



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 February 2024

Beloved Community,

As February unfolds its embrace, we find ourselves at the crossroads of sacred traditions and expressions of love.

This month, we are graced with the convergence of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day on the same auspicious day, inviting us to reflect on the profound intersections of our spiritual and earthly journeys.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, a time of introspection, repentance, and renewal. As we gather to receive ashes on our foreheads, let us remember the transient nature of our existence and the call to turn our hearts back to the Divine. This sacred observance invites us to embark on a transformative journey, seeking forgiveness and embracing the opportunity for spiritual growth.

Simultaneously, we celebrate Valentine's Day, a day dedicated to the language of love. In this convergence, we are reminded of the interconnectedness of our human experiences—our relationships with one another and with the Divine. As we exchange tokens of affection, let us also extend the love that knows no bounds—the agape love that reflects the essence of our Creator.

May this unique alignment of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day inspire us to deepen our connection with the Divine and to share love generously. Let our Lenten journey be infused with compassion, understanding, and a commitment to fostering love in our communities.

Together, let us navigate this season with open hearts and a renewed spirit, embracing both the solemnity of repentance and the warmth of love.

In the spirit of reflection and love

Pastor James

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

February 4, 2024 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Lesson: Mark 1:29-39

Meditation: Source of Strength

February 11, 2024 Transfiguration Sunday

Lesson: Mark 9:2-9

Meditation: Compassionate Community

February 18, 2024 1st Sunday in Lent

Lesson: Psalm 25:1-10

Meditation: God's Loving Paths

February 25, 2024 2nd Sunday in Lent

Lesson: Psalm 22:23-31

Meditation: Always Close

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday ~ Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm

We will be celebrating communion as we have prior to the pandemic. If you wish to stay in your vehicle, simply respond at the appropriate time to receive communion by turning on your four-way flashers. Ushers with masks and gloves will bring elements to you and any passengers in your car. Those who wish to remain in their vehicles can participate by listening to the service on FM Station 88.5.

Virtual Worship Services thru Facebook Live-Streaming allows us to continue our services for those at church and for those at home.

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 February is
Soup/Ecumenical Kitchen**

Our Mission focus for **February** is **Soup/Ecumenical Kitchen**, nourishing those in Need since 1982 by feeding the hungry, serving more than 35,000 meals a year and providing access to medical care for those in need. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 8th & Walnut Streets, Allentown, PA 18101 Noon to 1 pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

FAMILY PROMISE

Good Shepherd & Heidelberg UCC will be **hosting Family Promise the week of April 28 to May 5**. We need volunteers to greet the arriving families at 6 pm & stay until 8:30 pm; to cook a meal; to stay overnight (8:30pm-6am); and/or to assist with set-up & clean-up on April 28 and May 5. If you are interested in helping with this mission project, please see Ann Hayes or email at ahayes2395@gmail.com.

Family Promise has scheduled host-dates in 2024: April 28-May 5, 2024, and October 13-20, 2024. Please consider volunteering and contact Ann Hayes.

Family Promise is looking for a few more drivers to help transport our families in the 14-passenger van/bus. You do not need any special license. Families are picked at the congregations at 6 a.m. and at the Day Center at 6 p.m. except Saturday and Sunday mornings which is 7 a.m. Congregations are within a 30-minute drive of the Day Center, some just minutes away. If you can sign up for one or two shifts per week, please contact Roslyn at director@fplehighvalley.org

There will be a **Family Promise Training Session** at **Heidelberg Union** next Sunday, February 4 at 11:20 am.



Our *Thoughts* &
Prayers
are with...



Homebound Members

Marge Bass	Dennis Derr	
Mary Bilheimer	Betty Humanick	Richard Kuntz
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

Jane Achey	Kevin Kroboth	Sandy Serfass
Connie Beblavy	Wayne Kuhns	Donna Slanina-Ruiz
Gail Bell	Don Kutzner	Kylie Schneider
David Blose	Tina Minnich	Dee Dee Sloane
Rob Davis	Chris Newhard	Sallie Solt
Doug Farber	Chris Oertner	Mary Storm
Drew Fatzinger, Sr.	Darlene Oswald	Rich Taylor
Donna Fox	Tony Patrick	MaryEllen White
Lisa Gilly	Wendy Peddigree	Louise Zatoris
Eric Hantz	Connie Renner	Richard Whitehouse
Suzie Horn	Alice Schnell	Helen Zolnowsky
Shawn Kress	Faith Mondrick Lauer	

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Barbara Frantz	Lorraine Grider	Robert Grider
Dr. John Nicholson	Eleanor Schlinkman	Leo Schweitzer

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.

Financial **G Giving** - Good Stewardship Made Easy

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

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

We are invited to share our gifts so we might fulfill our call to walk with our sisters and brothers proclaiming God’s love, forgiveness, and acceptance for everyone. For those with pre-addressed Church Envelopes, place a stamp on it with your gift and mail. Or, call the Church and someone from the Consistory will pick up the offering. Also, please consider electronic giving using the link marked, “Give Online.” If you would like to give through texting, you can do so by texting the word “give” to 610.615.7657 and follow the prompts on your mobile phone Thank you for prayerfully considering what you can afford.

SCRIP Report • January 2024

Participants	– 7
Cards Ordered	– 36
Profit	– \$101.38
Profit Year-To-Date	– \$101.38

Orders Due **Sunday, Feb 11**; delivery on **Sunday, Feb 18**.

Clothing drop-off box at the rear of the property earns the church money per pound. If you are cleaning out your closets, this is a good fundraiser for the church. 2023 earnings total \$880.

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. 2023 earnings \$129.28.

Calendar

Calendar

February Birthdays

Feb 2	Chris Kegel	Feb 17	Bryan Horninger
Feb 4	Peter Blynn	Feb 17	Sharon Miller
Feb 4	Frances Kuntz	Feb 18	Caden Shields
Feb 4	Kara Richardson	Feb 20	Ben Schaffer
Feb 6	Timothy Gad	Feb 21	Robin Bellesfield
Feb 8	Ashley Nagy	Feb 21	Stephanie Mack
Feb 8	Angela Rex	Feb 22	Laura George
Feb 9	Susan Banks	Feb 22	Patricia Reimert
Feb 9	Darlene Nothstein	Feb 23	Morgan Farber
Feb 10	Cece Pyfer	Feb 24	Barbara Horn
Feb 11	Becky Haas	Feb 24	Evan Kresge
Feb 12	Frank Soldridge III	Feb 24	Kayla Schappell
Feb 13	Michael Pitruzzello	Feb 27	Pam Knappenberger
Feb 14	Janet Kern	Feb 27	Sara Ruch
Feb 16	Kelsey Sander	Feb 27	Todd Solt

February Anniversaries

Feb 7	Davide & Sonja (Loch) Derkits
Feb 9	Brian & Debra (Polzer) DeLong

The Winner of the December Lottery was George Roth.

The Winner of the January Lottery is: Keith Rice

See Karen Smith to participate.

EASTER EVENTS FOR KIDS

March 27, 2024 ~ Easter Egg Coloring in Fellowship Hall at 6pm with Deb Craig in-charge, **Donations needed for prizes, plastic filled eggs, plastic eggs with candy to fill the eggs by Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024.**

March 30, 2024 ~ Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 11am, with registration from 10:15am to 10:50 am. Egg Hunt start time is 11:00 am.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Feed My Starving Children will be held at Neffs UCC on March 10, 2024 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Anyone 6 and older can come and help pack nutritional meals for children across the world. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. For additional information please see Rae Anne Creyer.

Thank you to all who donated to the mitten tree:

We collected the following: Women's-10 pairs of gloves, 8 hats, 2 scarves, 1 pair of earmuffs and 1 hat/scarf/glove set. Men's-4 hats and 5 pairs of gloves. Kids-5 hats, 9 pairs of gloves/mittens and 1 pair of earmuffs.

220 cans of corn are needed for the **Northern Lehigh Food Bank** Easter meal handout by **March 10**.

From your ONA Ministry Team.

We are hosting a Winter Gathering for churches to learn about topics that affect the ONA ministry of the United Church of Christ. The event will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at Colonial Park United Church of Christ, 5000 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109. The event opens with registration at 9:30 A.M and concludes at 3:00 P.M.

Lunch will be provided, no cost to attend, free will offering to cover food & speakers. Have your members contact Steve Roush through his email address of scroush2@gmail.com, for registration to the event. In the email, please have them include their name and church name. The deadline for registration is Sunday, February 25, 2024.

FUNDRAISING

Soup and Chili Fundraiser



Place your order by Sunday, February 4th for pickup on Sunday, February 11th.
Your choice: Potato Soup, Chicken Corn Soup or Vegetable Barley Pint Size: \$5 or Quart Size: \$10
If you prefer Chili: Pint Size: \$8 or Quart Size: \$12

Super Hoagies for Super Bowl Sunday

All 8" Hoagies \$7.00

**Italian, Turkey, Ham,
Buffalo Chicken or Tuna**

(made by Werley's Market)

Orders Due: Sunday Feb. 4th, 2024

Pick-up: Sunday Feb. 11th, 2024

(11:00 AM After Church Service)

Order Sheets available in Narthex

GOOD SHEPHERD U.C.C.
3940 MOUNTAIN RD., SLATINGTON, PA

**Saturday, March 9, 2024 – Gone Fishin' Raffle
Doors Open at 4 pm.**

LENTEN-EASTER SEASON

Lenten Services will be as follows:

Ash Wednesday Services will be held Wednesday, February 14, 2023, with the first act of the play *Eyewitness: A Lenten Drama Series*.

Midweek Lenten Services will be held February 21, 28, March 6, 13 and 20 in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm with a soup and salad dinner followed by the play entitled *Eyewitness: A Lenten Drama Series*.

Palm Sunday is Sunday, March 24 beginning with the procession of the donkey following Faith Formation at 10:45 am.

Maundy Thursday is Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Good Friday Vigil is Friday, March 29, 2024 from noon to 3:00 pm and the worship service is at 7:00 pm.

Easter Sunrise Service will be 6:00 am, with the regular worship service being at 10:00 am.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

All youth are encouraged to meet on Sunday, February 4 following church to restructure our youth ministry or see Pastor James, if interested but cannot attend the meeting.

Youth will be **collecting soup and crackers** for “Soup”er Bowl Sunday on February 11. Place items in front of the altar.

The Youth Ensemble meets the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, Sunday of each month for children to play games, sing songs, play instruments, and enjoy a snack after church until 11:45. Children ages 5 and up are invited to participate. Littles, ages 3 and 4, can participate with an adult present.

This spring the children will be presenting music during the following church services: April 14, May 12, and June 9.

Faith Formation Classes: 9:00am Sunday Services: 10:00am

Teachers - Youth Class

Feb 4	Deb Craig
Feb 11	Monica Griffith
Jan 18	Deb Craig
Feb 25	Deb Craig

Children (K-Grade 4)

Amanda Dieter
Pam Puskas
Mary Storm
Pam Puskas

Staying in Touch

Office Hours Tuesday and Wednesday 11:00 ~ 3:00

Church Office: 610-767-9680 Ext. 2

Email: secretary@goodshepherducc.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

February Worship Leaders

Deacon:	Amanda Bowers
Altar Guild:	Mary Storm
Lay Readers:	4 Sherri Fallon
	11 Pam Puskas
	14 Linda Coffin
	18 Marie Bachman
	25 Rae Anne Creyer
Greeters:	4 Alice Kegel
	11 Randy & Eileen Andrews
	14 Madeline Balliet & Donna Keener
	18 Tammy Schaeffer
	25 Rae Anne Creyer & Judy

Power Point Designers: Deb Craig, Eric Hantz

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

Videographer: Beth Kutzner

Snow, Ice, Winter Emergency Cancellations

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