



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 ~ January 2021

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

One of the Elders shared this message with me and I thought how appropriate to begin the new year with these words of wisdom.

The piece is titled Farmer's Grace Before Breakfast.

A pastor attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast: "Lord, I hate buttermilk," the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour." The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today. Stay strong my friends, because our life is being mixed with lots of things that we don't care for.....relax and wait until the mixing is done.

With patience, Pastor James



JANUARY LECTIONARY

Jan 3

Hebrew Lesson

Epistle:

Gospel Lesson:

Meditation

Christmas 2

Jeremiah 31:7–14

Ephesians 1:3–14

John 1:(1–9), 10–18

Recognize, Re-engage, Respond

Jan 10

Hebrew Lesson

Epistle:

Gospel Lesson:

Meditation

Baptism of Christ

Genesis 1:1–5

Acts 19:1–7

Mark 1:4–11

Coming through the Waters

Jan 17

Hebrew Lesson

Epistle:

Gospel Lesson:

Meditation

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20)

1 Corinthians 6:12–20

John 1:43–51

Coming through the Night

Jan 24

Hebrew Lesson

Epistle:

Gospel Lesson:

Meditation

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

1 Corinthians 7:29–31

Mark 1:14–20

Coming through the Call

Jan 31

Hebrew Lesson

Epistle:

Gospel Lesson:

Meditation

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Mark 1:21–28

Coming through the Holy Places

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

January 10th Epiphany Communion

We are Following CDC guidelines

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. Her hours are Tuesdays-Thursday from 10-3

Please call before stopping into the office.

Church Office: 610-767-9680 / 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; Office Assistance - volunteers to help with general office duties and filing, 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:

Eileen Andrews	Lisa Gilly	Mason Post
Paige Bachman	Jonathan Griffith	Jasmine Rodrigues
Madeline Balliet	Frank Johnson	Brinda Zelinsky
Debbie DeLong	Sandy Keller	

Family & Friends

Jason Cancel	Jason Flyte	Tyler Sherman
Laurie Donohoo	Howard Ham	Richard Thomas
Lucy Gross	Tara Rice	George Sherman
Carson Flyte	Adam Neff	Kathy Weiss
Debbie Flyte	Lani Sherman	Matthew Wheeler

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Hannah Buck	Joyce Helmer	Willy Mazepa
Marie Detrick	Paul Henninger	Faye Ann Reiner
Albert Helmer	Kenny Hummel	

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; Dylan Coffin, studying at Susquehanna University and Paige Bachman who graduated from Kutztown University

God is watching over you...

I know because I asked God to



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan 4	Melba Bisko	Jan 18	Mackenzi Palmer
Jan 6	Katrina Knittle	Jan 18	Clinton Haas
Jan 7	Kevin Smith	Jan 18	Melissa Castillo
Jan 9	Connie Ferber	Jan 19	Sandra Keller
Jan 10	Matthew Hewitt	Jan 20	Alice Christman
Jan 11	Ashleigh	Jan 22	Duane Haas
Jan 12	Marilyn Sowden	Jan 22	Debbie Silfies
Jan 13	“Butch” Biegly	Jan 23	Chase Slanina
Jan 14	Mark Sander	Jan 25	Tammy Schaeffer
Jan 15	Jonathan Griffith	Jan 25	Tami Schuck
Jan 15	Bonita Hewitt	Jan 26	Eileen Andrews
Jan 16	James George	Jan 26	Barbara J. Neff
Jan 16	Violet Hantz	Jan 29	Michelle Allen
Jan 17	Carol Blose	Jan 31	Vivian Neff
Jan 17	Monica Griffith		

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 10	Dennis & Dale Ann (Zeigenfuss) Derr
Jan 29	Lester & Margarita (Suarez) Bass

Our New Youth Group Officers



Treasurer: Julian Cancel
President: Cameron Shields
Vice President: Breonna Richardson
Secretary: Katy Griffith

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 in 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.

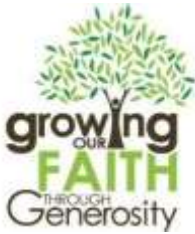
Park along the front of the parking lot for best reception.

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

## DECEMBER LOTTERY WINNER IS:

Congratulations Marilyn Sowden  
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.*

### Scrip Summary

#### SCRIP Summary      December 2020

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Participants           | 25          |
| Cards Ordered          | 328         |
| Profit                 | \$520.40    |
| Profit Year-To-Date    | \$1,591.77  |
| Profit Program-To-Date | \$38,566.55 |

Scrip is Fundraising  
While You Shop!™



Next month's orders are due **Sunday, January 10th**  
and will be delivered on **Sunday, January 17th**

THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR SUPPORT  
DURING THE YEAR! ~ Monica Griffith

### Financial Update

| DATE   | ENVELOPES  | E-GIVING | TOTAL      |
|--------|------------|----------|------------|
| 29-Nov | \$2,159.50 | \$213.83 | \$2,373.33 |
| 6-Dec  | \$2,218.00 | \$125.00 | \$2,343.00 |
| 13-Dec | \$2,089.00 | \$193.82 | \$2,282.82 |
| 20-Dec | \$3,055.80 | \$709.00 | \$3,765.25 |

 **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 will pick up the offering. Also, please consider electronic giving using the link marked, "Give Online." If you would like give through texting, you can do so by texting the word "**give**" to **610.615.7657** and follow the prompts on your mobile phone Thank you for prayerfully considering what you can afford.



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

but they still would like the Newsletter?

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 Layland at the office: 610-767-9680 or email her at:  
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 Layland in the office; Deb Craig or Eileen Andrews gsucc@ptd.net

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

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



Faith Formation Classes

1/3 Teacher: Mary Lacy  
Crafters: Mary Lacy

1/10 Teacher: Pam Puskas  
Crafter: Deb Craig

1/17 Teacher: Susie Blose  
Crafter: Beth Kutzner

1/24 Teacher: Pam Puskas  
Crafter: Pam Puskas

1/31 Teacher: Monica Griffith  
Crafter: Stacy Cunningham  
and Karen Weaver



For January is VALOR  
Veterans Assistant Living Out Reach

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.facebook.com/valorclinic](http://www.facebook.com/valorclinic)      [www.valorclinic.org](http://www.valorclinic.org)

A Hand Up On The Home Front ~ Welcome To Paul’s House

Reaching out to Veterans to provide shelter, food, supplies and access to healthcare. Veterans to help other Veterans to navigate through the process of recovering and rebuilding. VALOR’s long-term vision is to be able to provide health clinics, homeless shelters, transition homes and recovery sanctuaries for Veterans in need.



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

**February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021** is “Souper” Bowl Sunday and the youth of Good Shepherd are sponsoring the "Soup'er Bowl Sunday" canned soup drive. If you would like to donate cans of soup or boxes of crackers, you can drop them off in the narthex. The soup and crackers will be given to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank to help those who are in need.



## 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)

### JANUARY 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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Snow, Ice, Winter Emergency. With the winter months upon us, we need to prepare for winter cancellations. Should we have to cancel services or other event, you can receive notices *via Breeze* by signing up through your email.

You can also visit our website [www.GoodShepherdSlatedale.org](http://www.GoodShepherdSlatedale.org) or [www.Facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington](https://www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington) to find out if events have been cancelled or check out TV Channel 69, Blue Ridge Channel 13 or Radio Station WAEB 790am

**In Service to the Lord**