



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.

The Gift of Community

Dear Friends and Members of Good Shepherd UCC
February often brings thoughts of love ~ something our world desperately needs. In scripture, love is not sentimentality but deep commitment: a willingness to see one another fully and offer care without condition. The Holy One, who embodies perfect love, invites us into that same expansive way of being.

As winter continues, notice the quiet ways our community strengthens each other: a meal delivered, a prayer whispered, a card sent at the right moment, a generous word that softens a weary heart. These small acts are sacred and they reveal the heart of God living through us.

Let us use this month to grow intentional in kindness. Reach out to someone you've missed. Speak a word of encouragement. Offer forgiveness where there has been strain. In doing so, we rediscover the deep truth that love is not simply something we feel ~ it is something we practice.

The Holy One delights in every act of compassion. May we be a community where love is made visible, where all find belonging, and where hope is strengthened by our shared life.

With gratitude for the love you embody,

Pastor James

Mountain Reflections February 2026

In case of a Pastoral Emergency while Pastor James is on sabbatical (until February 1), please contact Susan Bankes at 610-509-7148 or Matt Shields at 610-737-5133.

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

February 1, 2025	4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Lesson:	Matthew 5:1-12
Meditation:	The Vision Beautiful
February 8, 2025	5th Sunday after the Epiphany
Lesson:	Matthew 5:13-20
Meditation:	Restoring Beauty
February 15, 2025	Transfiguration Sunday
Lesson:	Matthew 17:1-9
Meditation:	Dazzling Reign
February 22, 2025	1st Sunday in Lent
Lesson:	Matthew 4:1-11
Meditation:	Abundant Grace

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday ~ Wednesday, February 18, 2026

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 February is
Soup/Ecumenical Kitchen**

The Conference Kitchen ensures that the working poor, homeless, elderly, children, people between jobs, individuals on fixed incomes, and those who have nowhere else to turn can receive a free nutritious meal, three times a day, five days a week.

Breakfast is served from 8:00 to 9:00 am, lunch from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm and dinner from 4:00 to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

The Drop-in Center is an accepting place for anyone in need of support, advocacy, and self-empowerment. Lockers, showers, clothing, access to computers, and trained caseworkers are available to all who attend.

The Drop-in Center is open Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dubbs Memorial Community Center, 457 W. Allen St, Allentown:

Assessment Walk-in Hours: Monday—Thursday: 9:00AM—
3:00PM

The Winner of the January Lottery will be announced in the March Newsletter. See Karen Smith to participate.

Save the Date

There will be a **photographer** at the church on **March 2 from 2 pm to 8:30 pm** to take photographs for our new church directory.

Appointments will be scheduled starting February 1. **Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 photo and a directory.** More information to follow.

Anyone who has moved, changed phone numbers or email addresses in the last year, please update your contact information with the church office.

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! The **Chancel Choir** meets on Tuesdays from 7-8 PM. Chancel Choir pieces for February include *My Savior, I Sing Because I'm Happy* and *In an Upper Room*.



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

Karen Anthony	Charlotte Hallman	Jordan Moser
Dot Arnold	Diane Hardy	Chris Oertner
Gail Bell	Barbara Hower	Wanda Owens
Bill Black*	Brett Hunsicker	Ty Sander
Kathy Daniels	Gary Johannes	Gary Schneck
Doug Farber	Ronald Keener	Dennis Silfies
Donna Fox	Hayden Keller	Frank Soldridge
Tom Frohnheiser	Frances Kuntz	Jenn Wentz
Joan Howell	Lauri	John Zellner
Lee Haas		

*Denotes Hospice care

Purged at beginning of each month, Renewals are welcomed

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Tim Hall	Natalie Harrison	Frank Hart
Kathy Mantz	Gloria Martin	Bob Reinhart
Frank Strohl		

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

K thru 4th grade - **Children** with Amanda Smith, MaryAnn Storm, Phillip White

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

8th thru 12th grade - **Youth** with Monica Griffith

College Faith Formation with Marie Bachman, Pastor James

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

Youth Faith Formation is **collecting cans of soup & boxes of crackers for Soup”er” Bowl Sunday on February 8, 2026**. They will be donated to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Prayers for Students in higher education: Dane Badman at LCCC, Tyla Block at Widener, Aricka Creyer at LCCC, Riley Fallon at Penn State, Ben Griffith at NCC, Katy Griffith at Cedar Crest, Emma Hope at Shippensburg, Sarah Hope 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, Colleen Shields at Strayer, Gabriella Smoyer at Cedar Crest, Luke Zook at Villanova.

2025/2026 Winter Confirmation Schedule

Session 5 ~ *Spirituality*

Date: Sunday, February 8, 2026, 11:15 am – 1:00 pm

Session 6 ~ *Faith-based Life*

Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026, 11:15 am – 1:00 pm

Session 9 ~ *Sacraments*

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 6:15 pm – 6:45 pm

Session 8 ~ *Worship*

Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026, during worship

Calendar

Calendar

February Birthdays

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

No February Anniversaries

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 for 2025 was \$540.**

Thank you to all who donated clothing to VALOR. The list is as follows: Women's clothing~2 pant suits, 1 dress blazer, 9 sweaters, 1 vest, 23 dress shirts, 36 casual/t-shirts, 9 long pants, 4 capri pants, 5 skirts, 4 summer dresses, 2 skorts, 2 pajamas, 1 nightgown, 3 camisoles, 2 pair sandals, 2 pair shoes, 1 purse, 1 hat. Men's clothing~21 pairs of pants, 11 casual shirts, 5 dress shirts, 1 sweater, 1 bathing trunk, 4 flannel shirts, 6 pairs of shoes. Unisex clothing~8 coats, 10 sweatshirts, 1 vest. Household items were: 3 Mattress Covers, 9 sets of bed linen & pillowcases, 10 single sheets, 20 single pillowcases, 10 blankets (3-electric), 3 decorative pillows, 2 towels, 1 water bottle, 2 aprons, 4 belts, 2 bottles of shampoo, 2 bottles of conditioner.

Socks will be counted on Sunday, January 25, and that total will be in the March newsletter.

LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE FOR 2026

FEBRUARY

18 - Ash Wednesday (Imposition of Ashes) 7:00 pm

25 - Lenten Gathering (with soup and salad) 6:30 pm

MARCH

04 - Lenten Gathering (with soup and salad) 6:30 pm

11 - Lenten Gathering (with soup and salad) 6:30 pm

18 - Lenten Gathering (with soup and salad) 6:30 pm

25 - Lenten Gathering (with soup and salad) 6:30 pm

29 – Palm Sunday (Procession with Donkey 9:45 am)

APRIL

02 – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

03 – Good Friday Meditation Noon – 3:00 pm

Good Friday Service at Good Shepherd 7:00 pm

04 - Easter Egg Hunt ~ 11 am, registration ~10:15 am

05 – Easter Services 6:00 am/10:00 am

We are looking for volunteers to make soup and salad for approximately 40 people and to purchase bread for the lenten gatherings. Anyone interested, please see Pastor James.

Altar Flowers and Bulletins

Thank you to our January bulletin sponsors:

January 25-In Memory of Loved Ones

by Mr. & Mrs. Gary Fatzinger.

Thank you to our January flower sponsors:

January 11-In Honor of Bonita & Matthew Hewitt's birthdays

by Robert Shelly

Thank you to our January "Holy Grounds" sponsors,

Pam Puskas, Randy & Eileen Andrews, Deb Craig

To sponsor flowers (\$35), bulletins (\$10), or "Holy Grounds" (\$5), 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Fundraising Team is selling **Little Caesars pizza kits** beginning February 1 through March 8. This is a great fundraiser for the church. Please pick up an order form in the Narthex and sell to your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

February 1 registration is open for Little Shepherd Preschool for children currently enrolled and church members. Contact Karen Weaver at karens2@hotmail.com or visit their Facebook page to learn more.

Scout Sunday is Sunday, February 22, 2025. Encourage the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in your life to attend.

We are **collecting individual packages of oatmeal for Backpack Buddies through February 28.** We collected **191** individual **boxes of cereal** in September and October, and **198** individual containers of applesauce and another **19 boxes** of cereal. Thank you all for your continued support of this program!

On our mitten tree, we collected 2 men's scarves, 2 men's jackets, 2 pairs of youth snow pants, 3 pairs of men's gloves, 12 pairs of ladies & children's gloves, 4 ladies' scarves, 3 pairs of kids' mittens and 10 women's hats. Thank you to all who donated.

SCRIP Report • January 2026

Participants	–	7
Cards Ordered	–	42
Profit	–	\$106.38

Next month's orders will be due on **Sunday, February 8** with delivery on **Sunday, February 15**. As a reminder, orders are open to everyone — *please ask family and friends, neighbors and coworkers!*

Thank you to all who helped undecorate the church on January 4:

Elizabeth Alcaro, Randy & Eileen Andrews, Deb Craig, Terry Derhammer, Fiona Dieter, Riley & Sheri Fallon, Eric Hantz, Bonnie Hewitt & Robert Shelly, Carol Krum, Mackenzi Palmer, Pam Puskas, Barry & Dennis Silfies and Karen & Eddie Smith.

Ash Wednesday Worship Leaders

Deacon: Sharon Conway
Elder: Chris Kegel
Acolyte: Kendall Frantz
Lay Reader: Beth Kutzner
Greeter: Alice Kegel

There are **extra weekly offering envelopes** in the Narthex on the center podium. If you forgot your envelopes, do not have them or are not a member and want to use these, please feel free to help yourself.

The Good Shepherd website will be changing, and further information will follow. The new website for the church will be on a new WordPress server and have a new theme. The domain (@goodshepherduccslatington.org) will remain the same.

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

February Worship Leaders

Deacon:	Mary Storm
Altar Guild:	Emily & Callie McGinnis
Acolytes:	1 Mackenzi Palmer
	8 Callie McGinnis
	15 Jaxon Kline
	22 Callie McGinnis
Lay Readers:	1 Eric Hantz
	8 Marie Bachman
	15 Marie Bachman
	22 Rae Anne Creyer
Greeters:	1 Karen Smith
	8 Kelsey Knittle-Moser
	15 Randy & Eileen Andrews
	25 Rae Anne Creyer & Wynn

Power Point Designers: Deb Craig, Eric Hantz

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

Web Designer: Marie Bachman