**The Mary Wattenford Scholarship Application--2024**

 The Mary Wattenford Scholarship was established in 2003 as the Good Shepherd Continuing Education Scholarship.  It was established as a service-based scholarship to award the youth of Good Shepherd for their acts of service to the church, community, and most of all to God.  Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who plan to go on to college or some other form of higher education.  First-year college students who were not previously awarded this scholarship and are planning to continue their higher education are also eligible to apply.  The scholarship fund was named to honor Mary Wattenford, a dear member of Good Shepherd Church who passed away in July 2004.  Applicants are judged on their responses to the questions asked below, their letters of recommendation, and their interviews with the Scholarship Selection Committee.  The scholarship committee is looking for persons with sound Christian character who practice discipleship in daily life and are able to articulate their faith to others.

Please read these guidelines for eligibility.  The applicant must be:

* a 2024 graduating high school senior
* or a first-year college student who was not previously awarded this scholarship and is planning to continue their higher education
* an active participant at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
* ***actively*** involved in some form of ministry for at least one year prior to making application for this award.

To apply, please submit the following required materials **digitally** in one complete application package:

1. **The attached cover sheet that includes your complete name, mailing address, e-mail address, high school or institution of higher learning you are currently attending, telephone number(s), and the year you were confirmed or became a member of Good Shepherd UMC (if applicable), and your choice of interview dates.**
2. **A separate essay which addresses the following questions:**
3. How have you actively participated at Good Shepherd and how long you have been in each activity?
4. How has your participation in the ministries of GSUMC helped you grow as a disciple of Christ?
5. What gifts has God given you and how do you use them, either through the church or in other areas?
6. Write about a personal situation or time when you had to rely on your faith in God.
7. What are your education and career goals?
8. What is your favorite Bible story or verse and why?
9. **Three letters of reference from people who know you, your character, or your practice of Christian discipleship.**  One reference must be from a current or former teacher and one must be from a member of Good Shepherd UMC.  The third reference can be from a coach, scout leader, co-worker, friend, classmate, or neighbor.
10. ***In addition to submitting this application, you will be asked to meet with the Scholarship Selection Committee for an interview which will last approximately 20 minutes.***

**Please email your application and scanned letters of reference to Lucy Snell,****ljsnell@comcast.net****no later than Wednesday, April 17, 2024.  Please clearly label as Mary Wattenford Scholarship Application.  Only complete applications will be considered.**