



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 2025

Dear Friends and Members of Good Shepherd UCC ~

December arrives wrapped in mystery and wonder, calling us once again to the heart of the Christmas story ~ a story of hope born in unexpected places, of light shining in the darkness, of love made flesh among us.

In this sacred season, we are invited to slow down and notice the beauty that often goes unseen: a child's laughter, the hush of falling snow, the warmth of a candle in the dark. These simple moments reflect the miracle of Emmanuel ~ God with us ~ then, now, and always.

As we prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas, may we do so with awe and joy. Let us make space for the Christ Child ~ not just in nativity scenes, but in acts of compassion, in shared meals, in songs of praise, and in generous hearts.

This is the season where heaven meets earth, where hope is rekindled, and where love is born anew. May our *wonder-filled Christmas celebration* be a time of deep joy, meaningful connection, and holy peace.

No matter where you find yourself this December, know that you are not alone. God is near. Love is here. And that is the true gift of Christmas.

With Christmas blessings,

Pastor James

DECEMBER LECTIONARY

December 07, 2025 2nd Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10
Meditation: Vision of Peace

December 14, 2025 3rd Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 1:46b-55
Meditation: Heartbeat of Justice

December 21, 2025 4th Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25
Meditation: God With Us

December 28, 2025 1st Sunday after Christmas

Scripture: Psalm 148
Meditation: Cosmic Praise

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Communion ~ December 24, 2025 at
3pm/5pm/11pm

Virtual Worship Services: Our Facebook Page:

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

Live-Streaming You Tube and Facebook allows us to continue our services for those unable to attend in person.

Financial ~ e-Giving - Good Stewardship Made Easy

<https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>, text the word “give” to

610.615.7657 or use your pre-addressed Church Envelopes.

Thank you for prayerfully considering what you can afford.

Snow, Ice, Winter Emergency Cancellations

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

**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

The **Chancel Choir** meets on Tuesdays from 7-8 PM.

Special rehearsals in December are:

Tuesday, December 2 from 7-8:30 pm

Saturday, December 6 from 9 am to Noon

Chancel Choir pieces for December include *Christmas is Coming, With Empty Hearts We Wait*. **The annual Christmas Cantata will be held on December 7th.** This year's cantata is titled "*This is Christmas*". The energy and soaring melodies will have your heart singing praises to the coming of the Christ Child!

The annual Chancel Choir/Media Team Christmas party will be on December 16th at 6 pm.

There will be no Choir Tuesday, December 23, Sunday, December 28, Tuesday, December 30 or Sunday, January 4.

You are always welcome at Chancel Choir whether you can sing every Sunday, or just a few Sundays, we would love to have you with us!



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



Homebound Members

Marge Bass	Kay Costenbader	Judy Mack
Mary Bilheimer	Dennis Derr	Carol Schweitzer
Shirley Blynn	Donna Fox	“Tillie” Waller

Those Serving Our Country In the Armed Services

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

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

Family & Friends

The Behler Family	Barbara Hower	Shirley Phillips
Gail Bell	Brett Hunsicker	Ty Sander
Sherry Bishop	Gary Johannes	Gary Schneck
David Demera	Hayden Keller	Barry Silfies
Doug Farber	Jim Koch	Frank Soldridge
Tina Fetchko	Frances Kuntz	Frank Strohl
Lee Haas	Lauri	Jenn Wentz
First Responders	Cindy Long	Dayton White
Frank Hart	Chris Oertner	John Zellner

Purged at beginning of each month, Renewals are welcomed

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Jen Engle	Ruth Gelnett	Susan Goodbred
Robert Heil, Sr.	Barbara Horn	Mike Miller
Layla Olesh	Ethan Schulz	
David “Bootman” Schrayner		Pattie Smiley

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Faith Formation Groups meet on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00 AM with opening activities in the Fellowship Hall.

Opportunities include:

Newborns to 5 year olds - **Nursery** with Mary Storm, Samantha Shoemaker, Kelsey & Jordan Knittle-Moser, and Brandi Palmer

K thru 4th grade - **Children** with Amanda Smith, MaryAnn Storm, Chastity Corvino

5th thru 7th grade - **Preteens** with RaeAnne Creyer, Beth Frantz

8th thru 12th grade - **Youth** with Monica Griffith, Eric Hantz

College Faith Formation with Marie Bachman, Pastor James

Staff – Pam Puskas, Deb Craig, Dennis Silfies, Beth Kutzner, Tammy White, Amanda Dieter

Exciting Activities for December:

Gingerbread House Decorating on **December 7** with voting by the congregation for their favorites

The **Christmas Pageant** will be on **December 14** at 6pm with rehearsals on Saturday, December 6 and 13.

\$10 movie reservations are available for **Saturday, December 20** at **10:30 am** to see **David** at the **Movie Tavern**, Trexlertown.

Christmas Caroling on **December 21** after church. All family members are welcome to join as we travel to homebound members to spread holiday cheer.

Come support our youngsters in their faith journey!

2025/2026 Winter Confirmation Schedule

Session 15 ~ *Mnemonics for Christians*

Date: Sunday, December 21, 2025, 11:15am – 2:00pm

Session 1 ~ *Introduction*

Date: Sunday, December 28, 2025, 11:15 am – Noon

Session 2 ~ *Scriptures*

Date: Monday, December 29, 2025, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Session 3 ~ *Theology*

Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2025, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Calendar

Calendar

December Birthdays

Dec 2	Sandy White	Dec 18	Katie Koneschusky
Dec 3	Sallie Solt	Dec 18	Terri Miller
Dec 6	Stephanie Reimert	Dec 18	Robert Schramel, Sr.
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 8	Carol Oswald	Dec 21	Tim Storm
Dec 9	Marie Bachman	Dec 21	John Zellner
Dec 9	Shirley Blynn	Dec 23	Aricka Creyer
Dec 9	Wesley Loch	Dec 23	Omar Safi
Dec 9	Joshua Richardson	Dec 23	Hatcher White
Dec 9	Calista Smoyer	Dec 24	Carol Krum
Dec 10	Dawn Beblavy	Dec 25	“JESUS”
Dec 14	Evelyn Haas	Dec 26	Michael Bowers
Dec 15	Keith Horn	Dec 26	Rae Anne Creyer
Dec 16	Trent Smith	Dec 26	Allison Schaffer
Dec 17	Ryan Alcaro	Dec 30	Marcus Kremposky
Dec 17	Keri Dimmig	Dec 31	Kelly Beblavy
Dec 18	Kennedy DeAngelo		

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

The Winner of the November Lottery was: Carol Blose



See Karen Smith to participate.

Thank you to those who made contributions in memory of the following:

In Memory of Warren “Boise” Reitz (1951-2025)

Diana Druckenmiller, Sandra Gallagher and Clarence & Florence Smith.

Altar Flowers and Bulletins

Thank you to our November bulletin sponsors:

November 30 In Memory of Loved Ones

by Mr. & Mrs. Gary Fatzinger

Thank you to our sponsors for November flowers:

November 9-In Memory of James Shelly

by Robert Shelly and Bonnie & Matt Hewitt

Thank you to our November “Holy Grounds” sponsors, Pam Puskas.

To sponsor flowers (\$35) or bulletins (\$10), please place your name, and the person(s) to be honored or remembered, on the calendar in the narthex and place your contribution in the envelope.

To sponsor our “Holy Grounds” coffee time, \$5 plus goodies, please sign up in the Narthex.

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 \$540.

We are collecting individual packages of applesauce for Backpack Buddies through December 31. We collected 191 individual boxes of cereal in September and October. Northern Lehigh School District serves about 100 families each week.

We are collecting 200 cans of corn Christmas meals at the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. **Corn needed by 12/7.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 |

Operation Warm Their Toes

Looking for new socks for our
VALOR Veterans.



All warm clothing will also be welcomed

Collecting November thru January our Mission Month

Our Veterans Thank You!



Faith Formation is asking for **donations for homebound members**. Sugar-free candy packs, dish towels, stamps, notecards, envelopes, small notepad and pen, puzzle books, small Christmas “knickknack”, hand creams/lotions, baskets. **Items needed by Dec. 14.**

Christmas Eve Worship Leaders

Elder:	Dec 24th	3 pm	Chris Kegel
Deacon:	Dec 24th	3 pm	Mary Storm
Acolyte:	Dec 24th	3 pm	Fiona Dieter
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 Smith
Acolyte:	Dec 24th	5 pm	Holden White
Lay Reader:	Dec 24th	5 pm	Linda Coffin
Greeter:	Dec 24th	5 pm	Karen Smith
Elder:	Dec 24th	11pm	Chris Kegel
Deacon:	Dec 24th	11pm	Matt Shields
Acolyte:	Dec 24th	11pm	Cameron Shields
Lay Reader:	Dec 24th	11pm	Jodie Hourt
Greeter:	Dec 24th	11pm	Carol Krum & Family

SCRIP Report • November 2025

Participants	-	14
Cards Ordered	-	154
Profit	-	\$334.18

Orders Due **Sunday, December 7** with delivery on **Sunday, December 14**, so that everyone will have their **Christmas gift cards** in time for the Holidays. **Please ask family and friends, neighbors and coworkers.** This is open to everyone.

Thank you to all who participated in the Cash & Gift Card Bingo. The fundraising committee raised \$1,875.01 and there were 75 participants.

There are order forms in the Narthex for **Christmas Poinsettias**. **Orders are due by December 4.**

Staying in Touch

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

Thursday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Church Office: 610-767-9680 Ext. 2

Email: secretary@goodshepherduccslatington.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 Smith
Elder:		Tammy White
Altar Guild:		Deb Craig & Fiona Dieter
Acolytes:	7	Mackenzie Palmer
	14	Mackenzie Palmer
	21	Callie McGinnis
	28	Mackenzie Palmer
Lay Readers:	7	Jodie Hourt
	14	David Nothstein
	21	Beth Kutzner
	28	Monica Griffith
Greeters:	7	Kathy Elston & Mike Passaro
	14	Tammy White
	21	Barbara Lorah
	28	Tammy Schaeffer

Power Point Designers: Deb Craig, Eric Hantz

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

Web Designer: Marie Bachman