

GOOD SHEPHERD

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

3940 Mountain Road Slatington, PA 18080
610/767-9680

www.GoodShepherdSlatedale.org

Good Shepherd-Faithfully serving Compassionately accepting-Transforming together

Mountain Reflections ~ August 2020

Dear Family and Friends of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ ~ I recently attended the installation of a fellow authorized minister and enjoyed the celebration of fellow Christians as they covenanted with their new minister in carrying out the ministry of Jesus Christ. It reminded me that we are representatives of our community and representatives to one another and to the world.

During such difficult times that this pandemic has caused, we as a nation seem more divided over the best way to combat COVID-19, as well as the safest ways to meet face-to-face in public places such as church, schools, restaurants, or the market.

This division seems like a disconnect from the teachings of Christ. I reference his command to “love one another,” just as Christ loves us. It is difficult at best, especially when we threaten one another and deride others’ opinions as less than someone else’s.

We can all take comfort in knowing Christ’s forgiveness and try to live out the freedom of working side-by-side with one another in the ways of Christ. We are called to feed the hungry, visit the lonely, heal the sick, comfort the afflicted, and proclaim good news to the captives that God’s presence is with us all even in the midst of great suffering and oppression.

We are freed from the chains of this world when we take our citizenship in the world-to-come seriously and to heart. Through the Holy Spirit, which strengthens us to be the body of Christ, the Church, we are called to share freely the love and forgiveness and acceptance of all God’s creations.

Notwithstanding the challenges of the pandemic, and despite listening to hate-filled speeches that continually stream from the news channels and social media, we can choose to follow the hope of Christ by sharing the gifts of the Spirit and the truth of our faith with others. Jesus calls us to have an intimate and loving relationship with our neighbors – all our neighbors.

We may struggle with the idea of loving all of our neighbors, but that is what God is calling us to do in following Christ. May we be ever faithful in loving and forgiving one another as we would want to be loved and forgiven by others. This is the Christ-like Way.

In the humble obedience of our Lord ~ Pastor James

Faith Formation Classes: 9:00am

Sunday Services: 10:00am

AUGUST LECTIONARY

August 2, 2020	9th Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrew Lesson	Genesis 32:22-31
Epistle:	Romans 9:1-5
Gospel Lesson:	Matthew 14:13-21
Meditation	<i>Face to Face</i>
August 9, 2020	10th Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrew Lesson	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Epistle:	Romans 10:5-15
Gospel Lesson:	Matthew 14:22-33
Meditation	<i>Dreaming Big</i>
August 16, 2020	11th Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrew Lesson	Genesis 45:1-15
Epistle:	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Gospel Lesson:	Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
Meditation	<i>Subversive Forgiveness</i>
August 23, 2020	12th Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrew Lesson	Exodus 1:8-2:10
Epistle:	Romans 12:1-8
Gospel Lesson:	Matthew 16:13-20
Meditation	<i>Cunning, Compassion, and Courage</i>
August 30, 2020	13th Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrew Lesson	Exodus 3:1-15
Epistle:	Romans 12:9-21
Gospel Lesson:	Matthew 16:21-28
Meditation	<i>Holy and Humble Curiosity</i>

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

World Wide Communion ~ October 4

For our parishioners with food sensitivities our communion bread is now gluten free.



Altar Flowers and Bulletins

Given In The Honor And Glory Of God

If you had signed up to receive flowers or bulletins during our pause on worship services you need not pay, as flowers are unavailable. We continue to include your request in the newsletters.

Please contact Susan in the office if you wish to sponsor bulletin or flowers for September. Her hours are Tuesdays-Thursday from 10-3.

Church Office: 610-767-9680

or

secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org

Virtual Worship News

Virtual Worship Group is part of the Worship Team bringing the online message to those connected via the internet producing Sunday worship services, Tuesday and Thursday Connections, and Children's Time with Pastor James on Wednesdays. This allows us to continue our services for both worship and faith formation. To view these video services, go to our website where you will find 'online worship.' Click on the play key in the video. SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVYHuSsU56ddNI3fhpeqQfg>

You can also find the Sunday worships posted on the Facebook page of the Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Consistory News:

We are hoping to have some form of Worship on site on September 13th.

Keeping in mind we will be following CDC guidelines.

We will still have our services available on our YouTube channel for those most vulnerable so they are able to be included.





Our Thoughts &
Prayers
are with...



Homebound Members

Mary Bilheimer	Sandra Endres	Kathryn Smith
Kay Costenbader	Dolores Gruber	Susan "Tillie" Waller

**Those Serving Our Country In the Armed Services
Or with The Department of Defense:**

Colby Adams	Rebecca McMichael	Jacqueline Tracy
Elijah Colon	Cory Musser	Nicholas Sander
Kira (Kern) Kelsey	David Neff	Benjamin Schaffer
Michael Kelsey	Janel Tracy	

All that serve ~ Please do let us know if you have someone serving

Members:

Marge Bass	Janet German
Joe Conway	Jeff Hewitt

Family & Friends

Darlene Bean	Mary Alice Snyder
Kristin Fromal	Steve Vulcheff

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Sanit Anuwong	Hilda Easterday	William Kuntzman
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ALL THOSE EFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS

God is watching over you...

I know because I *asked* God to!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug 1	Hazel Emily Heffernan	Aug 17	Susan Patrick
Aug 1	Jackson Koneschusky	Aug 18	David Blöse
Aug 1	Jakob Endreszl	Aug 18	Sean Harding
Aug 4	Alexandra Neff	Aug 18	Denise Koons
Aug 8	Kelsey Knittle	Aug 18	Julian Cancel
Aug 8	Edgar Smith	Aug 19	Holly Kuneck
Aug 8	Craig Solt	Aug 20	Tanner Rice
Aug 9	Lester Bass	Aug 21	Debbie Gruber
Aug 9	Noah Griffith	Aug 21	James Robison
Aug 9	Alice Kegel	Aug 24	Judy Bollinger
Aug 9	Michael Lilly	Aug 25	Suzanne Blöse
Aug 10	Cindy Evans	Aug 25	Blaine Reitz
Aug 10	Angela Lopez	Aug 26	Stephanie Fister
Aug 10	Robert White	Aug 26	Barbara Sensinger
Aug 11	Jocelyn Rodrigues	Aug 27	Gary Bellesfield
Aug 12	Arthur Kuntz	Aug 28	Keyla Saez
Aug 15	Larry Allen	Aug 29	Brett German
Aug 16	David Kuremsky	Aug 29	Karl Heffelfinger
Aug 16	Brent Meinhard	Aug 29	Carla Herstich
Aug 16	Shirley Phillips	Aug 29	Taylor Rex
Aug 16	Jennifer Sanders	Aug 29	David Williams
Aug 16	Seth White	Aug 30	Cameron Shields
Aug 17	Amy Knittle	Aug 31	Brody Ritter

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

2-Aug	Duane & Becky (Kaul) Haas
2-Aug	Craig & Sheri (Young) Fallon
3-Aug	Keith & Sally (Best) Haas
3-Aug	Richard & Marilyn (Neff) Smith
5-Aug	Todd & Julie (Coffin) Solt
11-Aug	Anthony & Susan (Bartholomew) Patrick
15-Aug	Bryan & Amy (Heffelfinger) Horninger
16-Aug	Sean & Brandi (DeLong) Palmer
17-Aug	Robert & Cynthia (Sowden) Schramel
18-Aug	David & Carol (Kroboth) Blöse
19-Aug	Barry & Marilyn (Markell) Rice
27-Aug	Conrad & Romaine (Smith) Biege
28-Aug	Nathan & Tabitha (Bartholomew) Serfass

Little Shepherd's Preschool

Register Now for the 2020-2021 school year.

We offer classes for both three and four year-old children. Little Shepherd's Preschool is a place where young children can learn, play, discover, explore, make friends, and have fun! For more info, call Karen Weaver @ 610-657-5133



School shopping will start soon for many.

For younger children, do not buy shoes that lace up. For safety, teachers and staff will not want to touch the laces but also, you don't want your child playing with the laces that have touched everything, including the bathroom floor.

Buy shoes with no laces.



Back to School Prayer

Lord, we praise You for who You are.

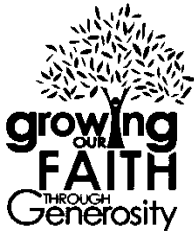
We give You thanks and we pray for knowledge and understanding for teachers, pupils and parents.

We pray that you will be with our teachers and pupils as they start a new school year.

We pray that you be with the pupils as they seek the understanding of their studies.

Lord we also pray for parents, that they will support pupils by building a closer working relationship with teachers and staff.

This we ask in Jesus Name, AMEN.



Gratitude Reminder - A Little or A Lot

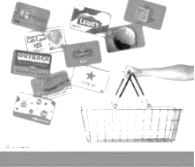
*If you use gratitude a little,
your life will change a little.
If you use gratitude a lot every day,
your life will change a lot.*

An attitude of being grateful leads to effective actions and effective actions can lead you to happiness and success. If you're focused on the positive things in your life, it's a lot easier to experience happiness. Ask yourself, What experiences in my life can I be grateful for? What happened lately that makes me feel thankful? What opportunities do I have today? What have the significant others in my life done that I am grateful for?

Scrip Summary

Due to the current stay-at-home order that is prohibiting the safe collection and distribution of scrip orders, we will resume our regular scrip program when we return to our normal worship schedule.

Scrip is Fundraising
While You Shop!™



Financial Update

DATE	ENVELOPES	E-GIVING
June 21st	1,500.00	437.08
June 28th	1,750.60	420.91
July 5th	2,720.00	414.46
July 12th	1,393.00	675.91
July 19th	675.00	458.58

Giving - Good Stewardship Made Easy

<https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>

We are invited to share our gifts so we might fulfill our call to walk with our sisters and brothers proclaiming God's love, forgiveness, and acceptance for everyone. For those with pre-addressed Church Envelopes, place a stamp on it with your gift and mail. Or, call the Church and someone from the Consistory would pick the offering. Also please consider electronic giving using the link marked, "Give Online. Thank you for prayerfully considering what you can afford.

Staying in Touch

www.GoodShepherdSlatedale.org

And also "Like" us on:

www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington

Need to add someone to prayer chain:

requestprayers@ptd.net

Contact Susan Layland

secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org

CONTACTING PASTOR JAMES

Church Office: 610-767-9680

Mobile Phone: 484-571-6083

Email: jamdarrob@gmail.com

AUGUST WORSHIP LEADERS

Worship leaders will be reminded when, once again, we can worship in the church.

WALKING WITH GOD



*Sometimes I walk in the shadow,
Sometimes in sunlight clear;
But whether in gloom or brightness
The Lord is very near.
Sometimes I walk in the valley,
Sometimes on the mountain crest,
But whether on low or high land,
The Lord is manifest.
Sometimes I walk in the desert,
Sometimes in waters cold,
But whether by sands or streamlets
The Lord doth me enfold.
Sometimes I walk in green pastures,
Sometimes on barren land;
But whether in peace or danger
The Lord holds fast my hand.*

Anonymous

In Service to the Lord



Financial Peace University – Dave Ramsey August 5th and 12th

For class membership, here is the unique class site with dates, times, location, and lesson information:
fpu.com/1117598

Given the current state of social distancing, Ramsey Solutions has options for virtual format. We are meeting VIA Zoom.

Instructor: Monica Griffith

Youth Fellowship and FLAT PJ

The Youth Fellowship are taking FLAT PJ, (*Pastor James*) on a journey and are recording it by taking a Selfie of themselves and Flat PJ at a place where they feel closest to God and the sacred.

Send them to Ms. Deb to post on FaceBook.

If you too would like to journey with FLAT PJ print out your copy and take him along. He can be found on face books Good Shepherd UCC Slatington Newsletter / Messages site : (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/385277968560389/>) or email Ms. Deb at gsucc@ptd.net to get one emailed to you.



Children's Time with Pastor James

Pastor James will continue his Wednesday's connections with the Youth through the end of September

Also those that would like to participate in the Youth Group Zoom twice a month on Sunday Afternoon, please let Pastor James know so he can send you the link to join the fun!

For calendar

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Faith and Mission

For August is Bethany Children

If you would like to participate in our offering, please contact Susan in the office with the name of a loved one you would like to honor or remember, along with your name. Then, place a donation in a "Faith & Mission" envelope and put it in the Faith & Mission box, or email it to secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org.

www.bethanyhome.org

The mission of Bethany Children's Home is to continue a Christian ministry, begun in 1863, to serve children and families within our care. Using the Sanctuary Model, we strive to provide a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid our residents in their self-understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter, healthier future



Our Mission Team hopes you will continue to collect items to donate to Backpack Buddies when we return to gathering for worship.



We also look forward to resuming our VALOR monthly dinners.

As soon as we are able and invited.

Keep on the lookout for updates. And thank you for your generosity to those in need of knowing and feeling the presence of God.

FYI: At this time VALOR is not accepting clothing donations.

Prayer for Mission and Service

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

