

The Shepherd's Crook



GOOD
SHEPHERD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December, 2020

The Shepherd's Crook
is published for GSPC
members and friends.
303-452-5478
thegoodshepherd.org
office@thegoodshepherd.org

Ministers:
**All the Members of the
Congregation**

Interim Pastor:

Sheri Fry

Office Administrator:

Teddie McConnell

Choir Director:

Sara Tyburczy

Accompanist:

Dr. Jonathan Morris

Treasurer:

Joyce Matthews

Nursery Attendant:

Taya Mendez

Events Coordinator:

Diana Bennett

Centus Counselor:

Josh Parker, LCSW

Clerk of Session:

Mary Archuleta

Session Members:

Anna Bond

Fred Finke

Mary Ann Hood

Robin Kelly

Joyce Matthews

John Shaeffer

Paul Steward

Barbara Swanson

SOMETHING IS COMING...

The season of Advent means something is coming like we have never seen before. What is possible is that you might miss it, it might just brush past you. Then you begin to grasp what it was that you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God's backside fade in the distance. So, stay. Sit. Ponder. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running...for rushing...for worrying. Stay. Wait. Something is coming.

As we light each candle of the Advent wreath, we piece together the story of Christmas. By the time we light the last candle on Christmas Day, we know the end of the story. Or we think we do but there are many ways to tell a story, aren't there?

We can tell it as the story of an unwed mother who dared to enter into partnership with God; as a political story about the birth of a revolutionary; as a tale about a love that longed so much for us that it took flesh, formed in the body of a woman. We can tell it as a story about darkness giving birth to light, about endlessly waiting, and about what lies at the end of all our waiting.

At Advent, God's people summon the courage and the spiritual strength to remember that the holy breaks into the daily. In tiny ways, we can open our hearts to the healing grace of God, who opens the way to peace. But Advent is not a season of passive waiting and watching. It's a season of wailing and weeping, of opening up our lives with active anticipation and renewed hope, and to remember that Christ came not to dispel the darkness but to teach us to dwell with integrity, compassion, and love in the midst of that ambiguous gloom.

Darkness can be a place where our longings for healing, justice and peace grow and come alive. The gift that God holds out to us in this season is that in darkness and light, God beckons us to keep vigil and to be a companion to one another now and always.

I am thankful we are on this journey together.
Peace, Sheri



Dream, Don't Sleep

~ By Sarah Are

*They say you will come like a "thief in the night"
The hour unclear, the day easily feared.
But I toss these words over the edge of my tongue,
And they don't taste right.
A thief is one that I lock out.
A thief is the one that I fear.
So I ask myself-
Did I downgrade you to no more than a thief, Great Builder?
Did you form me from the dust,
Breathe life into my bones
And paint the horizon into the sky, all for me?
And was all of that fine,
Until you asked me to love my neighbor as myself?
Was all of that fine,
Until you said "Dream, don't sleep?"
Was all of that fine,
Until you asked me to wake up to the suffering in the streets?
Did I imprison you to the role of the thief
To keep you from getting too close?
Forgive me, Great Builder.
Tear down the door to my house.
Crawl through the window.
Slip through the attic fan.
Dance in the security light.
Scream through the letterbox until I hear you again.
For this house is your house.
You built it.
You belong here.
Break back in.*

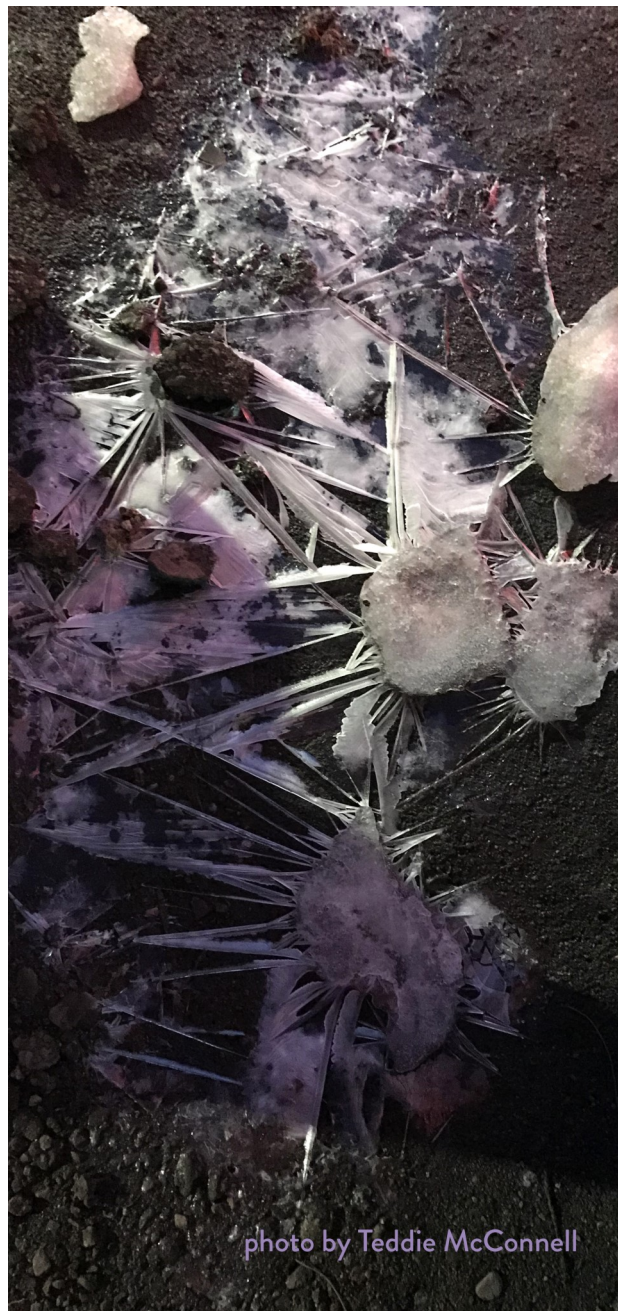


photo by Teddie McConnell



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AND CONNECTION

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23

12-12:30PM

Join us Wednesdays at noon for a brief Advent reflection, prayer and a time to connect with others during this season of light and darkness. These Wednesday sessions will be led by Pastor Sheri. A Zoom link will be sent out by email on the Tuesday night before each Wednesday.



We are happy to offer another year of an alternative to traditional *giving*, alternative gifts support a wide variety of cause-based work and ministry and make wonderful gifts for friends, family, and loved ones.

Alternative gifts are signs of our gratitude for God's grace that moves us to join with ministries of love and justice, reconciliation and peace—ministries that feed the hungry, comfort the broken-hearted, and share our faith with young and old.

These types of gifts are an easy and meaningful way to bypass the annual stress of holiday shopping and "stuff" accumulation while honoring friends and relatives with donations to causes that fit their values. What's more, the Alternative Gift Fair provides support to ministries important to the outreach and mission of our church. Giving alternative gifts simplifies Christmas with gifts that give hope in our community and throughout the world.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Beginning December 1 and running through December 21st, Please make checks to GSPC and note the specific focus of your donation. You will receive a card/cards that you can use to notify the honoree of your gift! Thank you for supporting these important ministries!

CHOICES FOR GOOD SHEPHERD'S 2020 ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

1. HIGHLANDS CAMP and RETREAT CENTER <https://www.highlandscamp.org>

Highlands Presbyterian Camp, near Allenspark, has provided Summer Camp experiences for children and youth for over 70 years. Their goal has always been to provide life-changing experiences to all children, regardless of their family's ability to cover the cost. **CAMP IS NOT CHEAP!** Although Highlands offers a 3-tier payment opportunity, many children need additional assistance. Your gift toward Highlands Camperships could make a HUGE difference for a child in 2021 (hopefully). Giving whatever amount you choose is one suggestion of an Alternative Gift.



2. PRESBYTERIAN GIFTS (Presbyterian Mission Agency) <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/gifts/> (Similar to Heifer International)

- \$40 covers the cost of 1 bag of Moringa Tree seeds. Moringa is an important source of nutrition, containing protein, vitamins and minerals.
- \$240 Bee-keeping supplies and instruction allows a farmer in a developing country to supplement their income from farm crops.
- \$50 covers 1 "share" of a cow, while \$450 would pay for a whole cow! Receiving a cow includes training in the care and sustainable breeding of the cow. A cow will improve food/nutrition and income security for a family.
- \$200 covers the cost of a Community Garden. Planted in the U.S., in places of food insecurity, a garden will supply nutritious fresh produce, employment and educational opportunities for the community.
- \$250 will pay for a Community Irrigation Pump to help farmers restore land that has been spoiled by drought and civil unrest. Productive land produces more and better crops.
- \$25 will purchase a family of chickens.
- \$178 will buy a pair of goats.

You may also contribute money to partially cover the cost of any of the above!

(continued)

3. **ZIMBABWE MISSION PARTNERSHIP** <http://zimpartnership.org>

As you all know, Good Shepherd has been one the 10-12 Partner churches since soon after the creation of ZMP nearly 20 years ago. We continue to honor our commitment to the Partnership through several fund-raisers each year. Following are some ways you might consider supporting the Heather Chimhoga Care Center (HCOC) again, while also honoring a friend or loved one this Christmas.

- \$50 covers the cost of supplemental food for 1 family of orphan/vulnerable children for 1 month.
- \$100 covers the salary of a visiting doctor at the Clinic for 1 month.
- \$30 pays the required school fees for 1 child for 1 school term (3 terms per school year). And, yes, school IS happening!
- \$150 covers the cost of AIDS medicines for 4 orphan children for 1 year.
- \$75 will provide 40 children with 1 month of meals at the Care Center near their school.
- Any amount donated to "wherever need most" is always greatly appreciated.

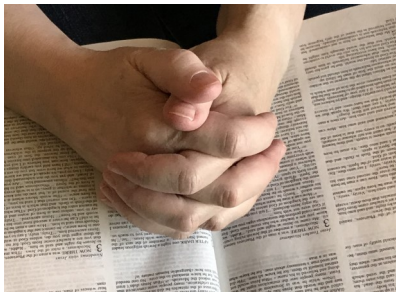
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of contributing to any 1 or more missions in honor of someone you care about this Christmas. And MANY THANKS to all of you who have given faithfully in the past! *May you all have a joyful Christmas!*



BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE, COMFORT & HOPE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17@7:00 PM

Good Shepherd is offering an evening of music and quiet reflection on Thursday, December 17 to honor the darkness and light of the holiday season. Through poetry, prayers, and special music selections this service will bear witness to some of the contrasting emotions we experience at this time of year – distress and peace; despair and hope; sorrow and joy; apathy and love.

We will light some candles, so please have your candles ready at home to light so that we can acknowledge together the challenges in our lives – lost opportunities, divorce, estrangement, loneliness, the passing of loved ones, and other sorrows that weigh on our hearts. All who long to fully embrace and celebrate the Advent and Christmas season are welcome to attend. *A link to the service will be sent out by email on Wednesday, 12/16.*



Joys and Concerns

Please pray for Barb M.'s sister Betty with congestive heart failure; Pee Wee on the passing of Sue; Norm R.'s family; Bill and Gayle H.; Sue H, Barbie S, Tim S's father-in-law, Michelle W David W.' sister-in-law ,and Paul C.'s friend Ava Bailey, all of whom have health concerns; for communities affected by COVID-19 or by human rights violations here in the United States and throughout the world, and for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.

Christmas Joy Offering

Being Together

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. According to Matthew's Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person. But we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. God has been with us. And through our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, we are together with those who need our love and support.

Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them.

of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Because God is with us, we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them — we are with them.

50%

of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

**Thank you for your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering -
for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.**



The Food Bank needs donations of pet food, toilet paper, laundry detergent, large-size diapers, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables and holiday food items.

During November the food bank served 76 households, which included 272 individuals. One hundred of those were children 0-18 years old. Our numbers continue to climb slowly, and we have many new clients every week. With our 2 new freezers and 2 new refrigerators, we have more storage room. We have had increasing donations from Costco and Walmart, so have needed the room!

Mary K.



December Birthdays

Julie Klahn	12/13
Alexis Watson	12/14
Angelé Myers	12/20
Anna Bond	12/22
Dorothy Bennett	12/23
Pee Wee Holland	12/25
Tania Wirz	12/30

WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!



- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/

On November 18, 2020 the session of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church voted to become a “Matthew 25 Church” as part of the initiative of the Presbyterian Church (USA) by recognizing Christ’s urgent call to be a church of action where God’s love, justice, and mercy shine forth and are contagious. Convicted by Matthew 25:31-46 and in response to the exhortation of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) we plan to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. By doing so, we pledge to embrace these three areas of focus: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, Good Shepherd can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission. There are already PC(USA) congregations and Presbyteries (including the Denver Presbytery) that identify themselves as Matthew 25 churches/Presbyteries. We hope to help multiply this loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship by partnering with them to help embrace these three focuses:

- **Building congregational vitality** by challenging people to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.
- **Dismantling structural racism** by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- **Eradicating systemic poverty** by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

You will be hearing more about the Matthew 25 initiative in the coming months. Until then, you can learn more here:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

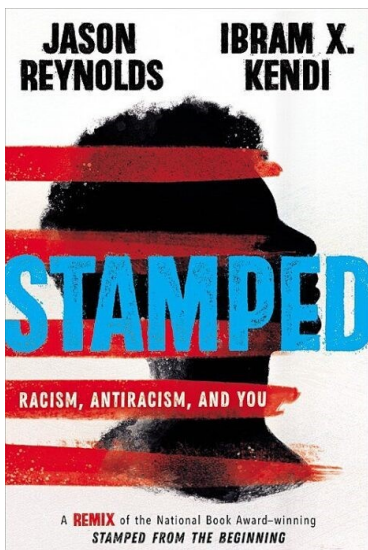
YOU ARE INVITED...

To participate in weekly conversation on racism as we discuss the book STAMPED...Racism, Antiracism, and YOU by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi beginning Sunday, January 3 from 11:30-1:00. At this time we intend to hold this conversation by zoom. If it is possible to meet in a small group setting in January, we'll meet in the Fellowship Hall at the church as well as on Zoom.

We will meet for 5 weeks – so every Sunday in January. There are 5 sections and each section will be covered each week. This is an excellent, gripping, fast-paced and energizing narrative and easy first book to read about this issue. STAMPED shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas and on ways WE can identify and stamp out racist thoughts, leading to a better future.

If you would like help purchasing this book please contact Rev. Sheri Fry at revmo25@gmail.com or at the church office 303-452-5478 or please order your own book. It is well worth the investment!

“The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. Racist ideas are woven into the fabric of this country, and the first step to building an antiracist America is acknowledging America’s racist past and present.”



DECEMBER 2020



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Food Bank open 10-11:45
on Tuesday, Wednesday
& Thursday

Virtual Coffee Hour
follows the
Online Service

1

2
Advent Devotional
Noon on Zoom

3

5

6
10 am - Worship Online
2nd Sunday in Advent
Candle of Peace

8

9
Advent Devotional
Noon on Zoom

10

12

13
10 am - Worship Online
3rd Sunday in Advent
Candle of Joy

15

16
Advent Devotional
Noon on Zoom

17

7:30 Blue Christmas
Service

18

19

20
10 am - Worship Online
4th Sunday in Advent
Candle of Love

22

23
Advent Devotional
Noon on Zoom

24

Christmas Eve

25

26



27
10 am - Worship Online

29

30

31

New Year's Eve

The Shepherd's Crook

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
10785 Melody Drive
Northglenn CO 80234

303-452-5478
thegoodshepherd.org
office@thegoodshepherd.org

Worship 10:00 a.m. online on Facebook and
www.thegoodshepherd.org



To bring the love
and teachings of Christ
to our community by:



GOOD
SHEPHERD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcoming all,
Serving together, and
Growing in faith.



Mission Statement
Revised and Adopted September 2018