



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.

Turning Toward the Light

Dear Friends and Members of Good Shepherd UCC ~

March is the month when the earth begins to stir again. Light grows, birds return, and the first signs of spring remind us that transformation is woven into creation. As we journey through Lent, we are invited to notice this same holy movement within ourselves.

Lent is not about shame ~ it is about honest reflection. It is the season when we gently turn toward the light of the Holy One and allow that light to reveal places within us that are ready for healing. With courage and tenderness, we listen for the Spirit's call to change, grow, release, and begin again.

This month, I invite you to make space for quiet. Let prayer deepen. Let compassion widen. Let hope rise. Whether through worship, study, or acts of service, may this Lenten season lead us closer to the heart of the One who created us in love.

May we walk together toward the promise of rebirth that awaits on Easter morning.

Journeying with you,

Pastor James

Mountain Reflections March 2026

MARCH LECTIONARY

March 1, 2026 **2nd Sunday in Lent**

Lesson: John 3:1-17
Meditation: Bold Blessing

March 8, 2026 **3rd Sunday in Lent**

Lesson: John 4:5-42
Meditation: Thirsty Voices

March 15, 2026 **4th Sunday in Lent**

Lesson: John 9:1-41
Meditation: Restored

March 22, 2026 **5th Sunday in Lent**

Lesson: John 11:1-45
Meditation: Breath of Hope

March 29, 2026 **Palm Sunday**

Lesson: Matthew 21:1-11
Meditation: Palm Sunday

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Easter ~ Sunday, April 5, 2026 at 6:00 am and 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>

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! The **Chancel Choir** meets on Tuesdays (Wednesdays during Lent) from 7-8 PM.

Chancel Choir pieces for March include *Angels Bear My Soul Away*, *Once Upon a Tree*, *Bought with a Price*, *Lamb of God*, and *O Thou Eternal Christ, Ride On*.



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

Dot Arnold	Lee Haas	Chris Oertner
Bill Black*	Diane Hardey	Ty Sander
Shirley Blynn	Barbara Hower	Gary Schneck
Doug Farber	Brett Hunsicker	Linda Soldridge
Donna Fox	Gary Johannes	Donna Tully
Brian Frey	Hayden Keller	Wehr Family
Steve George	Lauri	Jenn Wentz
Kailey Haas		John Zellner

***Denotes hospice care**

*Purged at beginning of each month.
Renews are welcomed*

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Margo Ashner	Raymond "Spider" Christman
James George, Sr.	Charolotte Hallman
Jayne Hamm	

Altar Flowers and Bulletins

Thank you to our February bulletin sponsors:

February 1-In memory of son, James Skubish
by Eileen & Randy Andrews

February 15-In Memory of Loved Ones
by Mr. & Mrs. Gary Fatzinger.

Thank you to our February flower sponsors:

February 1-To the Honor & Glory of God
by Pastor James

February 8-In Memory of Eugene Miller
by Bonnie & Matthew Hewitt & Robert Shelly

February 15-In Honor of all the volunteers
by Pastor James

Thank you to our January “Holy Grounds” sponsors,

February 22- Deb Craig

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.

Mission Outreach for March is Allentown Rescue Mission

They are a non-denominational, Christian, Social services organization, which provides critically needed goods and services to homeless and impoverished men, without regard to race, color, creed, national origin or religion. For more than a century, the Mission has addressed the changing face of homelessness, tackling the root causes of homelessness, and helping to end homelessness one life at a time throughout the Lehigh Valley. Their programs include Emergency Shelter, Christian Living Program, the Clean Team, and DeSales Free Clinic.

Snow, Ice, Winter Emergency Cancellations

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

March Birthdays

Mar 1	Skylie White	Mar 21	Sandy Hantz
Mar 3	Carlton Miller	Mar 21	Dwayne Kern
Mar 4	Kellie Smith	Mar 22	Linda Coffin
Mar 4	Pam Storm	Mar 23	Jean Fatzinger
Mar 6	Denise Biegly	Mar 23	Susan Waller
Mar 6	Dean Harper	Mar 24	Randy Parks
Mar 7	Debra Craig	Mar 25	Megan Bankes
Mar 7	Jim George	Mar 25	Tania Kresge
Mar 9	Cassie Flexer	Mar 25	Michael Sander
Mar 9	Olivia Horninger	Mar 26	Doug Farber
Mar 9	Amber Snyder	Mar 26	Calliope McGinnis
Mar 12	Tiffany Lloyd	Mar 26	Gail Nonnemaker
Mar 13	Barry Silfies	Mar 26	Mary Storm
Mar 17	Wylan Redline	Mar 27	Richard Smith
Mar 17	Evan Shoemaker	Mar 28	Kevin Fister
Mar 18	Linda Henninger	Mar 30	Todd Fetchko
Mar 18	Megann Rodrigues	Mar 30	Richard Kohler
Mar 18	Zachary Storm	Mar 31	Kay Costenbader
Mar 19	Gary Fatzinger	Mar 31	Fiona Dieter

March Anniversaries

Mar 16	Gary & Jean (Fritzinger) Fatzinger
Mar 19	David & Emily (Silfies) McGinnis

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. It doesn't matter how old they are, as long as they have Save-A-Tape on the bottom of the receipt. **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.**

Calendar

Calendar

EASTER SCHEDULE FOR 2026

MARCH

29– Palm Sunday (Procession with Donkey 9:45 am)

APRIL

1 – Color Easter Eggs in Fellowship Hall

(request for egg donations)

2 – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

3 – Good Friday Meditation Noon – 3:00 pm

Good Friday Service at Good Shepherd 7:00 pm

4 – Easter Egg Hunt ~ in person registration – 10:15 am – 10:50 am, Egg hunt starts at 11:00 am (looking for candy & prize donations)

5 – Easter Services 6:00 am/10:00 am

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.

There are **extra weekly offering envelopes** in the Narthex on the table. If you forgot your envelopes, do not have them or are not a member and want to use these, please feel free to help yourself.

March 1 registration is open for Little Shepherd Preschool for all children. Contact Karen Weaver at karenls2@hotmail.com or visit their Facebook page to learn more.

Family Promise Homecoming Benefit, Saturday, March 28, 2026, 5:30 pm at the Club at Twin Lakes.

To purchase your ticket or sponsorship, call Family Promise of the Lehigh Valley at 610-351-1368 or go to FPLhighValley.org.

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 4th grade - **Children** with Amanda Smith, MaryAnn Storm, Phillip White

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

8th thru 12th 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

Faith Night at the Iron Pigs Game, **Friday, August 28, 2026.**

Tickets cost \$13, which includes a \$2 food voucher. Game starts at 6:45 pm. See RaeAnne Creyer or email her at raeaa06@gmail.com for tickets or more information.

Prayers for Students in higher education: Dane Badman at LCCC, Tyla Block at Widener, Aricka Creyer at LCCC, Riley Fallon at Penn State, Ben Griffith at NCC, Katy Griffith at Cedar Crest, Emma Hope at Shippensburg, Sarah Hope 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, Colleen Shields at Strayer, Gabriella Smoyer at Cedar Crest, Luke Zook at Villanova.

The Winner of the January Lottery was: John Zellner
The Winner of the February Lottery was: Jean Fatzinger



See Karen Smith to participate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Fundraising Team is selling **Little Caesars pizza kits** through March 8. This is a great fundraiser for the church. Please pick up an order form in the Narthex and sell to your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Pickup will be the week of March 10.

We are **collecting canned corn** for Easter through **March 15** for **Northern Lehigh Food Bank**.

Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ's first Annual Meeting will be held **June 5-7** at **Millersville University** in Millersville. Overnight accommodations will be on campus as well as the DoubleTree Hilton in Lancaster.

Registration will begin in March 2026.

Our theme is "Joy at the Table Together" and our centering scripture is Acts 2:46-47 "Every day they met together, breaking bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God."

The meeting will include a Service of Consecration for Keystone Conference.

Mountain Valley Association (MVA) Annual Meeting will be held on **November 7, 2026**. Details coming soon.

SCRIP Report • February 2025

Participants	-	8
Cards Ordered	-	43
Profit	-	\$104.94

Orders Due **Sunday, March 8** with delivery on **Sunday, March 15**. Order scrip cards in March to have them in time for Easter celebrations and gift-giving! As a reminder, orders are open to everyone –

Please ask family and friends, neighbors and coworkers.

Since December with the increase in participants, our profits have increased without any cost to the congregation. If you don't already use gift cards to purchase your groceries on a weekly/monthly basis, please consider it. **Total profit** from the **Scrip Order Program in 2025** was **\$2,066.27**.

Nourish Your Body and Spirit This Lent!   

Join us for a special **Midweek Lenten Gathering** where we'll break bread, share soup, and open our hearts to learn about the missions we support as a community of faith. Through conversation and community, we'll explore what it means to think of 'otherness'.
Come for the soup, stay for better understanding! All are welcome.

Date	Mission	Speaker
2/25	Allentown Rescue Mission	Skip Smith
3/4	Guardianship Support Agency.	Kristen Pesarcik.
3/11	Turning Point	Panayiota Papadopoulos
3/18	Family Promise of Lehigh Valley	Roslyn Kuba
3/25	Allentown Sixth Street Shelter	Tjwana Reed
Soup		Bread & Salad Sponsors
2/25	Vegetable Barley, Dennis Silfies	Randy & Eileen Andrews
3/4	Lentil, Deb Craig	Terry & Susan Shelly
3/11	Wild Rice & Mushroom, Dennis Silfies	Beth Kutzner
3/18	Nacho Potato, Jean Frantz	Monica Griffith & Family
3/25	Cheddar Broccoli, Angie Shoemaker	Pam Puskas

Thank you to all who assisted me in identifying the First UCC Confirmation Classes from 1950 through 1999 ~ Susan Bankes, Judy Bollinger, Debbie Derhammer, Gary & Jean Fatzinger, Biff Hayes and a special Thank You to Dick Nothstein for setting me on the right path in the beginning when it seemed like an overwhelming task and Alice Kegel who tirelessly tracked down members of First UCC to help identify confirmands. There are extra copies in the Narthex. Please help yourself.

Thank you to Samantha Shoemaker for putting all the pictures from First UCC on to flash drives.

Eileen Andrews, Secretary.

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

March Worship Leaders

Deacon:	Sharon Conway
Altar Guild:	Emily & Callie McGinnis
Acolytes:	1 Callie McGinnis
	8 Kendall Frantz
	15 Jaxon Kline
	22 Mackenzi Palmer
	29 Callie McGinnis
Lay Readers:	1 Eric Hantz
	8 Lori Balliet
	15 Darlene Nothstein
	22 Rae Anne Creyer
	29 Kelsey Knittle-Moser
Greeters:	1 David & Emily McGinnis
	8 Mark & Tammy Schaeffer
	15 Madeline Balliet & Donna Keener
	25 Rae Anne Creyer & Wynn
	29 Alice Kegel

Power Point Designers: Deb Craig, Eric Hantz

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

Web Designer: Marie Bachman