



# Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation  
A Member of the Virgin River Presbyterian Fellowship  
Serving Southern Utah since 1988

Partner Congregation to the Evangelical Baptist Church of Dorogobuzh, Russia



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## December 2023

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## Church Staff

**The Rev. Dr. Ralph Clingan**  
Pastor

**Ruth Ann Horvath**  
Clerk of Session

**Mary Contreras**  
Church Secretary

**Barbara McConnell**  
Music Director

**Stephen Talley**  
Organist

**Rev. Dolores Wiens**  
Strand of Pearls Prayer Chain

**Chris Schleter**  
Website / Newsletter Editor

## The Merry (and Busy) Month of December Kicks Off

December will be a VERY busy month, as it is every year. Beginning on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the first Sunday of Advent, with the kickoff of Rev. Ralph's Annual Tacky Tie and Sweater Contest and culminating on Christmas Eve with our traditional worship service, there is something in December for everyone.

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Rev. Ralph, Cindy and Jeff will host their annual open house from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Plan to bring a beverage and something to share and join everyone in the joy of the holiday season.

There will not be a choir concert this year. Instead, the choirs will perform a cantata during worship on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

We will hold our Stated Congregational Meeting after worship On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, to elect officers for next year and approve the Terms of Call for Rev. Ralph for 2023.

After the meeting, we'll hold our annual potluck Christmas Celebration in Conklin Hall. Bring hors d'oeuvres or snacks to share and we'll sing some Carols of the season.

Because Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year, we'll have two services. We'll dedicate our pledges for 2024 during our regular Sunday service at 10:30 am. There will be no prayer service adult education or children's Sunday School on Christmas Eve morning.

At 7:00 pm we will anticipate the birth of our Savior with our Candlelight Worship.

We hope you will join us in celebrating this most joyous season!

## Rev. Ralph Announces Annual Tacky Tie and Sweater Contest

Consider yourselves warned. Once again in 2023 Rev. Ralph is challenging the men of the congregation to find and wear to church the TACKIEST Christmas ties they can find and the women of the congregation to wear their TACKIEST Christmas sweater. The winners will receive a special prize.

All women's entries must be publicly identified as being "Tacky" to avoid any unfortunate misidentification of a treasured family or handmade heirloom. Ladies, you can pick up a sticker from Peggy or John to indicate that your sweater is, in fact, an entry into this year's contest.

We can't wait to see what you've found!



### Prayer Concerns

*"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it"* John 14:13-14

- Charlotte Phipps
- John & Peggy Graber
- Arlene Prinselaar
- Gloria McGilloway
- Cheryl Mansfield
- Susan & Steve Talley
- Jan Hirschi
- Tom & Mary Contreras & Colton
- Russell & Luisa Estlack
- The People of Ukraine and Russia & the Middle East
- Our partner congregation in Dorogobuzh, Russia
- Those Serving Our Country

### Welcome New Members

If you are interested in joining our fellowship, please see Rev. Ralph or Session Clerk Ruth Ann Horvath

### January Newsletter Deadline December 23, 2023

### Worship Schedule

- 8:45 – 9:00 am  
Morning Prayer and Communion  
Sanctuary
- 9:00 – 9:45 am  
Adult Education  
CE Building
- 10:30 am  
Children's Sunday School  
CE Building
- 10:30 am  
Worship  
Sanctuary
- 11:45 am  
Fellowship Time  
Conklin Hall

### Ruling Elders Monthly Scriptures

Each month at our stated Session meetings, our Minister of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders are invited to share any scripture that has spoken to their hearts in the previous month as part of their report. Rev. Ralph encourages our congregation, as part of their prayer life for the congregation, our Session and Pastor, to review their selections and continue to uphold them and one another in prayer.

The scriptures for November were:

Rev. Ralph	2 Corinthians 5:17-20	New creation
Elder Ruth Ann Horvath	Matthew 7:7	Seek God
Elder Leslie Lintz	2 Timothy 2:13	Faithful
Elder Chris Schleiter	Proverbs 3:5-6	Trust in the Lord
Elder Alicia Kitzman	Isaiah 41:10	Do not fear
Elder Mary Contreras	Deuteronomy 31:6	Be fearless
Elder Deanna Flores	Jeremiah 29:11	Hope and Future
Elder Tom Contreras	Colossians 4:2	Devote yourself
Elder Ruthanne Skinner	Micah 6:8	He has told you

### 2024 PLEDGES

**Goal**  
**\$185,593**  
**Received through 11/19**  
**\$77,562 (41.8%)**  
**Still Needed**  
**\$108,031**

We appreciate ALL donations. Pledges help us to plan for our expected income for the year.

### BUILDING FUND

**Goal**  
**\$384,000**  
**Received to Date**  
**\$327,769**  
**Still Needed**  
**\$56,231**

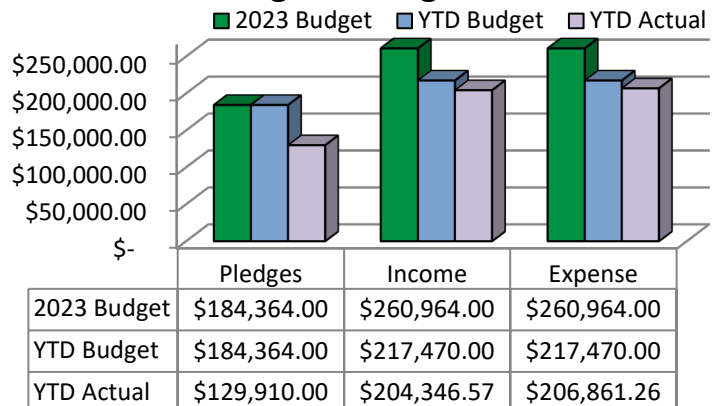
Your donations to the Building Fund allow us to maintain and enhance our facilities.

## Treasurer's Report

#### General Fund as of October 31

Month of October	
Receipts	\$ 14,273.24
Expenditures	\$ 25,000.45
October Net	\$ (10,727.21)
2023 YTD Budget vs. Actual	
YTD Budgeted Receipts	\$ 217,470.00
Actual Receipts	\$ 204,346.57
YTD Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 217,470.00
Actual Expenditures	\$ 206,861.26
YTD Net	\$ (2,514.69)
Fund Balances	
General Fund	\$ 31,127.37
Building Fund	\$ 62,910.29
Memorial Fund	\$ 4,533.80
Reserve Fund	\$ 46,845.55
Bequests	\$ 64,684.05
Russia Mission Fund	\$ 3,010.35

#### 2023 Budget Through October 31



## Rev. Ralph's Food for Thought

*Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was very perplexed at this statement, and was pondering what kind of greeting this was. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

*Luke 1:26-30 (NASB)*



*And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

This year in light of the days and times we are living in and through, I am hearing that word, "fear" being repeated frequently. There is an air of uncertainty in the air. War, fear of war, personal and national tragedies fill the screens of our computers and televisions.

It seems this year the words of the carol, "Peace on Earth, good will to mankind" seem to be a contradiction to the real state of things.

As we enter the seasons of Advent and Christmas, although Walmart did so months ago, I believe it is time again to hear and listen to what has happened with that first Christmas morning. We need to hear for ourselves the message of the Angel to Mary. "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God."

We have great reason and cause to lay aside our fears and instead be filled with the joy of renewed hope. In the coming, life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior and the new day that is coming, we have nothing to fear. For with his coming the message is clear, we all have found favor with God. With God! After all, the first Hymn of the Advent Season will be, as always, "Come, O Come, Emmanuel". (Yes, Eric Westland, all seven verses!)

After all, what does "Emmanuel" mean other than "God with us"?

As we enter this Advent and Christmas seasons, I would invite all of to focus on this Good News rather than the news of the day. To hear and believe that today, tomorrow, and always our Lord is with us. And this is the greatest news and cause of great joy for Angels, Shepherds, and Presbyterians!!

*In Christ  
Rev. Ralph*

PS. Cindy, Jeff and I would like to extend to our church family and friends a Very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years!

### **Rev. Ralph's Annual Open House**

Cindy, Jeff and I would like to invite you to join us on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at our home for our annual Christmas open house. Please bring a beverage and something to share. You are welcome to stop in anytime between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Our home is located at 331 Vermillion Avenue in Bloomington Hills but be aware that many GPS systems will lead you astray. The easiest way to find us is to follow Fort Pierce Drive to Vermillion Avenue (just past the LDS Stake on the right). Turn right on Vermillion and go 0.3 miles to Pintura Drive. Turn left on Pintura then take the first right (you'll be back on Vermillion Avenue) and follow along for 0.2 miles. Look for the brick house on the right with a Buffalo Bills flag in the front yard. We look forward to seeing everyone!

### **\*\* Home Communion \*\***

If you have difficulty getting to worship and would like to have the Pastor serve you the Lord's Supper at home, please call the church office (435-628-9158).

### **\*\* Pastor's Note Regarding Hospital Visitation \*\***

With the federal laws that govern the privacy of medical records, hospitals no longer can give out any information regarding patients to visitors, including clergy. Unless a visitor requests a specific name, the hospital desk is not allowed to give out any information, including religious affiliation.

If you or a family member is hospitalized, please alert the Pastor, your Deacon or the church office. Otherwise, we will not be informed of your presence in the hospital and will be unable to assist or offer pastoral care.

## Prayer Corner

*"And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."* **Matthew 21:22**



### A Pattern for Prayer in December Using 5 Scripture Verses to Guide You

**A Prayer of Gratitude (Psalm 100:4-5, NIV):** "Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving, and come into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Use this verse to express gratitude for the past year and to acknowledge the goodness of the Lord. Begin your prayer by thanking God for the blessings received and His enduring love.

**A Prayer for Peace (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV):** "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

December can be a busy and sometimes stressful month, pray for peace and tranquility using this verse. Ask for guidance in handling the challenges that may come and experience the peace that surpasses understanding. Pray also for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Russia.

**A Prayer for Reflection (Psalm 119:105, NIV):** "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Invoke this verse to seek as you reflect on the events of the past year and contemplate the path ahead. Ask for the light of God's Word to illuminate your journey.

**A Prayer of Hope (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV):** "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Incorporate this verse into your prayer to express hope and anticipation for the coming year. Trust in God's plans and ask for the strength to face the future with confidence.

**A Prayer for Others (Numbers 6:24-26, NIV):** "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Use this beautiful blessing from Numbers as a prayer for your loved ones and the broader community. Ask for God's blessings, grace, and peace to be upon those around you.

*Rev. Dolores*

### Strand of Pearls (aka, the Prayer Chain)

Pearls on our Strand continue to pray actively for those for whom requests have been made as they come in. Updates and thanksgivings are appreciated and will be passed on.

Please call, email or text your requests to Rev. Dolores at 630-890-8343 or [revdfw@icloud.com](mailto:revdfw@icloud.com), and indicate whether you wish the request to remain confidential. Otherwise, it will be included in the GSPC prayer list in the newsletter.

*Rev. Dolores*

### Healing Prayer Offered Weekly

Healing prayer and anointing are offered every Sunday morning at the conclusion of the Worship Service in the Chapel. Rev. Dolores Wiens and Kathryn Whitton will be available to offer healing prayer for all who desire it.



## Buildings & Grounds

Our two major projects are moving forward. The new windows in the CE Building will be installed on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The specification for the ground work required to install the Solar Electric System is out to bid and the Solar Electric System committee has been working hard to finalize the specifications for the system in the hope that we can have the system up and running before air conditioning season kicks off next year. Thanks to Guy Schultzman and the committee for the excellent work they're doing to make us more sustainable and save us money.

We have added a stone bench in the Memorial Garden, and it is beautiful. Please stop by, have a seat and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

*Tom Contreras*

## Christian Education

*"To meditate on Scripture is to allow the truth of God's Word to move from head to heart. It is to so dwell upon a truth that it becomes part of our being."* - Greg Oden

December's classes provide many options to help us thrive, as we seek spiritual understanding, personal growth, and strengthen our bonds with church family. You are invited to join us as we learn and grow together.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES:** see the church website Activity Calendar for a listing and times of all Christian education classes, including holiday cancellations.

**Adult Sunday School** will begin lessons from the winter Present Word series. Ruth Ann Horvath will lead discussions from the Old and New Testaments that are examples of profiles in faith each Sunday in the CE building from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. Pick up your participant book in the yellow tote outside the CE Building.

**Children's Sunday School** meets weekly in the CE Building at 10:30 am and the lessons will be about women of the New Testament. Invite a child to Sunday School so they can experience loving teachers and learn more about God.

**Monthly Women's Bible Study** continues the series titled Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts. Discover a message that is radical, inclusive, and hope filled. If you are looking for fellowship and scriptural insight, don't miss this chance at 11:30 am on Monday December 18<sup>th</sup> at Conklin Hall.

**Monday Evening Potluck and Bible Study** will start a new Kerygma series studying 2 Corinthians. Sign up at the registration table in Conklin Hall. The potluck and study will begin at 5:30 pm Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> in the CE Building. Don't miss this opportunity to make new friends and learn biblical truths.

**Tuesday Women's Bible Study**, taught by Rev. Ralph, is held weekly at 11:00 am at the Desert Vista Room of the Legacy Village, 1379 W. Sky Rocket Road in St. George. Join this group of dedicated women.

**Wednesday Women's Bible Study**, taught by Rev. Ralph, is held weekly at 11:00 am at the Barnes and Noble Café, located at the Red Cliffs Mall at 1720 E Red Cliffs Drive. Experience a group of caring women devoted to spiritual growth.

**Thursday Men's Bible Study** meets at 11:00 am at Bishop's Grill at 1973 W Sunset Blvd. Men, this is your chance to enjoy good grub, fellowship, and learn practical scriptural principles each week with Rev. Ralph.

*Deanna Flores*

## Congregational Growth & Care

**LUNCH AND LEARN** - On Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, we look forward to having Kirk Watkins, MD and sleep disorder specialist as our speaker. We have asked Dr. Watkins to discuss various aspects of sleep including both the disease manifestations of sleep disorders and practical tips and solutions which could help us to establish more effective personal sleep routines. It will be held from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm in Conklin Hall. You bring your sandwich, and we'll provide your beverage and a sweet treat. See you then!

As we look forward to the new year, we have been involved in planning programs for you that will be both interesting and informative. It is our intent to offer a series on how you may learn to make better diet choices to help improve your health and wellness. To help you think about the next stage of your life, we'd like to have a program which

## Congregational Growth & Care, continued

addresses questions you may have had about downsizing and providing for both financial and medical transitions. We look forward to rescheduling Daniel Flores's talk about Successful Aging, which was unable to be held in October of this year.

If you have a suggestion for a future Lunch and Learn program, please mention the topic to one of the faithful members of our Growth and Care Committee: Marsha Besch, Deanna Flores, Mary Beth and Dick Gibbons, Virginia Hunt, Anne Patten, Charlotte Phipps, Chris Schleter and Rev. Ralph. And, as we experience this busy holiday time, take good care of yourselves and others. Don't dismiss symptoms of illness, test for COVID when appropriate, travel safely and spend time appreciating the blessings of the season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. Happy Holidays!!

*Alicia Kitzman*

## Deacons

As the year comes to a close, we say goodbye to one of our Deacons. Dr. Ka-Wai Yu has reached the limit on the number of consecutive years we are allowed to serve. We thank Ka-Wai for his faithful service the last six years.

Some changes will be coming to the organization of our Deacons in the new year. We will be adding three Deacons which will allow us to reorganize our largest parishes to make them more manageable. We'll have the details on what's to come in the January newsletter.

John and I are your contacts for the Deacon Shed which is full of items you may need. We have walkers, crutches, wheelchairs, and raised toilet seats. If you need anything from the shed, please give us a call. My phone is 801-541-7444. John's is 801-608-4158.

*Peggy Graber, Moderator*

## Fellowship

With snow on Signal Peak, it appears that winter is rapidly approaching. It's also December which means that it's time for all of our Christmas festivities.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> will be our last Stewardship potluck. But since we have other dinners and holiday events coming up, we will have an Ice Cream Sundae Social. (and maybe Root beer floats, yum). I'm asking that you bring cookies to go with the ice cream and if you want to bring some toppings and syrups to go with, that would be great, too. I'll have a sheet on the table in Conklin Hall. Ralph's Christmas open house will also be that afternoon.

Our Christmas Brunch and Sing-along will be December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to bring something light to share and we'll enjoy fellowship and sing some Christmas Carols!

The Book Club always meets the last Thursday of the month at Noon in the CE Building. If you are interested in joining us, please come and bring a sack lunch. We discuss the current month's book then choose the book for the following month. The meeting lasts just one hour. We enjoy getting to know each other's viewpoints on the books we read.

Please join us for these Holiday events and Book Club. Remember...there is no fellowship without YOU !!

*Mary Contreras*

## Mission/Outreach

**CROP Walk:** The CROP Walk was quite successful. More than eighty walkers put their walking shoes on and walked to end hunger. Good Shepherd had nine walkers and raised \$1,405. The preliminary total for the walk was \$5,361 and I am confident that, with 26.2% of the current total, we will have raised the most money of any group this year. Twenty-five percent of the money goes to Solomon's Porch and the great work that they do in our community.

**Operation Christmas Child:** We had a goal of 150 shoeboxes this year and we beat the goal by nine boxes. Thanks to the Knotty Knitters for packing 110 of those boxes and to everyone in the congregation who packed a box (or two)..

**Navajo Bookmobile:** In late November, Bill and Carol Somplatsky-Jarman delivered more than \$1,900 to the Navajo Bookmobile organizers. Thanks to everyone who donated to this VERY worthy cause. Mission wants to expand our involvement with the Navajo Nation and will look for your input on ideas on ways we can engage with them.

## Mission/Outreach, continued



The Navajo Bookmobile

*Blessings,  
Chris Schleiter*

## Nominating Committee

Your Nominating Committee has been working hard and it's time to unveil the slate of officers who will be up for election at our Stated Congregational Meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **ELDERS**

Alicia Kitzman: Congregational Growth & Care and Ray Snipes: Stewardship

### **DEACONS**

Marsha Besch, Marilyn Conklin, Gordon Conklin, John Graber, Terri Morgan

### **2024 Nominating Committee**

Dottie Amland, Paul Wiens, Linda Fucone

Session and the Deacons will nominate their representatives to the Nominating Committee, and we will present them to the Congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January.

I want to express my appreciation for the diligence and concern shown by the members of your 2023 Nominating Committee: Deacon Representative Ka-Wai Yu and Members at-Large Anne Patten, Matt Fine and Dottie Amland.

*Ruth Ann Horvath, Moderator*

## Session News

Session held their monthly meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The following actions were taken:

- Approved a donation of \$500 to be paid from the Russia Mission Fund, for the church in Dorogobuzh to be used in their Christmas Children's Ministry.
- Approved to move the date of the Elder's Retreat to February 20, 2024, at Ovation. The retreat will include the February Stated Session Meeting. There will not be a session meeting on February 11, 2024.

The next meeting of the Session will be Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon in the CE Building.

*Ruth Ann Horvath  
Clerk of Session*

## Stewardship

Our annual Stewardship campaign is in full swing, and we have received pledges totaling \$77,592 toward our goal of \$185,593 for next year. If you have already made a pledge, we thank you. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. Pledges help us to plan for the year. We will dedicate our pledges during worship on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve, so please make your pledge by December 17<sup>th</sup>.

I hope every person had a beautiful and joyful Thanksgiving and that you are looking forward to Advent and the blessed Christmas season. We very much appreciate your continued generosity and faithfulness in giving to our church to help sustain our many ministries. I hope you will continue to prayerfully consider your future giving.

*Leslie Lintz*

## Women's Guild

The Women's Guild made \$1,137.75 on our annual fall Rummage and Bake sale. Thanks to everyone who helped with this event. We will be having a Christmas cookie sale after the service on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Conklin Hall. There will be sign up sheets if you are willing to make cookies. These make great neighbor gifts. We will be sending the checks out to our charities by the end of December. Thank you all for making this happen. It helps several charities here in St. George.

*LaVerna Metzger*

## Worship & Music

There will be wonderful music for all to enjoy as we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church:

December 10th - The Chancel Choir and the Bell Choir will perform for worship.

December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. A Brass Ensemble from Utah Tech University and the Chancel Choir will perform.

Every Sunday in Advent will be observed with the lighting of a candle on the Advent Wreath.

Everyone is encouraged to help with decorating the sanctuary Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 8:30 am! Lunch will be provided!

Thanks again to all who have been ushering!

*Ruthanne Skinner*

## Congregation News

### **A note from Charlotte Phipps**

Laura, Remi and I want to thank everyone for their love and support with Paul's passing. It is so appreciated.

*Charlotte Phipps*

### **Salvation Army Looking for Bell Ringers**

With Eric Westland's departure and with no one else stepping up to take over, we are without a Salvation Army Ringer Coordinator this year. That doesn't mean you can't still ring the bell, though. The Salvation Army has a new site [www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com) that's quite easy to use. You simply put in your zip code, your information and find which location(s) you want to ring and select the stores and shifts you want. Why not click on it and take a look. If anyone would like to ring but can't or doesn't want to go on the internet, they can call the Salvation Army at 435-275-4975.

### **Little Free Library Arrives at Good Shepherd**

Red Rock Rotary formerly sponsored a "Little Free Library" at Sunset Elementary, but they were asked to remove it when the school district issued new rules requiring librarians to monitor the books inside. In consultation with Rev. Ralph, Mission volunteered Good Shepherd to host the library and it is now installed on a post just north of the bus stop in front of the church.



A Little Free Library is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book or share a book. They function on the honor system. You do not need to share a book in order to take one. If you take a book or two from a little library, try to bring some to share to that same library, or another in your area, when you can.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota whose mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-exchange boxes.





## Lectionary Readings for December

Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Sunday, December 3 1st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Sunday, December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Sunday, December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 <i>or</i> Luke 1:46b-55	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Sunday, December 24 4th Sunday of Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 <i>or</i> Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
Monday, December 25 Nativity of the Lord / Christmas	<i>Christmas Dawn</i> Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20
	<i>Christmas Day</i> Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]	John 1:1-14
Sunday, December 31 1st Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

## Lectionary Readings for January

Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Saturday, January 6 Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, January 7 Baptism of the Lord	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Sunday, January 14 Second Sunday after the Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Sunday, January 21 Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Sunday, January 28 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

### **Greetings from Dorogobuzh**

Happy Thanksgiving to you and all the brothers and sisters of the Church of the City of St. George, Good Shepherd. From all the brothers and sisters of the church of Dorogobuzh, please accept our congratulations.

We thank God for all the mercies He has given in Christ Jesus. And one of His graces is the communion of saints. We thank God for your communication with us. For your help, prayers and your meetings with us. This brought a lot of support and joy. God bless you all. Blessed be the dear brothers and sisters of the Church, good shepherd. Hello to all brothers and sisters of the Church.

*Your brother in Christ Sergei.*

## December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	<b>2</b> 8:30 am Decorate the Church for Christmas 11:30 am Bell Choir Practice @ Shepherd of the Hills UMC
<b>3</b> First Sunday of Advent Soup Kitchen Sunday 8:45 am Prayer Service with Communion 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Communion Worship 10:30 am Children's Sunday School & Nursery 11:45 am Fellowship 12:00 Noon Deacon Meeting 3:00 pm Open House @ Rev. Ralph's	<b>4</b> 1:00 pm Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Winter Bible Study & Potluck - 2 Corinthians	<b>5</b> 11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Desert Vista Room of the Legacy Village 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev. Ralph 6:30 pm Grief & Loss Support Group	<b>6</b> 11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	<b>7</b> 11:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's on Sunset 12:00 Noon Lunch & Learn - Dr. Kirk Watkins on Why Can't I Sleep 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev. Ralph 3:45 pm Chancel Choir Practice	<b>8</b> 12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	<b>9</b> 11:30 am Bell Choir Practice
<b>10</b> Second Sunday of Advent 8:45 am Prayer Service with Communion 9:00 am Adult Education 9:30 am Bell Choir Practice 10:30 am Worship - Choirs' Christmas Cantata 10:30 am Children's Sunday School & Nursery 11:45 am Fellowship 12:00 Noon Session Meeting	<b>11</b> 1:00 pm Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Winter Bible Study & Potluck - 2 Corinthians	<b>12</b> 11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Desert Vista Room of the Legacy Village 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev. Ralph	<b>13</b> 11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	<b>14</b> 11:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's on Sunset 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev. Ralph 3:45 pm Chancel Choir Practice	<b>15</b> 12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	<b>16</b> 11:30 am Bell Choir Practice
<b>17</b> Third Sunday of Advent 8:45 am Prayer Service with Communion 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Worship 10:30 am Children's Sunday School & Nursery 11:30 am Stated Congregational Meeting 11:45 am Christmas Brunch 11:45 am Blood Pressures Taken	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Worship Committee Meeting 11:30 am Women's Bible Study & Fellowship 1:00 pm Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Winter Bible Study & Potluck - 2 Corinthians	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Calendar Coordinating Council Meeting 11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Desert Vista Room of the Legacy Village 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev. Ralph 6:30 pm Grief & Loss Support Group	<b>20</b> 9:30 am Stephen Ministry Supervision Group Meeting 11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	<b>21</b> 11:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's on Sunset 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev. Ralph 3:45 pm Chancel Choir Practice	<b>22</b> 12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	<b>23</b> Newsletter Deadline 11:30 am Bell Choir Practice
<b>24</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve 8:45 am Prayer Service with Communion 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Worship - Dedication of Pledges 10:30 am Children's Sunday School & Nursery 11:45 am Fellowship 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25</b> Christmas Day 1:00 pm Shawl Ministry	<b>26</b> 11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Desert Vista Room of the Legacy Village 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev. Ralph	<b>27</b> 11:00 am Women's Bible Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	<b>28</b> 11:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Bishop's on Sunset 12:00 Noon Book Club 3:00 pm Exercise with Rev. Ralph 3:45 pm Chancel Choir Practice	<b>29</b> 12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	<b>30</b> 11:30 am Bell Choir Practice
<b>31</b> New Year's Eve 8:45 am Prayer Service with Communion 9:00 am Adult Education 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Fellowship						

PLEASE NOTE:

This calendar is subject to change. Always check the church website [gspcsg.org](https://gspcsg.org) for the latest information.

## Regularly Scheduled Activities

**Solomon's Porch Sunday** – Contributions of food, supplies and cash for Solomon's Porch – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each Month  
**Women's Bible Study and Fellowship** – last Monday of each month at 11:30 am in Conklin Hall  
**Al-Anon Meeting** – Friday at 12:00 Noon in the CE Building

<b>Shawl Ministry</b>	Monday	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Conklin Hall
<b>Exercise with Rev. Ralph</b>	Tuesday	3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Conklin Hall
	Thursday	3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Conklin Hall
<b>Men's Bible Study</b>	Thursday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Bishop's Grill on Sunset
<b>Women's Bible Studies</b>	Tuesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Desert Vista Room of the Legacy Village
	Wednesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Barnes & Noble Cafe
<b>Choir Practices</b>	Thursday	3:45 pm Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	Saturday	11:30 am Bell Choir	Sanctuary

### Flowers

Thanks to those who provide our flowers for worship!

#### December

December 3	<i>Available</i>
December 10	<i>Available</i>
December 17	<b>LaVerna Metzger</b>
December 24	<b>Donna Baker</b>
December 31	<b>Chris Schleiter</b>

#### January

January 5	<i>Available</i>
January 12	<i>Available</i>
January 19	<i>Available</i>
January 26	<i>Available</i>

Sign up for Flowers on the bulletin board between the Narthex and Conklin Hall or on our website [gspscsq.org](http://gspscsq.org)

### Online Giving

Did you know that you can donate to the church using your credit card? All you need to do is visit our Online Giving page at Vanco.

-On your computer, visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4DK/home>.

On your smartphone or tablet, **Scan this QR Code.**



On the giving page, click the button on the appropriate fund to set up a one-time or recurring donation, or to make a payment.

**We thank you for your continued support!**

## Church Contact Information

Office Hours	Wed. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Office Phone/Fax	435-628-9158
Office Email	<a href="mailto:office@gspscsq.org">office@gspscsq.org</a>
Pastor's Office Hours	Mon to Thu – 9:15 am – 10:30 am 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Weeks by Afternoon Appointment Only
Pastor's Cell	435-705-1867
Pastor's Email	<a href="mailto:pastor@gspscsq.org">pastor@gspscsq.org</a>
Prayer Chain	Rev. Dolores Wiens 630-890-8343
Music Director	Barbara McConnell
Website	<a href="http://gspscsq.org">gspscsq.org</a>
Newsletter email	<a href="mailto:newsletter@gspscsq.org">newsletter@gspscsq.org</a>
Website / Newsletter Editor	Chris Schleiter
Information on Stephen Ministry	<a href="http://www.stephenministries.org">www.stephenministries.org</a>

## Church Leadership 2023

### Session

Class of 2023	Alicia Kitzman	435-272-4614	Growth & Care
	Deanna Flores	407-488-5460	Christian Ed
Class of 2024	Ruth Ann Horvath	435-922-5271	Clerk of Session
	Mary Contreras	435-229-8753	Fellowship
	Chris Schleiter	435-619-2843	Mission/Outreach
Class of 2025	Leslie Lintz	412-403-9980	Stewardship
	Ruthanne Skinner	541-510-5660	Worship
	Tom Contreras	530-440-8484	Building/Grounds

### Deacons

Parish	Deacon	Phone
Deacons	Peggy Graber	801-541-7444
	Moderator	
Bloomington	Candy Hurlbut	435-879-9394
Bloomington Hills	John Graber	801-608-4158
Hurricane	Sue Lundgreen	778-368-3054
Quail Creek	Marilyn Conklin	928-460-0608
Red Cliffs	Ann McLuckie	435-680-1062
Santa Clara/Ivins	Jesse Henderson	404-859-3408
	Melissa Henderson	404-859-2128
Sun River	Mona Johnson	408-799-7166
Washington	Ka-Wai Yu	812-340-2184



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**gspcsg.org**

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