



# SHEPHERD'S STAFF

JANUARY 1, 2026

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Debbie Pacetti  
Youth Director

Nursery Supervisor

Cora Lou Baker  
Bell Choir Director

Meghan Gress  
Praise Music Leader

Dr. Emily Alley  
Accompanist/Choir  
Director

Happy New Year Friends!

What a beautiful Advent season we had at Good Shepherd UMC. Our children and youth led us beautifully in their Christmas Program led by their amazing director, Natalie Higgins. Between the costumes, lines read, and songs sung, it truly was a Sunday of Joy! And then we followed that up the next Sunday with our Christmas Cantata. A beautiful Sunday of music from our bells, choir, and praise team. Thanks to all of the musicians for the dedication and hours of practice and an extra special thanks to Dr. Emily Alley, Meghan, Gress, and Cora Lou Baker for your leadership. And then on Christmas Eve we gathered with friends, family, and neighbors to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is always a joy to come together on this special night, made even more special by the Candlelight singing of Silent Night. May we enter into this new year with the light of Christ shining through us and guiding us.

The first Sunday of the New Year is Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany, officially on January 6<sup>th</sup>, is when we remember the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. On Epiphany, as we remember the visit and gifts of the Magi, let us also remember that just as they knelt, worshipped, and offered gifts to Jesus, we too are called to come before Jesus and offer our very best gift, ourselves! Jesus came into this world to be with us, what a gift that was and continues to be in our lives and in the lives of those all around the world.

As we begin 2026, my hope and my prayer for us all is that we hold on to the peace and the hope and the joy and the love and the light that comes with Christmas. But let us not only hold it, let us also find ways to share it with one another and with our neighbors. Let us find ways to be brave and bold in our faith, through how we speak and how we interact with others when we are out in the world.

If you have pastoral needs or would simply like to meet up for coffee or tea and conversation, please feel free to reach out to me via text or call at 720-261-8028 or via email ([goodshepherdumcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:goodshepherdumcpastor@gmail.com)).

Blessings,

*Pastor Emily*





## Food for Hope January 2026

Happy New Year! This month Food For Hope will be collecting soups, stews, ramen, and prepared meals such as Dinty Moore and Chef Boyardee. Pop tops are preferred, but all will be accepted.



“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”  
Proverbs 19:17



### UMM BREAKFAST MEETING

January 17, 2026

After taking a break in December, the United Methodist Men will resume its breakfast meetings starting with January 17 at 8 a.m. A signup sheet is located on the UMM bulletin board in the Narthex. Please sign up so that we know how much food to prepare.

The Worship committee will be changing the church decor from blue to white on January 10 at 9 a.m. and requested UMM to assist in taking down the Christmas Tree, the wreath at the front door etc. and returning them to storage for next year. Decorations on the Christmas tree will be removed earlier in the week. So looking for a few good men on Jan. 10.

Thanks!

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">Happy New Year</p> <p style="color: green; font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">         JESUS SHOW US THE WAY          beginning a new year          with a good guide on our side          the star of Jesus          which shows us safe roads          fills our hearts with his grace          best wishes for the new year       </p>						
				1 OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Day	2 Office Closed Playology 6:30- 7:30am/3:00-6:00pm Troop 667445	3
4 9:00 am Contemporary Adult Sunday School 9am 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:30 am Children/Youth Sunday School Troop 66802 2:00-3:30	5 Office Hours 8:30am- 12:30pm Playology 6:30am-6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30-930pm	6 Office Hours 8:30- 12:30pm Playology 6:30-6:00pm Geri-Actives 1:00pm 7:30am/3:00-6:00pm Choir 6:30-8:00pm	7 Office Hours 8:30am- 12:30pm Playology 6:30-7:30am/ 2:00-6:00pm RMPB 6:30-9:00pm	8 Office Hours 8:30am-12:30pm Playology 6:30-7:30am/3:00- 6:00pm Ruth Circle Bible Study 1:00-3:00pm Prayer Warriors 6:30 Bell choir 5:00-8:00pm	9 Office Closed Playology 6:30- 7:30am/3:00-6:00pm Music Together 10:00- 11:30am Girl Scouts 6:00pm	10 Worture Team 9:00am Girl Scout Cookie Meeting 3:00pm
11 9:00am Contemporary Worship Adult Sunday School 9am 10:30am Traditional 10:30 am Children/Youth Sunday School Staff meeting 12:00 Ad Board 1:00 Troop 66802 2:00-3:30	12 Office Hours 8:30am- 12:30pm Playology 6:30am-6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30-930pm	13 Office Hours 8:30- 12:30pm Playology 6:30- 7:30am/3:00-6:00pm Bible Discussion 1:00pm Choir 7:00-8:00pm	14 Office Hours 8:30am- 12:30pm Playology 6:30-7:30am/ 2:00-6:00pm	15 Office Hours 8:30am-12:30pm Playology 6:30-7:30am/3:00- 6:00pm Ruth Circle Bible Study 1:00-3:00pm Prayer Warriors 6:30 Bell choir 5:00-8:00pm	16 Office Closed Playology 6:30- 7:30am/3:00-6:00pm Music Together 10:00- 11:30am Troop 667445	17 United Methodist Men 8:00pm United Women in Faith 12:00pm
18 9:00 am Contemporary Adult Sunday School 9am 10:30am Traditional Worship 10:30 am Children/Youth Sunday School Ministry Board 12:00pm Troop 66802 2:00-3:30	19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OFFICE CLOSED Playology 6:00am-6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30-930pm	20 Office hours 8:30- 12:30pm Playology 6:30- 7:30am/3:00-6:00pm Bible Discussion 1:00pm Choir 7:00-8:00pm Mountain Sky Conference Lay Leader Meeting 7:00pm	21 Office Hours 8:30am- 12:30pm Playology 6:30-7:30am/ 2:00-6:00pm RMPB 6:30-9:00pm	22 Office Hours 8:30am-12:30pm Playology 6:30-7:30am/3:00- 6:00pm Ruth Circle Bible Study 1:00-3:00pm Prayer Warriors 6:30 Bell choir 5:00-8:00pm	23 Office Closed Playology 6:30- 7:30am/3:00-6:00pm Music Together 10:00- 11:30am Girl Scouts 6:00pm	24
25 Contemporary Worship 9am Adult Sunday School 9am Traditional Worship 10:30am 10:30 am Children/Youth Sunday School Troop 66802 2:00-3:30	26 Offcie Hours 8:30- 12:30pm Playology 6:30am-6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30-9:30pm	27 Office Hours 8:30- 12:30pm Playology 6:30- 7:30am/3:00-6:00pm Music Together 9-11:30 Bible Discussion 1:00pm Choir 7:00-8:00pm	28 Office Hours 8:30- 12:30pm Playology 6:30-7:30am/ 2:00-6:00pm	29 Office Hours 8:30-12:30pm Playology 6:30-7:30am/ 2:00-6:00pm	30 Office Closed Playology 6:30-7:30am/ 2:00-6:00pm Music Together 8:30- 11:30am	31

# Christmas Program



# Christmas Services





January 4	Edith Blakeslee
January 4	Kaitlyn Salazar
January 4	Annetta Gallegos
January 5	Aiden Gress
January 10	Carol Stanley
January 11	Eric Stirm
January 11	Larry Arndt
January 12	Lori Benjamin
January 12	Monique Covert
January 15	Abby Boaz
January 16	Charlene Pinelli
January 16	Jane Simmons
January 20	Linda Anderson
January 21	Pat Soderberg
January 22	Fran Ayars
January 24	Jan Weingardt
January 24	Raegan Austin
January 25	Conrad Hoke
January 25	Ronald Newby
January 26	Wayne Marvel
January 27	Eva Chan
January 27	Mike Benjamin
January 28	Scott Schankweiler
January 28	Bob Stark
January 31	Karen Stark
January 31	Donna Newby



Geri-Actives will meet at 11:30 am on January 6, 2026, at a restaurant...which restaurant will be announced at a later date!!

## **Bible Discussion Group**

The Bible Discussion Group will begin a new Gospel Book on January 13th at 1:00pm. Starting January 13th, the Bible Discussion Group will be meeting in person and via Zoom. Please contact the office for a Zoom link.



## United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith invite you to their meetings on the third Saturday of every month at noon. You are also welcome to join the Ruth Bible Circle every Thursday from 1:00-3:00pm. For more information, please contact Karen Bueno at 303-587-9693 or Kathy Bollfrass at 512-577-7254



## Welcome 2026!

For the month of January, the Sunday school students will be learning about Jesus's early ministry. Our memory verse is *God so loved the world that he gave His only Son.* John 3:16



### Youth Group

December provides a great opportunity to take a look back at the success of the Youth Group. The youth have grown a lot in their knowledge of the Bible, which included a comparative study of the Gospels and the background of each author. They also did a compare and contrast study of world religions, where they identified the similarity of "The Golden Rule" in all of the religions they studied. They also utilized a book titled, "The Gospel of Disney." This was a fun book because it identified how Walt and Roy created Disney without identifying a specific religion. They wanted to be inclusive, while wanting to teach Christian values. So, they focused on demonstrating that good and bad happen, but good always wins in the end. Thanks to the generosity of church members who purchased books, "Three Simple Rules", Youth Group read the book and received their own copy of the book.

The Youth Group have had weekly activities that have started with sharing meals together, and have on occasion included a cooking lesson of making a pie or apple poptarts. They have created tie-dyed T-shirts, and have learned to play old-school games like Chinese Checkers and Pick-up Sticks. They now have a large collection of board games, which occasionally additions are made when someone makes a new suggestion. The latest suggestion received was a card game named Set.

They have had several external activities. They have gone to Activate twice this year. Activate is a state-of-the-art facility with a variety of interactive games that you can compete in that require both mental and physical challenges to complete.

Our Youth Group have collaborated with Mountain View UMC Youth Group several times including hiking at Stanley Lake, attending the Ignite 2025 Youth Group Retreat, participating in the Corn Maze and Terror of Corn at Anderson Farms, and playing mini-golf at Adventure Golf while enjoying their Holiday of Lights. In December, they painted wooden ornaments, which were distributed to residents at Bethesda Senior Living. They completed the Stockings and Stars project, in partnership with UMM, delivering 106 presents to the Thornton Police Department for children in need in Thornton, and they completed several fund raising projects. 2025 has been a busy year. We are looking forward to even more shared activities with MVUMC Youth Group, as well as looking for more opportunities to serve our communities and completing a Mission Trip this summer.

The Youth Group could not be as successful as it has been had it not been for the networking system that Pastor Emily has established and the support the GSUMC continues to provide. With our deepest appreciation to everyone, we say "**Thank you for all of your generous support!**"

# Thornton PD Stocking Drive and Basket Raffle



The Stocking and Stars Program through the Thornton PD was very successful. The UMM packed up 106 gifts for children in Thornton. This program could not be successful with out your generosity.



This year's Youth Group basket fundraiser has been a lot of fun! So many wonderful baskets, and the Youth raised \$1,074 towards their summer mission trip.

## UMM and Youth Group Caroling



## **Inclusion and Belonging Team** (Previously known as Diversity Team)

Starting in January, the Diversity Team will be undergoing rebranding. Rather than going by the Diversity Team, they will be called the Inclusion and Belonging Team. We chose the term “inclusion” because we value and promote inclusion in every aspect of our church and ministries. We chose the term “belonging” because we want everyone who walks through our doors to know that they belong within our church – no exceptions. We want to ensure that we constantly align with our welcoming statement, “All are welcome whatever your age, gender, race, marital status, sexual orientation, address, physical ability, native land or language, economic reality, or job status.”

Going forward, the team will be brainstorming ways that we can rebrand to better align with our welcoming statement, target outreach opportunities within communities, enhance the positive experience first-time visitors have when entering our doors, and to look for ways we can partner with other churches, similar to what Rev. Emily Kintzel has done with the Youth Group from Mountain View United Methodist Church.

The team reviewed a project they did a couple of years ago, when they recorded various congregants saying prayers in different languages during Lent, which were posted to our website and shared between everyone to see.

We would like to utilize a method similar to this by interviewing people regarding their first experience coming into our church and how they now feel that they belong at GSUMC. We believe that members of the Inclusion and Belonging Team should set the precedent by going first. If you have any ideas or are interested in participating in this team, contact Debbie Pacetti at 720-413-5975.

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## **Stephen Ministry**

The Stephen Ministry team has made a lot of headway with training. We are now more than halfway through our training. We continue training every other Monday, with Carol and Phil hosting training at their home. Once they complete their 50 hours of training, they will be able to become commissioned as Stephen Ministers. This means that they will be able to help someone going through a crisis. Training will always be ongoing with this ministry, even after we are finished with our 2 workbooks. We have several supplement books to help us with our ministry. If you are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry, call or text Debbie Pacetti at 720-413-5975.

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## **Ministry Board**

The November 15 Ministries Board Meeting planned the transition to the new Ministries Board taking shape in 2026. Major areas for the transition are: Ministries Board-led events, Stewardship Campaign, Supporting Ministries, New Ministries, Advertising GSUMC Events, Organizing Ministries Board Policies, Partnering with other UMCs, a New Directory, and changing Ministry Board Meeting Times to noon. We thank the Ministries Board members that are rotating off the Board: Tim Collier, Nathan Montgomery, and Donna Newby. We are excited about the 2026 Ministries Board including: Alisha Mervyn, Bonnie Young, Karen Zulauf, Monique Covert, Julius Robinson, Dorothea Giordano, Jim Irwin, and the new chair Diane Hoke.

# **A new Ministry is coming! Are you hearing the call to be a part of it?**

## **Elder Outreach and Support**

Debbie Pacetti has started her 5<sup>th</sup> year visiting elders from GSUMC, who live in senior living facilities, are homebound, or are facing health issues that would benefit from a visitor or a phone call on a regular basis. In 2025, Dorthea Giordana (aka "DG") began helping with visits. Debbie went before the Ministry Board on Sunday, December 21, 2025, in hopes of making this a ministry. With the Ministry Board's approval, we will be moving forward to establish a new ministry. One idea that Rev. Kintzel had was to extend this to include being communion stewards, which we think would be a great idea. We would like to host a meet-and-greet with anyone interested in hearing what this would entail. Since we will be working with an at-risk population, everyone in this ministry will have to pass an initial background check. Debbie would like to invite anyone interested to come to GSUMC on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Coffee and donuts will be provided. We will discuss the people we currently visit, as well as looking for additional people we could reach out to in the future. If you have any questions or would like to attend our initial get together, please contact Debbie Pacetti at 720-413-5975.

## **Two ways to shop to earn GSUMC money!**



### **Help Good Shepherd earn money while you do your grocery shopping at Safeway!**

We now have reloadable gift cards that you can use when shopping at any Safeway store. Every time you reload them to purchase groceries or gas, Safeway will give 5% cash back to the church! Best part is, YOU still get ALL the regular benefits such as gas credits and product discounts. Please see Pastor Emily to get your Safeway reloadable gift card!

### **Help Good Shepherd earn money while you do your grocery shopping at King Soopers**

To Use the King Soopers Community Rewards Program:  
Simply visit <http://www.kingsoopers.com> and search Community Rewards under "About Us" at the bottom of the home page, or log into your app. From the app, click the person icon on the top left, scroll to Community Rewards and type in Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, and click the enroll button. Your shopping can earn us money!

## **Good Shepherd United Methodist Church – Ministries Board Meeting – Minutes LITE**

December 21, 2025

- Chili Cook-off to return in 2026 possibly in February
- New ministry was proposed to regularly visit home-bound GSUMC members. A team of 6-7 volunteers is ideal.
- Further discussion occurred concerning GSUMC protocols for welcoming visitors. One suggestion was to include church contact information in the welcome packet and ways to undertake a post-visit “hello” from a GSUMC member.
- Advertising GSUMC events needs a wider audience, particularly for community-including events. It was suggested that this be a volunteer role for a GSUMC member.
- Ways to partner (social events, ministries, etc.) with other local UMCs will be on the Ministries Board agenda for 2026.
- The GSUMC member directory is out of date. Beginning in March of 2026, actions to easily photograph members, update member information, and print a directory will begin.
- GSUMC is moving toward generating a way to create permanent name tags for members. The church already has a storage kiosk for this purpose which can be easily be placed in the narthex.

### **Kutela Katembo’s December newsletter**

Dear friends and family,

Receive our warm Christmas and Happy new year greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I do believe that you had a great celebration of the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. May the birth of Jesus brings us more blessings in the new coming year 2026 and more strength to continue doing God s mission.

Happy New year!

Please see attachment for the complete newsletter.