

December  
2021

# The Samaritan

## Worship Themes

Nov. 28 - Advent 1  
Making Room (Hope)

Dec. 5 - Advent 2  
A Place at the Table  
(Peace) / Communion

Dec. 12 - Advent 3  
How Much is Enough?  
(Joy) w/Benjamin  
Britten's Ceremony of  
Carols

Dec. 19 - Advent 4  
A Room with a View  
(Love) w/Christmas  
Pageant

Friday, Dec. 24 -  
4:00 pm Family Friendly  
Christmas Eve Worship  
9:00 pm Candlelight  
Christmas Eve Worship

Dec. 26 -  
Worship in Action  
(See details on the  
worship page inside)

 **GOOD  
SAMARITAN**



GOOD SAMARITAN UMC PRESENTS

*an evening of*

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

Warmth, fellowship, and music

Free will offering accepted.  
Proceeds go to Good Samaritan music ministries.

7:30pm • Friday • December 10, 2021



## OUR STAFF

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# Pastor's Page



One of the things I love about the Christmas story is how many characters are involved. The story begins with the priest Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth and the birth of their son, John the Baptist. We also have Mary and Joseph and the miraculous birth of Jesus. The angel Gabriel appears to both couples in order to share the good news and to help them not be afraid. Additional characters include the Emperor Augustus, Governor Quirinius, the shepherds, more angels, three wise men, and even an innkeeper.

You know the innkeeper. He's the one who tells Mary and Joseph, after they have traveled all that distance, that there is no room in the inn.

Oh, but wait. I read with fascination some comments about this from author and worship consultant Marcia McFee. "The Innkeeper is a figure of our imaginations," she asserts. Since Luke tells us there was no place in the inn, we have *assumed* that there must have been an Innkeeper in the story, but there isn't. And often our imagination casts him in a negative light - someone who banishes a pregnant woman to where the animals are kept. Sure enough, I've thought of him in this manner; how about you?

But McFee challenges us, asking "What if he was truly an entrepreneur?" What if he was "someone who saw a problem and thought, literally, 'outside the box' to solve the problem of where Mary could have her child?" What if instead of thinking "there's nowhere," he said to himself first, "there has to be somewhere" and that's how Jesus came to be born in a stable? The innkeeper actually figured out a way to house the holy. McFee concludes, "Housing the holy work of Divine Love can happen in many ways."

This idea of housing the holy is what we will explore in worship during Advent, because we, too, can house the holy through our ingenuity and actions. In fact, McFee suggests, we are called to do just that - to "make room" in our inns - to "create a welcoming space for the flourishing of humanity."

What will you "make room" for this Advent season? Will you make room in your mind for new ways of understanding or a new outlook...and thus make way for hope? Will you make room in your heart for grace and compassion...and thus make way for love and joy? Will you make room in your life for forgiveness...and thus make way for peace? These are all the gifts Jesus brings to us; and it's up to us to open ourselves to make room for these gifts, and indeed for him.

We have room for you here at Good Samaritan UMC as we prepare to welcome the One who is the source of hope, peace, joy and love...not only for each of us, but for the whole world. May we work together to get ready.

*Pastor Carol*



# Worship

## **Hanging of the Greens**

**Sunday, Nov. 28 @ 4:00 pm**

This beloved tradition features the OrchaBand playing Christmas Carols and a variety of families leading worship as we decorate the sanctuary for the season. We'll bundle up afterwards for s'mores in the parking lot.

## **Lessons & Carols**

**Friday, Dec. 10 @ 7:30 pm**

Prepare your hearts for Christmas as our music department offers an evening of warmth, music, fellowship and joy. A free-will offering to benefit the music department will be gratefully received.

## **Blue Christmas Worship: A Service of Hope**

**Tuesday, Dec. 21 @ 6:30 pm**

This worship service may be especially meaningful for those who are grieving or otherwise in need of a more quiet, reflective service this holiday season.

## **Family Friendly Christmas Eve**

**Friday, Dec. 24 @ 4:00 pm**

Celebrate the birth of Jesus early in the evening in a way all ages will enjoy.

## **Candlelight Christmas**

**Friday, Dec. 24 @ 9:00 pm**

This worship service will feature traditional Christmas music along with sharing the light during the playing of Silent Night.

## **Worship in Action**

**(note this change to our typical worship service)**

**Sunday, Dec. 26 @ 10:00 am**

Come together on Sunday morning for a short devotion in the Fellowship Hall followed by mission opportunities to make sandwiches for Dignity Center or to write an encouraging note to a homebound member and/or Good Sam children and youth. Please note that online worship this morning will be premiered at 10 am as a "Best of Good Sam Advent and Christmas Music."

## **Worship News**

The following adjustments to our COVID-19 protocols were recently adopted by the Church Council:

- Social distancing is still encouraged as you select your seat in the sanctuary pews. The tape (please avoid sitting on it) has been re-set to a different pattern that should allow a slightly higher number of people in attendance while still remaining appropriately distanced.
- We are pleased to announce the addition of humming to our Sunday worship! While face masks are still required inside the building; this is a welcome step as we continue to navigate as safely as possible through this pandemic.
- We are still doing our part in tracking attendance in the event contact tracing is advised or required. Please register your attendance in advance of each Sunday morning worship service through the link found on our homepage at [www.good.org](http://www.good.org). Registering in advance helps you avoid the manual check-in process once you arrive. Since your schedule may change week to week, please register for each Sunday you plan to attend.
- As always, please stay home if you feel sick or are in quarantine, and contact Kay@good.org if you test positive for COVID-19 within 10 days after attending worship or any other event at church.



# Congregational Care

## Congregational Care Comment:

This November I have been blessed and honored to be with families and friends as they find ways to honor, celebrate, and mourn their deceased loved ones, both through our All Saints Day Service here at Good Sam and through specific memorial services within our congregation. It is a deep privilege to share such sacred space with people as they tell the stories of those who have gone before us. I find that it is in the telling, in the creating of intentional, safe, welcome spaces to share, cry, and laugh together, that we find our ways of being in a world without those whose physical presence we are used to having with us. As we reflect and make meaning, we remember how to carry them with us and we form deeper bonds with those who share in our joy and pain. Recently, one of such loved ones shared this poem with me that I have been returning to again and again over the past few weeks. As we recall our own deepest loves both living and deceased this season, perhaps there is something here for each of us:



**Nikki Holm (she/her), Board Certified Chaplain  
Director of Congregational Care**

[nikki@good.org](mailto:nikki@good.org)

952-452-9396

**Office Hours (Part-time, 15hrs/week):  
Wednesdays 9-4pm and variable (or by  
appointment) Tuesdays and Fridays**

*'Tis a fearful thing to love  
What death can touch.*

*To love, to hope, to dream,  
And oh, to lose.  
A thing for fools, this, Love,  
But a holy thing.  
To love what death can touch.*

*For your life has lived in me;  
Your laugh once lifted me;  
Your word was a gift to me.  
To remember this brings painful joy.*

*'Tis a human thing, love,  
A holy thing.  
To love  
What death can touch.*

(attributed to Judah Halevi or  
Emanuel of Rome, 12th Century)

## Blue Christmas Worship: A Service of Hope

All are welcome to join us in the sanctuary on Tuesday, December 21st at 6:30pm for a Blue Christmas Service. This service will be especially designed to accompany those who may be experiencing grief, depression, pain, or despair this holiday season. As we sing, reflect, and pray together, in acknowledgement of the full spectrum of emotions and experiences that come with being human, we hope those gathered will leave feeling a little less alone, a little more at peace, and supremely held in light and love.



## Caregiver Support Group: Coming in 2022

Many people in our community know the meaningful, love-filled, difficult, and often lonely journey of accompanying a loved one amidst mental or physical illness of varying degrees. As you pour yourselves out to care for your loved ones, we want you to have a safe place to come together to restore, refill, and receive support yourselves. Join us on the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month from 6:00-7:00pm starting on January 19th, 2022 in person at Good Sam. Child-care will be provided for those attendees in need of it. Contact Nikki with questions or to express interest in participating. Interested in attending a virtual caregivers support group instead? Email Nikki to be put on a list to explore a different date and time for such later in 2022.



# Congregational Care

## Prayer for December

Gracious and loving God,

As the world around us gets darker and colder with each passing day, help us to lean into the gifts of winter. Take away our resistance and our judgment. Instead, let us receive the invitations towards greater solitude, silence, and stillness, with warmth, curiosity, and openness.

Let this be a time focused more on being than on doing. Help us to give ourselves the permission to rest, recover, and be more fully present not to the things and the tasks of our lives, but to the people.

God, let the move towards more silence bring us more compassion and humility.  
Let the move towards more solitude bring us more wisdom and clarity.  
Let the move towards more stillness bring us more peace and tolerance.

God of accompaniment, be with us in this season of preparation and remind us to reflect intentionally on what we are preparing for and for what reasons. Realign us with our spirits and with your truth again and again. Help us to befriend both the light and the dark and to glean the blessings of each as you would have us do so. Teach us how to gracefully and authentically be with one another, with ourselves, and with you, in all of the seasons of our lives. In deep gratitude we pray, Amen.

## Thursday Afternoon Book Group

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Dec. 9th at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. In lieu of our traditional Holiday Luncheon, we will share Christmas thoughts and traditions. Please bring a reading to share along with an ornament or decoration that has a special meaning and share its unique story for you and your family. Questions: Contact Vicki Dunn, [victoria.dunn@q.com](mailto:victoria.dunn@q.com) (952-930-3431)

## The Compassion Collective: Time Change Update

Please note that *The Compassion Collective* has changed their meeting time effective Friday Dec. 17th to meeting from 3:30-4:45pm, on the third Friday of every month as a hybrid meeting offered both in person and virtually. As a reminder, this group is a gathering of Good Samaritans seeking restoration through practicing vulnerability, self-care, and self-compassion. There is no need to register, however, if you would like to be kept proactively informed, please contact Nikki.



## Advent Photo/Video Challenge

As we enter the period of waiting, of darkness contrasting with light, what images speak to you? As we move into Advent, we invite you to stop for a moment to take a picture or video of things that speak to your own sense of waiting, and how you see the light and darkness of this season. You can share images to our Facebook Page, or email them to [christian@good.org](mailto:christian@good.org), with "Advent Images" in the subject line. We may share your images in online worship during this season.



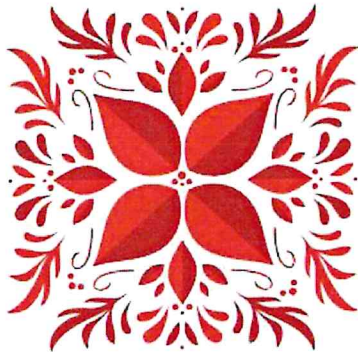
# Children, Youth and Family Ministries



Jan M. Russell (she/her),  
Director of Children, Youth  
and Family Ministries  
[jan@good.org](mailto:jan@good.org)



Jan needs to be out of the office November 29th to December 6th. Confirmation and Sr. High Youth group on December 1st and will move to Zoom in January.



Good Samaritan UMC

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 19th - 10 am  
If you would like to participate  
Rehearsal  
December 18th 2pm to 4pm

This year our pageant is called "Room at the Inn" There are 11 speaking roles, and room for as many shepherds and angels as want to appear! Rehearsal will be on Saturday December 18th from 2 to 4. The pageant will be at Sunday's worship service.

### Important Dates through December

|       |                                  |                  |
|-------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 12-1  | Confirmation                     | <b>POSTPONED</b> |
| 12-1  | Sr High Group                    | <b>POSTPONED</b> |
| 12-15 | Confirmation <b>with Mentors</b> | 6-7 pm           |
| 12-15 | Sr High Youth Group              |                  |
|       | Cooking Class                    | 7:30-8:30 pm     |
| 12-18 | Family Christmas Pageant         |                  |
|       | Rehearsal                        | 2 pm             |
| 12-19 | Family Christmas Pageant         | 10 am            |
| 12-24 | Family Christmas Service         | 4 pm             |

### Good Samaritan hosted Serve MSP Pop Up Service Event

This was a great group effort for the Minnesota Annual Conference. Over 300 boxes for Spirit Lake Ministries were packed on November 6th. Thanks for all your contributions!



### Care Packages for our 18 to 22 year olds

We will be sending care packages to our 18 to 22 year olds the 2nd week of December. These care packages are for ALL of our young adults whether they are in a 4 year college, at trade school or taking a gap year. We love them wherever their path is taking them. Please contact Jan to make sure your young adult is on the list.

### Sr High Youth Group Dec 15th Cooking Class

Mike and I have a launch list for our teenagers. One of the categories is cooking. Our teens need to leave us knowing how to cook their favorite meal, a meal to impress and a meal to sustain. On December 15th Good Sam teens can learn to cook something that may satisfy all three of those categories. We will learn how to cook Salsa Chicken and Cowboy Caviar with Cheryl Engelbretson, Good Sam member and owner of Real Food Well. We need firm numbers to purchase adequate supplies. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4AAEAA2CA31-srhigh>

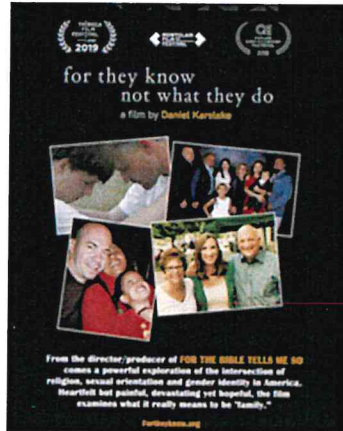




# Missions Team

## The Film is Now Available to You

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, many of us enjoyed viewing the thought-provoking film **"For They Know Not What They Do"**. However, if you missed seeing it at Good Sam, or would just like to view it again and/or share it with others, a DVD copy is available for checking out through our library.



The film takes a close look at the intersection of sexual orientation, gender identity, and religion in America through the actions of four families grappling with unconventional situations. They share their stories of faith, rejection, tragedy, validation and triumph; the film takes us on a journey of understanding what connects us all and gives us the courage to embrace each other through love, reconciliation, and acceptance.

We're thankful that the Network of Minnesota Reconciling Congregations has made it available to us as a Reconciling church since we honor and uphold that *all* are welcome and invited to be a part of every aspect of church life.

## Missions Team's FOCUS FOR 2022

As Good Samaritan has a deep commitment to walking together with our neighbors in need, our Missions Team continues to support the following four categories to direct our energy and our/your funds. All of these organizations will be considered when allocating undesignated Christmas Offerings.

**Home, Hope and Haven** – Good Sam's Help Out of Homelessness Fund - Good Sam Missions Team prayerfully allocates funds to needy families who've been vetted through social workers

**Housing** – Appalachian Service Project (ASP), Beacon (like 66 West), Emma Norton, Hearts & Hammers, Simpson Housing Services, UMCOR

**Food Security** – VEAP, Joyce Uptown Food Shelves, Center for Servant Ministry, Meals on Wheels, Feed My Starving Children

**Education** – ABC (A Better Chance), Baiwalla school in Sierra Leone, Joyce Preschool, Stonebridge School, Wesley Campus Ministries

## PLEASE JOIN US!

**No skills required - just a good heart!**

Contact either Co-Chair: Pat Deckas Becerra at 952-929-1428 or Brian Boysen at 952-937-0624 for more information. Your support is much appreciated!

## Want to Help Promote Affordable Housing?

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD on Wednesday, December 1 - only 30 minutes! On the first of every month, Beacon hosts a **RENT IS DUE** Zoom session at 8:30 am to give us a 15-minute update on their affordable housing efforts. In the last 15 minutes we do their Action Steps, which is contacting our Minnesota politicians. Beacon gives you a script to say over the phone and/or to write in an email regarding a special issue, plus the links to those people, so it is really EASY. Check their website for the link.



# Missions Team

## Joyce Preschool Volunteers Needed



Started in 1966, Joyce became the first bilingual school (Spanish and English) in Minneapolis. Good Sam has volunteered there for decades.

Volunteers are needed to paint their front office and two staff offices.

On Friday, Dec. 3, four volunteers are needed to pack food that goes to many of those families. There are 3 different times: 11:00-1:00, 1:00-3:00, or 11:00-3:00. If you can help, please contact Jane Heimerl at 952-933-6628 or email [jane.heimerl@yahoo.com](mailto:jane.heimerl@yahoo.com).

## Feed My Starving Children

Next Feed My Starving Children packing date is Fri., Dec 10 from 9-11 at the Chanhassen location.

Please let Jane Heimerl know by Wed, Dec. 8, if you can help. Phone 952-933-6628 or email [jane.heimerl@yahoo.com](mailto:jane.heimerl@yahoo.com)



## Staff Parish Relations Committee

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is delighted to announce that we have hired an organist! Mary Beth Berg, who was a guest organist for us on All Saints Sunday, will begin as our permanent organist on November 29.

Mary Beth has extensive experience as a church musician, having most recently served at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lakeville. Prior to that, she was at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie, as the organist and Assistant Director of Music. Her favorite part of church music is to join with others to make music that praises God, including singing hymns together (eventually) and accompanying vocal and instrumental ensembles.



Mary Beth received her BA in Church Music from St. Olaf and an MBA from St. Thomas. She is also a cellist and has served as a children's handbell choir director. She has a special talent for transcribing music, writing in a part or interlude to fit the occasion.

Mary Beth lives in Eden Prairie with her husband, Bob. She has 4 adult children and 4 grandchildren, all in the Twin Cities. She enjoys spending time outdoors biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, and traveling.

On average, Mary Beth will play in worship 3 Sundays per month, as well as special services and events. We look forward to Paolo, Christian, Paul, Brad and Mary Beth all working together for the glory of God.

Please be sure to extend your warm hospitality to Mary Beth. Welcome Mary Beth!



# Trustees

## Maintenance Minute

As part of the maintenance minute, I'd like to announce that we've had some concrete sidewalk replaced at Good Sam within this past year. Last May, we had a portion replaced near the main entrance. Then, just 2 weeks ago we had a large section by the music wing entrance completed. In addition, there was further concrete replacement done by the community room entrance. These sidewalks were badly cracked and became a large trip hazard. Check out the new work the next time you are here!

We are very thankful for Chuck and Lucille Grosch's donations to help fund this project.



**Dan Rogers-Green**  
(he/him)  
Building Engineer  
danrg@good.org  
612-889-4015



# Finance

## Good Sam Financial Update

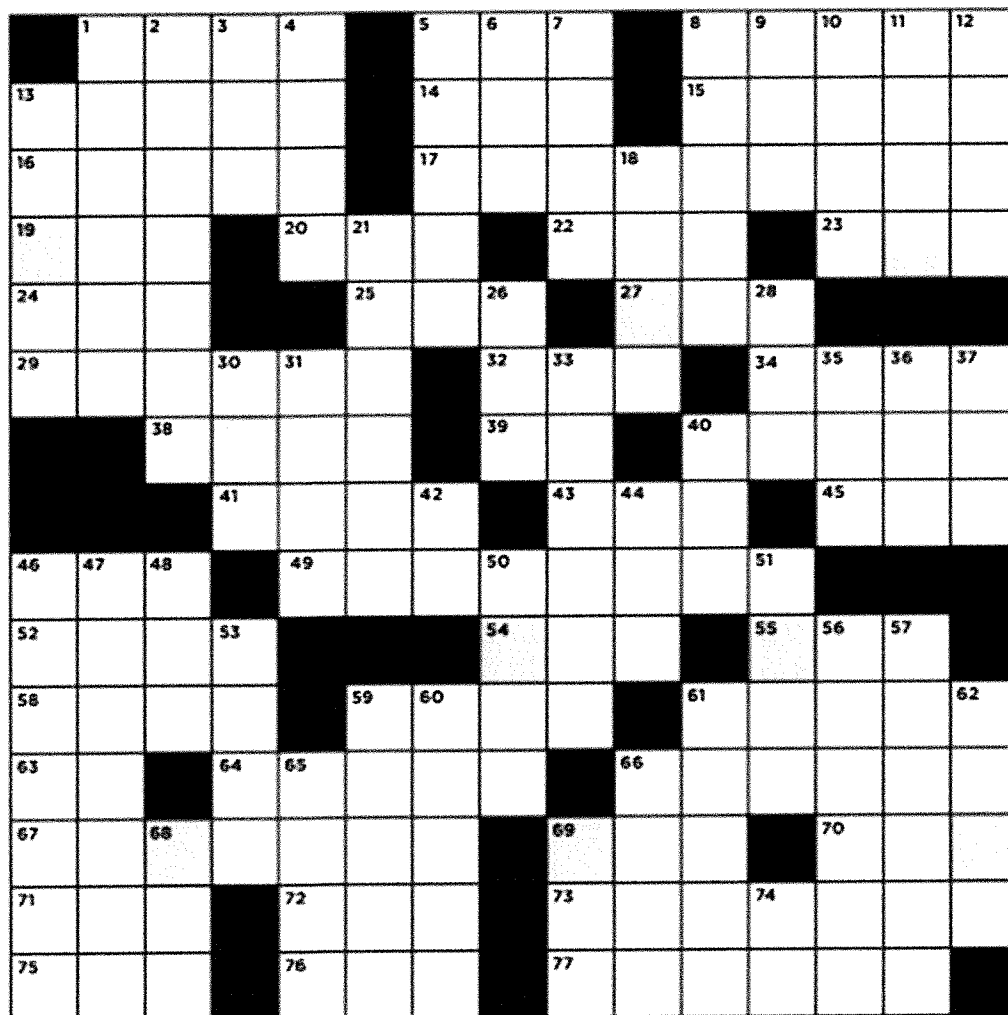
Below is the Financial update through the end of Oct. While we currently have a positive balance, the church budgets for increased giving in November and December. The pledged and unpledged amounts are short of budget. If you are able, please consider giving to Good Samaritan so we can finish the year strong. Although our church remains in a state of transition, we are positive about the future. Your financial support is appreciated - thank you!

**Thank  
you!**

|         | Oct 2021   | YTD       | Budget YTD |
|---------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Income  | \$ 56,315  | \$543,897 | \$614,108  |
| Expense | \$ 63,706  | \$536,579 | \$616,920  |
| Net     | \$ (7,391) | \$ 7,317  | \$ (2,811) |



# Christmas Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- 1 Outdoor house feature
- 5 "Dancing With \_\_\_ Stars"
- 8 Word after great or study (plural)
- 13 Connection to the thing that comes next
- 14 Brexit continent, for short
- 15 Useful Scrabble letters
- 16 Second of the five stages of grief
- 17 Animals where the males get pregnant
- 19 Word after state or no
- 20 Mardi Gras city, informally
- 22 How's it going?, in slang
- 23 Drag queen lingo for doing something great
- 24 With an s, exclusive Italian restaurant
- 25 Blog feed inits.
- 27 \_\_\_ Christmas, I gave you my heart
- 29 "That's right!"
- 32 Pompous idiot
- 34 Leave (out)
- 38 Foal : horse :: cria : \_\_\_
- 39 Govt. city
- 40 AOL communication
- 41 Word after north or south

- 43 \_\_\_ doll, old-timey Christmas present
- 45 What you post on Insta
- 46 \_\_\_-state area
- 49 Things you've collected
- 52 *Hamilton* songs
- 54 CA cops
- 55 Produced a 40-down
- 58 Door-to-door makeup giant
- 59 Sealed document
- 61 Non-alcoholic New Years Eve drink
- 63 Monty Python Knights of \_\_\_
- 64 He's known for his belt
- 66 Teeny tiny
- 67 Visitors' sleeping arrangements
- 69 Lyrics referenced in this puzzle
- 70 Character to be played by Beyonce in 2019
- 71 What the <3 emoji might be used to convey, in txts
- 72 College students might end up with this
- 73 Carrot alternative
- 75 It is fancy?
- 76 "\_\_\_ Grinch Who Stole Christmas"
- 77 One of four every year

## DOWN

- 1 First of the five stages of grief
- 2 Chinese food staple
- 3 Tool for pool
- 4 Adjust your typography
- 5 Futuristic cars
- 6 Cranberry or emerald, e.g.
- 7 Historical time frames
- 8 Shoot some \_\_\_
- 9 Bubble wrap content
- 10 Lad's opposite
- 11 Futurama pilot
- 12 YouTube CEO's nickname, possibly (alt. spelling)
- 13 Surfin' \_\_\_\_, Beach Boys hit
- 18 Grass skirt dances
- 21 Harvard \_\_\_\_, Rory Gilmore's college decision
- 26 Winter condition with an appropriate acronym
- 28 Cruise or Riddle
- 30 Word before happy or stick
- 31 Run \_\_\_
- 33 Go off-\_\_\_ (improvise)
- 35 What's often in the front cover of fantasy books
- 36 Jr.'s son
- 37 Say Yes to the Dress channel
- 40 It's often broken in the morning
- 42 B+ on your O.W.L.s
- 44 Conjunction junction subject
- 46 Subway, streetcar, bus, etc.
- 47 Dish to order at 24-across
- 48 Tech. start-up's big event
- 50 Word before Jane or White T's
- 51 What dragons are at the end of fairy tales
- 53 One looking down their nose
- 56 "I'm not sure," in lazy teenager speak
- 57 Hold in custody
- 59 4A-4E, in shoes
- 60 Famous riveter
- 61 "1, 2 Step" singer
- 62 Do 69-down again
- 65 No \_\_\_ for the wicked
- 66 Female's counterpart, if you made a typo
- 68 Elves, in poetry
- 69 Units during running or swimming practice
- 74 Snake's warning

**Note: shaded squares  
contain two letters  
in the word.**



## Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettias are said to symbolize good cheer and success while bringing wishes of laughter and celebration. Order a poinsettia for display in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one. They will arrive December 19 and will adorn the Sanctuary through Christmas Eve. All the plants will be 8" red or white double poinsettias. The cost is \$20.00 each (payable to GSUMC; note "Christmas Flowers" on memo line.) Deadline for orders to be in the office is Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

**Fill out this order form and put it in the offering plate or bring to church office by December 7.**

YOUR NAME (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_



**Check as appropriate:**

Red ☐

White ☐

In Memory of ☐ loved one's name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of ☐ loved one's name: \_\_\_\_\_

*You may pick up your plant(s) after the 9:00 pm service on Christmas Eve or during the following week. Thank you.*

\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate my plant to a homebound member.

## Answer Key for the Christmas Crossword Puzzle



An Icelandic tradition called Jolabokaflói exists, where books are exchanged as Christmas Eve presents, and the rest of the night is spent cozying up with family or friends and reading well into the night.





Good Samaritan United Methodist Church  
5730 Grove Street  
Edina, MN 55436  
good.org

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Twin Cities, MN  
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## OUR VISION

INSPIRING  
Joyful Faith

BUILDING  
a Loving  
Community

SERVING  
Neighbors Near  
and Far

## WORSHIP AT GOOD SAMARITAN

|                                         |                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday Service</b>                   | 10am (In-Person and Online)                                                                                                     |
| <b>Nursery</b>                          | Infants - Age 3 (by reservation)                                                                                                |
| <b>Children and Youth Sunday School</b> | Postponed at present due to pandemic. As vaccines take full effect and families are ready to return, Sunday School will resume. |

## GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE

|                        |                                                                                                      |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mon-Thurs Phone</b> | 9am - 4pm<br>(952) 929-0049<br>(Note: phones are generally staffed Tuesday & Wednesday from 9am-1pm) |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|