

The Shepherd's Crook



GOOD
SHEPHERD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January
2022

The Shepherd's Crook is published for GSPC members and friends.
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Rev. Sheri Fry

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Choir Director:

Sara Love

Accompanist:

Jeremy Kurn

Sound & video:

Astin Lopez

Treasurer:

Joyce Matthews

Nursery Attendant:

Taya Mendez

Events Coordinator:

Diana Bennett

Clerk of Session:

Mary Archuleta

Session Members:

Fred Finke

Mary McCarron

Robin Kelly

Joyce Matthews

John Shaeffer

Paul Steward

Barbara Swanson

Ruth Vazquez



Epiphany: Looking for a Star

On January 2, 2022 we enter the Epiphany liturgical season in the church which will be with us until the end of February. This is an ancient Christian celebration, dating at least as far back as the 300's. Epiphany is one of my favorite times in the year of church life.

This word come to us almost directly form the Greek. "Epi," meaning 'on' or 'upon', and "phaneros", which means visible or seen. Epiphany means to "show up, show on, or show out." The star 'shows up' so the magi can make their journey and 'show up' and find Jesus.

For people in Israel who grew up hearing Isaiah's promises, people who were living under occupation themselves, I wonder what the image of magi from the east, offering gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the child Jesus meant to the people of Israel when they saw the caravan moving through town.

Epiphany is a funny concept. We think of it as a sudden burst of inspiration, but my experience is that it's more gradual, like the journey of the magi. Whether the magi come a few days after the birth of Jesus or when he was a toddler or preschooler, the magi are unique because they come after the fact. This gives me comfort, that perhaps it's not too late to have an epiphany. Perhaps the window for learning and brilliant inspiration is not so tight as we would make it out to be.

This would make sense to me because humans need time to adjust. Maybe this is why Jesus grows into adulthood like other human beings. We need time to adjust – Mary and Joseph lost Jesus for 3 days and sort of forgot he was God during that time, so there's another story where adjustment is made manifest. We need time to get used to Jesus. We need time to get to know him. As Christians sometimes the question is asked, when did you first know Jesus? While it's a seemingly innocuous query, I'm not sure that there is a clear answer. Maybe you can point to when your sense of Jesus developed, but our relationship with God is ongoing, growing and changing with our sense of self.

I often think of how my sense of self grows and changes with time. How the moment of "Happy New Year" is just the beginning. It will be months before the year gains some kind of shape and meaning, and the realization that it actually is a new year will strike me again and again until it becomes habit.

Christ was born on earth, and there are days it's a struggle to remember that Jesus was fully human like me and that God is somehow enfleshed deity at the same time that God is human.

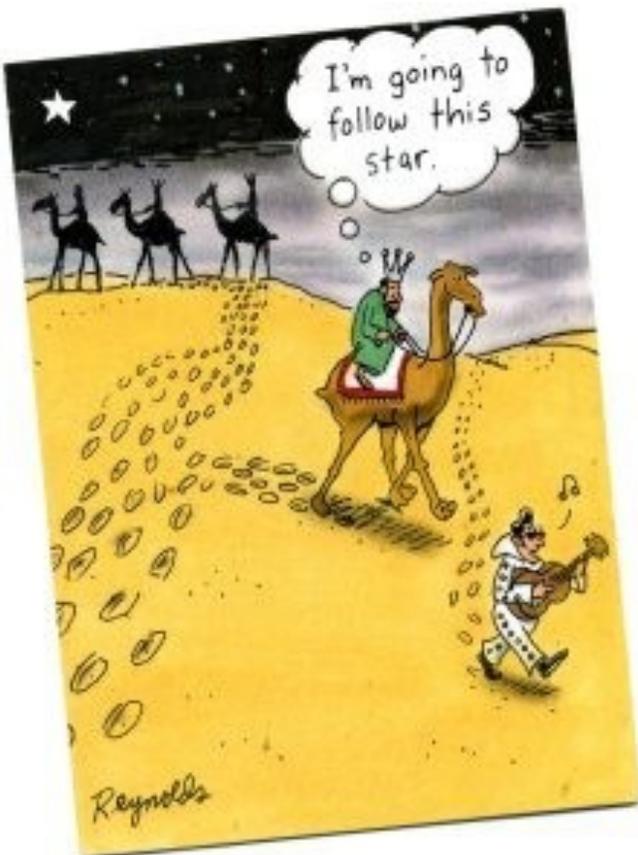
It's a journey. Like your career and your relationships. You might be a mother, daughter, wife or father, son, husband, friend, but what that means grows and changes during the trip. I wonder how the magi were changed after their journey.

Did they become a family that reunion-ed with one another every year? Did they get tired of each other on the journey? Did they become local storytellers, each telling of a different and unique journey under the star to see Jesus?

Funny how the Magi all went on the same journey, but probably learned different things. Funny how there are four different gospels in the Bible, and each choose to focus on a different part of the nativity story. Funny that Matthew even knew about the Magi. Was he there? Did he sit in Mary's kitchen and hear the story? Was it common knowledge in Bethlehem and Nazareth that these strangers made this journey?

The magi knew that this star they followed was different, that this child was a king. They followed the call and showed up for the journey that would take them home by other roads.

I pray that we all take time and show up for the journey, ministering to those we meet on the way and that we ask ourselves the following: What are we carrying with us into the new year? What would we like to leave behind?



"Life is short. We don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind." ~ Henri-Frederic Amiel.

May we be swift to love and make haste to be kind in 2022.

Blessings to us all on this journey. It is into the darkness of our world that God shines a star for us to follow. May it lead us to a child born to show us the way of peace. May it lead us to the work of hope God is now dreaming for us. "Arise, Shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." (Isaiah 60:1). Amen.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

FIRST COMING

by Madeleine L'Engle

*He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace
He came when the Heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.*

*He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. He did not wait
till hearts were pure. In joy he came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
He came, and his Light would not go out.*

*He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.*

*We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!*



Annual Meeting of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church - January 23, 2022

Please join us immediately following worship for the Annual Meeting on January 23, 2022. We will meet in the sanctuary to hear reports from the committee chairs as well as an update on the search process for your next installed pastor. If you are a member of the church or just a friend of the church, please plan to come and participate in this important meeting as this is a church run by the people for the people of God.



January 16, 2022 - Rev. Joseph Moore from The Presbyterian Foundation Will Preach

We hope you can join us in worship and for a class on Legacy Giving immediately following worship on January 16th. Rev. Moore serves as the ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation for the South-Central Region of the U.S. Prior to joining the Foundation, Joseph served as pastor at several churches in Texas and Colorado. In addition to his work at the Foundation, he serves as the moderator of the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks.

He will be our preacher for the day and will share information on Legacy Giving at the class immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall.

Refreshments will be served during the class.



Denver Presbytery News - Gun Buyback Event - January 16, 2022 - 12:00 am-11:59 pm

Mountain View United Church and Sixth Avenue UCC are hosting a gun buy- back event on January 16. Help sponsor the event and raise money to buy back each gun surrendered and forge them into garden tools and resistance art pieces. Contact revtracy@mtviewunited.org.

Your Church at Work



In December the Food Bank served 91 households with 270 people, including 85 children and 70 seniors. In addition to receiving groceries, 269 clients received a filled Christmas Stocking and a \$25 King Soopers gift card.

The Food Bank would like to have a few backpacks (new or gently used) for our homeless clients. See Becky Van Dyke.

The Christmas Joy Offering has collected \$465 to date for special needs of current and past church workers and future church leaders attending college.

The Alternative Christmas Market raised \$840. \$440 will go to the agency for Women's Empowerment, 2 flocks of chicks and some shares of a cow. \$100 will go to Highlands Camp for camperships and \$300 will go to ZMP to help children in Zimbabwe. Thank you to all who helped with these projects for Good Shepherd to help others locally and globally.

Christmas Stockings for Our Food Bank Clients

A heartfelt thank-you to all of our congregation, for your overwhelming support, in our first ever Stocking Drive!

This was our first year of giving stockings to our food bank clients and it did make a significant impact to each of them.

Many clients smiled, shed a few tears of joy, and graciously thanked us for the gifts, during a difficult year. We couldn't have distributed so many stockings without all of your love and support of this project!

The Mission Committee distributed 269 stockings in all. We completely ran out of stockings on 12/21/21.

In total we gave 120 stockings for children from birth to 17 years old.

149 stockings were distributed to adults (which included senior citizens).

Thank-you all for your generosity! Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to you all!



Joys and Concerns



Please pray for those dealing with health issues: for Marion H.; Jim M.; Bill; Jane; Haylee; Gil; Joan Moore's new great-grandson, Landon; Tammy Vaughn; and Maxine; for all those grieving the loss of loved ones: for Jean Cook's family; Burton Kugler's family; the McCarron family; and Sue C.'s family; and 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.

THE JOURNEY BETWEEN PASTORS

In the PC(USA) call process, the congregation gives authority to search for a pastor to a pastor nominating committee (PNC). Once the PNC is elected, the other members of the congregation and the session have no role in determining who will be the next pastor until the PNC is ready to present its nominee to the congregation for a vote.

The Denver Presbytery has a responsibility to work with the PNC members, to advise them, and to evaluate the nominee they select to present to the congregation. The presbytery is authorized by our Book of Order to be partners with you in Good Shepherd's discernment process.

The Good Shepherd session has answered the Strategic Planning Questions for Churches Seeking Pastors...better known as the "13 questions." These questions are necessary for the congregation to reflect on who they are today and where they want to go tomorrow. Often congregations believe they have changed little in the past few years. Yet thinking introspectively about membership, dreams, programs, past history and changes that might need to be implemented will often shape the type of leadership needed in the future. These 13 questions are intended to stimulate that thinking so that the congregation and the next pastor have a sense of the church's vision for the future and where it sees itself in the community and neighborhood.

I have contacted the Committee on Ministry (COM) at the Denver Presbytery to discuss the formation of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), and I will be meeting with them in January.

Following the approval from COM to form the PNC the congregation...YOU...will elect a PNC (a group of 5-7 participants). The PNC will work with the 13 questions that have been answered by the Session, get approval from COM and formulate a Ministry Information Form (MIF). Presbyterians LOVE acronyms! The MIF will be posted to the PC (USA) website and the PNC will begin reviewing PIF's (Pastor resumes) from Pastors.

If you have an interest in serving on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) please contact me at revmo25@gmail.com or 303-475-3883.

This is a spiritual discernment process and seeking God's leading in this process is critical. Seeking the person God has been preparing for your church is a spiritual matter and it will be a group of committed people seeking God's guidance to lead you all to a faithful and fruitful conclusion.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me or one of your Session members.

Peace, Sheri
Rev. Sheri Fry
Transitional Pastor



Robin Kelly - January 3
Tony Romero - January 4
Taya Mendez - January 8
Karen Howe Seibel - January 11
Darlene Cate - January 21
Zach Romero - January 26



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 10-12 Men's Shed 6:10 - 7:45 Bell Choir if needed	4 NO ESL Class	5 7-8:15 Choir Rehearsal	6 NO ESL Class	7	8 Funeral
9 10:00 Worship	10 10-12 Men's Shed 6:10 - 7:45 Bell Choir	11 6-7:30 ESL Class	12 10:00 Mission Committee 7-8:15 Choir Rehearsal	13 6-7:30 ESL Class	14	15
16 10:00 Worship Joseph Moore will preach, followed by his class on Legacy Giving	17 10-12 Men's Shed 6:10 - 7:45 Bell Choir	18 4:00 Session 6-7:30 ESL Class	19 7-8:30 Choir Rehearsal	20 1:00 Sometimes Circle 6-7:30 ESL Class	21	22 Food Bank 9 - 12
23 10:00 Worship Congregational Meeting	24 10-12 Men's Shed 6:10 - 7:45 Bell Choir	25 6-7:30 ESL Class	26 7-8:30 Choir Rehearsal	27 6-7:30 ESL Class	28	29
30 10:00 Worship	31 10-12 Men's Shed 6:10 - 7:45 Bell Choir					



GOOD SHEPHERD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 Worship	7 10-12 Men's Shed <hr/> 6:10 - 7:45 Bell Choir	8 6-7:30 ESL Class	9 2:00 Congregational Life <hr/> 7-8:30 Choir Rehearsal	10 6-7:30 ESL Class	11	12
13 10:00 Worship	14 10-12 Men's Shed <hr/> 6:10 - 7:45 Bell Choir	15 6-7:30 ESL Class	16 10:00 Mission Committee <hr/> 7-8:30 Choir Rehearsal	17 1:00 Sometimes Circle <hr/> 6-7:30	18	19 9-12 Food Bank
20 10:00 Worship	21 10-12 Men's Shed <hr/> 6:10 - 7:45 Bell Choir	22 4:00 Session <hr/> ESL Class	23 7-8:30 Choir Rehearsal	24 NO ESL Class	25	26
27 10:00 Worship	28 10-12 Men's Shed <hr/> NO Bell Choir Rehearsal					

Sunday evenings - Emmanuel Int. - rental 5-7 pm AND on Christmas Eve at 10pm.

The Shepherd's Crook

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

10785 Melody Drive

Northglenn CO 80234

303-452-5478

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GSPCoffice10785@gmail.com

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Nursery provided



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

