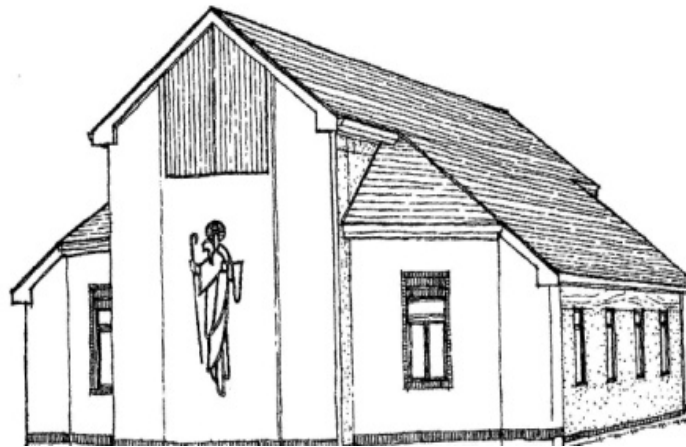


Annual Report

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
3940 Mountain Road
Slatington, PA 18080

9/3/2021

Last Revised



2020

TOC

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2020 ANNUAL PASTORAL MESSAGE

Dear Disciples of Christ here at Good Shepherd ~

This has been an unprecedented year. A year fraught with concern, as well as opportunity. In an article by Josh Laxton, he reminded me of the story of Joseph in Genesis, where his brothers sold him into slavery and years later Joseph responded, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” In this, Joseph offers a new perspective.

What new perspectives has the year 2020 to offer us? A year that saw the beginning of a pandemic, racial inequalities, violent demonstrations, political chaos, and division separating family and friends from one another. God calls us from the limitations of this world to seek the Kingdom that is God’s realm of grace and mercy.

2020 has been a year of loss ~ loss of jobs, businesses, opportunities, experiences such as sporting events, movies, concerts, etc., also experiences for youth to attend school, proms, sporting events, to create and maintain friendships, and most of all the loss of loved ones who have died because of COVID 19. As pastor, I have been called on to offer hope and a sense of continuity in a sea of change. Many individuals feel anger, resentment, and depression. We are called to deal with these feelings in a healthy and holistic way that allows us to grieve and yet know that through God’s promises all is not lost.

2020 has also been a year of social distancing ~ having drummed into us the three W’s: wash your hands, wear your mask, and watch your distance. Our hygienic behavior due to the three W’s has reduced the occurrence of colds and the common flu. It has also increased our appreciation for community, a simple hug, shaking hands, a personal touch. Our community becomes more aware of being “present” in good times and bad.

2020 has been a year of shutdowns ~ workplaces closed and schools turning to online learning along with areas we take for granted like restaurants, movies, coffee shops, gyms, parks, and travel all of which have been closed or limited to access. However, with remote learning and working, we have more time with family and able to reclaim activities such as writing letters, reading books, walking, or running, holding game nights, talking with family members, and getting home projects done. We have been given a chance to learn again what is most important and that is the relationships in our lives and honoring the love that binds us all together.

I believe we here at Good Shepherd have grown in spite of the pandemic. We have been affirmed and reaffirmed in the ministry and mission we are called to in ways we never thought possible. We have allowed ourselves to change letting go of things that were holding us back as well as welcoming new ways to work in the service of Jesus Christ.

The pages that follow will show how we as a congregation were able to demonstrate the love of God in the midst of a pandemic.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. James D. Robison, Jr.
Pastor of Good Shepherd UCC Church

PASTORAL REPORT

Statement of Purpose

As Pastor of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, Slatington, the responsibilities of the ministerial office focus primarily on creative worship, pastoral care, service ministry, administrative duties, ecclesiastical teaching, while representing the congregation to the larger community and maintaining personal/professional development.

Pastoral Data

The information about individuals along with the sacraments (baptism) or rites (confirmation, wedding, funeral) are written in the Church Registry as an official testament to serving.

Baptisms			
Name	Birthdate	Baptismal Date	Parents
Braxton Andrew Rice	July 20, 2019	February 2, 2020	Drew & Kara Mathesz Rice
Hazel Emily Heffernan	August 1, 2019	February 9, 2020	Frank & Emily Fister Heffernan
Eli Rollin Heilman	December 10, 2019	March 15, 2020	Kevin & Jenelle Fronheiser Heilman
Julian Angel Cancel	August 18, 2008	November 22, 2020	Jason Cancel & Vicky Morales

Confirmations		
Name	Baptism	Confirmation
Landon Brady Moll	December 17, 2006	October 25, 2020

Weddings		
Groom	Bride	Marriage Date
David Paul Goodhile	Kelsey Alexandria Kuntz	September 27, 2020
Kyle Steven Hermany	Ashleigh Rebecca Nichol	October 31, 2020

Pastoral Report cont.

Funerals			
Name	Date of Death	Date of Service	Age
Richard Gruber	December 27, 2019	January 6, 2020	52 y, 1 m, 18 d
Claire Haas	January 9, 2020	January 15, 2020	96 y, 6 m, 24 d
Gladys Kern	January 14, 2020	January 17, 2020	89 y, 9 m, 14 d
Anastasia Hinkle	March 6, 2020	March 11, 2020	93 y, 7 m, 19 d
Cristy DeLong	March 7, 2020	March 12, 2020	37 y, 0 m, 28 d
Curtis Friebolin	March 17, 2020	March 21, 2020	70 y, 4 m, 11 d
David Green	March 24, 2020	March 27, 2020	73 y, 2 m, 8 d
Brenda Horn	May 4, 2020	May 9, 2020	68 y, 6 m, 11 d
Andrew Ringler	May 7, 2020	May 12, 2020	21 y, 9 m, 10 d
Dorothy Crown	May 24, 2020	May 28, 2020	99 y, 10 m, 10 d
Carolyn Mann	May 24, 2020	May 28, 2020	76 y, 9 m, 27 d
Marilyn Leaver	July 7, 2020	July 15, 2020	83 y, 6 m, 28 d
Nicholas DeLong	July 30, 2020	August 4, 2020	40 y, 7 m, 13 d
Rev. Sterling Schnell	August 25, 2020	September 2, 2020	91 y, 11 m, 23 d
Barry Creyer	September 26, 2020	October 1, 2020	69 y, 1 m, 18 d
Melvin Sauerwine, Jr.	October 18, 2020	October 22, 2020	67 y, 1 m, 20 d
LaRue Roth	November 16, 2020	November 19, 2020	85 y, 5 m, 21 d
Paul Henninger	November 28, 2020	December 3, 2020	73 y, 2 m, 8 d
Marie Detrick	December 9, 2020	December 18, 2020	76 y, 5 m, 8 d
Lucille Gross	December 24, 2020	December 30, 2020	99 y, 10 m, 18 d

Pastor James' Record-to-Date			
Baptisms - 229	Confirmations - 125	Weddings - 143	Funerals - 256

Submitted by: Rev. James D. Robison, Jr., Pastor of Good Shepherd UCC Church

COMMUNICATION TEAM

Statement of Purpose

The **Communication Team**, coordinated by Deb Craig, develops various ways of communicating with the members and friends of the congregation as well as reaching the larger community through social media. Areas of Communication: Website, FaceBook, Breeze, along with more traditional media such as newspaper, radio, television, and posters. Key people involved include Stephen Haas - Website; Deb Craig - FaceBook, Newsletter, and posters; Sharon Conway - Breeze and greeting cards; and Eric Hantz - Annual Report.

Participants

Sharon Conway, Deb Craig, Christian Creyer, Stacy Cunningham, Stephen Haas, Eric Hantz, Beth Kutzner, Susan Layland, Dennis Silfies, Susan Zellner, and Pastor James.

Decisions Made

- Reduced number of newsletter copies from 85 to 10 from April to September increasing it to 40 in October
- Began using Breeze for sending emails and text messages
- Purchased mailbox for 3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, and cancelled Box 68, Slatedale as mailing address
- Changed domain from Good Shepherd Slatedale to Good Shepherd UCC Slatington and moved to a new and improved website format.

Accomplishments

- Issued 12 editions of *Mountain Reflections Newsletter*
- Sent cards: 10 sympathy, 17 get-well, 4 thinking-of-you, and 1 congratulations
- Designed and printed 1 Event Poster
- Updated website to include newsletter, calendar, and events page
- Maintained Church Facebook page and Instagram
- Developed PowerPoints for Sunday morning worship to include announcements and events
- March 20 - Created YouTube channel to download pre-recorded worship services, Connections, and Children's Time with Pastor James in coordination with the Worship Team
- Completed and issued 2019 Annual Report

FAITH FORMATION TEAM

Statement of Purpose

The **Faith Formation Team**, coordinated by Pam Puskas and Deb Craig, focuses on such programs as traditional Sunday School, Vacation Bible School (VBS), Confirmation Process, New Members Class, Midweek Lenten Gatherings, Summer Class Series, and Autumn Focus Groups. This team also sponsors the Annual Easter Egg Hunt the day before Easter, Rally Day in September, and a Christmas program in December. Key people involved include: Pastor James ~ Confirmation and Midweek Lenten Gatherings; Tammy White ~ VBS; and Pam Puskas and Susie Blose ~ Easter Egg Hunt.

Meeting Dates (2020)

February 16, April 1 (via Zoom), June 10 (via Zoom), July 16 (via Zoom), August 9 (via Zoom), September 13, October 18, and November 22.

Team Participants

Susie Blose, Deb Craig, Rae Anne Creyer, Stacy Cunningham, David DeLong, Monica Griffith, Beth Kutzner, Mary Lacy, Pam Puskas, Dennis Silfies, Karen Weaver, Susan Zellner, and Pastor James.

Decisions Made

- Due to COVID:
 - Faith Formation classes were interrupted between March 17 and September 13
 - Vacation Bible School was postponed until next year (2021) with Tammy White as Director for the event scheduled for Sunday, July 11 thru Thursday, July 15, 2021
 - The annual Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Egg Coloring was cancelled
 - Midweek Lenten Gatherings were cancelled
 - Adult Faith Formation Class taught by Mary Lacy will be postponed until there are no health risks for those vulnerable to the virus
- Confirmation Process to include approximately 15 sessions during varied times of the week, including trips that would enhance the lesson, i.e., visit an actual stable to discuss the lesson on the birth of Christ. The confirmands covenant to complete all sessions according to their own timeline and availability, sessions would be offered approximately twice a year. Once all the sessions are completed, then the confirmand could be confirmed, no matter how many years it takes to complete, if all the sessions have been completed. Will continue with the Mentor Program in conjunction with Confirmation as Mentors are still a very important piece of the process along with the parents. The Confirmation Class will include the following Confirmands: Abigail Allen, Alexander Beblavy, Julian Cancel, Kyan Block, Patrick Conway, Noah Griffith, Hayley Knittle, Savannah Knittle, Cece Pyfer, Breonna Richardson, Jazmin Richardson, and Aiden Solt.

Faith Formation Team Cont.

Projects

- With CDC regulations prohibiting large gatherings, we reached out to the children and youth via the internet with 41 videos entitled *Children's Time with Pastor James* containing book readings, object lessons, where-in-the-world guessing games, and other activities, which were posted each Wednesday from April 8 to December 23 thanks to Beth Kutzner, Dylan Coffin, Dennis Silfies, and Pastor James
- October 4, began livestreaming the children's lessons on Sunday mornings thanks to Beth Kutzner, and Dennis Silfies
- During the closure of our Faith Formation Classes, we focused attention on cleaning, decluttering, washing, disinfecting, and sanitizing the classrooms as well as the Children's Activity Bags (18). Special thanks to Susan Zellner, Pam Puskas, Deb Craig, Linda Bowers, Karen Smith, Bonnie Hewitt, and Pastor James
- During the Pandemic, Lead Teachers were encouraged to send postcards to their students to stay in touch.
- December, Pastor James began a Faith-Formation Book Read using the book *Blessed Are the Crazy* by Sarah Lund with a Zoom discussion scheduled at an appropriate time following the read. The following people participated: Eileen Andrews, Susan Bankes, Susie Blose, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz, Susan and Jim Layland, Darlene Nothstein, and Karen Weaver.
- Mentors volunteering to participate in the Mentor Program for Confirmation include the following: Susan Bankes ~ Jazmin Richardson; Pete Beblavy ~ Aiden Solt; Susie Blose ~ Breonna Richardson; Joe Conway ~ Noah Griffith; Sharon Conway ~ Cece Pyfer; Monica Griffith ~ Savannah Knittle; Bryan Horninger ~ Kyan Block; Beth Kutzner ~ Patrick Conway; Pam Puskas ~ Abigail Allen; Dennis Silfies ~ Julian Cancel; Julie Solt ~ Hayley Knittle; Todd Solt ~ Alex Beblavy; and Tammy White ~ Madison Sommers.

Faith Formation Team Cont.

Accomplishments

- February 16, Pastor James held Acolyte Training during Sunday School time for those interested
- May 10, Children and Youth videotaped messages for Mothers' Day as part of virtual worship
- September 13, Faith Formation Classes resumed with Beth Kutzner planning openings, volunteer teachers presenting lessons, and other volunteers preparing crafts and activities. Dennis Silfies and Beth Kutzner coordinated live-streaming for those who felt more comfortable to participate via internet. Those who feel comfortable to gather in-person will gather in the Fellowship Hall to allow for social distancing and will wear masks.
- November 15, dedicated a pink-dogwood tree in memory of Brenda Horn (1951-2020) sponsored by: Susie Blose, Deb Craig, Rae Anne Creyer, Barbara DeLong, Monica Griffith, Eric Hantz, Mary Lacy, Barb Neff, Pam Puskas, Barry Silfies, Tammy White, and Pastor James
- November 22, Pastor James along with Monica Griffith and Susie Blose began Faith-Formation Classes for confirmation-aged students with Zoom capabilities for those who aren't able to attend in person; Attendees in person or via Zoom include: Abigail Allen, Alex Beblavy, Kyan Block, Julian Cancel, Patrick Conway, Noah Griffith, Hayley Knittle, Savannah Knittle, Cece Pyfer, Breonna Richardson, Jazmin Richardson, and Aidan Solt
- November 29, Dennis Silfies began a Faith-Formation Adult-Discussion Group on Sunday mornings with the following attending: Pete Beblavy, Dylan Coffin, Joe Conway, Ben Griffith, Katy Griffith, Dean Knittle, and Todd Solt
- December 20, held our Digital Christmas-Pageant, which was purchased by Pastor James and directed by Stacy Cunningham, Karen Weaver, and Beth Kutzner with the following participants: Katy Griffith, Narrator; Breonna Richardson, Mary; Julian Cancel, Joseph; Jazmin Richardson, Angel; Adam Griffith & Noah Griffith, Shepherds; Dylan Coffin, Ben Griffith, and Aidan Solt, Magi.

Faith Formation Team Cont.

Attendance and Offering Data

The following is the average attendance of our Faith Formation Classes for each month, along with the total offering collected.

Faith Formation Data					
Month	Attendance	Offering	Month	Attendance	Offering
January	18	\$ 40	October	10	\$ 0
February	20	\$ 32	November	18	\$ 36
March	22	\$ 28	December	27	\$ 39
September		\$ 0			
				Average	Total
					\$175

Goals

- Recruit volunteers to lead small Faith-Formation Groups
- Collect documentation from volunteer teachers, officers, and mentors to assure Safe-Church practices as per our Policy Manual (available on our website or in the Church Office).

Submitted by: Pam Puskas & Deb Craig, Faith Formation Team Coordinator

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

Statement of Purpose

The **Fellowship Team**, coordinated by Dennis Silfies, provides social ministry to members and friends of Good Shepherd by organizing and serving congregational luncheons, confirmation receptions, funeral luncheons, church picnics, and many other events.

Meetings (2020)

January 19, February 16, October 25, and November 25.

Fellowship Team Participants

Dot Arnold, Linda Bowers, Monica Griffith, Bonnie Hewitt, Bob Koons, Beth Kutzner, Carol Krum, Susan Layland, Barry Silfies, Dennis Silfies, Karen Smith, and Tammy White.

Decisions Made

Because of COVID-19 virus and the state-mandated policies, the Social-Ministry Team agreed not to serve during the spring and summer while there were no worship services allowed in-person.

Events

- January 22 ~ Served luncheon for approximately 130 people for funeral of Claire Haas
- February 23 ~ Served reception for about 85 people for Scout Sunday that included: popcorn, hot chocolate, goodies for hot chocolate, baked goods, and girl scout cookies
- October 21 ~ Served luncheon (catered by Kornfeind's Market) for 20 people for funeral of Frank Bauer
- November 7 ~ Served breakfast and lunch for about 30 people for Penn Northeast Conference Fall Meeting.

Submitted by: Dennis Silfies, Fellowship Team Coordinator

RESOURCE TEAM

Statement of Purpose

The **Resource Team**, coordinated by Bryan Horninger, collects data concerning monies coming into Good Shepherd treasury and assesses the health and well-being of financial giving to the ministries of Good Shepherd. Key leaders for this team include: Linda Bowers ~ Fundraising Group; Tammy White ~ Memorials; Madeline Balliet ~ Hall Rental, Colleen Shields ~ Envelope & E-giving; Marilyn Reitz ~ Cooperate Giving; and Monica Griffith ~ Scrip Program. In addition, in the spring and autumn, the Resource Team lifts up the stewardship concepts of volunteer hours and financial giving.

Goal

To keep an accurate account of financial resources and talented volunteers supporting the ministry and mission of Good Shepherd.

Resource Team Members

Madeline Balliet, Carol Blose, Linda Bowers, Linda Coffin, Joe & Sharon Conway, Deb Craig, Arica Creyer, Ahstin Creyer, Rae Anne Creyer, Stacy Cunningham, Barbara DeLong, Janice Farber, Jean Fatzinger, Monica Griffith, Ray Haldeman, Jeff Hanzarik, Ryan Hartmaier, Bonnie Hewitt, Bryan Horninger, Nick Horvath, Carol Krum, Dave & Jonel Kuremsky, Mary Lacy, Kerry & Sally Loch, Judy Mack, Tina Minnich, Barbara Neff, Pam Puskas, Marilyn Rice, Tammy Schaeffer, Susan Sensinger, Robert Shelly, Susan Shelly, Cameron Shields, Colleen Shields, Barry Silfies, Dennis Silfies, Eddie & Karen Smith, Kevin & Kellie Smith, Cheryl Tully, Tammy White, Bruce Zellner, John & Susan Zellner, and Pastor James Robison.

Fundraising

Fundraising, headed by Linda Bowers, is concerned with ways to increase finances through particular events. Each event normally has a coordinator and a group of volunteers to assist with the tasks for that event. Due to the pandemic, fundraising events were postponed beginning in March and have not been rescheduled leaving our accomplishments few.

Fundraising Data					
Date	Event	Profit	Date	Event	Profit
January 25	Sportsman's Night	\$4,297.44	February 8	Soup Sale	\$121.26
				Total	\$4,297.44

Resource Team Cont.

Memorial Group

When the congregation receives contributions in memory of a loved one, the monies are collected in the Memorial Fund in that person's name until an appropriate memorial can be purchased or an item is needed. The exception to the rule is when the family wishes the monies to go to the church's general fund to financially support the ministry and mission of the congregation. Tammy White currently oversees this fund and sends a thank you to those who donate. She also records the gifts in the Memorial Book that is kept in the narthex.

Memorial Data					
Memorial	Amount	Memorial	Amount	Memorial	Amount
Elda Mack	\$335	Edwin Krum	\$915	Mabel Knittle	\$ 510
Sarah Bachman	\$380	Zach Solt	\$2,030	Jim/Luella Miller	\$1,355
Diane Schuck	\$50	Claire Haas	\$775		
				Total	\$6,350.00

The following contributions were deposited in the general fund: \$25 in memory of Claire Haas, \$420 in memory of Brenda Horn, and \$50 in memory of Ada Hines.

A pink-dogwood tree was purchased in memory of Brenda Horn by members of the Faith Formation Team and dedicated on November 15.

Scrip Program

Monica Griffith oversees this program whereby individuals purchase gift cards and the congregation receives a percentage from Scrip program at no expense to the congregation or purchaser. Unfortunately, due to COVID, there was no Scrip Program from April through August.

Scrip Program Data					
Month	Participants	Profit	Month	Participants	Profit
January	10	\$120.16	September	6	\$86.05
February	13	\$135.33	October	8	\$130.55
March	15	\$191.91	November	19	\$407.26
			December	25	\$520.40
			Total		\$1,581.66

Resource Team Cont.

Envelope Data

Offering and Special Giving Envelopes are sent to those who request them. Once they are returned, Deacons mark the amount and give the money to the Church Treasurer to deposit and the envelopes are given to the Financial Secretary to record. The amounts are based on the envelope number in order to generate a giving statement for contributors at tax time. Colleen Shields oversees the data-entry weekly and generating weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports.

Envelope/Revenue Data			
Envelope	Amount	Envelope	Amount
Current Expense	\$129,716.81	Emergency	\$525.40
Building	\$2,126.00	Communion	\$2,209.87
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$3,256.00	Ash Wednesday	\$346.90
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$109.60	Lenten Offering	\$950.03
Strengthen the Church	\$131.51	Maundy Thursday	\$74.51
Neighbors in Need	\$137.66	Good Friday	\$117.07
The Christmas Fund	\$184.10	Easter	\$680.05
Initial Envelopes	\$1,041.80	Harvest Home	\$223.45
Energy/Fuel	\$637.96	Thanksgiving	\$214.45
Mortgage	\$1,421.80	Advent	\$10.61
Organ	\$216.35	Christmas Eve	\$3,529.70
		Total	\$147,861.63

Summary of Giving Units for 2020

In an attempt to have Giving Units challenge their personal giving, the following allows disciples to see where they are in relationship to others in total contributions. A Giving Unit is based on envelopes assigned to disciples, so a couple or parents with unconfirmed children/youth are considered one unit even though there might be two adult members. Normally, a Confirmand and newly Confirmed are given their own envelopes.

Total Yearly Contributions per Giving Unit

Yearly Contributions/ Number of Giving Units	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Under \$50	50					
\$50-\$100	26					
\$100-\$500	71					
\$500-\$1K	25					
\$1K-\$2K	28					
\$2K-\$5K	25					
\$5K+	2					

Resource Team Cont.

Summary of Revenue Resources for 2020

All contributions for Sunday morning are recorded by the Deacons and the information passed on to the financial secretary for data entry and to the treasurer for depositing. In addition to these resources, there are a few activities and programs that bring financial support such as Hall Rental coordinated by Madeline Balliet and Tammy White, PNEC donation for Pastor James' Community of Practice, Clothing Shed, Redner Tapes, Smile Amazon, etc.

Revenue Resource Data			
Source	Income	Source	Income
Envelope/Cash	149,032.47	PNEC Community of Practice	1,200.00
Electronic Giving	27,384.46	Clothing Shed	n/a
Text Giving	55.00	Redner Tapes	n/a
Fundraising	0	Smile Amazon	n/a
Scrip	1,581.66	Special Gift/Bequest	15,000.00
Hall/Grove Donations	600.00		
Total			

Submitted by: Bryan Horninger, Resource Team Coordinator

MISSION TEAM

Statement of Purpose

The **Mission Team**, coordinated by Tammy White, focuses on the numerous missions Good Shepherd supports by raising awareness and financial support to our Faith & Mission Calendar, Five-for-Five missions of the United Church of Christ, and other opportunities suggested by congregants such as VALOR. Another important ministry is providing support to those in need through funds raised in our weekly Joyful-Noise offering. Key people involved include: Deb Craig ~ VALOR; Christian Action Council of Palmerton Area Churches (CACAPAC) ~ Gail Nonnemaker; Northern Lehigh Food Bank (NLFB) ~ Michele Hunsicker; Backpack Buddies Program ~ Denis & Amanda Trelease.

Mission Team Participants

Madeline Balliet, Lester Bass, Melba Bisko, Joe Conway, Patrick Conway, Sharon Conway, Deb Craig, Tom Craig, Barbara DeLong, Katy Griffith, Monica Griffith, Noah Griffith, Tracey Gursky, Amy Horninger, Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger, Olivia Horninger, Brett Hunsicker, Michele Hunsicker, Gail Nonnemaker, Pam Puskas, Tammy Schaffer, Barry Silfies, Janice Silliman, Amanda Trelease, Denis Trelease, Philip White, Tammy White, John Zellner, Susan Zellner, and Pastor James Robison.

Decisions Made

Joyful Noise is an offering that allows children to participate in worship services by passing buckets for coin donations each Sunday. This money is then distributed to individuals and organizations beyond our church walls that are in need of financial assistance. This year it was decided to give the following: \$100 donation to Citizen's Fire Company; \$300 to the Conference for UCC Ministerial Assistance; and \$300 for 2020 Mission Calendar (\$25/monthx12).

Mission Calendar

Those interested in making a contribution to one of the twelve (12) missions we as a congregation support, can sign the name of a loved one you would like to remember or honor and place donation in an envelope marked 'Mission Calendar' along with your name or envelope number, and place in the Mission Box or in the Offering Plate. All proceeds go directly to the ministry designated.

Mission Calendar Contributions

Month	Mission	Amount	Month	Mission	Amount
January	VALOR	\$30	July	Lancaster Seminary	\$130
February	Soup Kitchen	\$60	August	Bethany Children	\$ 25
March	Habitat for Humanity	\$ 5	September	Allentown Rescue	\$ 25
April	Autism Awareness	\$25	October	Meals-on-Wheels *	\$ 30
May	Muscular Dystrophy	\$25	November	Turning Point	\$ 35
June	NL Foodbank	\$35	December	AIDS Awareness	\$ 62
Total					\$487

Mission Team Cont.

Five for Five

The United Church of Christ as a denomination requests the support of local congregations for our churches' wider mission (OCWM), which includes missionaries around the world and relief where there are needs. In addition to OCWM, there are four (4) additional missions that the United Church of Christ sponsors: One Great Hour of Sharing which is nondenominational, Neighbors in Need that helps other UCC congregations throughout the United States, Strengthen the Church, which supports new church start ups in underrepresented areas of the country, and the Christmas Fund that assists retired authorized ministers who served congregations unable to provide retirement for their pastors.

Greater Mission Contributions			
Mission Fund	Amount	Mission Fund	Amount
Our Churches Wider Mission	\$3,256.00	Strengthen the Church	\$131.51
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$109.60	Christmas Fund	\$184.10
Neighbors in Need	\$137.66		
		Total	\$3,818.87

VALOR Program

- VALOR stands for Veterans Assisted Living Out Reach and provides shelter, food, supplies, and access to healthcare
- Food was donated, cooked, and delivered the last Saturday or Sunday of each month as follows: 12 meals on January 26, 12 meals on February 23, 16 meals on September 27, 29 meals on October 24, 20 meals on November 29, and 20 meals on December 27
- In addition, 2 trays of veggies and fruit were delivered in November and December for after the holidays
- Thank you to Deb Craig for organizing efforts on behalf of VALOR.

CACPAC Program

- CACPAC stands for Christian Action Council of Palmerton Area Churches and was founded as early as 1971 and included Sacred Heart Catholic Church, First United Church of Christ, St. John's United Church of Christ, and St. John's Episcopal Church
- Food donations help stock the shelves of the CACPAC Food Pantry where canned food and other nonperishables are distributed to community residents who have a temporary need for food
- Thank you to Gail Nonnemaker for organizing efforts on behalf of CACPAC.

Mission Team Cont.

Northern Lehigh Food Bank

- The Northern Lehigh Food Bank began in 1987 under the leadership of Rev. David Johnson and the directorship of Ruthann Mantz and has continued serving the needs of those in the Northern Lehigh School District struggling to put food on the table for themselves and their families
- In addition to the weekly distribution of food, the foodbank spearheads holiday meal-baskets, with Good Shepherd collecting 171 cans of corn for Easter, 324 cans of corn for Thanksgiving, and 250 cans of corn for Christmas
- Thank you to Michele Hunsicker for organizing the efforts at Good Shepherd on behalf of NLFB.

Accomplishments

- Christian Action Council of Palmerton Area Churches, represented by Gail Nonnemaker, received groceries collected in the grocery cart located in the Narthex during January through March
- Backpack Buddies, represented by Denis and Amanda Trelease, distributes donations of canned fruit, vegetables, canned chicken, canned tuna, boxes of macaroni & cheese, canned ravioli, and other nonperishable items high in nutritional value each Friday to students of the Northern Lehigh School District who have signed up for this program
- Blanket Drive/Mitten Tree, represented by the Mission Team, helps those in need and collected 1 blanket, 6 men's hats, 2 kid's hats, 2 women's hats, 11 pair of children's mittens, 3 scarves, and 61 gender-neutral hats that were handmade by Melba Bisko.
- Sock Drive, requested by Penn Northeast Conference, was to support those in need as congregations gathered for their spring meeting with the focus on mission work.

Submitted by: Tammy White, Mission Team Coordinator

VITALITY TEAM

Statement of Purpose

The **Vitality Team** is unique in that it is the ‘oil’ that keeps the ministries running smoothly and is coordinated by Dennis Silfies. The focus is to maintain a relevant ministry in our midst by establishing short-term and long-term goals for the congregation and its leadership.

Goals

- Long-term ~ plan and present timeline for Storage Addition
- Long-term ~ maintenance of windows, roof, organ
- Long-term ~ retire mortgage
- Long-term ~ reach more people
- Long-term ~ increased number of volunteers for Ministry Teams
- Long-term ~ increase giving through creating a community of abundance
- Short-term ~ develop effective leadership training
- Short-term ~ create efficient financial tracking to assist in creating yearly budgets
- Short-term ~ assist in developing staff and program reviews
- Short-term ~ plan leadership retreat to discuss current and future possibilities
- Short-term ~ develop ways of celebrating the various Ministry Teams and Committees
- Short-term ~ complete merger of two congregations with a service of recognition and recommitment to answer God’s call to serve

Meetings (2020)

January 5 and February 24.

Vitality Team Participants

Madeline Balliet, Deb Craig, Barbara DeLong, Barbara Hanks, Eric Hantz, Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger, Michele Hunsicker, Dennis Silfies, Pastor James.

Proposed Projects

- Storage Addition with proposals and timeline
- Updating doors with panic bars for fire safety
- Re-key all doors to have one key for building
- Remove wall between classroom 1 and 2 and install folding wall.

Accomplishments

- Re-wiring Media Projector by Star AVR
- Installed second stained-glass window in Sanctuary
- Renovated Church Office by installing new counter tops and cabinets
- Installation of new phone system by PennTeleData
- Installation of video cameras at three entrances
- Installation of new modem, WiFi, and internet by PennTeleData

Submitted by: Dennis Silfies, Vitality Team Coordinator

WORSHIP TEAM

Statement of Purpose

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 focuses on flowers for Sunday mornings and changing Altar and Pulpit Cloths
- AV Technicians ~ primarily focuses on creating power point screens prior to Sunday morning and operating projector during service on Sunday morning
- Esthetics ~ primarily focuses on decorating the sanctuary and narthex to highlight the season such as Autumn, Christmas, and Lent; Worship Leaders ~ those interested in serving as Greeters, Acolytes, Lectors, and/or Ushers on Sunday mornings
- Music ~ primarily focuses on singing in the Chancel Choir, performing with the Bell Choir, or participating in vocal or instrumental solos, duets, trios, etc.

Worship Team Participants

Madeline Balliet, Susan Bankes, Lester Bass, Bonnie Bates, Tyla Block, Susie Blose, Amanda Bowers, Linda Bowers, Julian Cancel, Dylan Coffin, Jeff Coffin, Linda Coffin, Joe Conway, Patrick Conway, Sharon Conway, Christian Creyer, Aricka Creyer, Rae Anne Creyer, Barry Crown, Deb Craig, Stacy Cunningham, Barbara DeLong, Terry Derhammer, Riley Fallon, Jim George, Laura George, Adam Griffith, Ben Griffith, Katy Griffith, Monica Griffith, Noah Griffith, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz, Graham Hantz, Bonnie Hewitt, Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger, Nick Horvath, Brett Hunsicker, Michele Hunsicker, Ann Johnson, Chris Kegel, Bob Koons, Carol Krum, Beth Kutzner, Mary Lacy, Susan Layland, Calin Maholick, Kevin Minnich, Tina Minnich, Landon Moll, Barbara Neff, Darlene Nothstein, Dick Nothstein, Carol Oswald, Ellen Perkins, Michael Perkins, Pam Puskas, Breonna Richardson, Tammy Schaeffer, Greg Schuck, Caden Shields, Cameron Shields, Colleen Shields, Matthew Shields, Barry Silfies, Dennis Silfies, Eddie Smith, Karen Smith, Amber Snyder, Blake Snyder, Matt Snyder, Aiden Solt, Julie Solt, Todd Solt, Mary Storm, Marion Straub, Tammy White, Karen Yonney, John Zellner, and Pastor James Robison.

Worship Team cont.

General Overview

The congregation worshipped together from January to March 15, after that date, we began virtual worship due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. We continued virtual worship until September 13 when we gathered in the grove. We continued to live stream the services for those who felt more comfortable to worship at home and on September 20 when people could turn to our radio frequency and listen to the service from their cars in the parking lot. A total of 24 services were taped and put on our Facebook Page and our YouTube Channel. These special services included Palm Sunday, Easter, Mothers' Day, and Fathers' Day. A special thank you to the leaders and staff of Penn Northeast Conference for providing Zoom capabilities in order that we could meet virtually to plan services. Worship leaders changed from greeters and lay readers to sanitizers and attendance/seat chart documenters. A hardy thank-you to each and all for your service in 2020.

In addition to videotaping the worship service, there seemed to be a need to have other opportunities to come together virtually due to the quarantine, so we videotaped 47 'Connections,' which were short vignettes based on the Psalms and posted each Tuesday and Thursday between April 2 and September 10.

Bell Choir: under the direction of Michele Hunsicker performed the following: 1/12/20 ~ *Seek Ye First*; 2/9/20 ~ *Amazing Grace*; 3/8/20 *Just as I Am*.

Impromptu Choir: under the leadership of Pastor James sang *Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary* on March 1.

Chancel Choir: led by our Choir Director, Beth Kutzner, began rehearsing August 18 with 5 members and by the end of the year had 12 members. The choir rehearses Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. The rehearsals are held in the sanctuary and members practice social distancing, which includes keeping six (6) feet apart and masks are worn. The anthems are recorded for Sunday morning worship, and we will continue in this format until it is determined to safely sing during church services. Members of the Chancel Choir met for a small Christmas Gift Exchange and Appreciation Gathering on Tuesday, December 22.

Hanging of the Greens: took place Saturday morning, November 28 with 18 people gathering to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. The service was quite different from past years due to the CDC restrictions.

Worship Team cont.

Average Worship Attendance

Month/Year	Average Attendance					5 Year Monthly Average
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
January	61	88	78	68	86	76.2
February	100	94	82	85	113.5	94.9
March	125	92	105	78	102	100.4
April	94	107	101	101	-0-	80.6
May	106	76	93	66	-0-	68.2
June	83	99	79	99	-0-	72
July	87	81	67	80	-0-	63
August	79	74	74	91	-0-	63.6
September	103	78	82	86	62	82.2
October	95	84	106	96	59	88
November	112	110	81	107	59	93.8
December	61	94	93	108	61.5	83.5
X-mas Eve	290	261	297	285	163	259.2

Submitted by: Pastor James Robison, Worship Team Coordinator

CHURCH SECRETARY REPORT

Statement of Purpose

The Church Secretary offers a variety of support to the Pastor, the Staff, and to Church members. The Secretary handles most of the administrative responsibilities that help maintain and organize the Church's day-to-day operations. The secretary updates members files and creates important documents, such as baptismal, wedding, and funeral certificates. She or he must always maintain a high degree of discretion, empathy, and confidentiality. The secretary is often the first-person visitors and newcomers may encounter, therefore, excellent interpersonal skills are required.

Goal(s)

Harbor good relations with the Pastor, Consistory, staff, and members of Good Shepherd UCC. Efficiently oversee day-to-day operations of the church office; accurately maintain and update member database; prepare necessary documents as related to official events, such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals; effectively handle correspondence as it relates to church business; recruit volunteers as needed and maintain respectful relationships; ensure that the church is equipped with adequate supplies at reasonable costs; distribute all documents, such as church directory and membership lists to all persons who request information or to those who need documents to do their job; attend all meetings as requested and take accurate minutes, when required.

Resource Team Members

The Church Office uses volunteers, who work together with the secretary and Pastor on weekly tasks, such as creating, editing, and printing the bulletin and bulletin cover, or on large projects such as updating the church data base for example. During 2020 the volunteers were: Susan Zellner, Jim Layland, Dylan Coffin, and Debbie Silfies.

Volunteer names and estimated hours for 2020			
Name	Function	Hours (approx.)	
Susan Zellner	Printed, folded, and collated Church Bulletins; assisted with mass mailings, and helped to train secretary on copiers.	105	
James Layland	Folded and collated Church bulletins; assisted with mass mailing; recycled paper	14	
Dylan Coffin	Updated Breeze with member data	10.5	
Debbie Silfies	Printed Newsletters, trained secretary, and offered consultation	30	

Church Secretary Report cont.

Church Meetings

Consistory meetings (8X) Congregational Meeting (1X).

Yearly Achievements (March 3, 2020 – December 31, 2020)

- Updated Breeze whenever there was a necessary change.
- Supervised and worked with volunteers to print and fold bulletin covers and bulletins, newsletters, stuff envelopes for congregational mailing, and recycling
- Edited 8 Newsletters
- Mailed 18-20 newsletters monthly to those who are homebound
- Instituted recycling of paper products and plastics
- Prepared 44 bulletins and approximately 32 bulletin covers
- Ordered and picked up paper and supplies
- Ordered toner and oversaw service technician who worked on copier
- Organized mass mailing of two letters to the congregation regarding Covid 19 and Church opening status
- Edited, compiled, and distributed Policy Manual
- Created Minutes for 8 Consistory Meetings
- Set up personnel files
- Created correspondence when needed (change of address, thank you, etc.)
- Created the 2021 Schedule
- Finalized the 2019 Annual Reports printed and distributed accordingly
- Created tag in Breeze for members of congregation without technology and sent them the newsletter every month; Created labels
- Emptied the old supply cabinet and reorganized supplies into new cabinets
- Worked on Ways of Work procedures
- Organized filing projects for volunteers
- Scanned merger documents into the computer
- Talked to vendors about the possibility of purchasing a new copier
- Wrote a proposal for obtaining new copier for church office and submitted it to the Vitality Team for consideration
- Created template for 2020 Annual Report.

Office Supplies and Equipment (Projected 2021)			
Office Supplies	Equipment	Sunday & Special Bulletins	Postage
\$2,500	\$850 (contracts)	850.00	250.00
	\$5,500 (copier, if needed)		

Submitted by: Susan Layland, Church Secretary

CONSISTORY REPORT

Committee Statement

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ's Consistory is the governing body. They meet on the second Monday of each month. The Consistory is formed of eight (8) deacons, four (4) elders, and our Pastor. The Consistory sets policy for the church, approves financial and project decisions, and represents the congregation between annual meetings.

special meetings

November 15, 2020 ~ Congregational meeting to approve the 2021 budget.

Committee Members

Elders: Susie Blose, Judy Bollinger, Chris Kegel, Richard Nothstein, Tammy Schaeffer, Cameron Shields, Dennis Silfies, and Tammy White.

Deacons: Eddie Smith, Dennis Silfies, Cameron Shields, Mary Storm, Amanda Bowers, Darlene Nothstein, James George, and Joe Conway.

Decisions Made

- Colleen Shields was hired as Financial Secretary (January 13)
- Purchased a laptop for use of Secretary (February 26) in the amount of \$1,022.00
- Approved hosting Fall PNEC Conference Meeting at Good Shepherd UCC on November 7, 2020
- Hiring of Susan Layland as Church Secretary with a start date of March 3; salary \$747.20 (Feb 26)
- Hiring of Beth Hudlow as Choir Director with a start date of March 15; salary \$660.00 (February 26)
- Converted from in-face meeting to ZOOM Meetings due to Covid-19 (April 20)
- Susan Layland nominated as Consistory Secretary (April)
- Reopened the Church for in-person worship (September 13)
- Reopened Pre-School in person (September 14)
- Approved the revised Good Shepherd Policy Manual (September 14)
- Applied for Government *PA Paycheck Protection Program*
- Gave Bonus to the staff for work performed in lieu of the Covid 19
- Cancelled all Fundraisers for 2020
- Sent out two (2) letters to congregation explaining outlining decisions about Worship and church activities during the pandemic.
- Refinanced current mortgage with Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank with an interest rate of 3.0 for 15 years, that can be paid off without penalty (July 13)

Financial Data

During 2020 Old Good Shepherd and Old First were in the process of merging. The Fiscal Oversight Investment Subcommittee closed out Old First CDs and reinvestments and reinvested them into higher yielding investment accounts.

Consistory Report cont.

Accomplishments

- Cleaned and disinfected the carpets in the Sanctuary; cleaned all pew cushions (April)
- Renovated the church office by installing new cabinets and countertops (April)
- Received estimates for adding a storage addition to the Fellowship Hall
- Changed address from PO Box 68 to physical address of 3940 Mountain Road and installed new mailbox across from the church for \$150.00. (April)
- Elected Consistory Officers for 2021: President, vice President, and Secretary.
- Hired new staff members, choir Director ~ Beth Hudlow; Secretary ~ Susan Layland; and Financial Secretary ~ Colleen Shields
- Completed merger with Old First (March 10)
- Erected a Memorial Stone at Towamensing Cemetery
- Installed new phone systems and security cameras
- Installed a new stained-glass window in the Sanctuary (September, dedicated October 4)
- Bought video equipment to tape sermons during Covid-19
- Held a Congregational Meeting for affirmation of 2021 budget (November 15)
- Changed Website and domain from goodshepherduccslatedale.org to goodshepherduccslatington.org.
- Gave bonus to its employees for working hard at church during Covid-19.

Submitted by: Susan Layland, Consistory Secretary

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

Committee Statement

The Discipleship Committee includes the Elders and Pastor of Good Shepherd UCC. This committee is charged with reviewing new and delinquent disciples, oversee the confirmation process, assure pulpit coverage, create communion schedules, and handle other spiritual matters as they arise.

Meeting Dates (2020)

Met February 17, and July 30.

Committee Members

Pastor James Robison, Chairperson; Suzanne Blose, Chris Kegel, Richard Nothstein, Tammy White.

Decisions Made

- Use prepackaged elements for Communion during the Pandemic
- Endorse new Confirmation Process with confirmands to participate in all 15 sessions.

Discipleship Roll

Discipleship Roll for Good Shepherd UCC as of January 1 = 293

- 1 joined by confirmation [October 25 - Landon Brady Moll]
- 27 joined by affirmation of membership [by January 6]
- 40 joined by affirmation of membership [by October 31]
- 4 joined by reaffirmation of faith [January 19 - Nick Horvath & Stacy Cunningham; October 25 - Beth Kutzner, Gary Reider]
- 1 joined by letter of transfer [January 19 - Ann Hayes from Grace UCC, Tannersville]
- 2 removed by Committee [Skip Dietrich - September 30; John Orendach - November 30]
- 5 removed by death [Claire Haas - January 9, Brenda Horn - May 4, Carolyn Mann - May 24, LaRue Roth - November 16, Marie Detrick - December 9]

Discipleship Roll for Good Shepherd UCC as of December 31 = 359

Accomplishments

- Created Communion Schedule for Head Elders
- Used prepackaged communion elements on October 4, October 25, November 29, and December 24.

Submitted by: Pastor James Robison, Discipleship Committee Chairperson

FISCAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Committee Statement

The Fiscal Oversight Committee tends to the financial matters of the congregation and designates four (4) sub-committees to handle various aspects of church money. These subcommittees include Audit, Budget, Endowment, and Investment. The reports of these subcommittees can be found following this report.

Meeting Dates (2020)

Met March 10, April 22 (via Zoom), May 7 (via Zoom), and October 13 (via Zoom).

Committee Members

Chris Kegel, Chairperson; Eileen Andrews, Peter Beblavy, Darlene Nothstein, and Dick Nothstein.

Decisions Made

- Reinvested Husack CD as the Husack Flower Fund in the American Fund through Fritz Financial Group with interest to be used for the purchase of flowers 3 times a year for Anthony and Cora Husack. Balance at the onset of this fund is \$4,311.15
- \$300,000 from sale of First UCC building and property at 457 Delaware Avenue, Palmerton was invested through Fritz Financial Group as follows: \$210,000 in American Fund and 90,000 in GBU
- Reinvest the Charles Schwab Account at the same 30/70 ratio as the Craig Fund through Fritz Financial Group
- All congregational monies will be channeled through Church Treasurer to keep accurate bookkeeping
- To have Dick Nothstein and Chris Kegel named as financial representatives by Consistory to handle CDs, investments, and trusts on behalf of Good Shepherd UCC.

Thank You

Thank you to those who served on the Audit Subcommittee: Susan Zellner, Chairperson; Michele Hunsicker, Madeline Balliet, Alice Kegel, and Chris Kegel; Budget Subcommittee: Peter Beblavy, Chairperson; Eileen Andrews, Judy Bollinger, Suzanne Blose, Darlene Nothstein, and Cheryl Tully; Endowment Subcommittee: Peter Beblavy, Chairperson; Sheri Fallon, Chad Sommers, and Darlene Nothstein; and Investment Subcommittee: Dick Nothstein, Chairperson; Chris Kegel.

Fiscal Oversight Committee cont.

Accomplishments

- Completed 2019 Audit for Good Shepherd UCC, Slatington
- Completed 2017, 2018, 2019 Audits for First UCC, Palmerton
- Met with Fritz Financial Group via Zoom to gather information on reinvesting money
- Met with BB&T Bank to fill out paperwork to retrieve money from the commonwealth
- Investments formally in First UCC, Palmerton's name have been officially renamed to Good Shepherd UCC, Slatington.

Submitted by: Chris Kegel, Fiscal Oversight Committee Chairperson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee Statement

The Nominating Committee keeps an accurate list of current members serving on Consistory and Committees assuring positions are filled by qualified volunteers when vacancies arise.

Meeting Dates (2020)

Met January 5, October 8 (via Zoom), and October 15 (via Zoom).

Committee Members

Janice Farber, Chairperson; Suzanne Blose, David DeLong, and Mary Storm.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Outgoing Volunteers			
Committee	Name	Began	End
Consistory Elder	Dick Nothstein	2020	2020
Consistory Deacon	Tammy Schaeffer	2020	2020
Consistory Deacon	Judy Bollinger	2020	2020
Personnel	Richard Smith	2020	2020
Property	Dwayne Kern	2020	2020
Property	Brett Hunsicker	2020	2020

Ongoing Volunteers			
Committee	Name	Began	End
Consistory Deacon	Joe Conway	2020	2024
Fiscal Oversight	Eileen Andrews	2020	2023
Nominating	Janice Farber	2020	2023
Nominating	David DeLong	2020	2023
Pastoral Relations	Sheri Fallon	2020	2023
Pastoral Relations	Monica Griffith	2020	2023
Property	Jeff Coffin	2020	2023
Property	Kerry Loch	2020	2023
Property	Brett Hunsicker	*	2021
PNEC Delegate	Biff Hayes	2020	2021
PNEC Alternate	Ann Hayes	2020	2021
PNEC Youth	Cameron Shields	2020	2021

Entering Volunteers			
Committee	Name	Began	End
Consistory Elder	Pam Puskas	2021	2024
Consistory Deacon	Mary Storm	2021	2024
Consistory Deacon	Amanda Bowers	*	2022
Nominating	Linda Coffin	*	2021
Personnel	Tina Minnich	2021	2023

Submitted by: Janice Farber, Nominating Committee Chairperson

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Committee Statement

The Pastoral Relations Committee meets at least twice a year to build up the Body of Christ, the life of the Church and its ministry through sensitive care and careful discernment of issues affecting the Pastor and the Congregation. This committee maintains a file with the original call agreement for the Pastor, a record of the Three-Way Covenant between the Pastor, the Congregation, and the Penn Northeast Conference, along with performance reviews, vacation time, and sabbatical time.

Meeting Dates (2020)

Met February 16, June 18, August 9 (via Zoom), and September 20.

Committee Members

Matthew Shields, Chairperson; Susan Bankes, Sheri Fallon, Monica Griffith, and Chad Sommers.

Decisions Made

Approved Pastor's Vacation dates for August 11-22, and August 28-September 3.

Accomplishments

- Reviewed Pastoral Relations Ways of Work with minor changes
- Reviewed the Pastor's Job Description with minor changes
- Read and affirmed the signatures of the Pastor and Consistory President for 2020
- Affirmed the Consistory's decision to give the Pastor a monetary gift of \$1,000 for the extra work performed due to the Pandemic with the Pastor receiving \$788.03 [the rest went to taxes]
- Recognized that the Pastor paid back error made by ADP as of July 30
- Conducted a Pastoral Review and met with Pastor to discuss it.

Submitted by: Matthew Shields, Pastoral Relations Committee Chairperson

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Committee Statement

The Personnel Committee oversees the paid staff of the congregation, which includes the Church Secretary, Church Treasurer, Church Financial Secretary, Sexton, Church Organist, Choir Director, and Church Preschool Director. Responsibilities include reviewing and updating job descriptions and conducting performance reviews annually while assuring appropriate paperwork such as annual covenants, criminal background clearance, background checks, and FBI finger printing are on file. In addition, this committee makes recommendations to financial compensation to the Budget Subcommittee and develop ways of showing appreciation to the staff.

Meeting Dates (2020)

Met January 5, January 16, February 2, February 17, February 18, March 1, October 4, November 1, and December 6.

Committee Members

Sue Blose, Chairperson; Monica Griffith, Marilyn Reitz, Richard Smith, and Jen Sommers. Volunteers during the year included Michele Hunsicker.

Decisions Made

- Recommend to Consistory the hiring of Colleen Shields as Church Financial Secretary beginning January 1
- Recommend to Consistory the hiring of Susan Layland as Church Secretary beginning March 1
- Recommend to Consistory the hiring of Beth Kutzner as Church Choir Director beginning March 15
- Establish a Support Meeting for new employees after 90 days from their start date
- Reduce termination notice from ninety (90) days to thirty (30) days

Personnel Committee cont.

Accomplishments

- January/February – Published ads for staff openings in *Town and Country Gazette* and *This Week in PNEC*
- July – 90-day Check-In with Susan Layland and Beth Kutzner
- November – Conducted Annual Performance Reviews for paid staff including: Organist, Sexton, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Secretary, and Choir Director
- November – Submitted proposed staff salary increases to Consistory and Budget Subcommittee
- December – Met with staff members individually to discuss Annual Performance Reviews.

Submitted by: Suzanne Blose, Personnel Committee Chairperson

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Committee Statement

The Property Committee maintains the campus (property) and physical plant (building and pavilion) assuring upkeep of mechanical, electrical, heating, and cooling systems. In order to do this, they solicit volunteers to mow the lawn and weed gardens in the summer, and shovel snow from sidewalks in the winter. In addition, the Property Committee keeps an inventory of church furniture and equipment (every five years) as well as all service agreements in the Church Office along with a list of phone numbers and contacts in addition to a list of keyholders having access to the buildings.

Meeting Dates (2020)

Met February 22, June 17, and July 17.

Committee Members

Kerry Loch, Chairperson; Jeff Coffin, William Fister, Bryan Horninger, Brett Hunsicker, Dwayne Kern, Kevin Minnich, Barry Silfies, and David Silfies. Volunteers included Linda Bowers, Deb Craig, Sean Harding, Bonnie Hewitt, Chad Loch, Daniel Loch, Pam Puskas, Richard Schock, Karen Smith, and John Zellner.

Accomplishments

- January – Removed Christmas tree from Sanctuary, packed up Mitten Tree and stored it above Narthex
- January – Orchestrated packing Christmas decorations and storing them above Narthex
- January – Disassembled the outdoor manger scene and stored it in Grove Pavilion
- January – Updated lights in kitchen, hallway, sacristy and narthex to LED
- February – Reviewed Property Committee Ways of Work making some changes
- March – Fixed flashing over the Fellowship Hall door in Courtyard
- March – Straightened three maple trees east of the church building
- March – Began work on concrete outside Kitchen entrance
- March – Re-piped the drain spout outside Kitchen entrance
- March – Collected reflector guides used for snow plowing around Campus
- April – Stripped and waxed Fellowship Hall floors
- April – Installed new mailbox for Church
- April – Fixed sink in men's room near Pastor's Study
- April – Sanitized woodwork in Sanctuary and counters in Narthex
- May – Installed 4 garage doors on pavilion and enclosed walls
- May – Had Stanley Steamer clean and disinfect the carpeting, pew cushions, and cloth chairs in Sanctuary and Narthex
- May – finished concrete work outside Kitchen entrance
- May – Changed timer for outdoor lights
- May – purchased a foldable dolly and handcart

Property Committee cont.

- June – Decluttered, organized, and sanitized the Nursery, Beginners Classroom, Confirmation Classroom, Pantry, and part of Adult Classroom
- June – Had Zimmer tune Sanctuary piano
- June – Repaired climate control knob in Pastor's Study
- July – Installed counter tops and cabinets in Church Office
- September – Removed four trees in grove
- September – Beekeeper came and removed honey bees from tree in grove
- October – New phone system installed and wireless internet updated
- October – Installed video doorbells and surveillance cameras at door near the Pastor's Study, Courtyard entrance to Faith Formation Wing, back entrance door near Fellowship Kitchen
- November – Planted pink dogwood tree for memorial to Brenda Horn
- November – Placed outdoor manger scene and retrieved Christmas decorations from above Narthex
- November – Replaced all the batteries in Emergency Lights throughout building
- December – Replaced all outdoors lights to LED
- December – Installed doorstep by the stained-glass window by Sacristy
- December – Replaced doorstep at double doors from Narthex to Faith Formation Wing.

Future Projects

- Repair Roadside Preacher
- Re-key all doors and install panic doors to entrances leading from Courtyard for fire safety
- Place outside signage for Sanctuary, Church Office, both Courtyard and entrance by Pastor's Study, Faith Formation Wing, Fellowship Hall, both Courtyard and entrance from back lawn, Grove Kitchen, Pavilion, and Maintenance Building
- Install shades for two windows in Narthex by AV equipment and for window in Fellowship Hall by serving counter
- Sell old storage trailer near volleyball court for scrap metal
- Place wheels on Fellowship Hall Altar for easy movement
- Spackle and paint Nursery
- Replace rubber vent pipe flange under shingles in Faith Formation Wing
- Replace aluminum flashing above entrance by Fellowship Kitchen
- Inspect integrity of sanctuary and office roof
- Need two (2) barn doors for pavilion.

Submitted by: Kerry Loch, Property Committee Chairperson

GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

Preschool Statement

The Little Shepherd's Preschool provides classes for children from our church and in our community. They offer classes for three- and four-year-olds. The three-year-old children meet on Monday and Wednesday, the four-year-old children and Pre-K class meet on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The curriculum includes arts and crafts, fine motor skills, musical activities, self-selection, snack time, fingerplays, language skills, pre-reading and pre-math skills. All the skills are incorporated into monthly themes and child centered and age appropriate.

We always start the new year with talking about the theme "Magnificent ME." It allows us to learn more about each of the children and their families. We focus on what makes each of us 'special.' We want to start the school year with helping the children develop a positive self-image.

Goals

Our Goal is to provide a caring, self-paced atmosphere that encourages the children to discover their world, themselves, and each other through a variety of creative learning experiences.

Meeting Dates

Three-year-old children meet on Monday and Wednesday, four-year old and Pre-K children meet Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, September to May

Preschool Director & Teachers

Mrs. Karen Weaver, Preschool Director/Teacher

Adrian Miller, Aide

Lisa Engle, Aide

Decisions Made

Due to Covid-19, we made the following decisions in the best interests of students and parents.

- Sept: We did not hold our Open House/Meet the Teacher night
- We set up individual appointments for new students.
- First day of school, September 14

Activities

- January
 - Reviewed what was already learned
 - Learned some important facts about Martin Luther King, Jr., on his birthday.
- February
 - Learned about caring and sharing as we celebrate Valentine's Day

Good Shepherd Preschool cont.

- March (start of Covid-19) unable to celebrate St. Patrick's Day or Easter. We were forced to close, so Mrs. Weaver:
 - went on a mission and delivered packages of supplies to each of the students to make with their parents
 - sent home crafts, along with chalk, bubbles, etc.
 - had a drive-by Easter Egg Hunt, with a costumed Easter Bunny
- April
 - had second drive by for parents to pick up supplies and caps and gowns for 'Preschool Graduation
- May
 - had third drive by and the teachers and parents agreed to meet over on the playground.
 - Ms. Adrian baked cupcakes for the children, and we had water and freeze pops.
 - the children were given an end-of-year gift (a tee shirt specially ordered for each child).
- September (Covid-19 restrictions continued)
 - unable to hold Open house/Meet the Teacher night
 - set up individual appointments with parents for new students
- October
 - took a field trip to Country Junction Pumpkin Patch in Lehighton
 - took photographs taken by D & K Photography
 - children dressed up for Halloween
- November
 - discussed First Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims
- December
 - holiday Shoppe that enabled the children to purchase gifts for other
 - held a Christmas party with a special gift from Santa.

Accomplishments

- 11 children graduated and are on their way to kindergarten
- 11 children will be returning to preschool for one more year of learning.

Submitted by: Karen Weaver, Good Shepherd Preschool Teacher

2020 CONGREGATIONAL MINUTES

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL MINUTES

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Members Present: 43

Purpose: To approve the 2021 budget; elect individuals to the Consistory and Committees; and revise a section of the Constitution dealing with Consistory President having to co-sign all checks.

Opening: Dennis Silfies, Consistory President called the meeting to order.

2021 Budget: Pete Beblavy, Chairperson of the Budget Subcommittee gave an overview of the Budget Narrative. After a brief discussion, Pete recommended that the 2021 Budget be approved. Dick Nothstein motioned to accept the Budget Narrative, seconded by Linda Bowers. Motion moved.

Nominating Committee Report: Susie Blose gave the Nominating Committee Report presenting the following slate of candidates for Consistory and Committees:

- Elder: Pam Puskas term ending 2024
- Deacons: Mary Storm and Joe Conway terms ending in 2024; and Amanda Bowers filling the unexpired term of Judy Bollinger term ending in 2022
- Fiscal Oversight: Eileen Andrews term ending in 2023
- Nominating: Janice Farber and David DeLong terms ending in 2023; and Linda Coffin serving a vacancy term ending 2021
- Pastoral Relations: Sheri Fallon and Monica Griffith terms ending in 2023
- Personnel: Tina Minnich term ending in 2023
- Property: Jeff Coffin and Kerry Loch terms ending in 2023

Susie thanked all those who had served and were stepping down including Dick Nothstein as Elder, Tammy Schaeffer as Deacon, Richard Smith for Personnel.

Joe Conway made a motion to accept the slate of candidates, seconded by Carol Krum. Motion moved.

Constitutional Change: Article 5, Paragraph 8, which states that the Consistory President must co-sign all checks. Tammy White made a motion to delete the passage requiring the Consistory President from co-signing checks, seconded by Dick Nothstein. Motion carried. The Ways-of-Work currently stipulates four (4) people able to sign, Cheryl Tully, Treasurer; Eddie Smith, Fundraising Group; Joe Conway, Consistory Vice President, and Dennis Silfies, Consistory President.

Adjournment: Darlene Nothstein made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Mary Lacy. Motion moved.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Layland, Church Secretary

PROPOSED 2021 SCHEDULE

GOOD SHEPHERD UCC, SLATINGTON, PA – 2021 SCHEDULE

January

- 01 – Initial Offering \$8.00
- 03 – **Epiphany Communion**
- 04 – Enrollment for Preschool begins
- 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
- 31 – *Energy/Fuel Special Offering*

February

- 01 – Enrollment for Preschool begins for general public
- 07 – Souper Bowl Sunday
- 17 – **Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes/Circle Communion – 7:00 pm**
- 24 – Lenten Gathering – 7:00 pm
- 28 – Boy and Girl Scout Sunday

March

- 03 – Lenten Gathering 7:00 pm
- 05 – World Day of Prayer
- 10 – Lenten Gathering 7:00 pm
- 14 – Daylight Savings begins at 2:00 am
- 17 – Lenten Gathering 7:00 pm
- 20 – Bingo Fundraiser
Indoor Clean-up 9:00 am
- 21 – *Mortgage Special Offering*
- 24 – Lenten Gathering 7:00 pm
- 27 – Outdoor Clean-up 9:00 am
- 28 – *One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering*
Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am

April

- 01 – **Maundy Thursday Communion** 7:00 pm
- 02 – Good Friday Prayer Vigil 12:00 – 3:00 pm
Good Friday Service at Good Shepherd 7:00 pm
- 03 – Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am
- 04 – **Easter Communion Service 6:00 am/10 am**
- 15 – Car Cruise and Vendors
- 16 – 17 – PNEC Spring Conference Meeting
- 17 – Sportsman's Night
- 25 – *Emergency Fund Special Offering*

May

- 02 – Hymn Sing & Music Fest 3:00 pm
- 09 – Mother's Day
Rural Life Sunday
- 15 – Car Cruise
- 16 – Mental Health Sunday
- 23 – **Pentecost Communion – Confirmation**
Faith Formation Promotion Sunday
- 26 – Preschool Graduation 6:30 pm
- 30 – Christian Education Promotion Sunday
Strengthen the Church Special Offering
- 31 – Memorial Day Service – Slatedale Cemetery 8 am

June

- 13 – Graduate Sunday
- 20 – Father's Day
Organ Special Offering
- 25 – 64th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ
- 27 – Open and Affirming Sunday
Meat & Money Raffle

July

- 04 – **God & Country Communion**
- 11 – 14 – Vacation Bible School
- 15 – Vacation Bible School Closing 7:00 pm

September

- 05 – Christian Education Registration Day 9:30 am
- 08 – 09 – Preschool Meet the Teacher Night 6:00 pm
- 12 – Faith Formation Sunday
Grandparent's Day
- 13 – Preschool Welcome
- 14 – First day of Preschool
Mortgage Special Offering
- 26 – *Harvest Home*

October

- 00 – Winterize Grove Kitchen 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- 00 – International Luncheon
- 03 – **World Wide Communion**
Neighbors in Need Special Offering
- 10 – Access & Disabilities Awareness Sunday
- 21 – Basket Social 6 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm)

November

- 06 – PNEC Annual Fall Meeting
- 07 – Daylight Saving Ends at 2:00 am
Totenfest
Hymn Sing & Music Fest 3:00 pm
- 11 – Veteran's Day
- 14 – Stewardship Sunday
- 20 – Gift Card Bingo
Pizza Sale
- 21 – *Energy/Fuel Special Offering*
Congregational Meeting
- 23 – Thanksgiving Eve Service at Good Shepherd 7:00
- 28 – **Advent Communion/Hanging of Greens**
Capital Fund Special Offering

December

- 01 – World AIDS Day
- 05 – *Emergency Fund*
- 11 – Toy Bingo
- 12 – Christmas Caroling Sponsored by Youth
Fellowship 12:30 pm
Christmas Program 3:00 pm
- 19 – *The Christmas Fund Special Offering*
- 24 – **Christmas Eve Holy Communion**
3:00/5:00/11:00 pm with Candlelight Service

2021 Holy Communion Schedule

January

06 – Epiphany 10:00 am

February

17 – Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm

April

01 – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

04 – Easter 6:00 am/10:00 am

May

23 – Pentecost 10:00 am

July

04 – God & Country 10:00 am

October

03 – World-Wide Communion

November

28 – Advent

December

24 – Christmas Eve 3:00 pm/5:00 pm/1:00 pm
With Candlelight Service

2021 Lenten Schedule

February

17 – Ash Wednesday (Imposition of Ashes)

March

03 – Lenten Gathering 7:00 pm

10 – Lenten Gathering 7:00 pm

17 – Lenten Gathering 7:00 pm

24 – Lenten Gathering 7:00 pm

28 – Palm Sunday (Procession with Donkey)

April

01 – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

02 – Good Friday Meditation Noon – 3:00 pm

Good Friday Service at Good Shepherd 7:00 pm

03 – Easter Egg Hunt

04 – Easter 6:00 am/10:00 am

2020 FINANCIAL AUDIT AND REVIEW OF ACCOUNTING BOOKS

For the Period December 30, 2019 thru December 30, 2020

All monthly transactions and payments were reviewed for accuracy and verified with the bank statement and monthly reconciliation reports.

GENERAL FUND CHECKING

Bank Balance as of 12/30/2019	18,861.14
2020 Income	275,551.47
2020 Expenses	(-267,578.88)
Bank balance 12/30/2020	26,833.73
Uncleared Transactions as of 12/30/2020	(-5,947.94)
Adjusted Church Register Balance as of 12/30/2020	20,885.79

SAVINGS ACCT

Bank Balance as of 12/30/2019	37,047.66
2020 Income	39,679.44
2020 Expenses	(-9,202.66)
Bank Balance 12/30/2020	67,524.44
Uncleared Transactions as of 12/30/2020	0
Adjusted Church Register Balance as of 12/30/2020	67,524.44

FUND RAISING CHECKING

Bank Balance as of 12/30/2019	3,002.09
2020 Income	9,619.00
2020 Expenses	(-11,194.72)
Bank balance 12/30/2020	1,426.37
Uncleared transactions as of 12/30/2020	0
Adjusted Church Register Balance as of 12/30/2020	1,426.37

LITTLE SHEPHERD PRE-SCHOOL

Bank Balance as of 12/31/19	11,131.91
2020 Income	34,276.00
2020 Expenses	(-31,265.46)
Bank Balance as of 12/31/2020	14,142.45
Uncleared transactions as of 12/31/2020	(-334.61)
Adjusted Account Balance as of 12/31/2020	13,807.84

2020 Financial audit and Review of Accounting Books cont.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Account Balance as of 01/01/2020	13,545.00
2020 Income	313,805.82
2020 Expenses	(-327,350.82)
Bank Balance as of 01/13/2021	0.00
Account Closed 01/13/2021	

Information regarding the investment accounts can be obtained from the Fiscal Oversight Committee

Submitted by: Audit Committee: Madeline Balliet, Susan Zellner, Chris Kegel, Alice Kegel, Michelle Hunsicker 03/24/2021

PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET

2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

EXPENSE

PROPOSED 2021

Building Expense

Liability Insurance	\$	9,367.00
Electric	\$	3,000.00
Propane	\$	6,500.00
Janitorial expense	\$	200.00
Mortgage	\$	10,848.00
Extra Principle	\$	1,200.00
Capital Fund	\$	900.00
Other expenses	\$	1,000.00
Phone expense	\$	800.00
Service contracts (ABE)	\$	427.20
Property	\$	5,500.00
Terminex	\$	444.00

TOTAL BUILDING

\$ 40,186.20

Church Office

Offering envelopes	\$	1,345.00
Office supplies	\$	500.00
Postage	\$	400.00
Sunday bulletins	\$	600.00
Website	\$	334.00
CCLI copyright	\$	284.00
Equipment contracts	\$	954.00
Treasurer's expense	\$	150.00
Internet	\$	1,080.00
Breeze	\$	600.00

TOTAL CHURCH OFFICE

\$ 6,247.00

Ministry

Faith Formation	\$	1,000.00
Altar flowers/geraniums	\$	820.00
Easter Flowers	\$	160.00
Conference meetings	\$	200.00
Faith and Mission		
Allentown Rescue Mission	\$	67.00
Bethany Children's	\$	67.00
Autism Awareness	\$	67.00
Lancaster Seminary	\$	67.00
Meals on Wheels	\$	67.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$	67.00
Muscular Dystrophy	\$	67.00
Northern Lehigh Food Bank	\$	67.00
Phoebe Home	\$	67.00
Soup Kitchen	\$	67.00
Turning Point	\$	67.00
VALOR	\$	67.00
Fellowship Team	\$	50.00
Worship Team	\$	500.00

Proposed 2021 Budget cont.

Youth Fellowship Team	\$	125.00
Supply Pastor	\$	300.00
TOTAL MINISTRY	\$	3,959.00

Missionary

Bethany	\$	375.00
NL Meals on Wheels	\$	375.00
Lancaster Seminary	\$	350.00
CACPAC	\$	375.00
Palm. Meals on Wheels	\$	375.00
West End Food Pantry	\$	375.00
Lehigh County Conf	\$	350.00
Family Promise Carbon	\$	375.00
Care Net	\$	375.00
NL Food Bank	\$	375.00
OCWM	\$	4,020.00
Phoebe Devitt Home	\$	375.00
Christmas Fund	\$	100.00
TOTAL MISSIONARY	\$	8,195.00

Pastor Benefits

Continuing ed	\$	500.00
Housing	\$	18,000.00
Transportation	\$	4,000.00
Vision	\$	100.00
Disability Ins	\$	1,015.00
Health/Dental Ins	\$	12,079.00
Pension dues	\$	9,471.00
TOTAL PASTOR BENEFITS	\$	45,165.00

Salary and Wages

Pastor	\$	49,648.00
Choir Director	\$	8,158.00
Secretary	\$	9,235.00
Sexton	\$	7,358.00
Organist	\$	7,142.00
Treasurer	\$	3,043.00
Sexton Cleaning	\$	550.00
Supply Organist	\$	250.00
Payroll Taxes	\$	7,848.00
Payroll Service fees	\$	1,250.00
Financial Secretary	\$	520.00
Preschool Payroll	\$	23,404.00
Workers Comp	\$	650.00
TOTAL SALARY AND WAGES	\$	119,056.00

TOTAL EXPENSE **\$ 222,808.20**

Submitted by: Pete Beblavy, Committee Chair

NOTES