

GSUMC Administrative Board & Staff

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Praise Music Leader

Dr. Emily Alley
Accompanist/Choir Director

Debra & Buddy Clarke
Custodians

The Shepherd's Staff

A Season of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace

As we enter the month of December, our hearts are filled with anticipation and excitement as we embark on the sacred journey of Advent. This season is a time of reflection, prayer, and joyful expectations as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

The first candle of the Advent wreath symbolizes Hope. In a world often filled with challenges and uncertainties, Advent reminds us to hold on to the hope that comes from our faith. It is a beacon of light, guiding us through the darkness and inspiring us to trust in the promises of God.

Love is the second theme of Advent. As we decorate our homes and exchange gifts, let us remember that the greatest gift of all is the love that God has shown us through the gift of His Son. This season calls us to share that love with others, to be compassionate and generous, and to build connections that transcend the material aspects of the holiday season.

The third candle symbolizes Peace. In a world marked by chaos and strife, the message of Advent is a call to embrace the peace that surpasses all understanding. As we prepare for Christmas, let us strive to be peacemakers in our families, communities, and beyond, spreading the tranquility that comes from a relationship with the Prince of Peace.

Finally, the fourth candle represents Joy. The joy of Advent is not merely a fleeting emotion based on external circumstances but a deep and abiding joy that comes from knowing Christ. As we navigate the busyness of December, let us seek joy in the simplicity of the Gospel message and find delight in the presence of God in our lives.

May these virtues guide us through the hustle and bustle, allowing us to experience the true spirit of Christmas. As we light the candles on our Advent wreath, may the glow serve as a reminder that Christ's light shines brightly in our lives, bringing hope, love, joy, and peace to all. –Rev. Yo Han Han

MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

STOCKINGS AND STARS CHRISTMAS TREE



STOCKINGS AND STARS CHRISTMAS TREE - 2023

Another unusual year for our community so your love and generosity is needed even more to give a local child a special Christmas

This is Good Shepherd's 20th year of donating gifts through the Thornton Police Department for children from newborn to 16 years old.

For the first time in two years the stocking and stars tree will be in the narthex and we should be able to store gifts under the tree in the sanctuary prior to our delivery date. The deadline for gifts to be brought to the church is December 10th. The Methodist Men's Group will collect the gifts for delivery after second service.

Each of you may choose the age and gifts that are appropriate. (Some suggestions below). To help the distribution process, please attach your paper stocking or star to the bag which will show age/boy or girl/or if you concentrated on one specific toy or clothing item. Suggestions from the Police Department this year included warm clothing/Legos/pajamas/gloves/etc. that could be included with a toy if possible. Also, most often overlooked are the older teens.

Do not wrap gifts



Smaller gifts are usually better as most children receive 2-5 gifts

Attach stocking or star to the bag with age/boy or girl information

Collection Day—Sunday, December 10th at 11:30 a.m... We should be able to store gifts in the sanctuary under that Christmas tree this year.

questions: Please call Debbie Anaya-Pacetti at 720-413-5975

Infants / Toddlers/ Up To 4 Years	5-11 Year Olds	12 – 16 Preteen & Teens
Lap Blanket Pajamas Board Games Books for age Toys Foam Blocks Mega Blocks Pretend play (dress-up costumes) Finger paints Coloring book/crayons Multicultural dolls/baby dolls Trucks Stuffed animals Doodle mats Flash cards	Art supplies Board Games Slime and Foam sets Playdoh, Coloring Books/ Colored Pencils/ Art Kits Pencils & Markers Science toys Building toys Legos, TRIO Character figures - super-heroes, Disney, etc. NERF toys Pajamas Flash cards Barbie Dolls Multicultural dolls Lap Blanket	Alarm clock Ear buds Pop Socks Art supplies Personal care items Jeans (10, 12, 14) Hoodies and Sweatshirts (no red or blue) Mittens, hats, scarves, gloves Costume jewelry Books / Notebooks Back-packs Footballs, Soccer ball, Basketball, Baseball mitt Bat & Ball or any type of ball baseball/ football/ basketball Fidget toys Board games

					1 Office closed	2 Decorating for Christmas 9:00-11:00 Young Entrepreneurs 1:00-3:00
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Contemporary Worship 10:30 am Traditional Worship 10:30 Children/Bash Youth Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 12:15 5:00pm Charge Conference	4 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30am-6:00pm Book Club 6:30	5 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-7:30am 3:00-6:00pm Choir Practice 6:30	6 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-7:30am 2:00-6:00pm	7 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-7:30am 3:00-6:00pm Ruth Circle Bible Study 1-3pm Prayer Warriors 6:30pm Bell Practice 5:00pm	8 Office closed	9 Lois Troxel Funeral 11:00am Christmas Program 4:30pm
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Contemporary Worship 10:30 am Traditional Worship 10:30 Children/Bash Youth Noon: Staff Meeting 1:00pm Ad Board Meeting	11 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30am-6:00pm	12 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-7:30am 3:00-6:00pm	13 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-7:30am 2:00-6:00pm	14 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-7:30am 3:00-6:00pm Ruth Circle Bible Study 1-3pm Bell Practice 5:00pm	15 Office closed	16 UMM Meeting and caroling 8:00-11:00 UWif Noon Flock of Friends Movie Night 6:00-10:00
17 3rd Sunday of Advent Cantata Sunday One Service 10:00am Recital 12:00-4:00	18 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30am-6:00pm January Newsletter Articles Due	19 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-7:30/am 3:00-6:00pm	20 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-6:00pm Blue Christmas Service 7:00pm 	21 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-6:00pm Ruth Circle Bible Study 1-3pm Bell Practice 5:00pm	22 Office closed	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Christmas Eve 7:00pm Christmas Eve	25 Church office Closed 	26 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-6:00pm	27 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-6:00pm	28 Rev Yo Han Office Hours 8:30-12:00 Playology 6:30-6:00pm Rev. Yo Han Vacation Ruth Circle Bible Study 1-3pm	29 Office closed	30
31 9:00am Contemporary Worship 10:30 Traditional Worship 9:00am Adult Sunday School						



During the month of December, we will be learning about the birth of Jesus. Our Faith word is joy.

Our memory verse this month is "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior." (Luke 1:46-47)



Youth group at The Grumpy Egg

Dates To Remember

December 3: Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 12:15pm

December 9: Christmas program 4:30pm

December 16: Christmas Caroling with UMM at the senior center

December 24: Worship Service 10:00am
Christmas Eve Services at 5:00/7:00pm .

Youth Group

At the beginning of December, the Youth Group was active for 12 weeks. Activities have varied from creating a mosaic painting that hangs in the hallway near the Diversity wall, supporting the Silent Auction table at the Fall Festival, and painting at holiday windows at The Grumpy Egg. Upcoming projects include the Stars and Stocking Tree that provides GSUMC to gather gifts for needy children in Thornton, CO. They will also be traveling to Bethesda Senior Living (aka Park Regency) to perform Christmas songs for the elderly on December 16th. A future excursion will probably include the team going to go see the movie, "Journey to Bethlehem".

At the beginning of each meeting, they share a meal then they participate in various activities such as playing basketball, scavenger hunt, and numerous games. These games Included Minute to Win It, Ghost Blitz, Snake Oil, Can't Stop, Blank Slate, Hedbandz, and Car Pitch. So far, their favorite games clearly are Ghost Blitz AND UNO.

Additionally, the Youth Group will be collaborating with UMM for an event on Saturday, December 16th, when they will be going to Bethesda Senior Living to perform Christmas songs for the elderly at this facility for 30 to 45 minutes. Afterwards, the youth will return to GSUMC to share refreshments with UMM.

December Events at Good Shepherd



Charge Conference

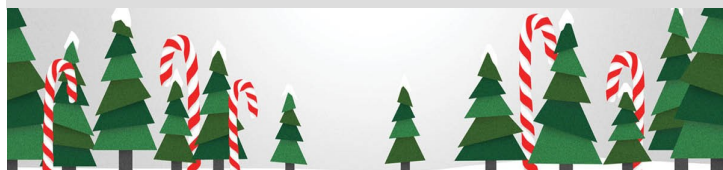
**December 3rd
5:00pm at
Good Shepherd**

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday December 9th

4:30pm

**Children's Pageant with special music by
Hand bell Choir, GSUMC Choir, and
Praise Team**



Christmas
CANTATA
December 17th 10:00am



**Blue Christmas Service
with Rev. Linda Freund**

December 20th 7:00pm



**Sunday December 24th
10:00am worship**

Christmas Eve

— SERVICE —

**5:00pm and 7:00pm
childcare provided**



December 5	Pedro Velez-DiLaura
December 7	Don Robinson
December 8	Al Campbell
December 9	Melody Finnie
December 15	Dawn Schankweiler
December 19	Laurel McGinn
December 25	Jesus
December 30	Eric Johnson
December 31	Matt Olivas



CANTATA SUNDAY

December 17th will be Cantata Sunday at 10:00am. This is a one service Sunday. Come and let the beautiful music of the choir be the message!



DECEMBER 24TH MORNING WORSHIP

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. This will be the fourth Sunday in Advent. There will be ONE SERVICE at 10:00am



December Food For Hope:

Merry Christmas!

For the month of December, Food For Hope will be collecting granola and protein bars. Let's fill their pantries for the start of the new year!

As always, thank you for your generous donations and support of this vital ministry.





Blue Christmas Service

Sometimes grief keeps us from enjoying the holidays. If you find yourself feeling down, or just not in the holiday spirit, please attend the Blue Christmas Service lead by Rev. Linda Freund on December 20th at 7:00pm

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4



Playology invites you to a Young Entrepreneur Christmas Festival at Good Shepherd

Saturday December 2nd from
1:00-3:00pm

Playology is the before and after school program here at Good Shepherd. Please come support these young entrepreneurs as they learn about business. Some booths include crafts for purchase, Christmas DIY, hot chocolate bar, Photos with Santa. Other special activities include a demonstration of firefighter's gear by the Thornton FD from 1:30-2:00 and face painting starting at 2:00. This is a free event guaranteed to get you in the holiday spirit.

Holiday Family Craft Fair sponsored by the Worture Team



GOOD SHEPHERD PRESENTS

A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
AND LOVE IN...

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

DECEMBER 9TH AT 4:30PM

WITH MUSIC FROM HANDBELL CHOIR, GSUMC CHOIR, AND PRAISE TEAM



COME SEE HOW YOUNG ANGEL LEARNS WHAT JESUS MEANS
TO THE WORLD.



A Good Shepherd Thanksgiving!



Tree of Gratitude




Thanksgiving dinner served nearly 100 people!





Flock of Friends Christmas Movie Night



Join Flock of Friends for a family Christmas movie night! Pizza, popcorn, and hot cocoa will be provided. Please bring a movie snack to share!

Saturday, December 16th
5:30pm to 8:30pm
Good Shepherd UMC

Movie is TBD but will be appropriate for all ages!





The next UMM meeting will be Saturday December 16 at 8:00am. The United Methodist Men will conduct their morning meeting and then join with the Youth Group and Sunday school children to sing carols to the residents of Bethesda Senior Living beginning at 10:30. We will sing for 30 to 45 minutes. If you would like to join this event, please contact Al Campbell at 712-249-7515.

Advent Decorating Help

The Worture Team is asking for help in getting the sanctuary ready for Advent on Saturday December 2nd at 9:00am. Thank you to the UMM for setting up the tree, and to Jim Green for configuring the chairs to accommodate the tree and the Christmas Pageant. Coffee, hot chocolate and donuts will be served. Many hands make light work!



Advent Candle Lighting and Christmas Eve Readings

If your family would like to light the Advent candle at any of the 9:00am or 10:30am services, Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Readers are needed for both the 5:00pm and 7:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve services. If you would like to be a reader for one of the Nine Lessons, please sign up at the Welcome Center.



GSUMC Administrative Board Meeting Minutes

– November 12, 2023

1. Revised GSUMC Website launched. Many thanks to Ms. Hannah Lynch for her help. The Church is looking for a volunteer to be webmaster to handle future website updates.
2. Solar panels and new LED lighting will be installed and operational by the end of December 2023. The benefit to GSUMC, in addition to significant savings in the cost of utilities, is a Federal Rebate Program which will cash return circa \$30,000 to the Church for the solar panel installation
3. The Eagle Scout project (Christopher Schankweiler, Troop 417) of a pergola on the east side of the Church building will commence in late November
4. Several Administrative Board vacancies will open up in 2024. The Nominations Committee is accepting and soliciting candidates. The Administrative Board is undergoing an organizational change from a single Board to two: an Administrative Board (retaining responsibilities for Staff-Congregation relations, Board of Trustees, and Finance Committee) and a new Ministries Board (responsibilities for communication, publicity, support and growth of church membership, support of various church ministries). The volunteers will be asked which AdMin board they would like to serve on.
5. The 2023 GSUMC Charge Conference is scheduled for December 3 at 5 PM at the church. Members are encouraged to attend and cast their vote for items such as approving the Administrative Board reorganization.



Happy Holidays!
From,
Your Good Shepherd Ad Board Members

*Debbie DeLue, Vicky Goben, Alan Campbell, Clint Cederlund, Kathy Bollfrass, Juli Picken,
Rejoice Kyei, Nathan Montgomery, Donna Newby, Greg Krueger, Tim Collier, Jerry Saunders,
and Maria Smith*

