsletter and the church emails.
   c. Kathy inquired about the possibility of another mentee/intern coming. Randy noted a search is in process, but we need financial support from the national church organization for such a position.

9. Pastor’s reports:
   a. Randy emphasized that we need to acknowledge people’s post pandemic grieving/all the losses before we can move the congregation fully into SOAR planning. He also noted we have moved to two services, and have resumed coffee hour. About 120-130 people worshiped Sunday, Oct. 9. In addition, both he and Rebecca have had many pastoral care visits, either in person or by phone. Staff evaluations are upcoming. There have been a couple applicants for Kay Jean’s position, and there will be an interview/audition for one of them. We want to honor Kay Jean for her years of service. He noted that the visit by two UCC representatives from the national church organization went well and included visits into the desert with Samaritans, to Sasabe, and the Border. Regarding immigration, Randy will attend a meeting of the American Waldensians in North Carolina this upcoming weekend.
   b. Rebecca highlighted the Studio Schedule. Much is happening with classes and support for interest groups offered by several members: L.J. Menzel, Marge Saiser, Rebecca McElfresh, the quilting team. The general theme of three different classes will be on telling one’s story. Guests Oct. 16 for worship will be the Rev. Peggy O’Conner, Chaplain Administrator for the UCC House at the Chautauqua Institution in Western NY and the Rev. Susan Carmell, Interim Senior Pastor, First Congregational UCC of Appleton, WI. Rebecca also noted that an Advent series of events, “Generation to Generation,” is planned.

Respectfully submitted by,
SuEllen Shaw,
Secretary