



Shepherd's

December 2023 Newsletter

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Oak Park IL Volume 58, Number 12

STAFF

Advent: Waiting for the Light



The color for Advent is the blue of the sky at the break of dawn. The sun hasn't yet risen, yet the dark is already shifting. The color is appropriate for a time of waiting. It is the hope of

people who have not yet seen the fullness of what is needed, yet know that it is coming. Each week we will explore the theme of waiting through personal stories.

- ◆ **Advent 1 – KEEP AWAKE:** Each generation has its story of waiting. It isn't enough to wait, one must be on the watch for signs that things are shifting. Active waiting has watchful eyes filled with expectation.
- ◆ **Advent 2 – PREPARE THE WAY:** Repaving roads is a process that begins with removing the old asphalt. Sometimes things need to be removed in order for something new to happen. Waiting is an active process of clearing out the old.
- ◆ **Advent 3 – TESTIFY TO THE LIGHT:** The Harpe Diem harpists joins us as we hear gospel writer John reminding us that our task is to testify to the light. If this world is to see God's in-dwelling, we must show the signs and point the way through our very lives.
- ◆ **Advent 4 – THE LIGHT DAWNS:** This service begins with Advent 4, moves through the Children's program, and ends with the joyful music of Christmas. Advent and Christmas wrapped up in one service.

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

Sunday, Dec 24, Christmas Eve – WE TELL THE STORY

◆ **10:30a Advent 4 with Children's Program:**

Our Sunday worship is enhanced with the Christmas story told through the eyes of our children. The characters of the nativity:



shepherds, angels, magi, and Mary and Joseph wonder, "Is It Time Yet?" as the birth of Jesus nears. *(Note: There is no 8:30a service.)*

- ◆ **8p Traditional Service:** Festival music sets the tone for telling the ancient story anew. Through familiar hymns and rituals, we pass the sacred story from one generation to the next. After candlelight and *Silent Night*, we go from the sanctuary into the world knowing that God is with us.

Sunday, Dec 31, New Year's Eve

- ◆ **10:30a Jesus is Blessed by Simeon:** Simeon's words as found in the Gospel of Luke infuse our worship liturgy: "Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel." *(Note: There is no 8:30a service.)*



Poinsettias for Christmas

Help us decorate the sanctuary in red, white, and pink for Christmas. Order your poinsettias today! Plants are \$21 each. Order forms will be available at church on December 3, or you can place your order online before December 8.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas Marketplace

This will be our biggest Marketplace ever! Come and check out the amazing crafts, vendors' wares, and more! You'll find handmade jewelry, knits, honey, and Fair Trade goods from Ten Thousand Villages! Be sure to pick up some goodies from the Youth Bake Sale! Sunday, December 3, 8:00a - 12:30p.



Benefit Concert, December 3, 3:00-4:30p

Musicians Bill Overton (Jazz Prayer saxophonist in October and November) and Kevin O'Connell have offered to host a benefit concert for the asylum seekers currently residing in Oak Park. They will perform jazz, spiritual, and pop songs meant to uplift and inspire! Donations of \$20 or more will be accepted at the door.



Hark! Good Shepherd Sings Carols!



Joy to Good Shepherd as we sing Christmas carols on Sunday, December 17 after the second service. We'll gather around the piano to sing our favorite Christmas carols and enjoy each other's company. Families with young ones are especially invited so the children can be learning Christmas carols even as they continue to play in the PrayGround. Light lunch treats will be provided. For more information, contact Lynn Railsback.

Seeking Worship Helpers

Our Sunday worship would not be the same without the members who make it happen. But we can definitely use more helping hands. It would be great if no one had to serve more than once a month. We offer orientation so you can learn what the various roles include. Please consider helping with worship. Contact the church office or Judy Beisser for more information.

Epiphany and January Schedule

Saturday, January 6, Epiphany Party!

Reconnect with your Good Shepherd family on Saturday, January 6 to celebrate Epiphany, share a meal, and play lots of games. We're planning the evening for people of all ages:

- ⇒ 4:30p – 5:15p: Games for young children (and adults who want to play too!)
- ⇒ 5:15p – 6:00p: Potluck dinner
- ⇒ 6:00p – 8:00p: Board games, card games, and more for older children and adults.

Sunday, January 7 – Back to Regular Schedule

8:30a and 10:30a Blessed by Name: Blessed by a name given by an angel, Joseph and Mary name the baby Jesus. What names have we been given? How do we live out those names?

9:15a: Christian Education Hour resumes

JAZZ
PRAYER



Joyeux Noël

The word Noel goes back to the Latin, *natalis*, or "birth." So the theme is "joyous birth," and the occasion for joy is the birth of Jesus.

The songs are various Christmas tunes. The readings and prayer come from the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian and anti-Nazi dissident who lost his life at the end of WWII. Christmas was especially important to Bonhoeffer, and the memory of Christmases past gave him strength. Join us December 15th. Doors open at 7:10p for refreshments and music begins at 7:30p.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Welcome to Worship for Children

Join Deaconess Debbie during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, January 21 as she leads a "Welcome to Worship" workshop. This activity is designed for children in Kindergarten/1st grade who are ready to experience the worship service more fully. Each child will receive a stuffed bear that they will "teach" the basics of a worship service. RSVPs are requested so there are enough supplies on hand. Contact Deaconess Debbie or sign up on the Prayers and More form.



Sunday School News

For those children that will be participating in our December 24 Christmas Eve program, be sure that you have your children's part/s by December 10! We will begin rehearsals on that Sunday. If needed, we will have a brief Saturday rehearsal on December 23. (No Sunday School on December 24, January 1 or 14. See you on January 7!)

Middle School/Confirmation News

December: **Sunday morning** classes on Dec 3, 10, 17. **Tuesday meetings** on Dec 5 (at Dominican) and 19.

After Christmas break, Sunday morning classes will resume on January 7, but there is *no class on January 14.* Our Tuesday, January 9 meeting will be students only, but on January 23, we will welcome parents to our meeting! *Don't forget to be working on your family sermon notes!*

High School Youth

Students AND parents are asked to attend our Youth Gathering planning meeting on Sunday, January 14, following the second service (around 11:45a). It's time to talk plane tickets!



Sunday Morning Bible Study

All are welcome to join in our Sunday Morning Bible Study, Sundays at 9:15a. *Holiday schedule:* We will be on hiatus on December 24 and 31. On January 7, we invite you to join us for our monthly Adult Forum. Regular Bible Study resumes on January 14.

Adult/Teen Forum

Join us for a once a month opportunity to explore a topic of interest more deeply. Presentations are typically made by Good Shepherd members, but we are open to your speaker suggestions. All are welcome at our Forums!

Taking Account of Anti-Racism at Good Shepherd Sunday, December 10, 9:15 a.m.

Presenters: Paul Pedersen and Rose Mabwa

As we look forward to a new year in Good Shepherd's journey in anti-racism, committee members Rose Mabwa and Paul Pedersen will review this journey to date and invite your consideration of next steps as individuals and as a congregation. How could the challenges of the current moment, including homelessness, the influx of migrants, and global conflicts in the news, motivate and shape our efforts to promote anti-racism in our community? As the COVID-19 pandemic heightened our awareness of historic racial disparities in resources all around us, where is our hope for moving towards justice and peace? Wherever you are on your journey in anti-racism, bring your questions and ideas and help us envision our future.

Taylor Made Retirement Plan

Sunday, January 7, 2024, Fellowship Hall

Presenters: Joan and Phil Taylor

The Taylors describe their nomad volunteer life: "In 2000, when we were in our mid '50s, after much thought, we decided to retire. We hit the road to travel, play, and volunteer short-term. After two years, we decided to begin full-time volunteering in various locations around the country. We continued that for about 10 years and found it rewarding and exciting."



Gift Card Fundraiser

Gift cards can be ordered through our paper order forms (deadline is December 3) or through the app.



To order online, download the RaiseRight app and create your user profile. Be sure to include Good Shepherd's enrollment number (C741794555914), so that we get credit for your purchase. You will see that some cards can go to you directly, either through email or a mailed physical card, or you can opt to have them sent to Good Shepherd and save shipping costs. Questions: Contact Debbie Speer.

GS CONNECTS



Daytimers visit Holy Name Cathedral

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Erin Ficker
Christopher Hugh
Noela Radziszewski
Neil Carney
Ruth Mortha
Carrie Cook
Rich Lessor
Duncan Campbell
Benjamin Albrecht
Lucas Albrecht
Andy Koch
Evie Clute
Gerry Olson
Sam Wegener
Scott White
Elsa Dunphey
Abby Doyle
Stefan Scherer-Emunds
Aaron Lukse
Tim Novak
Mark Ledogar
Laura Twining
James Nehrenz
John Nehrenz

Daytimers

Daytimers will celebrate the holidays by visiting Garfield Park Conservatory for the annual Christmas display on December 14. We will leave church at 10a. Lunch will be at Macarthur's Soul Food. Plans for 2024 include a trip to the Elmhurst History Museum for the exhibit of Lost Chicago Department Stores, a workday at the food pantry, and a trip to the Hellenic Museum of Chicago. For more information contact Barb Hunt at clownbarb@sbcglobal.net.

Book Club

Flock o'Readers will meet December 5 at Madison Park Kitchen in Forest Park to celebrate the holidays and review books read in 2023. Join us at the restaurant at 11:45a. For more information contact Barb Hunt .

Whiskey Tasting - Save the Date!

Dave Hudson, local expert on liquors, will lead us in a tasting of whiskeys on February 3 at church. We will learn about whiskeys from around the world and taste various mixed drinks. There will be a charge for the tasting, and attendees are encouraged to bring snacks to share. More information will be available in the January newsletter. For more information contact Barb Hunt.

Annual Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars for our Annual Women's Retreat, taking place at Good Shepherd on Saturday, January 20 from 9:00a-12:00p. Our time together will include small and large group discussion, time for personal journaling, and creative prayer.



Our theme this year is, *Through the Long Winter: Finding Life in Unexpected Places*. Like the bud nestled in the cold soil, growth continues even in the winter times of our lives. In happier spring days, we can see evidence of what has been happening all along. But how do we get through those long, cold winter days?

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Lisa and Gary Neubert
Geoff Davis and Mari Wagner
Pete and Carol Chapman
Dennis and Ann Hoeksema
Rebecca and Craig Dunphey

CARING SHEPHERDS

Please remember those in our church family with notes, cards and prayers.

Please Note: For privacy reasons, the website version of our monthly newsletter does not contain birthdates, Caring Shepherd prayer lists, personal contact information, or church financial information. If you would like a full newsletter by mail or email, please contact us at churchoffice@goodshepherdllc.org.

Safari Invitation: Tanzania, May 2024

Amana Mbise (who was a member of Good Shepherd in the 2010s and is now a Professor of Social Work at the University of Alaska, Anchorage) is extending a special invitation to all Good Shepherd friends to join him on a safari (either four or eight days; Serengeti, Ngorongoro, and Tarangire) in his homeland of Tanzania in May 2024. Together with his family, Amana runs an excellent small safari company that is based in Arusha, Tanzania.

Anyone interested, please text Amana at 907-313-0482. You can also talk to Mary or Meinrad Scherer-Emunds about their experience of visiting Amana and his family in Tanzania and going on safari with his company earlier this year.



Picture from Mary and Meinrad's safari experience.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

There's No Place like Home

The migrant family we are hosting moved into their new apartment in SE Oak Park, on November 15. They couldn't be more thrilled to have their new home and to feel the love and support of the Good Shepherd community.

About 25 households donated furniture and other household items. **Thank you all so much for this great outpouring of support!—even in the midst of housing 120 other migrants at Good Shepherd.** After about 16 furniture pick-ups over a couple of weeks and 8 or so drop-offs, we moved them in with the help of a Good Shepherd crew. Special thanks to Pastor Kerstin, her friends Jose and Alejandro, Rick Nagle, and Thomas White for helping with the move. Thank you to Joan and Phil Taylor for being their grocery shoppers.



Where there's a will...

We were so happy to have them worship with us for the first time on November 19. They were glad to meet many of you.

Please Note: For privacy reasons, this article has been edited for privacy reasons. If you would like a full newsletter by mail or email, please contact us at churchoffice@goodshepherdilc.org.

Good Shepherd Serves



Above and right: Repack day at the Greater Chicago Food Depository



Below and left: Families serve at "Feed My Starving Children"



RESOLUTION ON TEMPORARY WARMING SHELTER

Background: *With the pandemic, the model of housing those who are homeless shifted from PADS in church basements to several sites: temporary housing at St. Catherine-St. Lucy and transitional housing at the former Write Inn. Within this model, Good Shepherd has served as a temporary site when temperatures reach a certain low point or snow/sleet conditions warrant. At their December meeting, the Good Shepherd Church Council passed a resolution to continue serving as a temporary warming shelter through Housing Forward.*

WHEREAS Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is an engaged and caring member of the Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding community; and

WHEREAS Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has the facility resource to provide temporary shelter from the weather to those who need it; and

WHEREAS Good Shepherd Lutheran Church strives to partner with congregations, municipalities, and other service organizations to provide holistic care to those in need; and

WHEREAS Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has previously provided temporary shelter from the weather for the unhoused within our community; and

WHEREAS Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is called in mission and ministry to be God's hands in the world and to live out Christ's commandment to "love one another";

BE IT RESOLVED that Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will serve as a temporary warming shelter for the unhoused within our community when weather conditions prompt the Village of Oak Park to declare an emergency and request support from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. The activation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church as a temporary warming shelter is conditional on the provision of the following support services:

- Village of Oak Park identifying the end date and time of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's function as a temporary warming shelter for each emergency declaration, which may be adjusted when mutually agreed by the Village of Oak Park and the Pastor and Council President on behalf of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church;

- Bedding supplies includes pads, sheets, pillows and blankets provided by Housing Forward;
- At least one staff or volunteer leader onsite provided by Housing Forward for the duration of Good Shepherd's service as a temporary warming shelter;
- Meals and service volunteers provided by OPHC;
- Staff resources provided by Housing Forward to assist guests in vacating Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at the specified end date and time.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church agrees to provide access to the Fellowship Hall including the kitchen and restrooms for those using the temporary warming shelter. Good Shepherd will be responsible for providing temperature control, functioning restrooms, and a functioning kitchen; and will be responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of the facility via Good Shepherd's staff, volunteers, or contracted service providers.

Holiday Food & Good Basket Drop-offs

Did you take a name for the Holiday Food & Gift Basket? Drop off your gifts at United Lutheran (409 Greenfield) on one of the following dates:

December 4-6, 7-9p

December 7, 8a-noon & 4-9p

If you need someone to drop off your gift for you, please contact Susan Greeley at 708-602-9996. Also, drivers are needed to deliver gifts on Saturday, December 9. Go to communityofcongregations.org/holiday-food-gift-basket to access the sign up.



Serving Lunch at Bethel

In December will be serving lunches at Bethel in West Garfield Park on Thursday, December 28. Meet at church at 10:30a. For more information, contact Pastor Kathy.



FROM OUR PASTOR

With Gratitude: Pledge Update

A huge THANK YOU to the 60 people/families who have pledged their time, talent, participation, prayer, and finances to support Good Shepherd's ministry in 2024!

As of Thanksgiving, \$298,000 in regular offerings has been pledged for 2024. Additionally, \$15,000 has been pledged to reduce Good Shepherd's mortgage debt, and another \$7,000 pledged to finance the construction of the fully accessible front door entrance vestibule and related renovations. Generosity abounds! Thank you!

There's still time to make a pledge for 2024 to meet the need for additional support. One year ago, 69 people/families had pledged \$325,000 to support Good Shepherd's ministry – so our hope is that these and other supporters who have not yet made a pledge will do so in the coming weeks. As the budget for 2024 is developed, it's extremely helpful to have a sense of the financial resources that will be available to empower our congregation's ministry.

If you have not yet made a pledge for 2024, we ask you to prayerfully consider making this commitment before Christmas. Your financial support is so vital and understanding your financial commitment for 2024 is greatly appreciated, especially as Good Shepherd anticipates increased operating costs, expanded ministries, and payment of our mortgage for the recent renovation and post-fire restoration of our facility.

Pledges can be shared by going to <https://tinyurl.com/GSLCCommitment2024>, or a pledge form can be picked up at the welcome desk as you enter worship.

Words of gratitude taken from my Thanksgiving sermon to the Community of Congregations after hosting 120 migrants/asylum seekers:

One phrase that I have used repeatedly, is "the situation is fluid." It took three days to find a rhythm. It took 7 days for an interim solution. We are still in the midst of creating longer-term solutions. The situation is still – fluid.

Each and every solution has been a collaborative effort across the lines of government and not-for-profit agencies– across the lines of those who identify with a religion and those who don't believe – across the lines of denominations and faith traditions – across the lines of state borders. Each and every solution has worked because we dared to move beyond our silos.

And as I stand before you my heart is filled with gratitude for so many people. I truly give thanks. I dare not name anyone, for fear of missing a name. Yet, I need to name names so that you can see what I have seen – you can know the collaborative effort that I have witnessed and continue to witness.

First, I thank Village President Vicki Scaman for trusting that she could call me. I thank her for even daring to think that I might answer my cellphone in the middle of the night and might say yes to being a temporary shelter.

I thank GSLC for having my back when I say yes – for the leadership and membership – who when they found out about the people in our basement responded with "What do you need from me pastor?"

I thank the entire health department of the Village of Oak Park – especially Dr. Chapple, Kitty, Dr. Walker, Lee Christianson who ensured that the humanity and health of those who stayed at Good Shepherd was tended to. Dr. Chapple – if you ever need anything – know that I am preset to yes and have the greatest of respect for you and the work that you do.

I thank those who have been working with migrants for more than a year – and I may miss all of your names – Betty Alzamora, Brynne, Charity, Heidi, who were at the District 15 police station. For Celine Woznica, Jack Crow and Father Morello who have been providing showers and clothing for people who find their way to St. Catherine -St. Lucy.



Pastor Kathy Nolte

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I thank those at GSLC who quickly formed a task force to organize and coordinate around needs – Joan and Phil Taylor, Pastor Kerstin, Karene, Deaconess Debbie, Kimberly, Mark & Julie Ledogar, Marcy Moreno, Natalie Young, Wendy Darlington. I thank those who took shifts so that visitors to the building would know how to find things, Kaitlyn Cernak, Bill Peterson, Lisa Neubert, Susan Kurtenbach, Lynn Zamora, Greg McClain, Scott White, Martha Wegener, Paul Pedersen, Joerg Albrecht, Anna Johnson, Taylor Heald Sargent, Linda Thomas, Greg Hann, Betsy Bowen, Barb Hunt, Hilda Schlatter, Nat Pozorski, Kelly Neiman Anderson, Mary and Meinrad Scherer-Emunds, Ken Snyder, Alicia and Dan Eppley, Carrie Cook, Kellie Campbell, Lars Bostrom, Leslie Marino, Kelly Moreland, Cindy Larson, Gail Frost, Rich Novak. I thank Lynn Railsback and Mark Ledogar for organizing and cleaning all of the donations and getting them to other sites. I thank Rob and Talley Hann for organizing a crew to sanitize the building and our belongings after our guests left the building.

I thank Pr. Colin Knapp and Pr. Hailey Braden Lynch, co-leaders of the Community of Congregations, for their work to organize teams of people who came to GSLC to scrub bathrooms twice daily. That task wasn't just for aesthetics, but was a health and safety response. I thank the 20 translators, Charity Caldwell, and all those whose names I do not know, but whose service ensured that people retained dignity and agency. You heard the stories and held them as sacred. I thank those who drove people to appointments, to the laundry.

I thank the many people who served meals – not knowing how the kitchen was set up, or what food was coming, or whether the food was even something that people liked. Those of you who understood commercial kitchens and helped with the dishwasher and stove, a special thank you. In addition, I thank those who donated food. I thank Wailin Wong for organizing meals. All of you need to know the importance of your work that added stability into the lives of 120 men, women and children.

I thank the four women from Ohio who belong to the Church of the Brethren, whose ministry is to provide

childcare in the midst of disasters so that adults can tend to the tasks of rebuilding their lives. While the adults valued the calmness of the children, I could see that the children valued your care and playfulness.

I thank St. Christopher Episcopal church and Emily Culbertson for opening their doors to the bounty of donations that have been pouring in for the migrants. I thank them for the many hours that they have served in sorting and storing, as well as making certain that items get out to the people who need them.



I thank Pr. Ole Schenck and the members of United Lutheran Church who took the leap of faith and opened their doors to the people who couldn't fit into GSLC. I thank Pr. Maynard of Calvary Memorial church, Pr. Marty Scott and Euclid Methodist church, and Rector John

Rumple and Grace Episcopal church and their members who took in families and are seeking to create wrap-around services for them.

I thank my family, who didn't see me for days and allowed me to do this holy work. I thank the families of everyone who volunteered and allowed the Oak Park area to respond to a need.

Mostly, I am grateful for the migrants who came to GSLC. For those who stopped me to give me a blessing – which I needed google translate to understand. For those who asked me how they could help – wanting to be of service. For those who dared to share their story – of a father who had a job and a mother who had dreams for her children – of a country that collapsed around them leaving them no other answer but to leave. In their story they reminded me of the strength of the human spirit.

Good Shepherd continues to be deeply involved in the area of homelessness. We are a designated warming site this winter, working with Housing Forward, the Village, and the Oak Park Homeless Coalition, of which I am a member. We continue to be working with others on a long-term housing solution for those who found shelter in our place. In our church calendar we might be moving into Advent – a time of waiting – but watching so many people come together to solve a problem gives me great hope today.

Pastor Kathy Nolte

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Advent 1 8a Marketplace 1p Ray of Hope 3p Benefit Concert 7:30p AA	4 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7:30p AA	5 Pastor at Synod 11:30a Flock o' Readers 7p Confirmation	6 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 7:15p Choir	7	8 Pastor's Day Off 8p AA	9 4:30p Recital
Advent 2 9:15a Forum 12:30p Recital 1p Ray of Hope 7:30p AA	11 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7:30p AA	12 Pastor at Synod	13 Council Reports Due 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 7:15p Choir	14 10a Daytimers 7p Rehearsal 7:30p WMA	15 Deadline: Newsletter Pastor's Day Off 12p Jazz Prayer Set-Up 7:30p Jazz Prayer 8p AA	16 9a Christmas Rehearsal
Advent 3 12p Carols 1p Ray of Hope 3p Recital 7:30p AA	18 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7p Council 7:30p AA	19 Pastor at Synod 7p Finance 7p Confirmation	20 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 7:15p Choir	21	22 4:30p Recital 8p AA	23 6:30p Recital
Advent 4/Christmas Eve 10:30a Worship w/ Children's Program 1p Ray of Hope 8p Christmas Eve Worship 8p AA	25 OFFICE CLOSED 7:30p AA 	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:30a Worship 1p Ray of Hope 7:30p AA				10:30a GS to Bethel	8p AA	

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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churchoffice@goodshepherdilc.org

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (mcscelca.org) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org).

Staff 708-848-4741

Rev. Kathy Nolte, Pastor (ext. 2)
Rev. Kerstin Hedlund, Associate Pastor
(leave message with Admin. Asst.)
Deaconess Debbie Speer, Director
of Christian Education (ext. 4)
Dr. Carl Heine, Music Director
Kimberly Adami-Hasegawa,
Office Administrator (ext. 3)

Council Officers

Gail Frost, President
Pete Chapman, Vice President, Personnel
Richard Sehl, Secretary
Dan Feiertag, John Jackson, Co-Treasurers

Council Liaisons

Rose Mabwa, Social Ministry,
Evangelism, Worship, Music & Arts
Carrie Cook, Finance, Sustainability,
Stewardship
Lee Fritz, Property, Christian
Education, GS Connects

Committee Chairs

Christian Education – Kristin de Groot
Evangelism – Mark Ledogar
Finance – Laura Knitt
GS Connects – Joan & Phil Taylor
Property – Rich Novak
Social Ministry – Mary Scherer-Emunds
Stewardship – *open*
Sustainability – Michelle Sukup Jackson
Worship, Music & Arts – Lynn Railsback

Office Hours*

Monday - Thursday: 9:00a - 3:30p
Friday: 9:00a - noon

Pastor is available
by appointment:
calendly.com/revk

**Please note the church office will
closed from Dec 24 through Jan 1.*

2023 CANDLELIGHT PEACE VIGIL TO END GUN VIOLENCE

**A time for remembrance of all
those impacted by gun violence.**

Purpose – An assembly of our
broader community to honor all gun
violence victims and survivors
impacted by the violence, to lament
the tragedy and pain, and to build
community, creating hope, healing
and change, supporting violence
prevention in all of its forms.

#HonorWithAction
#EndGunViolence

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
848 LAKE STREET, OAK PARK
7PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

LOCAL SPONSORS:

- Moms Demand Action Oak Park-Austin Area • Waging Peace of First United Church of Oak Park
- Gun Violence Prevention Team of Unity Temple UU Congregation • Mothers OnA Mission28
- Ascension-St Edmund Peace & Justice Committee • Gun Responsibility Advocates
- Community of Congregations • Congregations Networking for Social Justice
- Live Free-Community Healing Resource Center • Catholic Parishes of Oak Park

Annual Meeting Reminder

Mark your calendars for our
congregation's Annual Meeting
on Sunday, January 28 following
the 10:30a worship service.

FINANCE UPDATE

Please Note: For privacy reasons, the website version of our
monthly newsletter does not contain birthdates, Caring Shepherd
prayer lists, personal contact information, or church financial
information. If you would like a full newsletter by mail or email,
please contact us at churchoffice@goodshepherdilc.org.