



## GOOD SHEPHERD

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

3940 Mountain Road Slatington, PA 18080

610/767-9680

[www.GoodShepherdSlatedale.org](http://www.GoodShepherdSlatedale.org)

**Good Shepherd~Faithfully serving~Compassionately accepting~Transforming together**

# Mountain Reflections ~ December 2020

Dear Family and Friends of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ ~

As we enter Advent this year to prepare for Christmas, we are called to examine how we come to this gift God has given us in the Christ Child. The events of Mary and Joseph's life was in turmoil. Pregnant and unmarried being forced to travel a distance to be enrolled for tax purposes and sensing judgement from others. All this in a life changing moment that would make sense of things after the fact. The birth of not only a son, but the Messiah, God's anointed.

Seems our lives are in turmoil. Virtual learning and the loss of community, businesses being forced to close during a pandemic creating financial hardships, people debating the outcome of a presidential election and how the government is handling an unprecedented health crisis, not sure if we will be able to gather for worship and possibly even with family as we've done in the past. We wonder if we will be able to return to normal.

I believe the answer is the same as it was for Mary and Joseph. This is going to be a new normal and we have the opportunity to take this time to examine how we receive Christ into our hearts this year. How we can show love and respect to others by actually staying home or wearing masks and social distancing. We have been given a gift to view things happening around us with Christ-like glasses so we might offer others and ourselves the peace that Christmas intended. Not a peace we may imagine, but a peace that allows us to live a better way ~ the WAY of Christ.

I hope and pray for the health and safety of all of you, not only here at Good Shepherd, but around the world. I also pray that we might continue to join with others to be part of God's peace here on earth.

Tidings of good cheer, Pastor James

**Faith Formation Classes: 9:00am**

**Sunday Services: 10:00am**

**DECEMBER LECTONARY**

**Dec 6**

Hebrew Lesson

Epistle:

Gospel Lesson:

Meditation

**Advent 2**

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

*Remind, Reveal, Reinforce*

**Dec 13**

Hebrew Lesson

Epistle:

Gospel Lesson:

Meditation

**Advent 3**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 Thessal1Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

*Refocus, Restore, Rejoice*

**Dec 20**

Hebrew Lesson

Epistle:

Gospel Lesson:

Meditation

**Advent 4**

2 Samuel 7:11, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

*Reflect, Resist, Re-imagine*

**Dec 27**

Hebrew Lesson

Epistle:

Gospel Lesson:

Meditation

**Christmas 1**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

*Reaffirm, Redeem, Rename*

**COMMUNION SCHEDULE**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

**3pm/5pm/7pm/11pm**



**Following CDC guidelines, please call the office and “reserve” your preferred time and number attending so we can hold seat(s) for you. 610/767-9680 or email Susan: [secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org](mailto:secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org)**

Communion will be celebrated using sealed elements of bread and grape juice. If you wish to stay in your vehicle simply respond at the appropriate time to receive communion, turning on your 4-way flashers and an usher with a mask and gloves will bring you the pre-packaged elements. This offers those who wish to position their vehicles in the parking lot and participate in the service by listening to our FM Station 88.5.

## **Altar Flowers and Bulletins**

### **Given In The Honor And Glory Of God**

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

Church Office: 610-767-9680 / [secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org](mailto:secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org)

## **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 thru Facebook Live Streaming  
This allows us to continue our services for those at church and those at home.

Our Facebook page:

**<https://www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington>**

SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube channel.

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

We are looking for people who would like to be part of our Worship Team. If interested please respond calling the Church office, phone number (610-767-9680) and press 1 for Pastor James. If leaving a message please give area of interest in the team description below.

The Worship Team, coordinated by Pastor James, concentrates on the hour each week devoted to the worship of God as a community of faith. Key areas needing volunteers include: Altar Guild – primarily focused on flowers for Sunday mornings; AV Technicians – primarily focused on creating power point screens prior to Sunday morning and operating projector during service on Sunday morning; Esthetics – primarily focused on decorating the sanctuary and narthex to highlight the season such as autumn, Christmas, Lent; Worship Leaders – those interested in serving Sunday mornings as Greeters, Acolytes, Lectors, and/or Ushers); and those interested in singing in the Chancel Choir or performing with the Bell Choir.

Announcing coming soon our **NEW Website:**

**<https://www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org>**



Looking for someone to take on the role of  
Website Administrator. See Dennis Silfies



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:**

Frank Johnson	Roxy Schraden
Ann Johnson	

**Family & Friends**

Sandie Ahner	Rick Keller	Donna Smith
Dwayne Kern	Scott Kuntzer	Donna Smith
Albert Helmer	Mark Schnell	Kevin Young
Joyce Helmer	Mason Post	

**For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered**

**Eternal Life:**

Donald Cain	Paul Hewitt	LaRue Roth
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**Those in higher education:** Jenna Blynn, Toby Sander and Caden Shields, studying at LCCC; Angie Lopez, studying at Widener University; Matthew Shields, studying at Moravian College; Calista Smoyer, studying at West Virginia University; Jacob Taylor, studying at Drexel University; Nathan Taylor, studying at Penn State; and Dylan Coffin, studying at Susquehanna University.

*God* is watching over you...

I know because I *asked* God to





## Do you know someone who has no Computer or no Technology?

but they still would like the Newsletter and  
weekly Bulletin?

Give us their name, and address to make sure  
we have it, and we will send them a copy of  
the monthly newsletter.

Contact Susan at the office: 610-767-9680 or email her at:

[secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org](mailto:secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org)



## Interested in joining the Pray Chain?

New group is forming for January.  
Let us know if you wish to be contacted  
when someone is in need of prayer and  
you would like to participate.

You can be notified by phone or by email or both, your choice!

Please let us know by contacting Pastor James, Susan in the office;  
Deb Craig or Eileen Andrews [gsucc@ptd.net](mailto:gsucc@ptd.net)

The Northern Lehigh Elementary Schools will be sending home  
backpacks every Friday filled with  
supplies for students in need.

\* Some items sent home on a  
monthly need.



If you wish to participate in filling those needs, a bin is located near  
the Kitchenette in the Narthex

## Faith Formation Classes

12/06 Teacher: Pam Puskas	12/20 Teacher: Susie Blose
Crafters: Deb Craig	Crafter: Beth Kutzner
12/13 Teacher: Pageant	12/27 Teacher: Monica Griffith
Crafter: Stacy Cunningham	Crafter: Stacy Cunningham

## Faith and Mission

For December is AIDs Awareness

If you would like to participate in our offering, please sign the Faith & Mission Calendar in the narthex with the name of a loved one you would like to honor or remember, along with your name, and then place a donation in a "Faith & Mission" envelope and put it in the Faith & Mission box or offering plate.

[www.aids.org](http://www.aids.org)

The mission of AIDS.ORG is to help prevent HIV infections and to improve the lives of those affected by HIV and AIDS by providing education and facilitating the free and open exchange of knowledge at an easy-to-find centralized website.



We will be delivering our VALOR monthly dinners the last Sunday of the month.

At this time, we will not be joining them for the meal until it is safe for us all.

Donations for the meals are appreciated and they thank you for your generosity.

FYI: At this time VALOR is accepting clothing donations of: jeans, sweatshirts, sweat pants, sneakers, and boots

## Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> Mission Time Lines



Corn for the Christmas meals for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.



The Mitten Tree will be located in the Narthex to collect new mittens, hats, and scarves to be given to the homeless.



Blanket Drive There will be a box located in the Narthex to collect "NEW" blankets for the homeless.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec 1	Ares Davis	Dec 18	Katie Koneschusky
Dec 2	Sandra White	Dec 18	Terri Miller
Dec 3	Allen Lichtenwalner	Dec 18	Robert Schramel Sr.
Dec 3	Sallie Solt	Dec 18	Kennedy DeAngelo
Dec 6	Stephanie Reimert	Dec 20	Robert Shelly
Dec 8	Dorothy Arnold	Dec 21	Evan Horninger
Dec 8	Carol Oswald	Dec 21	Ashley White
Dec 8	Katie Davis	Dec 21	John Zellner
Dec 9	Marie Bachman	Dec 21	Tim Storm
Dec 9	Wesley Loch	Dec 23	Aricka Creyer
Dec 9	Mason Meinhart	Dec 23	Asa Blynn
Dec 9	Amber Orendach	Dec 24	Carol Krum
Dec 9	Joshua Richardson	Dec 25	“JESUS”
Dec 9	Calista Smoyer	Dec 25	Larry Lacy Sr.
Dec 9	Shirley Blynn	Dec 25	Donovan White
Dec 10	Dawn Beblavy	Dec 25	Joshua Meckes
Dec 10	Eli Heilman	Dec 26	Michael Bowers
Dec 10	Kevin Heilman	Dec 26	Rae Anne Creyer
Dec 13	Marilyn Smith	Dec 27	Dave Neff, Jr.
Dec 14	Evelyn Haas	Dec 27	Thomas Craig
Dec 14	Tyler Bartholomew	Dec 28	Michael Kern
Dec 15	Keith Horn	Dec 30	Marcus Kremposky
Dec 16	Sally Haas	Dec 31	Michael Stafiniak



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 1	Kevin & Jenelle (Frohnheiser) Heilman
Dec 3	Allen & Robin (Zancofsky) Lichtenwalner
Dec 10	Mathew & Amber (Miller) Snyder
Dec 13	Greg & Tami (Diefenderfer) Schuck
Dec 19	Frank & Ann (Reese) Johnson
Dec 27	Arthur & Lisa (Smith) Kuntz

## Faith Formation

Remember you can stop by and pick up Lessons for home students.

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We are looking for a few people to help with our "Faith Formation" services at our Sunday time of 9am.

Hopefully, if you have teenagers they can help.

Tech savvy teens can videotape openings and online sessions to post for children and youth who cannot attend each week but would like to continue growing their faith.

Projects that are being planned for children and youth will also be recorded and can be completed at home.

Teens and young adults will fit this role perfectly.

Volunteers do not need to be present every Sunday.  
Flexible schedules can be met.

For those away at school: Please let us know where you are studying, what you are studying and where we can send you mail.

We want to keep you in prayer and our community.

You can send the information to Susan  
at [secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org](mailto:secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org)



## Worship in your Car



We now have an FM Transmitter to transmit our services over FM 88.5 which allows anyone to receive it on the radio in their vehicle.

Park along the front of the parking lot for best reception.

We also have FM receivers, which will be given to anyone who has trouble hearing the service, to use indoors during the service.

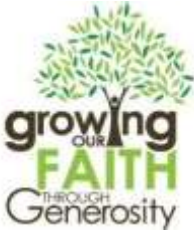
## NOVEMBER LOTTERY WINNER IS:

Congratulations Cheryl Brensinger

Thank you for your Support

See Karen Smith for next Lottery Tickets





## 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.*

“Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude.” – Denis Waitley

### Scrip Summary

#### SCRIP Summary November 2020

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Participants                | 19                           |
| Cards Ordered               | 194                          |
| Profit                      | \$407.26                     |
| Profit Year-To-Date         | \$664.11                     |
| Profit Program-To-Date      | \$38,046.15                  |
| Next month's orders are due | <b>Sunday, December 6th</b>  |
| and will be delivered on    | <b>Sunday, December 17th</b> |



### Financial Update

| DATE          | ENVELOPES | E-GIVING | TOTAL    |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| October 25th  | 2,109.00  | 667.95   | 2,776.95 |
| November 1st  | 1,769.00  | 218.83   | 1,987.83 |
| November 8th  | 3,747.00  | 342.95   | 4,089.95 |
| November 15th | 1,770.00  | 623.83   | 2,393.83 |

 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.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org](http://www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org)

And also "Like" us on:

[www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington](https://www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington)

Need to add someone to prayer chain:

[requestprayers@ptd.net](mailto:requestprayers@ptd.net)

Contact Susan Layland

[secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org](mailto:secretary@goodshepherdslatedale.org)

### CONTACTING PASTOR JAMES

**Church Office:** 610-767-9680

**Mobile Phone:** 484-571-6083

**Email:** [jamdarrob@gmail.com](mailto:jamdarrob@gmail.com)

### DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

*Volunteers are being asked to help with worship.  
See Pastor James to assist.*

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#### We are still in need of Worship Leaders for 2021

- † Acolytes
- † Ushers
- † Greeters
- † Lay Readers
- † AV Operators
- † Altar Guild Attendants
- † Office Assistants



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**In Service to the Lord**