

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org

Good Shepherd~Faithfully serving~Compassionately accepting~Transforming together

Mountain Reflections ~ February 2021

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

I was inspired recently by a young 23-year-old woman of color who recited her powerful poem, *The Hill We Climb*. The inspiration came through the vision of youth and the future that is unfolding. It was in sync with my interpretation of scripture and the promise of God that this is not all there is, but there is a better world waiting for us ~ a heavenly world filled with hope and justice and love.

Words jumped out to me ...

... And so, we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.

... victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made.

... Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.

For me, these words speak of coming together as Jesus Christ calls us to build relationships with one another and one day we will gather in peace and love and joy.

As this February brings us to yet another season of Lent, may we light the spark that engages us to see through the eyes of our Creator as we reflect on our journeys together and where God is leading us to serve others in Christ's name. May the prayer of St. Francis be our prayer ...

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

Amen.

Pastor James



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

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

FEB 7 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Hebrew Lesson Isaiah 40:21-31

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:29-39

Meditation *Coming through Captivity*

FEB 14 Transfiguration Sunday

Hebrew Lesson 2Kings2:1-12

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel Lesson: Mark 9:2-9

Meditation *Coming through the Clouds*

FEB 21 Lent 1

Hebrew Lesson Genesis 9:8-17

Epistle: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:9-15

Meditation *Signs of Promise*

FEB 28 Lent 2

Hebrew Lesson Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Epistle: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:31-38

Meditation *From Generation to Generation*

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

February 17th Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes and Communion - 7:00pm

Individual Ashes will be sealed for your personally use.



We are Following CDC guidelines:

Communion will be celebrated using sealed elements of bread and grape juice. If you wish to stay in your vehicle simply respond at the appropriate time to receive communion by turning on your 4-way flashers and an usher with a mask and gloves will bring you the pre-packaged elements. This offers those who wish to position their vehicles in the parking lot and participate in the service by listening to our FM Station 88.5.

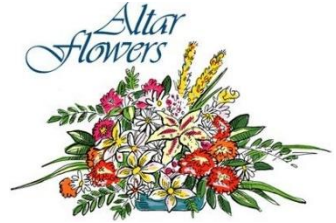
Altar Flowers and Bulletins

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, on the calendar in the narthex. Flower orders and/or bulletin sponsorship must be on the calendar by the prior Sunday.

Contact Mary Lacy at (610) 820-9188

or email at cancellacy@AOL.com with any questions.



Worship News

Virtual Worship Group is part of the Worship Team bringing the online message to those connected via the internet producing Sunday worship services thru Facebook Live-Streaming, this 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>

February 17th Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes & Communion - 7:00pm

Individual Ashes will be sealed for your personally use.



Worship in your Car



We now have an FM Transmitter to transmit our services over FM 88.5, which allows anyone to receive it on the radio in their vehicle.

Park along the front of the parking lot for best reception.

We also have FM receivers, which will be given to anyone who has trouble hearing the service, to use indoors during the service.



Our Thoughts &
Prayers
are with...



Homebound Members

Mary Bilheimer	Sandra Endres	Kathryn Smith
Kay Costenbader	Dolores Gruber	Susan "Tillie" Waller

Those Serving Our Country In the Armed Services

Or with The Department of Defense:

Colby Adams	Rebecca McMichael	Jacqueline Tracy
Elijah Colon	Cory Musser	Nicholas Sander
Kira (Kern) Kelsey	David Neff	Benjamin Schaffer
Michael Kelsey	Janel Tracy	

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

Family & Friends

Eileen Andrews	Doug Farber	Rev. Allen Miller
Debbie Derhammer	Lisa Gilly	Mason Post
Debbie DeLong	Frank Johnson	Jake Smith
Sandra Endres	Sandy Keller	Richard Thomas

cancer patients

For those having to go out in the ice storm

Those effected by Covid-19

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Jeanette Christman	Carol Kostenbaidler
--------------------	---------------------

Those in higher education: Jenna Blynn, Toby Sander and Caden Shields, studying at LCCC; Angie Lopez, studying at Widener University; Matthew Shields, studying at Moravian College; Calista Smoyer, studying at West Virginia University; Jacob Taylor, studying at Drexel University; Nathan Taylor, studying at Penn State; Dylan Coffin, studying at Susquehanna University and Paige Bachman, studying at Kutztown University

God is watching over you...

I know because I asked God to



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Feb 7 David & Sonja (Loch) Derkits
Feb 9 Bryan & Debra (Polzer) DeLong

CONGRATULATIONS:

Katy Griffith for being awarded the Girl Scout Silver Award

Interested in joining the Pray Chain?

New group is forming. Let us know if you wish to be contacted when someone is in need of prayer and you would like to participate.



You can be notified by phone or by email or both, your choice!

Please let us know by contacting Pastor James, Susan in the office; Deb Craig or Eileen Andrews or gsucc@ptd.net

DECEMBER LOTTERY WINNER IS:

Congratulations John Zellner
Thank you for your Support

See Karen Smith for next Lottery Tickets

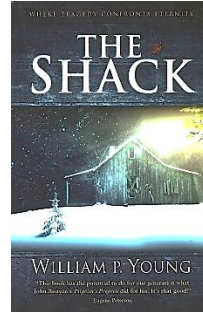
“The Shack” by William P Young

Faith Formation Pastor James is leading another book read. The book chosen is an older one entitled, The Shack by William P. Young. It is filled with many teachings of the church revealed through tragedy.

If interested please sign up via email to jamdarrob@gmail.com and register.

Since there is much to talk about regarding this particular book, we will plan to converse as follows:

- Wednesdays at 6:00 to 7:30pm
- February 17 ~ Forward, Chapters 1-3
- February 24 ~ Chapters 4-6
- March 3 ~ Chapters 7-9
- March 10 ~ Chapters 10-12
- March 17 ~ Chapters 13-15
- March 24 ~ Chapters 16-18



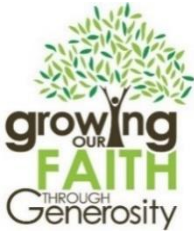
Food Bank - We will be collecting 250 cans of corn for the Easter meals. We will be collecting until Sunday March 14th.

Announcing our **NEW Website:**



<https://www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org>

Looking for someone to take on the role of Website Administrator. See Dennis Silfies



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 takes our eyes off of ourselves and our situation. It helps us to refocus on God and His strength and goodness.

SCRIP Summary January 2021

Participants 7
Cards Ordered 42
Profit \$107.00

Profit Year-To-Date \$107.00
Profit Program-To-Date \$38,673.55

Next month's orders are due **Sunday, February 14th**
and will be delivered on **Sunday, February 21st**



Financial Update

DATE	ENVELOPES	E-GIVING	TOTAL
24-Dec	\$4,573.60		\$4,573.60
27-Dec	\$3,318.00	\$421.77	\$3,739.77
3-Jan		Snow day	
10-Jan	\$3,579.00	\$373.83	\$3,952.83
17-Jan	\$1,493.00	\$623.83	\$2,116.33
24-Jan	\$1,496.75	\$19.12	\$1,515.87

 **Giving** - Good Stewardship Made Easy

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

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.

Staying in Touch

www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org

And also "Like" us on:

www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington

Need to add someone to prayer chain:

requestprayers@ptd.net

Contact Susan Layland

secretary@goodshepherduccslatington.org

CONTACTING PASTOR JAMES

Church Office: 610-767-9680

Mobile Phone: 484-571-6083

Email: jamdarrob@gmail.com

FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

Volunteers are being asked to help with worship.

See Pastor James to assist.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH



www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org

info@goodshepherduccslatington.org

pastor@goodshepherducc.org

secretary@goodshepherduccslatington.org

treasurer@goodshepherducc.org

president@goodshepherducc.org



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 notices *via Breeze* by signing up through your email.

You can also visit our website www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org or www.Facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington to find out if events have been cancelled or check out TV Channel 69, Blue Ridge Channel 13 or Radio Station WAEB 790am

In Service to the Lord



**Do you know someone who has
no Computer or no Technology?**

but they still would like the Newsletter?

Give us their name, and address to make sure we have it, and we will send them a copy of the monthly newsletter.

Contact Susan Layland at the office: 610-767-9680 or email her at:
secretary@goodshepherduccslatington.org

Faith Formation Classes

7-Feb	Teacher: Susie Crafter: Stacy & Karen	21-Feb	Teacher: Mary Crafter: Karen
14-Feb	Teacher: Pam Crafter: Deb	28-Feb	Teacher: Monica Crafter: Beth
7-Mar	Teacher: Susie Crafter: Stacy & Karen	21-Mar	Teacher: Rae Ann Crafter: Beth
14-Mar	Teacher: Pam Crafter: Deb	28-Mar	Teacher: Monica Crafter: Karen

**Remember you can stop by and
pick-up Lessons for home students.**

We are looking for a few people to help with our "Faith Formation" services at our Sunday time of 9am.

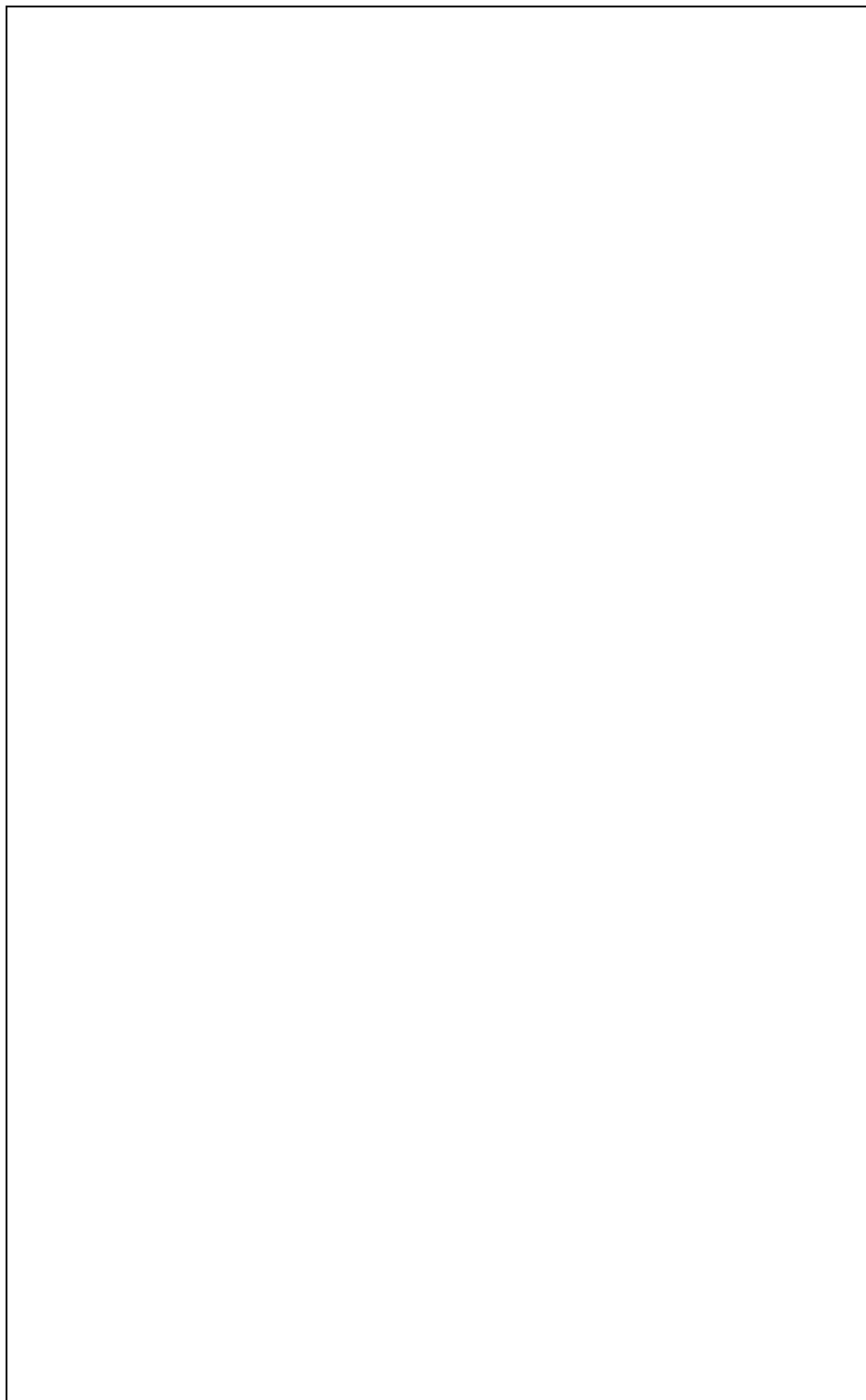
Tech savvy teens can videotape openings and online sessions to post for children and youth who cannot attend each week but would like to continue growing their faith.

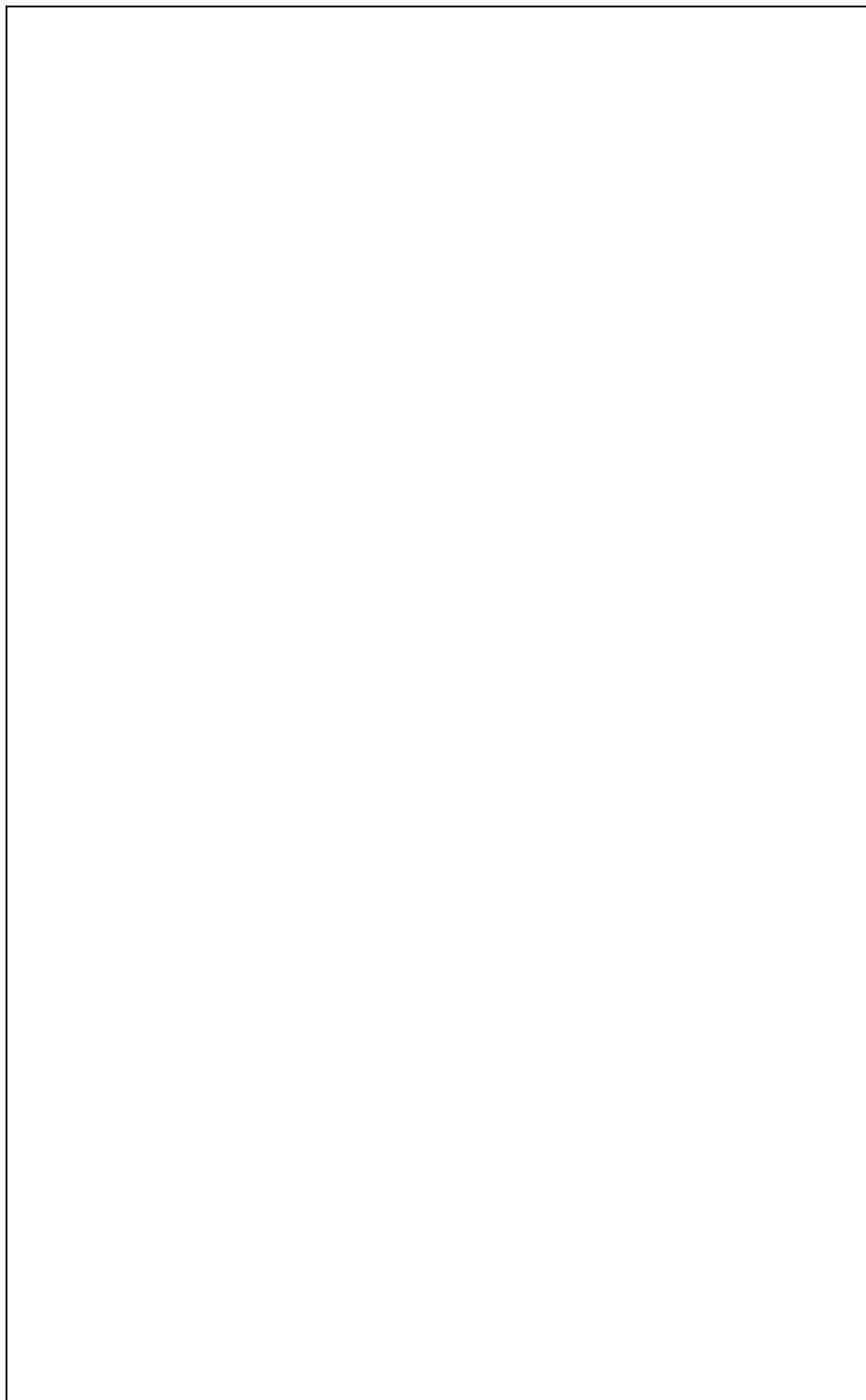
Projects that are being planned for children and youth will also be recorded and can be completed at home.

Teens and young adults will fit this role perfectly.

Volunteers do not need to be present every Sunday. Flexible schedules can be met.







Mission
For February is Soup / Ecumenical Kitchen
Nourishing Those in Need

If you would like to participate in our offering, please sign the 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 LLLC Soup Kitchen led by Charles Brannon, provides a nutritious, well balanced meal to all hungry men, women and children...satisfying their hunger and improving their diet for over 16 years. These free meals gives them strength and also assists them in saving their dollars as most live at or below the poverty level.

February 7th, 2021 is “Soup’er Bowl Sunday and 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, there will also be a special monetary offering to go to CACPAC in Palmerton. The soup and crackers will be given to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank to help those who are in need.



The Northern Lehigh Elementary Schools will be sending home backpacks every Friday filled with supplies for students in need. If you wish to participate in filling those needs, a bin is located near the Kitchenette in the narthex.

