



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 July 2026

July 2026 — Gratitude for Freedom

Dear Friends and Members of Good Shepherd UCC ~

July reminds us of freedom ~ its gifts, its responsibilities, and its challenges. While our nation's observances often focus on independence, our faith calls us to interdependence: a way of living rooted in mutual care, justice, and compassion.

Scripture teaches that freedom is not for personal gain but for loving service. The Holy One sets us free not to turn inward, but to open our hearts wider. True freedom grows wherever mercy flows, where dignity is honored, and where no one is forgotten.

During this summer season, let us give thanks for the liberties we enjoy, and let us also pray for those who long for the safety, dignity, or opportunity we sometimes take for granted. May we commit ourselves to the work of building communities where all people can flourish.

May the Spirit guide us toward the freedom that Christ embodies ~ the freedom of love, forgiveness, and courage.

In hope and responsibility,

Pastor James

JUNE LECTIONARY

July 5, 2026

Scripture:

Meditation:

God & Country Sunday

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Chosen Journeys

July 12, 2026

Scripture:

Meditation:

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

A House Divided

July 19, 2026

Scripture:

Meditation:

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Wheat and Weeds Together

July 26, 2026

Scripture:

Meditation:

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Weaving the Future

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

God and Country ~ Sunday, July 5, 2026 at 10:00 am

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

Our Facebook Page:

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

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.

We received a check from **Redner’s Save-A-Tape Program** for \$119.92. Keep your receipts coming. It’s a great way to make money for the church without any extra effort on the part of the congregation.



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



Homebound Members

Marge Bass	Dennis Derr	Judy Mack
Mary Bilheimer	Donna Fox	Carol Schweitzer
Shirley Blynn	Susan 'Tillie' Waller	
Kay Costenbader		

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
Kira (Kern) Kelsey	Jacob Molchan	Janel Tracy
	Jacqueline (Tracy) Moyer	

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

Family & Friends

Tom Alcaro	Lee Haas	Chris Oertner
Karen Anthony	Diane Hardey	Randy Parks
Gail Bell	Barbara Hower	Bill Puskas
Bill Black*	Brett Hunsicker	Ty Sander
Lori Clay	Gary Johannes	Gary Schneck
Deb Derhammer	Hayden Keller	Barry Silfies
Doug Farber	Gary Johannes	Bonnie Spangler
Donna Fox	Jim Koneschusky	Jenn Wentz
Ruthann Fries	Don Kutzner	John Zellner
Jennifer Frohnheiser	Lauri	Carol Ziegenfuss
Steve George	Friends dealing with cancer	

***Denotes hospice care**

Purged at beginning of each month; Renewals are welcomed

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Betty Mathias

Altar Flowers and Bulletins

Thank you to our **June bulletin sponsor:**

June 7-In Memory of sister, Darlene Bean's Birthday
by Randy & Eileen Andrews.

Thank you to our **June flower sponsor:**

June 14-In Honor of Mother, Madeline Balliet's Birthday
by Robin Bellesfield.

Thank you to our **June Holy Grounds sponsor:** Pam Puskas

Mission Outreach for July is School of Theology at Moravian University (formerly Lancaster Theological Seminary)

They are an ecumenical seminary that is known for academic excellence, celebration of differences across Christian traditions, and creative engagement on issues of importance to our world.
moravian.edu/school-theology

July Anniversaries

July 2	Wally & Jackie (Minnich) Amey
July 7	Greg & Katie (White) Koneschusky
July 7	Michael Smith & Mark Miller
July 17	Randy & Cindy (Passaro) Parks
July 19	"Duke" & Alice (Musselman) Christman
July 21	Josh & Kara (Solt) Richardson
July 23	Darryl & Annette (Bellangee) Fatzinger
July 24	Travis & Jessica (Miller) Redline
July 27	Travis & Elizabeth (Shoemaker) Frantz
July 27	William "Biff" & Ann (Leiphart) Hayes
July 27	Roy Kleintop & Tillie: Waller
July 28	Kerry & Sally (Sensinger) Loch

Confirmation was celebrated on May 24 with the following youth completing the process: **Calliope Madison McGinnis** and **Mackenzi Aurora Palmer**. Congratulations on continuing your faith journey!

July Birthdays

July 1	Connie Fogle	July 13	Joseph Bartczak
July 1	Isabella Palmer	July 15	Rowan Sander
July 1	Jennifer Sommers	July 17	Tyla Block
July 1	Shane White	July 17	Bob Koons
July 3	Ellen Biegly	July 18	Beth Kutzner
July 4	Mason Bowers	July 19	David Nothstein
July 4	Evelyn Flexer	July 20	William "Biff" Hayes
July 4	Judy Mack	July 21	Miles Kremposky
July 7	Michael Bankes	July 21	Ariana Smoyer
July 7	Trevor Rex	July 22	Elizabeth Alcaro
July 8	Jessica Redline	July 22	Jameson Schappell
July 8	Raelyn Rinker	July 22	Cynthia Schramel
July 8	Julie Solt	July 23	Peter Beblavy
July 9	Brandi Palmer	July 23	Chase Kremposky
July 9	Janice Silliman	July 23	Jade Kremposky
July 9	Tammy White	July 23	Michael Kremposky
July 10	Dane Badman	July 24	Jazmin Richardson
July 10	Yezi Chen	July 25	Delaney Dugan
July 10	Thomas Hourt	July 29	William Ruch
July 11	Chastity Corvino	July 29	Matthew Shields, Jr.
July 11	Madison Sommers	July 30	Joe Puskas
July 12	Tucker Hosier	July 31	Terry Derhammer
		July 31	Mason Rex

Mission Team is **collecting canned spaghetti with pull top tabs** for **Backpack Buddies through August 31.**

We collected 150 individual fruit cups in March and April. Northern Lehigh School District serves about 100 families each week. Thank you to all who donated.

The Winner of the June Lottery was: John Zellner



See Karen Smith to participate.

Calendar

Calendar

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fundraising will once again be offering **Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Shopping Passes** for a \$5.00 donation. The pass will be good for on-line and in store shopping on

Wednesday, October 21st, 2026 from 8 AM - 11 PM. Last year we took in a profit of \$535.00. If anyone is interested, passes will be available in the narthex. We also encourage everyone to help with promoting this worthwhile project. A prize will be awarded to the person taking in the most donations.

Summer Breakfast Bunch at St. John's Lutheran Church, Slatington will provide breakfast and a bag lunch Monday through Friday from 8:30 – 10 am. The program will run from June 15- August 24 for ages 2 – 17. Volunteers and monetary donations or gift cards to local grocery stores are needed. To volunteer or donate, please call the office at St. John's Lutheran Church at 610-767-6361 or email the church at stjohnslatington@gmail.com.

Love Your Neighbor Churches **FUNDRAISER** for Medical Debt Relief **Now through August 15th**.

Over 100,000,000 adults nationwide have medical debt that negatively impacts their lives. We can change this! Union UCC and Friends did this last year and raised over \$10,000 erasing over \$1.1 million of medical debt for 857 patients across Lehigh County.

Every \$10 donated relieves \$1,000 of medical debt.

Donate anytime between now and August 15th.

A group of churches are gathering around this effort again challenging us to join together to erase all of the medical debt in Lehigh and Northampton counties.

That's \$20,000 to raise, erasing almost \$3 million of debt in our region!

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE!

**COMMUNITY-WIDE PICNIC & CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH 3PM-7PM**

Union UCC Grove 5550 Route 873 Neffs, PA
Food * Music * Playground * Gift Card and Cash Raffle
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL AMOUNT RAISED!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Summer Hiatus

VBS begins on **July 13** at 6 pm and concludes **July 19** at 10 am. There will be a **campout on July 18 at 6 pm**, concluding with a **pancake breakfast Sunday morning, July 19 at 9:30 am**.

August 2, 2026 at noon-Mini Golf at Bear Rock Junction. Stay tuned for more more information!

Friday, August 28, 2026.-Faith Night at the Iron Pigs Game, **Tickets cost \$13**, which includes a \$2 food voucher. Game starts at 6:45 pm. See RaeAnne Creyer or email her at raecaa06@gmail.com for tickets or more information.

Prayers for Our Graduates:

Alex Beblavy; Palmerton High School, Patrick Conway; Northern Lehigh High School, Aricka Creyer; Lehigh County Community College, Ben Griffith; Northampton County Community College, Olivia Horninger; Cedar Crest College, Jade Rice; DeSales University, Breonna Richardson; Northwester Lehigh High School & LCTI, Brody Ritter; University of Delaware, Caden Shields; Muhlenberg College, Aiden Solt; Lehigh Area High School and Luke Zook; Villanova University.

SCRIP Summary • May 2026

Participants	—	11
Cards Ordered	—	60
Profit	—	\$131.35

SCRIP Summary • June 2026

Participants	—	7
Cards Ordered	—	43
Profit	—	\$122.13

This month's orders will be due on Sunday, July 12th with delivery on Sunday, July 19th.

As a reminder, orders are open to everyone — *please ask family and friends, neighbors and coworkers!*

Financial Peace University, Wednesday's 6:30-8 pm will be taught by Monica Griffith again this summer.

LESSONS		
Lesson 1:	Baby Step 1 & Budgeting	Wednesday, Jun 17, 2026
Lesson 2:	Baby Step 2	Wednesday, Jun 24, 2026
Lesson 3:	Baby Step 3	Wednesday, Jul 1, 2026
Lesson 4:	Baby Steps 4, 5, 6, & 7	Wednesday, Jul 8, 2026
<i>(Vacation Bible School)</i>		
Lesson 5:	Wise Spending	Wednesday, Jul 22, 2026
Lesson 6:	Understanding Insurance	Wednesday, Jul 29, 2026
Lesson 7:	Building Wealth	Wednesday, Aug 5, 2026
Lesson 8:	Buying & Selling Your Home	Wednesday, Aug 12, 2026
Lesson 9:	Outrageous Generosity	Wednesday, Aug 19, 2026

Class Link: <https://www.financialpeace.com/app/classes/4B6DF5>



Thank you to the following additional sponsors of Noah Griffith's Eagle Scout Service Project, the new Christian Education Classroom: Deb Craig and John & Susan Zellner.

Looking for office volunteers over the summer who would be able and willing to scan a large number of photos and put them on a flash drive as a way to preserve our congregation's history. Please contact Pastor James or Eileen Andrews if you would like to help.

Confirmation Summer Schedule

Session 8 ~ *Worship* – Sunday, July 5, 2026: during worship

Session 9 ~ *Sacraments*– Sunday, July 5, 2026; 11:15am - noon

Session 10 ~ *Church History*– **Monday**, July 6, 2026;

8:00am - 4:00pm

Session 11 ~ *What Protestants Believe*– **Tuesday**, July 7, 2026;

8:00am - 3:00pm

Session 12 ~ *Polity*– **Wednesday**, July 8, 2026; 11:15am - Noon

Session 13 ~ *Stewardship/Tithing*– **Thursday**, July 9, 2026;

11:15am - 1:00pm

Session 14 ~ *Service and Mission*– **Friday**, July 10, 2026;

11:15am - Noon

Session 15 ~ *Mnemonics for Christians*– Sunday, July 12, 2026;

11:15am - 2:00pm

Session 16 ~ *My Decision* – Sunday TBD by Elders;

9:00am 10:00am

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ is anticipating a wonderful group of young people entering the Confirmation process—and **we are looking for caring, committed adults to serve as mentors.**

A mentor is simply a trusted guide in faith—someone willing to listen, share, encourage, and walk alongside a confirmand as they grow in discipleship.

If you have a heart for supporting youth and helping shape the next generation of the church, we would love to have you be part of this meaningful ministry.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact Pastor James.

Thank you to our June volunteers for cutting the grass:

Dean Harper, Kevin Minnich, Craig Solt.

Sign up sheet is in the Narthex. The church provides the riding mower and the gas. Please consider volunteering for 1 or 2 weeks this summer to alleviate the burden of looking for volunteers.

Thank you.

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/Interim Choir Director	Dr. Yezi Chen
Secretary	Eileen Andrews
Treasurer	Tammy White
Financial Secretary	Colleen Shields
Sexton	Matthew Shields

July Worship Leaders

Deacon:	Mary Storm
Head Elder:	Dennis Silfies
Altar Guild:	Julie Solt
Acolytes:	5 Jaxon Kline
	12 Mackenzi Palmer
	19 Jaxon Kline
	26 TBD
Lay Readers:	5 Rae Anne Creyer
	12 Evan Shoemaker
	19 Monica Griffith
	26 Carol Oswald
Greeters:	5 Rae Anne Creyer & Wynn
	12 Linda Soldridge
	19 Tammy Schaeffer
	26 Gary & Jean Fatzinger

Power Point Designers: Deb Craig, Eric Hantz

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

Web Designer: Marie Bachman