



## GOOD SHEPHERD

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

Pastor James D. Robison, Jr

3940 Mountain Road Slatington, PA 18080

610/767-9680

[www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org](http://www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org)    [www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington](http://www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington)

Good Shepherd Faithfully serving ~ Compassionately accepting ~ Transforming together.

### Renewal and Rest

Dear Friends and Members of Good Shepherd UCC ~

As a new year opens before us, we find ourselves standing once more on the threshold of possibility. January invites us into stillness, reflection, and gentle renewal. It is a time to listen to our hearts, to one another, and to the Holy One who speaks in whispers as often as in windstorms.

This month, I will be stepping away on a **one-month sabbatical** for rest, study, and spiritual renewal. I am deeply grateful for this time and for the trust you offer in allowing your pastor moments of replenishment. Just as we encourage one another to care for body and spirit, I hope to return refreshed, with new energy for the ministry we share.

During my time away, know that you remain in my prayers. May the Breath of Life continue to guide you in decisions, comfort you in challenges, and inspire you to grace-filled living. May this month be a time of recommitment to compassion, justice, and joyful connection.

May we all step into the coming year trusting that the One who calls us is ever creating, ever renewing, ever leading us toward hope.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor James

Mountain Reflections January 2026

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

**JANUARY LECTONARY**

<b>January 4, 2026</b>	<b>2nd Sunday after Christmas</b>
Lesson:	John 1:10-18
Meditation:	Another Road
<b>January 11, 2026</b>	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>
Lesson:	Matthew 3:13-17
Meditation:	Possibilities Unfolding
Mission:	Dylan & Gavin’s Rainbow Ministry
<b>January 18, 2026</b>	<b>2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</b>
Lesson:	John 1:29-42
Meditation:	All That We Are
<b>January 25, 2026</b>	<b>3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</b>
Lesson:	Matthew 4:12-23
Meditation:	Called Together
Mission:	VALOR Ministry

**COMMUNION SCHEDULE**

Epiphany Communion ~ Sunday, January 4, 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 **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.

www.valorclinic.org or [www.facebook.com/valorclinic](http://www.facebook.com/valorclinic)

**Operation Warm Their Toes**

Looking for new socks for our  
VALOR Veterans.



*All warm clothing will also be welcomed*

Collecting November thru January our Mission Month

*Our Veterans Thank You!*



**Dylan and Gavin's Rainbow** (501c3) is a non-profit ministry intended to reach out to families who are experiencing a serious illness of a child or loss of a child. We wish to allow such families to know that they are not alone in their struggle. Though the whole family feels as if their world is falling apart, Dylan and Gavin's Rainbow can provide some support to make that time more bearable.

The Winner of the December Lottery was:



See Karen Smith to participate.



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**

Gail Bell	Frank Hart	Ty Sander
Sherry Bishop	Barbara Hower	Gary Schneck
Bill Black*	Brett Hunsicker	Frank Soldridge
Kathy Daniels	Gary Johannes	Frankie Soldridge
David Demera	Hayden Keller	Frank Strohl
Doug Farber	Frances Kuntz	Jenn Wentz
Donna Fox	Lauri	John Zellner
Lee Haas	Chris Oertner	
Diane Hardey		

\*Denotes Hospice care

*Purged at beginning of each month, Renewals are welcomed*

**For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:**

Jonathan “Tanak” Andrews	Jim Bailey	Al Boger
Claire Danko		

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> grade - **Children** with Amanda Smith, MaryAnn Storm, Phillip White

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

8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### **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**

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The **Chancel Choir** meets on Tuesdays from 7-8 PM.

Chancel Choir pieces for January include *Bright Star Shining* and *Days of Elijah*.

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!

# Calendar

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## January Birthdays

Jan 1	Emma Shields	Jan 18	Mackenzi Palmer
Jan 3	Maggie White	Jan 19	Sandra Keller
Jan 5	Maverick Hantz	Jan 20	Alice Christman
Jan 6	Michelle Hewitt	Jan 21	Penny Keen
Jan 7	Tina Fetchko	Jan 22	Duane Haas
Jan 7	Kevin Smith	Jan 25	Tammy Schaeffer
Jan 9	Connie Ferber	Jan 26	Eileen Andrews
Jan 10	Matthew Hewitt	Jan 26	Dennis Derr
Jan 11	Jean Frantz	Jan 26	Barbara Neff
Jan 11	Hudson Goodhile	Jan 27	Karen Weaver
Jan 12	Richard Keen	Jan 29	Michelle Allen
Jan 15	Bonita Hewitt	Jan 29	Samantha Fricchione
Jan 16	Violet Hantz	Jan 30	Brynlie Hausman
Jan 17	Carol Blose	Jan 30	Hailey Ruch
Jan 17	Monica Griffith		

## 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 2025 was \$76.12.**

**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.**

**Feed My Starving Children weekend at Neffs Union UCC packed 101,088 meals** during the recent LV Mobile Pack, which will **feed 276 kids for a year.** There were **382 volunteers and over \$33,000 raised.** The meals were shipped out the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup> bound for the Dominican Republic via their mission partner Cross Catholic Outreach. Thank you to all who donated your time and money on Sunday, October 12, 2025 to help make this happen!

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated for **William Sanders Ruch** on July 27, 2025 at Good Shepherd UCC. William, born July 29, 2024, is the son of Jonathan & Sara (Sanders) Ruch. He joins a sister, Hailey. Welcome William!!!

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated for **Emmalynne Mae Reda-Stanski** on November 23, 2025 at Good Shepherd UCC. Emmalynne, born February 27, 2025, is the daughter of Alex Stanski & Abigayle Reda. She joins a brother, Landon Sauta and a sister, Adaline Reda-Sauta. Welcome Emmalynne!!!

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated for **Kennedy Jo Flexer** on December 7, 2025, at Good Shepherd UCC. Kennedy, born July 31, 2025, is the daughter of Nathan & Cassie (Knittle) Flexer. She joins a sister, Evelyn Flexer. Her grandparents, Dale & Amy (Neff) Knittle and great grandmother, Barbara (Handwerk) Neff are members of Good Shepherd. Welcome Kennedy!!!

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated for **Addyson Nicole Alcaro** on December 21, 2025 at Good Shepherd UCC. Addyson, born September 8, 2023, is the daughter of Ryan & Elizabeth (Kline) Alcaro, who also joined the church. She joins brothers, Jaxon Kline and John Tona. Welcome Addyson!!!

Altar Flowers and Bulletins

**Thank you to our December bulletin sponsors:**

December 14-In Memory of Loved Ones

by Mr. & Mrs. Gary Fatzinger.

December 28-In Memory of Tom Craig by his family

**Thank you to our sponsors for December flowers:**

December 7-In Memory of Luella Miller

by Bonnie & Matt Hewitt and Robert Shelly

December 24-In Honor of Rae Anne Creyer

December 28-In Memory of Tom Craig by his family

**Thank you to our December “Holy Grounds” sponsors,**

Nathan & Cassie Flexer and Tracey Gursky

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



**SPORTSMAN'S NIGHT**  
**Saturday, January 31, 2026**  
Doors Open at 4:00 P.M.  
( Meal Served 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. )  
-- Snow Date: February 7, 2026 --

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**GOOD SHEPHERD U.C.C.**  
3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, PA.

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

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Door Prizes &  
50/50 Drawing  
Lic. # PA 0275R25  
For Advanced Tickets Call:  
Eddie Smith @ 610-767-3776

Thank you to all who participated in the Cash & Gift Card Bingo. The fundraising committee raised \$1,875.01 and there were 75 participants.

There will be an **undecorating party on Sunday, January 4, 2026 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.

We are **collecting individual packages of oatmeal for Backpack Buddies through February 28**. We collected **191 individual boxes of cereal** in September and October.

We collected **200 cans of corn for Thanksgiving** and **184 cans of corn for Christmas** to donate to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Thank you to all who gave.

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](http://@goodshepherduccslatington.org)) will remain the same. **10**

From **Rev. Dr. Nora Driver Foust**

Beginning January 1, 2026, I will serve as the **Transitional Regional Conference Minister for the Mountain Valley** (formerly PNEC), Schuylkill (formerly of PSEC), Central (formerly of PCC), and Harrisburg (Formerly of PCC)

Associations. As we move through this season of transition into the Keystone Conference, I am excited to journey with you.

I will be your primary ministerial staff person for the Mountain Valley Association, and our office administrator will be **Paul Keller**. Our office is in Harrisburg, but I often work from my mobile office.

I look forward to getting to know each of the 121 congregations in the Mountain Valley Association and to joining you for worship and special fellowship events. God's people are my passion, and I am eager to serve alongside you as we share the Gospel together. Currently, I live in Harrisburg with my husband, Mike, our teenage son, Joshua, and our dog, Argyle. Our adult daughter and son-in-law, Mckenzie and Justin, live in North Carolina with our two "grand dogs".

There are no true replacements for Patty, Barbara, or Bonnie. Paul and I will do our best to support and resource you as, together, we become the **Keystone Conference**.

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Scrip Program profit for 2025 was \$2,066.27. Thank you to everyone who participated this year and made this possible! Since beginning this fundraiser in May 2009, the Scrip Program has a cumulative profit of \$48,857.85.

Next month's orders will be due on **Sunday, January 11th** with delivery on **Sunday, January 18th**. As a reminder, orders are open to everyone — *please ask family and friends, neighbors and coworkers!*

# 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](mailto:secretary@goodshepherduccslatington.org)

Pastor James Mobile Phone: 484-571-6083

Email: [jamdarrob@gmail.com](mailto: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:		Tammy White
Altar Guild:		Linda Coffin
Acolytes:	04	Mackenzie Palmer
	11	Mackenzie Palmer
	18	Kendall Frantz
	25	Callie McGinnis
Lay Readers:	04	Riley Fallon
	11	Susan Bankes
	18	Rae Anne Creyer
	25	Mary Storm
Greeters:	04	Kelsey Knittle-Moser
	11	Bob & Michelle Schramel
	18	Rae Anne Creyer & Wynn
	25	Kelsey Knittle-Moser

Power Point Designers: Deb Craig, Eric Hantz

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

Web Designer: Marie Bachman