



GOOD SHEPHERD

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Pastor James D. Robison, Jr

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

www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington

Good Shepherd Faithfully serving ~ Compassionately accepting ~ Transforming together.

Mountain Reflections December 2024

Dear Family and Friends of Good Shepherd ~

As we approach Christmas, let's embrace the miracle of Jesus' birth, a sign of God's love and hope. This season, we have many opportunities to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Our traditional activities, like the Hanging of the Greens for Advent and Christmas caroling, bring joy and connection. These traditions remind us of the importance of community and celebration. The Christmas Eve service with luminaries will light our path, symbolizing the light of Christ in our lives.

Beyond these traditions, we can extend our love to those in need. Collecting blankets for the homeless is one way we can provide warmth and comfort during this cold season. Each blanket we donate is a gift of compassion and care.

As we gather with family and friends, let's also remember those who may be lonely or in need of support. Our small efforts can make a big difference, spreading the true spirit of Christmas.

May we all experience the joy and peace of this holy season.

With the love of Christ,

Pastor James

DECEMBER LECTIONARY

December 01, 2024 1st Sunday of Advent

Lesson: Luke 21:25-36

Meditation: Sign of Things to Come

December 08, 2024 2nd Sunday of Advent

Lesson: Luke 3:1-6

Meditation: Make Ready

December 15, 2024 3rd Sunday of Advent

Lesson: Luke 3:7-18

Meditation: Look Forward

December 22, 2024 4th Sunday of Advent

Lesson: Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Meditation: Moving with Mary's Song

December 29, 2024 1st Sunday after Christmas

Lesson: Luke 2:41-52

Meditation: Who Is This Child?

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Communion ~ Tuesday, December 24, 2024

3:00 pm/5:00 pm/11:00 pm

Virtual Worship Services thru Facebook Live-Streaming allows us to continue our services for those unable to attend in person.

Our Facebook Page:

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

Worship With Us In Your Car:

For those who wish to, you can at any time, remain in your vehicles and park in the front parking lot to enjoy the service by tuning in and listening to our **FM Station 88.5**.

**Mission Outreach for December is
AIDS Awareness**

To expand the visibility of timely and relevant Federal HIV policies, programs and resources to the American public. To assess starting or increasing the use of new media tools by government, minority-serving organizations, and other community partners to extend the reach of HIV programs to communities at greatest risk. To increase knowledge about HIV and access to HIV services for people most at risk for or living with HIV. HIV.gov receives planning guidance from the Federal HIV/AIDS Web Council using a communication plan to guide its activities. www.hiv.gov or www.facebook.com/HIVgov

**Altar Flowers and Bulletins
Given To The Honor And Glory Of God**



To honor someone with altar flowers, or to sponsor a bulletin, please place your name, and the person(s) to be honored or remembered, on the calendar in the narthex. Flower orders \$35 and/or bulletin \$10, sponsorship must be on the calendar in the Narthex by the prior Sunday. Linda Coffin is the Altar Guild contact.

Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir will present the Christmas cantata For He Alone is Worthy during the December 15th church service.

The cantata will be narrated by Pete Beblavy and Sheri Fallon. The choir will gather for a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 14th from 9am - 12pm. **The Chancel Choir welcomes all who would like to participate!** Contact Beth for sheet music! The Chancel Choir and Media Team will be celebrating the season with a Christmas Party on December 17th and are looking forward to a time of fellowship and celebration. Youth Ensemble has been incorporated into Faith Formations. Faith Formations, at 9 am on Sundays, will start with music and prayer in the social hall. Children from Faith Formations will be presenting special music during the 3 pm Christmas Eve service.



Our **Thoughts &**
Prayers
are with...



Homebound Members

Marge Bass	Dennis Derr	
Mary Bilheimer	Donna Fox	Carol Schweitzer
Shirley Blynn	Betty Humanick*	
Kay Costenbader	Susan 'Tillie' Waller	

Those Serving Our Country in the Armed Services

Or with The Department of Defense:

Colby Adams	Michael Kelsey	Spencer Perkins
Anthony Babb	Marcus Loch	Nicholas Sander
Sean Bolza	Rebecca McMichael	Benjamin Schaffer
Dalton Housenick	Jacob Molchan	Janel Tracy
Kira (Kern) Kelsey	Adam Moyer	
	Jacqueline (Tracy) Moyer	

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

Family & Friends

Madeline Balliet	Frank Hart	Dennis Raver
Michael Bowers	Karl Heffelfinger	Dan Riddle
Bonnie Brozey	Michelle Hewitt	Kylie Schneider
Angie Carbin	Gary Johannes	Kylie Solt
Charlee Carbin	Boden Kearney	Frank Strohl
Louise Croll*	Chris Kegel	Elizabeth Wetzel
Lester Derhammer	Hayden Keller	Jenn Wentz
Doug Farber	Susan Lukon	Helen Zolnowsky
Richard Fritz	Steve Mansueto	
Lee Haas	Barbara Mathias*	All first responders

***Denotes hospice care**

Purged at beginning of each month.

Renews are welcomed

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Richard Frantz	Rev. Russell Heintzelman	Bobby Lewis
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Prayers for Students in higher education:

Dane Badman at LCCC, Megan Bankes at Glenville State WV, Tyla Block at Widener, Aricka Creyer at Cedar Crest, Carissa Fallon at Penn State, Riley Fallon at Penn State, Ben Griffith at Luzerne, Katy Griffith at Cedar Crest, Emma Hope at Kutztown, Sarah Hope at LCCC, Evan Horninger at DeSales, Olivia Horninger at Cedar Crest, Cece Pyfer at LCCC, Jade Rice at DeSales, Brody Ritter at the University of Delaware, Caden Shields at Muhlenberg, Cameron Shields at LCCC, Colleen Shields at Strayer, Caleb Sommers at Kutztown, Calista Smoyer at West Virginia, Gabriella Smoyer at Cedar Crest, Luke Zook at Villanova.

Financial

G Giving - Good Stewardship Made Easy

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

Texting the word “give” to **610.615.7657**

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 to give through texting, text the word “give” to 610.615.7657 and follow the prompts on your mobile phone Thank you for prayerfully considering what you can afford.

SCRIP Report • November 2024

Participants	-	20
Cards Ordered	-	205
Profit	-	\$428.55

Orders Due **Sunday, December 1** with delivery on **Sunday, December 8th.**

The Winner of the November Lottery was: Shirley Smith



See Karen Smith to participate.

Calendar

Calendar

December Birthdays

Dec 2	Sandy White	Dec 18	Robert Schramel, Sr.
Dec 3	Sallie Solt	Dec 19	Nanette Zink
Dec 6	Maddy Rex	Dec 20	Robert Evans
Dec 8	Dot Arnold	Dec 20	Robert Shelly
Dec 8	Evan Hantz	Dec 21	Evan Horninger
Dec 9	Marie Bachman	Dec 21	Tim Storm
Dec 9	Shirley Blynn	Dec 21	John Zellner
Dec 9	Wesley Loch	Dec 23	Aricka Creyer
Dec 9	Joshua Richardson	Dec 23	Omar Safi
Dec 9	Calista Smoyer	Dec 23	Hatcher White
Dec 10	Dawn Beblavy	Dec 24	Carol Krum
Dec 14	Evelyn Haas	Dec 25	“JESUS”
Dec 15	Travis Hausman	Dec 26	Michael Bowers
Dec 15	Keith Horn	Dec 26	Rae Anne Creyer
Dec 17	Keri Dimmig	Dec 26	Allison Schaffer
Dec 18	Kennedy DeAngelo	Dec 30	Marcus Kremposky
Dec 18	Katie Koneschusky	Dec 31	Kelly Beblavy
Dec 18	Terri Miller		

December Anniversaries

Dec 2	Joseph & Pam (Bossons) Puskas, Sr.
Dec 3	Richard & Penny (Bowers) Keen
Dec 3	Allen & Robin (Zancofsky) Lichtenwalner
Dec 10	Matthew & Amber (Miller) Snyder
Dec 21	Glenn & Sherry (Billman) Bishop
Dec 27	Arthur & Lisa (Smith) Kuntz

Redner's Save-A-Tape bucket in Narthex. The church gets 1% of your receipt if you have a Save-A-Tape card from Redner's.

Clothing drop-off box at the rear of the property earns our church money per pound. If you are cleaning out your closets, this is a good fundraiser for the church. Profit this year is \$575.

Good Shepherd Friendsgiving

As Thanksgiving, a traditional time to spend with family, approaches, the Faith Formation Team of Good Shepherd would like to invite you to a new tradition called **Friendsgiving**. This is a modern celebration bringing your chosen family of friends together to share a Thanksgiving-like meal (this year just desserts). **The youngsters invite you to bring your favorite dessert to share as we gather in the Fellowship Hall following worship on December 1st.** There will also be a pie tasting contest to see which pie the youngsters enjoyed and would like to have again. There will be a time to go around the tables and say one thing you are thankful for. Please sign up in the Narthex if interested in attending.

On **December 22, 2024**, at **3pm** the **Valley Voices Community Chorale** will share a "**Winter/Christmas**" concert at the **Slatington United Presbyterian Church** located at 6750 PA Route 873, Slatington, PA. (across from the Dollar Store). During the performance we will include some special hymns to be sung by the audience & the special closing number will hopefully be enjoyed by all. A free will offering will be accepted & refreshments will follow the program. Any questions you may have can be answered by calling me at 610-767-8337 Anna Mary Milot Co-Ordinator, Director



The Northern Lehigh Food Bank is requesting donations of corn for Christmas. 200 cans of corn are needed by Sunday 12/8/24. Please bring your donations to church and put them in the shopping cart located in the Narthex.

Snow, Ice, Winter Emergency Cancellations

check out TV Channel 69 or Radio Station WAEB 790am, our website and Facebook sites. Email or Texts.

Keystone Conference ~ Together We Are Stronger

November 9, 2024 marks an historic date in the life of our Church.

On this date, all four conferences that comprise the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania simultaneously voted on merging together to become one Conference. The vote was as follows:

- a) PWC: 135 YES; 15 NO = 90%
- b) PCC: 286 YES; 28 NO = 91%
- c) PNEC: 141 YES; 2 NO = 98.6%
- d) PSEC: 246 YES; 19 NO = 92%

The next step in the process to form this new Keystone Conference will be a resolution submitted to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ which meets in Kansas City, MO July 11-15, 2025.

Following the affirmation of General Synod for us to become the Keystone Conference, PNEC will no longer be a conference acting as an association but will instead become an association of the Keystone Conference. There will be a need of volunteers from clergy and laity to continue the various duties we are already serving as an association, but no longer as a conference. This new association will involve some expenses including some administrative costs, mailings, etc. and supplement the scholarship resources that will support pastors, continuing education, youth programming and authorization preparation. These expenses will be supported both by the conference and by the association, which can include fees for programs and events, as well as the Friends of the PNEC resources.

Again, with the creation of the Keystone Conference, monies collected through Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) will go to our new conference while the work of our new association will be supported mainly through individual and congregational support of Friends of the PNEC, which will be renamed as we become an association.

Poinsettia Order Forms due by December 8. Order forms in Narthex.

Candelabra Flower orders due by Sunday, December 15. Order forms in Narthex.

Good Shepherd Reverse Advent Calendar

Instead of receiving something each day of Advent, reverse it by giving something instead. Please consider preparing a special box to place items in during the season and add the following suggestions for each day and bring them to church as a donation to the local food bank.

(try to get cans with pull tabs to avoid the need of a can opener)

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. box of cereal | 13. bar of soap |
| 2. jar of peanut butter | 14. instant noodles |
| 3. box of stuffing mix | 15. canned meat |
| 4. jar of pasta sauce | 16. crackers |
| 5. box of tissues | 17. Jar of applesauce |
| 6. can of tuna | 18. box of instant potatoes |
| 7. canned mixed vegetables | 19. toilet paper |
| 8. tea bags | 20. package of cookies |
| 9. deodorant | 21. shampoo |
| 10. can of soup | 22. laundry detergent |
| 11. can of condensed milk | 23. instant oats |
| 12. toothpaste | 24. can of cranberry sauce |

Christmas Eve Worship Leaders

Elder:	Dec 24th	3 pm	Chris Kegel
Deacon:	Dec 24th	3 pm	Joe Conway
Acolyte:	Dec 24th	3 pm	TBD
Lay Reader:	Dec 24th	3 pm	Dennis Silfies
Greeter:	Dec 24th	3 pm	Alice Kegel
Elder:	Dec 24th	5 pm	Pam Puskas
Deacon:	Dec 24th	5 pm	Amanda Bowers
Acolyte:	Dec 24th	5 pm	Holden White
Lay Reader:	Dec 24th	5 pm	David Nothstein
Greeter:	Dec 24th	5 pm	Kevin & Kellie Smith
Elder:	Dec 24th	11pm	Dennis Silfies
Deacon:	Dec 24th	11pm	Matt Shields
Acolyte:	Dec 24th	11pm	Cameron Shields
Lay Reader:	Dec 24th	11pm	Rae Anne Creyer
Greeter:	Dec 24th	11pm	Carol Krum & Family

Staying in Touch

Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Church Office: 610-767-9680 Ext. 2

Email: secretary@goodshepherdccslatington.org

Pastor James Mobile Phone: 484-571-6083

Email: jamdarrob@gmail.com

Our Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. James D. Robison, Jr.
Preschool Director	Karen Weaver
Organist/Pianist	Dr. Yezi Chen
Choir Director	Beth Kutzner
Secretary	Eileen Andrews
Treasurer	Tammy White
Financial Secretary	Colleen Shields
Sexton	Matthew Shields

December Worship Leaders

Deacon:	Amanda Bowers
Altar Guild:	Deb Craig & Fiona Dieter
Lay Readers:	1 Dennis Silfies
	8 David Nothstein
	15 Monica Griffith
	22 Pam Puskas
	29 Rae Anne Creyer
Greeters:	1 Alice Kegel
	8 Karen Smith
	15 Madeline Balliet & Donna Keener
	22 Trent & Amanda Smith
	29 Marie Bachman & Obie O'Brien

Power Point Designers: Deb Craig, Eric Hantz

A/V Operators: Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger, Beth Kutzner

Facebook Design: Marie Bachman