



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 January 2025

Greetings to you all ~

As we step into the gift of a new year, let us embrace this season of fresh beginnings with hope and gratitude. Often this season brings doldrums, and we wrestle with the cold blustery air and the shortened days. However, the turning of the calendar offers us a moment to reflect on the blessings and lessons of the past year while opening our hearts to the possibilities that lie ahead.

I look forward to Volunteer Sunday on the 19th of the month as we celebrate the work we have done and become resolved for the work that lays ahead of us. Together, we have weathered challenges and celebrated joys, and for all of it, we give thanks. God's grace has carried us through, and God's love continues to guide us. Let this be a time to renew our commitment to service in Christ's call to do God's work ~ love one another, care for creation, and work toward justice and peace.

May this year be one of flourishing—for our community, our families, and ourselves. Trusting in God's promises, we step forward with faith, knowing that each day is an opportunity to grow in love.

With blessings for the journey,
Pastor James

JANUARY LECTONARY

January 5, 2025	2nd Sunday after Christmas
Lesson:	John 1:10-18
Meditation:	Another Road
January 12, 2025	Baptism of the Lord
Lesson:	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Meditation:	Affirmed by Love
January 19, 2025	2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
Lesson:	John 2:1-11
Meditation:	Extravagant Sign
January 26, 2025	3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
Lesson:	Luke 4:14-21
Meditation:	Good News, Good Ways

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Epiphany Communion ~ Sunday, January 5, 2025

Virtual Worship Services thru Facebook Live-Streaming allows us to continue our services for those unable to attend in person.

Our Facebook Page:

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

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.

Snow, Ice, Winter Emergency Cancellations

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



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



Homebound Members

Marge Bass	Dennis Derr	
Mary Bilheimer	Donna Fox	Carol Schweitzer
Shirley Blynn	Betty Humanick*	
Kay Costenbader	Susan 'Tillie' Waller	

Those Serving Our Country In the Armed Services

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

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

Family & Friends

Annette Ahner	Gary Johannes	Eva Marie Poliquim
Margo Ashner	Bruce Jones*	Dennis Raver
Sherry Bishop	Boden Kearney	Kylie Schneider
Barry Crown	Hayden Keller	Dylan Sherman
Doug Farber	Rick & Sandy Keller	Barry Silfies
Hazel Goodhile	Susan Lukon	Frank Strohl
Lee Haas	Steve Mansueto	Jenn Wentz
Frank Hart	Barbara Mathias*	
Michelle Hewitt	Dave Norwood	Helen Zolnowsky

***Denotes hospice care**

Purged at beginning of each month.

Renews are welcomed

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Eleanor Coventry	Lester Derhammer	Orpha Rimmel
Donald Smith		

There will be an **undecorating party on Sunday, January 5, 2025 after the worship service** to take down the **Christmas Decorations**. Please consider spending any time you can spare to help, so that we can make short work of it. Thank you.

To volunteer for weekly snow removal, please sign the sheet in the Narthex.

Volunteer Sunday is January 19, 2025. There will be a **free luncheon following the service**. If you plan to attend, please sign up in the Narthex so we know how many people to expect. **Everyone is welcome!**

**Mission Outreach for January is
VALOR**

Veterans Assisted Living Out Reach (VALOR) was co-founded as a 501 (C)3 in 2012 by Veterans Mark Baylis and Tony Cross to help Veterans navigate through the process of recovering and rebuilding. VALOR's long-term vision is to be able to provide health clinics, more homeless shelters and recovery sanctuaries for Veterans in need. In addition, VALOR has spearheaded the creation of a specialized program to address Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) called Veterans Unstoppable.

If you have items you would like to donate or questions about what is needed, please call 570-664-6468.

www.valorclinic.org or www.facebook.com/valorclinic

231 cans of corn were collected for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. **Thank you to all who donated.**

January Birthdays

Jan 3	Maggie White	Jan 17	Carol Blose
Jan 5	Maverick Hantz	Jan 17	Monica Griffith
Jan 6	Michelle Hewitt	Jan 18	Mackenzi Palmer
Jan 7	Tina Fetchko	Jan 19	Sandra Keller
Jan 7	Kevin Smith	Jan 20	Alice Christman
Jan 9	Connie Ferber	Jan 21	Penny Keen
Jan 10	Matthew Hewitt	Jan 22	Duane Haas
Jan 11	Jean Frantz	Jan 25	Tammy Schaeffer
Jan 11	Hudson Goodhile	Jan 26	Eileen Andrews
Jan 12	Richard Keen	Jan 26	Dennis Derr
Jan 13	Piper John	Jan 26	Barbara Neff
Jan 14	Mark Sander	Jan 27	Karen Weaver
Jan 15	Jonathan Griffith	Jan 29	Michelle Allen
Jan 15	Bonita Hewitt	Jan 30	Brynlie Hausman
Jan 16	Violet Hantz	Jan 30	Hailey Ruch

No January Anniversaries

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.
Profit for 2024 was \$21.85.

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 2024 was \$575.**

Calendar

Calendar

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Youth Faith Formation is **collecting cans of soup & boxes of crackers** for **Soup”er” Bowl Sunday on February 9, 2025**. They will be donated to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Nursery Faith Formation Leaders are looking for youngsters 5 years of age and under to join them in the nursery room Sunday mornings at 9 am. Contact Kelsey Knittle-Moser for more information.

Children’s Faith Formation is continuing to revamp their room and merging with the Youth Ensemble. If interested see Amanda Smith, Chastity Corvino, and/or Beth Kutzner. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a time of music on Sundays at 9 am.

Youth Faith Formation welcomes all young people in Grades 5 through 12 to join them in the youth lounge on Sundays at 9 am. Come and check out our new digs!

Prayers for Our College Students:

Dane Badman at LCCC, Megan Bankes at Glenville State WV, Tyla Block at Widener, Aricka Creyer at LCCC, Carissa Fallon at Penn State, Riley Fallon at Penn State, Ben Griffith at Luzerne, Katy Griffith at Cedar Crest, Emma Hope at Kutztown, Sarah Hope at LCCC, Evan Horninger 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, Cameron Shields at LCCC, Colleen Shields at Strayer, Caleb Sommers at Kutztown, Calista Smoyer at West Virginia, Gabriella Smoyer at Cedar Crest, Luke Zook at Villanova.

Confirmation Faith Formation:

A new confirmation process is beginning January 5 for those individuals who have completed 5th grade and are interested in becoming members of our congregation at Good Shepherd. If you or someone you know is interested, please let Pastor James know as soon as possible.

2025 Confirmation Schedule

Session 1 ~ *Introduction*

Date: Sunday – January 5, 2025; 11:15am - Noon

Session 2 ~ *Scriptures*

Date: Sunday – January 12, 2025; 11:15am - 2:00pm

Session 3 ~ *Theology*

Date: Sunday – January 26, 2025; 11:15am - 2:00pm

Session 4 ~ *Jesus in Half a Day*

Date: **Saturday** – April 12, 2025; 9:00am - 3:00pm

Session 5 ~ *Worship*

Date: Sunday – February 2, 2025; 11:15am - 2:00pm

Session 6 ~ *Spirituality*

Date: Sunday – February 16, 2025; 11:15am - 2:00pm

Session 7 ~ *Sacraments*

Date: Sunday – February 23, 2025; 11:15am - Noon

Session 8 ~ *Faith-based Life*

Date: Sunday – March 9, 2025; 11:15am - 1:00pm

Session 9 ~ *Mnemonics for Christians*

Date: Sunday – March 16, 2025; 11:15am - 2:00pm

Session 10 ~ *Stewardship/Tithing*

Date: Sunday – March 23, 2025; 11:15am - Noon

Session 11 ~ *Service and Mission*

Date: Sunday – April 6, 2025; 11:15am - Noon

Session 12 ~ *Church History*

Date: **Saturday** – April 12, 2025; 9:00am - 3:00pm

Session 13 ~ *Polity*

Date: Sunday – April 27, 2025; 11:15am - 1:00pm

Session 14 ~ *What Protestants Believe*

Date: Sunday – May 18, 2025; 11:15am - Noon

Session 15 ~ *World Religions*

Date: **Saturday** – May 10, 2025; 10:00am - 3:00pm

Session 16 ~ *My Decision*

Date: Sunday - TBD by Elders; 9:00am - 10:00am

Keystone Conference ~ Together We Are Stronger

November 9, 2024 marks an historic date in the life of our Church. On this date, all four conferences that comprise the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania simultaneously voted on merging together to become one Conference. The vote was as follows:

- a) PWC: 135 YES; 15 NO = 90%
- b) PCC: 286 YES; 28 NO = 91%
- c) PNEC: 141 YES; 2 NO = 98.6%
- d) PSEC: 246 YES; 19 NO = 92%

The next step in the process to form this new Keystone Conference will be a resolution submitted to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ which meets in Kansas City, MO July 11-15, 2025.

Following the affirmation of General Synod for us to become the Keystone Conference, PNEC will no longer be a conference acting as an association but will instead become an association of the Keystone Conference. There will be a need of volunteers from clergy and laity to continue the various duties we are already serving as an association, but no longer as a conference. This new association will involve some expenses including some administrative costs, mailings, etc. and supplement the scholarship resources that will support pastors, continuing education, youth programming and authorization preparation. These expenses will be supported both by the conference and by the association, which can include fees for programs and events, as well as the Friends of the PNEC resources.

Again, with the creation of the Keystone Conference, monies collected through Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) will go to our new conference while the work of our new association will be supported mainly through individual and congregational support of Friends of the PNEC, which will be renamed as we become an association.

Thank you to our Fundraising Group for all the hard work you did in 2024, raising a total of \$17,980.86. Our programs and missions benefit from your efforts in great and wonderful ways. Again, Thank you all!!!


SPORTSMAN'S NIGHT
Saturday, January 25, 2025
 Doors Open at 4:00 P.M.
 (Meal Served 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.)
 - - Snow Date: February 1, 2025 - -

GOOD SHEPHERD U.C.C.
 3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, PA.
 Lic. #: PA 0228R24

Cost: \$20.00
Includes: Ticket Prize Raffle,
 Meal & Refreshments
 (Only 250 Tickets Printed)
 - Winners Need Not Be Present -
 - - - Special Drawings Throughout Event. - - -







Door Prizes &
50/50 Drawing



For Advanced Tickets Call:
 Eddie Smith @ 610-767-3776

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.

SCRIP Report • December 2024

Participants	– 28
Cards Ordered	– 272
Profit	– \$569.46

Orders Due **Sunday, January 12** with delivery on **Sunday, January 19**. As a reminder, orders are open to everyone –
Please ask family and friends, neighbors and coworkers

The Winner of the December Lottery was:



See Karen Smith to participate.

Staying in Touch

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

January Worship Leaders

Deacon:	Amanda Smith
Elder:	Pam Puskas
Altar Guild:	Linda Coffin
Lay Readers:	5 Marie Bachman
	12 Susan Bankes
	19 Linda Coffin
	26 RaeAnne Creyer
Greeters:	5 Bob & Michelle Schramel
	12 Janice Silliman & Marilyn Rice
	19 Chad & Jen Sommers & Family
	26 Karen Smith

Power Point Designers: Deb Craig, Eric Hantz

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

Facebook Design: Marie Bachman