



The Shepherd's News

132 East Valley Forge Road · King of Prussia · Pennsylvania · 19406

December 2022 · January 2023 · February 2023



Good Shepherd Friends,

On March 15th, the U.S. Senate passed legislation that would make daylight savings time permanent starting in 2023. If the legislation became law, it would end the twice-annual changing of clocks. It is called the “Sunshine Protection Act.” The Bill is a long way from becoming law. It still must pass the House of Representatives, before landing on the President’s desk to be signed.

Everyone seems to have an opinion on the matter; however, the people I speak with seem to favor having permanent daylight savings time. Why? Because it takes their bodies too much time to adjust to the time change twice a year and no matter how hard they try to explain to their furry friends that everyone gets an extra hour of sleep that night, they just don’t seem to understand.

But there are other reasons as well. It is believed that more daylight hours in the afternoon lead to fewer motor vehicle accidents. Children have more time to play outside after school and there is less seasonal depression. No matter what is decided for 2023, this year we are living with increasingly dark afternoons.

Darkness envelops these days of Advent. If the truth be told, darkness envelops not only the days of Advent, but all of our days. For most of us, the darkness is something we try and avoid. However, Barbara Brown Taylor, in her book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark* writes, “Darkness is shorthand for anything that scares me – either because I am sure that I do not have the resources to survive it or because I do not want to find out. The problem is this: when despite all my best efforts, the lights have gone off in my life, plunging me into the kind of darkness that turns my knees to water, I have not died. Instead, I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is only one logical conclusion. I need darkness as much as I need light.”

According to Taylor, darkness is not the enemy. If we don’t run from the darkness, if we have the courage to sit patiently in it, our eyes will adjust. And when they do, we will see that we are with our beloved. There are others in there with us. Together we will light the candles on the wreath and wait patiently for the one who is to come.

Peace,

Pastor Julie

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Is there someone you would like to remember or honor this holiday season? You can do so by ordering a **poinsettia plant** as a memorial or in honor of someone special. There are envelopes on the table in the Narthex. You may also mail or drop off an envelope for the poinsettia plant. Please include the names of the people you would like to remember or honor on the outside of the envelope. The cost of each plant is \$10. **Orders should be placed before December 19th.** You may pick up your plants on January 1st after worship, or call the church office 610.265.4545 to arrange pick-up.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th, 2023 at 10:45AM

Please look for details in upcoming weekly email blasts.



GIFT CARDS FOR UPPER MERION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

We have once again joined forces with the Upper Merion School District to meet a need that has come to our attention. The worshipping communities in the township have been asked to provide gift cards for the upper-level students who might otherwise have a very sparse holiday.

We will be providing **between \$10 and \$25 gift cards to Target and Walmart**. If you are able, please either mail or drop off your donation to the church office weekdays between 9 am and noon, or you may give through the Sunday morning offering plate. Please clearly mark your gift, "Upper Merion High School Student Gift Card." You may either donate gift cards or money that we will turn into gift cards. **We are collecting through Sunday, December 18th**. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.



THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF GOOD SHEPHERD

Our fall music season has been well under way! Our Chancel Ringers are back at full strength and ringing to God's glory and our Chancel Choir is back in the loft each Sunday! And of course, our faithful instrumentalists and vocalists have been busy offering special music on a regular basis.

As we approach Christmas Eve, our services will be at 5pm, 7pm and 9pm. Our Chancel Choir will be singing at both the 7pm and 9pm services and will offer two anthems and our Ringers will be at the 7pm service; a bell solo will be offered at 9pm.

Also in December, we're happy to welcome The Norristown Chorale back to our sanctuary for their Christmas concert, "Welcome Christmas" on Tuesday, December 6th at 7:30pm. No advance tickets are needed, but a free-will offering will be accepted to support the chorale. www.norristownchorale.com

The Music Ministry is alive and well here at Good Shepherd – but we are always ready to bring new people into our program. If you've thought about joining choir...why not sing with us for Christmas Eve? Come see me after worship, or contact me (goodshepmusic@yahoo.com) and we'll get you in the mix! Still haven't told me that you play an instrument??? Firstly, why not?? Come talk with me about how you can offer your talent in a way that is comfortable for you.

Finally, thank you to everyone who participates in the music ministry for your time and dedication. Also, a big thank you to the congregation for your ongoing support.

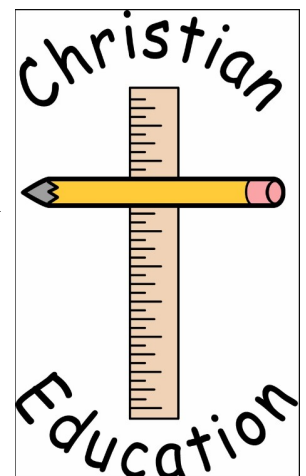
Musically Yours, Ross

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School meets on Sundays at 10:45am in the church library and via Zoom. The Zoom link is in the weekly blasts and the bulletin.

Sunday School for children and youth is held once a month from 10:45am to 11:30am. The dates for these classes are: December 4th, January 8th, February 12th, March 5th and April 2nd. There are three age groups: Preschool, Elementary (grades K-4) and Junior High (grades 5-8). High School students are welcome to participate with the Junior High or to volunteer to help with one of the younger groups.

Adult Fellowship Hour: On the Sundays listed above, we will have a special coffee hour in Founders Hall for adults to have time to talk over coffee and snacks while the children and youth are in class. Contact Karen Lehman at karen_lehman@verizon.net with any questions or to volunteer to help with the coffee hour or Sunday School classes.



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT GOOD SHEPHERD

DECEMBER



December 4th—2nd Sunday of Advent
 9:30 AM Service—Lighting of 2nd candle on the Advent Wreath

December 11th—3rd Sunday of Advent
 9:30 AM Service—Lighting of 3rd candle on the Advent Wreath

December 18th—4th Sunday of Advent
 9:30 AM Service—Lighting of 4th candle on the Advent Wreath

Saturday, December 24th—Christmas Eve
 5:00 PM Family Service with Communion and Candlelight
 7:00 PM and 9:00PM—Traditional Candlelight Worship with Communion

December 25th—Christmas Day
 9:30 AM Service—Lessons and Carols—**Wear your ugly Christmas Sweater to church.**



JANUARY

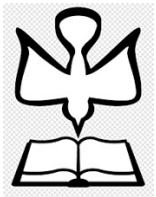
January 1st—The Epiphany of Our Lord—9:30 AM Service

January 8th—The Baptism of Our Lord—9:30 AM Service

January 15th—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany—9:30 AM Service
Baptism of Ezekiel Samuel Serafin, son of Bonnie and Mike Serafin

January 22nd—3rd Sunday after the Epiphany—9:30 AM Service

January 29th—4th Sunday after the Epiphany—9:30 AM Service
Annual Congregational Meeting following the service.



FEBRUARY

February 5th—5th Sunday after the Epiphany —9:30 AM Service
 Boy Scout Sunday

February 12th—6th Sunday after the Epiphany—9:30 AM Service
 Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday (see page 8)

February 19th—Transfiguration of Our Lord—9:30 AM Service
 Farewell to Alleluias

Wednesday, February 22nd—Ash Wednesday
 Noon-1pm Ashes-to-Go in front of church doors
 7:00 pm Service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

February 26th—1st Sunday in Lent—9:30 AM Service



First Monday: **Pub Theology** (see page 4)
 December 5th, January 2nd and February 6th.

Second Monday: **Committee Meeting Night**
 Please check if your committee is meeting.
 December 12th, January 9th and February 13th

Third Monday: **Council Meeting**
 January 16th and February 20th

Fourth Monday: **Manna Monday** (see page 4)
 January 23rd

THANK YOU from Operation Shining Star: Thank you, Good Shepherd family, for your generosity to the children of Gemma Services/Martin Luther School. Whether you gave money or gifts, the children will have a wonderful Christmas because of you!

PUB THEOLOGY



Join us the first Monday of each month to participate in interesting discussions over delicious food and drink, at a local favorite eatery.

- Each month, the location will be announced in advance.
- No need to RSVP.
- Dining will be from 6:30pm to 7:15pm. Everyone will pay on separate checks.
- From 7:15pm to 8:00pm we will discuss a question which will be announced in advance in Good Shepherd's weekly emailed reminders.
- The question might be philosophical or ethical or religious. There are no right or wrong answers, just a sharing of ideas.
- All ages interested in discussion are invited. Bring a friend.
- To facilitate conversation, we may sit at multiple tables, instead of one giant table.

Information can also be found on the Good Shepherd website, under the Participate tab or on Facebook.

Topics:

December 5th – no discussion – instead, we will sing Christmas Carols (songbooks provided).

January 2nd – What is truth, and does it mean the same thing as reality?

February 6th – Which is more important: intention or end result?

MANNA MONDAY

Please join us for the next Manna Monday on **January 23rd, 2023**. We will hear a presentation from Patti Dille, the outreach coordinator for **The Peyton Heart Project**. The mission of The Peyton Heart Project is to help raise global awareness about suicide, bullying, and to help end the stigma surrounding mental health issues. You can find out more at peytonheartproject.org.



Starting in New Jersey and Texas, The Peyton Heart Project has spread nationally and internationally, with individuals like Patti making handmade hearts and scattering them for others to find. Hearts have been found in coffee shops, on playgrounds and even on the Great Wall of China!

Our menu will be Shepherd's Pie, Potato Chip Chicken Casserole, Salad, Mashed Potatoes, and Dessert.

Please RSVP to the office if you are coming for the meal, which costs \$5/person, max \$20/family.

The meal is from 6:15-7 pm; the program runs from 7-8 pm. Please come join us and learn about these hearts and their messages!

MEAL MINISTRY

We continue to serve meals as take-out at the Cecil and Grace Bean Soup Kitchen in Norristown. Last month we served about 50 meals. We follow Covid protocols, meaning we wear gloves when preparing the food at Good Shepherd, and when serving in Norristown. We also wear caps to cover the hair and a mask while serving. All gloves and caps are provided by GSKOP and the Soup Kitchen.

On **Saturday, December 17**, a group of volunteers will meet in the kitchen of GSKOP at 10:30 am to prepare the food. We will either make sandwiches or a hot casserole, depending on the availability of the new kitchen in Norristown. Another group of volunteers will meet at the soup kitchen at 12:30 pm to prepare the food for take-out or dine-in as the situation warrants. The church has graciously agreed to remodel the entire kitchen, and we await its completion.

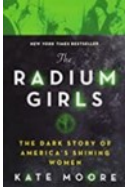
Upcoming dates are **Saturdays, January 21st, February 18th, and March 18th**. Call or email Pam Satterfield at 610-804-9325 pamsatterfield53@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

The soup kitchen is located at 520 Church Road in Norristown, on the grounds of St. John's Episcopal Church. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the building. Use the code 2468 to open the gate.

LAST 2022 GIFT CARD ORDER

If you'd like any gift cards for Christmas gifts, NOW is the time! The last order for 2022 needs to be given to Karen Lehman (karen_lehman@verizon.net) by 3:00 pm on **Sunday, December 4th**. The next order will be placed on January 8th. Order now and have them for Christmas!

WINTER BOOK CLUB



Monday Jan. 30, 2023

The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women

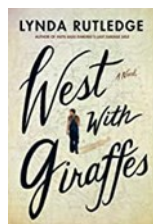
By Kate Moore

The incredible true story of the women who fought America's Undark danger

The Curies' newly discovered element of radium makes gleaming headlines across the nation as the fresh face of beauty, and wonder drug of the medical community. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright in the otherwise dark years of the First World War. Meanwhile, hundreds of girls toil amidst the glowing dust of the radium-dial factories. The glittering chemical covers their bodies from head to toe; they light up the night like industrious fireflies. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" are the luckiest alive—until they begin to fall mysteriously ill.

But the factories that once offered golden opportunities are now ignoring all claims of the gruesome side effects, and the women's cries of corruption. And as the fatal poison of the radium takes hold, the brave shining girls find themselves embroiled in one of the biggest scandals of America's early 20th century, and in a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights that will echo for centuries to come.

Written with a sparkling voice and breakneck pace, *The Radium Girls* fully illuminates the inspiring young women exposed to the "wonder" substance of radium, and their awe-inspiring strength in the face of almost impossible circumstances. Their courage and tenacity led to life-changing regulations, research into nuclear bombing, and ultimately saved hundreds of thousands of lives.



Tuesday Feb. 28, 2023

West with Giraffes

by Lynda Rutledge

An emotional, rousing novel inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America.

"Few true friends I have known, and two were giraffes..."

Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, feels his life ebbing away. But when he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling the unforgettable experience he cannot take to his grave.

In 1938, The Great Depression lingers, Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy Woodrow.

Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes.

Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story, *West with Giraffes* explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late.

Fall Family Photos

Rally Day



Baptisms

Caleb Bullwinkle



Luca Seagraves



Rosalie Daniel

Manna Monday



Hearts and Hands



Pub Theology

Fall Family Photos

Trunk or Treat



Reformation & Confirmation

Aileen Lutz, Pepper Francis, Eva Fleischer



Bear Creek Retreat
Save the Date for Next Year:
October 13th-15th



Women's Retreat
Save the Date for Next Year:
November 10th-11th



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY—February 12, 2023



While many of our families will be celebrating “Super Bowl” on Sunday, February 12th, countless families will not. They will be wondering and worrying about where their next meal will be coming from. Please help us to help them. Please bring a can of soup and/or make a donation to Good Shepherd’s Souper Bowl fund, which enables us to not only help alleviate hunger, but also provides a gift card to families who come to our door in need of groceries during the week. Donations will be collected at church and Sunday School. You may also donate online at our website by looking for “Souper Bowl” when you click “Donate Now.” We need your help! *(Look for the “Souper Bowl Bank” in the Narthex.)*

NEW! Do you have a young adult at home struggling to launch?

If you have a young adult in your family who is struggling with moving towards an independent life, let’s create a community for those of us who are struggling to support them. Together maybe we can share our stories, support each other, share strategies, or find resources to help our beloved children and ourselves.



Contact Hele Vondra at helevondra@hotmail.com so we can get this idea rolling!

VISITORS NEEDED

There are several members of our congregation who do not have the opportunity to join us in person at worship but still want very much to be a part of the Good Shepherd community. Due to chronic illness or physical disability they are unable to leave their homes. They may not even have frequent contact with family or loved ones, spending many hours alone. A visit from another member of the Good Shepherd community would help not only to ease the loneliness, but also bring spiritual comfort through prayer, a loving touch and just knowing that others care. Experience the rewards of knowing that just being there with someone brought a smile to their face and brightened their day. A couple hours per month is all we ask. For more information call Janice Rackovan at 610-715-2601.

NEW! VISUAL JOURNALING



Join a Visual Journaling group to explore scripture. Visual Journaling is a reflective process that involves exploring concepts, ideas, and thoughts visually to understand and create personal meaning. This visual journaling time will include a Bible reading, time to express what that passage means to you, by using words and drawings, and some discussion and supportive sharing with participants. No artistic ability required. If you can hold a crayon and make a mark you can do this. Everyone can express feelings and ideas with images and/or words! Consider trying this way to explore some of God’s messages.

Dates: **Wednesday nights, January 11th, 18th, 25th 7-8 pm in the library.**
Sign up by calling Liz Smith 610-659-2446 or the church office.

THANK YOU from Kay Shinnars

Dear friends, Thank you for your kindness and generosity during my time at Good Shepherd. It was my pleasure to serve as your Parish Administrator. I will never forget my friends at Good Shepherd. You all made me feel like family. I will miss you all and keep you in my daily prayers. Peace and love, Kay Shinnars

THANK YOU from Women’s Resource Center

Dear Ms. Rackovan, On behalf of the women and girls we serve, I want to thank the congregation of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the generous donation of \$250. We are blessed to be the recipient of your Monthly Outreach funds for September. Thank you so much! None of [our] work would be possible without the support of our donors. Your support and caring makes a difference for women and girls facing tremendous difficulties. Once again, thank you for your support by helping our clients toward a brighter future. Sincerely, Cheryl E. Brubaker, Executive Director

WINTER OUTREACH



In addition to the gifts we provide through Operation Shining Star to the children served by Gemma Services, we would like to provide them with funds to help sustain their programs throughout the year. Therefore, **Outreach funds for December** will go to support **Gemma Services/Martin Luther School**. They provide a range of specialized services and support for children who struggle with emotional and behavioral challenges. Through special education, foster family care, and residential and community-based mental health services, they offer opportunities for children and families to learn, to heal, and to reach for brighter tomorrows. Our gifts through Operation Shining star go to the children at this school which offers academic, emotional, behavioral, and social well-being for children grades K-8. Use an Outreach funds envelope or just mark your check to “Outreach Funds.”

Outreach funds for the month of **January** will go to support **Neighborhood Meals on Wheels**. There is a need in our community for meals for the home-bound. Upper Merion Township responded to that need for the past 40 years. Several organizers and volunteers are from Good Shepherd. Neighborhood Meals on Wheels accepts no government funding and as a result is able to bring new clients on board with much less paperwork than is required by the county and state. However, because it has no government funding it must rely on the generosity of friends, neighbors, community groups and faith-based organizations to sustain it. Use an Outreach funds envelope or just mark your check to “Outreach Funds.”



For the month of **February** our funds will support **Bear Creek Camp**. Their mission is to help individuals explore, celebrate and grow in God’s creation. Bear Creek Camp is a ministry of the Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. Located in the beauty of the Pocono Mountains, they offer year-round opportunities, including summer residential youth camp, nature day camp, environmental education programs, weekend camp retreats and outside group rentals. Use an Outreach funds envelope or just mark your check to “Outreach Funds.”

ALTAR FLOWERS and CHURCH BULLETINS



A flower and bulletin sign-up link is sent each week in the weekly email blast. This is a great way to support the church while remembering a loved one or marking a special occasion. The cost for altar flowers is \$20.00. The cost for bulletins is \$10.00. You may pick up your flowers after the worship service, or you may call the church office during regular office hours to make arrangements to pick them up. Checks may be made payable to Good Shepherd and designated “flowers” or “bulletins.” You may donate online by checking “bulletins” under “Donate Now.” Not an internet fan? Call the church office to sign up!



GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year will begin in January. Morning classes are available for children ages 2-5. Please contact Diane Smith at 610-265-0733 or gskoppreschool@verizon.net.

YEAR END REMINDERS FROM THE TREASURER

Despite the ongoing effects of the pandemic, Good Shepherd has been able to remain financially positive thanks to everyone who has continued to support the church with their offering in person, via the mail, and online banking. To ensure proper inclusion of your gifts in the year 2022, please mail/bring/schedule them in early enough so that we receive them before making a year-end deposit. If you plan to make an extra donation for Christmas, make sure to write "Christmas" on the memo line of your check. When we begin the new year, please be careful when writing the date (**2023**) as the bank will reject checks with the incorrect year. Blessings to all!

WANT TO SAVE ON TAXES and HELP GOOD SHEPHERD AT THE SAME TIME? WIN-WIN FOR ALL!

As you plan your donations to Good Shepherd, here are a couple of tax strategies that might benefit you either now or in the future:

If you are older than 72 1/2 years and you draw down your Traditional IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), the amount you take will be counted as taxable income to you. However, if you give a portion of your RMD to Good Shepherd (up to \$100,000) that amount will not count as taxable income to you, which could save you money and at the same time help Good Shepherd. You would simply have the company holding your IRA send the amount you desire directly to Good Shepherd. *Win-win situation for you and Good Shepherd!*

If you have appreciated stocks that you have held for longer than a year, you can direct shares to Good Shepherd and take a charitable contribution and avoid paying taxes on the capital gain of those shares. *Win-win situation for you and Good Shepherd!*

You might consider whether it makes sense for you to make two years' worth of your giving to Good Shepherd in one year, as that may give you the opportunity to take a charitable deduction this year. If you are interested in that, please let us know so that we can apportion your gift for 2022 and 2023.

As with all matters involving your financial plans, it is suggested that you speak to your financial advisor since everyone's tax and financial situation is unique.

UPPER MERION AREA COMMUNITY CUPBOARD



The Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard (UMACC) is open to anyone who lives within the bounds of the Upper Merion Area School District and is hungry or food insufficient. The UMACC is a collaborative and empathetic community response of our schools, municipalities, businesses, communities of faith, and caring neighbors. Our hope and goal is to strengthen our most vulnerable neighbors through food supplementation. The UMACC is located in the Valley Forge Presbyterian building (191 Town Center Road, KOP).

The following is a list of items needed the list is from the website for the UMACC. Diapers – all sizes but particularly 3, 4, 5, 6, Pull-ups size 3T, 4T, baby wipes, Formula – Similac, feminine products laundry detergent, almond or soy milk, boxes of small snacks (chips, popcorn, cookies, granola bars, fruit snacks), Ramen noodles, tea, Ritz, club or graham crackers, paper towels, canned chicken or tuna, boxes of small snack bags/cookies/trail mix, pasta, pasta sauce – all sizes jars or cans, canned meals (ravioli, spaghetti, chili, etc.), pancake mix, cereal, fruit cans or apple sauce (lunch box size), juice boxes, tortillas or tacos, salsa, beans (all kinds), jelly, snack crackers/snack bags.

All donations can be dropped off at the Community Cupboard. UMACC is located in the Valley Forge Presbyterian building (191 Town Center Road, KOP). The parking lot entrance is off Independence Road



HOW ABOUT A REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR:

Each day, add an item to a box. At the end of the month, donate the contents to the Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard. This is a great project for any month—not just December. Maybe January's box has non-food items.

Below are only suggestions—design your own box!

- December 1—box of cereal
- December 2—peanut butter
- December 3—stuffing mix
- December 4—boxed potatoes
- December 5—macaroni and cheese
- December 6—canned fruit
- December 7—canned tomatoes
- December 8—canned tuna
- December 9—dessert mix
- December 10—jar of applesauce
- December 11—canned sweet potatoes
- December 12—cranberry sauce
- December 13—canned beans
- December 14—box of crackers
- December 15—package of rice
- December 16—package of oatmeal
- December 17—pasta
- December 18—spaghetti sauce
- December 19—chicken noodle soup
- December 20—tomato soup
- December 21—canned corn
- December 22—canned mixed vegetables
- December 23—canned carrots
- December 24—canned green beans

PEACE OF PEACE OF PEACE

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-2031
(610)265-4545 (PHONE) (610)265-4771 (FAX)
Email: gskopstaff@verizon.net
Web: www.gskop.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Shepherd's News Winter 2022-2023

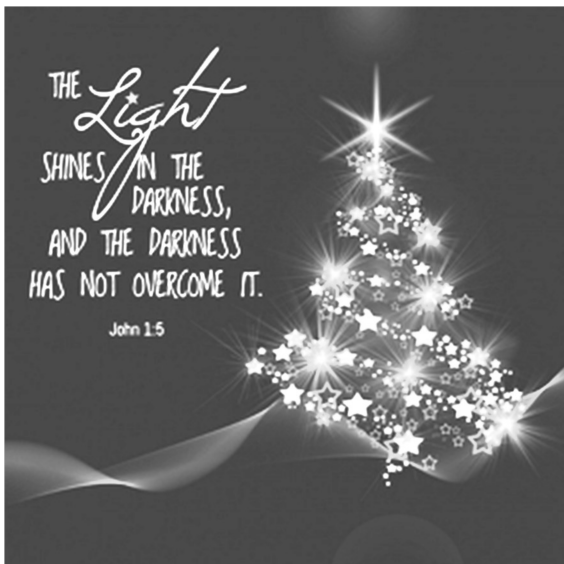
MARCH • APRIL • MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE...MONDAY, February 13, 2023
Please email your print ready article to gskopstaff@verizon.net.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 A.M. In person and virtual worship
via our YouTube Channel



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Pastor—Julie DeWerth 610-308-2675
Director of Music Ministries—Ross Boerner 484-369-1017
Parish Administrator—Laurie Mueller 610-265-4545
Preschool Director—Diane Smith 610-265-0733

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor's Mail juliedewerth@gmail.com
Office Mail gskopstaff@verizon.net
Music Mail goodshepmusic@yahoo.com
Preschool gskoppreschool@verizon.net