



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 2022

Dear Family and Friends of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ ~

KEEP MOVING FORWARD!!!

For some reason, change has been running through my life as an unbroken thread. It began with the sermon on the magi and the change they made on their way “home.” And then there was the sermon centered on the Samaritans receiving the Holy Spirit ~ a Samaritan Pentecost of sorts. So, I’ve begun asking the question ~ what is God calling us to change about who we are in light of the still speaking God. Is God still working among the Samaritans? ~ is God still working among us?

I shared a quote from John Robinson (no relation) “the Lord hath more truth yet to break forth out of His Holy Word.” He also goes on to reference some major players in the Reformation that made changes saying that Lutherans cannot be drawn to go beyond what Luther saw; whatever part of His will our God had revealed to Calvin, they will rather die than embrace it; and the Calvinists, you see, stick fast where they were left by that great man of God, who yet saw not all things.”

I mentioned some people who have caused great change in our world so that we might be fairer and more just. People like Irena Sendler, a 29-year-old Polish social worker who offered frightened Jews food and shelter during the holocaust; Malala Yousafzai, a woman of Pakistan who, at 17, became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her refusal to hide in fear but instead spoke of the rights that every girl has the opportunity receive and education; Lilly Ledbetter, who was the driving force to protect women in the workplace and receive equal pay as men; Rosa Parks, who wouldn’t give up her seat on a bus and created a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement; Todd Beamer and the passengers of Flight 93, who fought back against the 9/11 terrorists and tried to take back control of the plane before crashing in a field in Shanksville, PA.

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I know many of us have strong convictions around issues of faith such as children taking communion, welcoming all regardless of gender, orientation, skin color, economic success/failure, political difference, and other things that are yet to be revealed. I'm asking that you join us in these conversations with an open mind and an open heart. Let us try and see things from a different perspective, of one shutout or marginalized. And as we talk about these important matters for future generations, remember some of the people we are speaking about our right in our midst.

I've been seeing things on television or movies, or reading about in articles and the news and would like you to contemplate them.

"You can't start the next chapter if you keep re-reading the last one." ~ unknown

"You cannot serve from an empty vessel." ~ Eleanor Brownn

"It's never too late to be what you might have been." ~ George Eliot

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole Staircase." ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We can't change the world unless we change ourselves." ~ The Notorious B.I.G.

It has been a motto of the United Church of Christ not to put a period where God has placed a comma. Winston Churchill once said "Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts." May we be courageous enough to continue in wrestling with questions of faith as a community of faith.

In Christ,
Pastor James

February 27th, 2022 is Youthful Sunday / Scout Sunday

The Youth will be participating in our Worship Services with special recognition to our Girl Scout and Boy Scouts both past and present along with Leaders in the Scouting programs. The Girls Scouts, that hold their meetings here at Good Shepherd, will be having a drive thru Cookie Sale from 11 to 2 on the sidewalk at the front parking lot, toward the Fellowship Hall.



FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

- February 5, 2022 **5th Sunday after the Epiphany**
Luke 5:1–11
Called into Mission
- February 13, 2022 **6th Sunday after the Epiphany**
Luke 6:17–26
Blessings and Woes
- February 20, 2022 **7th Sunday after the Epiphany**
Luke 6:27–38
Living as Disciples
- February 27, 2022 **Transfiguration Sunday**
Luke 9:28–36
Holy Mystery



COMMUNION SCHEDULE

March 2, 2022 Ash Wednesday

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.



Our Thoughts &
Prayers
are with...



Homebound Members

Mary Bilheimer	Dennis Derr	Betty Humanick
Kay Costenbader	Dolores Gruber	Susan 'Tillie' Waller
Dale-Ann Derr	Jean Hewitt	

**Those Serving Our Country In the Armed Services
Or with The Department of Defense:**

Colby Adams	Michael Kelsey	Janel Tracy
Anthony Babb	Rebecca McMichael	Jacqueline Tracy
Elijah Colon	Cory Musser	Nicholas Sander
Kira (Kern) Kelsey	David Neff	Benjamin Schaffer
Karen Hulings	Spencer Perkins	

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

Family & Friends

Matthew Bowers	Janice Franssen	Edgar Smith
Joe Conway	MaryEllen Knerr	Eric Smith
Deb Craig	Richard Kunkle	Jimmy Trainer
Amanda Dieter	Frances Kuntz	Mike Wallace
Fiona Dieter	Richard Kuntz	Brad Zellner
Linda Dries	Charlotte Marks	

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Lois Ahner	Kelly Tippler Mason
Dorothy Berger	Barry Rabenold
Lillie Borger	Willard "Bruce" Richards
Corina Anthony Hampton	Debbie Silfies
John Franssen	Dana Wallace
Pauline "Polly" Kemmerer	Kathleen Young

God is watching over you...

I know because I asked God to



Gratitude Reminder - A Little or A Lot

*If you use gratitude a little,
your life will change a little.
If you use gratitude a lot every day,
your life will change a lot.*

“Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for.” – Zig Ziglar

SCRIP Summary January 2022

Participants	6
Cards Ordered	42
Profit	\$122.50
Profit Year-To-Date	\$122.50
Next month's orders are due	
Sunday, February 13th	
and will be delivered on	
Sunday, February 20th	

Scrip is Fundraising
While You Shop!™



Financial



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 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.

LOTTERY TICKETS

January winner: Robert Shelly

Thank you for your Support

See Karen Smith for next Lottery Tickets

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>

SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVYHuSsU56ddNI3fhpeqQfg>

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 Nourishing

Those in Need If you would like to participate in our offering, please sign the Faith & Mission Calendar in the narthex with the name of a loved one you would like to honor or remember, along with your name, and then place a donation in a “Faith & Mission” envelope and put it in the Faith & Mission box or offering plate. Over 35 years of feeding the hungry, serving more than 35,000 meals a year and provides access to medical care for those in need.

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church,
8th and Walnut Streets, Allentown, PA 18101
Noon to 1 pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

The LCC’s kitchen operates three days a week; Catholic Charities’, four. Medical care is made available on a weekly basis by the LVHN Street Medicine Team and Sacred Heart Parish Nurses, who offer free screenings, referrals for follow up care, and assistance with health insurance enrollment.

Snow, Ice, Winter Emergency. With the winter months upon us, we need to prepare for winter cancellations. Should we have to cancel services or other event, you can receive through your email. You can also visit our website or facebook site to find out if events have been cancelled or check out TV Channel 69, Blue Ridge Channel 13 or Radio Station WAEB 790am.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2-Feb	Chris Kegel	17-Feb	Sharon Miller
4-Feb	Peter Blynn	18-Feb	Caden Shields
4-Feb	Frances Kuntz	20-Feb	Ben Schaffer
4-Feb	Kara Richardson	20-Feb	Mackenzie Thomas
6-Feb	Timothy Gad	21-Feb	Robin Bellesfield
8-Feb	Janet German	21-Feb	Stephanie Gallagher
8-Feb	Ashley Nagy	22-Feb	Laura George
8-Feb	Angela Rex	22-Feb	Patricia Reimert
9-Feb	Darlene Nothstein	22-Feb	Fae Wentz
9-Feb	Susan Bankes	23-Feb	Morgan Farber
10-Feb	Roy Kleintop	23-Feb	Jeffrey Hewitt, Jr.
10-Feb	Cece Pyfer	24-Feb	Kayla Belles
11-Feb	Becky Haas	24-Feb	Evan Kresge
12-Feb	Matthew Patrick	26-Feb	Jennifer Phillips
13-Feb	Rodney Kuntz	26-Feb	Kennedy Walters
14-Feb	Janet Kern	27-Feb	Pam Knappenberger
17-Feb	Bryan Horninger	27-Feb	Todd Solt

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 7 David & Sonja (Loch) Derkits

Feb 9 Bryan & Debra (Polzer) DeLong



Altar Flowers and Bulletins

Given In 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 and/or bulletin sponsorship must be on the calendar by the prior Sunday. Linda Coffin is the Altar Guild contact.



Staying in Touch

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

www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org

And also "Like" us on:

www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington

secretary@goodshepherduccslatington.org

CONTACTING PASTOR JAMES D. ROBISON, JR

Church Office: 610-767-9680 Mobile Phone: 484-571-6083

Email: jamdarrob@gmail.com

In Service of the Lord

FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

Deacon: Jim George
Acolytes: 6-Feb Breonna Richardson
13-Feb Noah Griffith
20-Feb Adam Griffith
27-Feb Jazmin Richardson

Lay Readers: 6-Feb Susie Blose
13-Feb Pam Puskas
20-Feb Tammy White
27-Feb Marie Bachman

Greeters: 6-Feb Carol Oswald
13-Feb Mary Storm
20-Feb Tammy White
27-Feb Bonnie Hewitt & Robert Shelly

Altar Guild: Mary Storm

Power Point Designer: Deb Craig

A/V Operators: Eric Hantz, Bryan Horninger
Evan Horninger, Stacy Cunningham

Videographer: Beth Kutzner, Stacy Cunningham

Faith Formation Classes

<u>Date</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Craft</u>
February 6	Pam Puskas	Pam Puskas
February 13	Tammy White	Tammy White
February 20	Monica Griffith	Deb Craig
February 27	Susie Blose	Susie Blose

February 13th, 2022 is “Soup’er” Bowl Sunday



The youth of Good Shepherd are sponsoring the "Soup'er Bowl Sunday" canned soup drive. If you would like to donate cans of Soup or boxes of crackers, you can drop them off in the narthex.



The soup and crackers will be given to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank to help those who are in need



**For
Disaster
Relief**

Donate \$5 to the Disaster Relief Fund

On February 27, 2022 at 3:00pm the Susquehanna Area Mission Council is conducting a “virtual” celebratory worship service for our mission campaign: **High Five for Disaster Relief**. Active members of the Disaster Relief Team, both Conference Ministers and the National Disaster Relief Coordinator will be participating in this service. If you would like to join the Zoom Meeting see Pastor James for access information

Chancel Choir rehearsals will be moving to Wednesday evenings, from 7:30-8:30, during the Lenten season. Chancel Choir is always looking for new singers. Consider joining us on Tuesday evenings (Wednesday's during Lent). The Chancel Choir will be joined by a brass quartet for the 10:00 Easter service. Don't miss the excitement! Come sing with us!



Youth Ensemble will meet on February 13th and February 27th from 11:00-11:45. The Youth Ensemble meets the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of each month for singing, games, and instruments. All church youth are welcome to attend..

Calendar

Calendar

Worship Team is looking for greeters and lay readers for 2022. If interested, contact Pastor James.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022 ~Ash Wednesday 6:30pm ~ Imposition of Ashes/Circle Communion.

Then join us each Wednesday night at 6:30pm, during Lent, for our Annual Lenten Gatherings with Vegetarian-based Soup, Salad & conversations about our Hymns and why there were written, how they came to be in our Hymnal, current events in the life at Good Shepherd.

Sunday, April 3rd, 2022 ~ Our goal is to receive 200 cans of corn for Easter meals for the Northern Lehigh food bank. They can be brought in at any time to the front of the church.

Saturday, April 16th, 2022 ~ Drive-Thru Easter Egg “Hunt”. We will request colored hard-boiled eggs, plastic eggs, candies, and small gifts. Watch for announcements.

Saturday, May 21, 2022 ~ The Rededication Service of the First United Church of Christ Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden in its new location:

Towamensing Cemetery, 3rd Street and Fireline Road, Palmerton

Following the service, you are invited back to our Fellowship Hall for light refreshments provided by our Fellowship Team. Please let us know by Sunday, May 1, 2022, if you plan on attending by contacting the church office at 610.767.9680, ext 2.