



GOOD SHEPHERD

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 December 2023

Dear family and friends of Good Shepherd ~

Are you prepared to welcome the Christ-Child into your home and into your life. Advent dominates the month of December with preparation for the season, but I find there is more focus on cleaning, and cooking, and baking, and entertaining, and card sending, and gift buying, and ... Well, you probably know just as much about this as I do. But do we really prepare for this blessed event?

As this month unfolds, may we take time to worship with our sisters and brothers each Sunday. To take a few moments of each day to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for being able to do all that we do in this hectic time. To reach out to the less fortunate and remember them with acts of kindness in simple yet meaningful ways. May we do this as if we are doing it for the Christ-Child himself.

How might we care for the innocent and vulnerable in our society? How might we be an advocate not only for those we love, but for those who have no one else to speak on their behalf?

As you gather with family and friends beside the Christmas tree or perhaps around a dinner table with all those wonderful delicacies prepared, and just pause and turn your thoughts to God with a grateful heart.

May this be the gift we give ourselves and each other as we receive the Christ-Child into our hearts again.

In the joy of Christ,

Pastor James

DECEMBER LECTIONARY

December 3, 2023	1st Sunday of Advent
Lesson:	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
Meditation:	Where Are You, God?
December 10, 2023	2nd Sunday of Advent
Lesson:	Isaiah 40:1-11
Meditation:	Messengers of Hope
December 17, 2023	3rd Sunday of Advent
Lesson:	Psalms 126
Meditation:	Shouts of Joy
December 24, 2023	4th Sunday of Advent
Lesson:	Luke 1:26-38
Meditation:	Birthing a Promise
December 31, 2023	1st Sunday after Christmas
Lesson:	Luke 2:22-40
Meditation:	Long-Awaited Gift

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Advent Communion ~ Sunday, December 3, 2023

We will be celebrating communion as we have prior to the pandemic. If you wish to stay in your vehicle, simply respond at the appropriate time to receive communion by turning on your four-way flashers. Ushers with masks and gloves will bring elements to you and any passengers in your car. Those who wish to remain in their vehicles can participate by listening to the service on FM Station 88.5.

Virtual Worship Services thru Facebook Live-Streaming allows us to continue our services for those at church and for those at home.

Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington> **Worship With Us**

In Your Car:

For those who wish to, you can at any time, remain in your vehicles and park in the front parking lot to enjoy the service by tuning in and listening to our **FM Station 88.5**.

Congratulations to The Winners of the November Lottery:
Gary & Jean Fatzinger
See Karen Smith to participate.



**Mission Outreach for December is
AIDS Awareness Month**

Dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease. Objectives are to expand the visibility of timely and relevant Federal HIV policies, programs and resources to the American Public; to assess starting or increasing the use of new media tools by government, minority-serving organizations and other community partners to extend the reach of HIV programs to communities at greatest risk; to increase knowledge about HIV and access to HIV services for people most at risk for or living with HIV. www.hiv.gov or www.facebook.com/HIVgov

Family Promise is looking for a few more drivers to help transport our families in the 14-passenger van/bus. You do not need any special license. Families are picked at the congregations at 6 a.m. and at the Day Center at 6 p.m. except Saturday and Sunday mornings which is 7 a.m. Congregations are within a 30-minute drive of the Day Center, some just minutes away. If you can sign up for one or two shifts per week, please contact Roslyn at director@fplehighvalley.org.



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



Homebound Members

Marge Bass

Mary Bilheimer

Kay Costenbader

Dennis Derr

Betty Humanick

Susan 'Tillie' Waller

Richard Kuntz

Those Serving Our Country In the Armed Services
Or with The Department of Defense:

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

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

Family & Friends

Beverly Abraham	Levina Irvin	Rowan Rinker
Jane Achey	Rick Keller	Eleanor Schlinkman
Connie Beblavy	Sandy Keller	Kylie Schneider
Gail Bell	Bonnie Kleppinger	Eddie Smith
David Blose	Shawn Kress	Edgar Smith
Michael Bossons	Kevin Kroboth	Sallie Solt
Jim Craig	Wayne Kuhns	Marilyn Sowden
Rob Davis	Natalie Lubold	Mary Storm
Lisa Engel	Chris Newhard	Rich Taylor
Doug Farber	Tony Patrick	MaryEllen White
Sylvia Gethen	Connie Renner	Louise Zatoris
Lisa Gilly	Kim Rex	
Bill Honchell	Faith Mondrick Lauer	

Prayers for Students in higher education:

Megan Bankes-Glenville St. WV	Mitchell Hourt-Moravian
Asa Blynn-Kutztown	Jade Rice-Bloomsburg
Dylan Coffin-Moravian	Brody Ritter-University of Del
Carissa Fallon-Penn State	Caden Shields-LCCC
Riley Fallon-Penn State	Cameron Shields-Kutztown
Ben Griffith-Wilkes University	Caleb Sommers-Kutztown
Emma Hope-Kutztown	Calista Smoyer-WV University
Evan Horninger-DeSales	Gabriella Smoyer-Cedar Crest
Olivia Horninger-Cedar Crest	Luke Zook-Villanova

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Michael Diefenderfer	Rev. Lunnett M. Hilliard	John Polak
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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.

Financial **G Giving** - Good Stewardship Made Easy

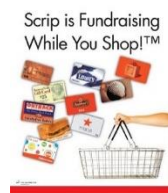
<https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>

Texting the word “give” to **610.615.7657**

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 to 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.

SCRIP Report • November 2023

Participants	–	13
Cards Ordered	–	133
Profit	–	\$270.18
Profit Year-To-Date	–	\$1,557.51



Scrip Orders Due on **Sunday, December 3rd** with delivery on **Sunday, December 10.**

Calendar

Calendar

December Birthdays

Dec 1	Ares Davis	Dec 18	Terri Miller
Dec 2	Sandy White	Dec 18	Robert Schramel, Sr.
Dec 3	Sallie Solt	Dec 19	Nanette Zink
Dec 6	Maddy Rex	Dec 20	Robert Evans
Dec 8	Dot Arnold	Dec 20	Robert Shelly
Dec 8	Evan Hantz	Dec 21	Evan Horninger
Dec 8	Carol Oswald	Dec 21	Tim Storm
Dec 9	Marie Bachman	Dec 21	John Zellner
Dec 9	Shirley Blynn	Dec 23	Aricka Creyer
Dec 9	Mason Meinhart	Dec 23	Omar Safi
Dec 9	Joshua Richardson	Dec 23	Hatcher White
Dec 9	Calista Smoyer	Dec 24	Carol Krum
Dec 10	Dawn Beblavy	Dec 25	“Jesus”
Dec 14	Evelyn Haas	Dec 25	Larry Lacy, Sr.
Dec 15	Travis Hausman	Dec 26	Michael Bowers
Dec 15	Keith Horn	Dec 26	Rae Anne Creyer
Dec 17	Keri Dimmig	Dec 26	Allison Schaffer
Dec 18	Kennedy De Angelo	Dec 30	Marcus Kremposky
Dec 18	Katie Koneschusky	Dec 31	Kelly Beblavy
		Dec 31	Michael Stafiniak

December Anniversaries

Dec 2	Joseph & Pam (Bossons) Puskas, Sr.
Dec 3	Richard & Penny (Bowers) Keen
Dec 3	Allen & Robin (Zancofsky) Lichtenwalner
Dec 21	Glenn & Sherry (Billman) Bishop
Dec 27	Arthur & Lisa (Smith) Kuntz
Dec 30	David & Linda (German) Dries

Our Church Staff

Pastor
Preschool Director
Organist/Pianist
Choir Director
Secretary
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Sexton

Rev. James D. Robison, Jr.
Karen Weaver
Yezi Chen
Beth Kutzner
Eileen Andrews
Tammy White
Colleen Shields
Matthew Shields

Clothing drop-off box at the rear of the property earns the church money per pound. If you are cleaning out your closets, this is a good fundraiser for the church. Year to date earnings total \$675.

Coming in December

During the Christmas season, the Youth Ensemble will be presenting special music during the 3:00 PM Christmas Eve service. All youth ages 5 and up are invited to participate. Littles aged 3 and 4 may participate with an adult present.

The Chancel Choir will be presenting a Christmas Cantata on December 17th. This year's Christmas Cantata is Touched by a Child, Touched by a King. Please come and join us! We will be rehearsing the cantata during Tuesday evening choir practices at 7:00 PM. We will also be having some special rehearsals to help us prepare for this very special event! Choir will rehearse December 3rd, after church until 3 pm, as well as extended choir rehearsals on December 5th, December 12th, and December 14th from 6:30-8:30. Recordings of the cantata will be available for at home practice! Come help us welcome the Christ Child with this very special presentation! Any questions, call Beth 570-240-0044.

Corn for Northern Lehigh Food Bank



We will be collecting 200 cans of corn for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank for Christmas meals. The corn for Christmas is needed by Sunday **December 3rd.**

Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross

The Christmas Fund is an annual UCC offering that expresses our thanks to retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and their families facing financial need, providing direct assistance to supplement pensions, help with the cost of medical insurance, a thank you gift at Christmas, and funds to meet emergency needs.

We at Good Shepherd take up this offering on Sunday, December 17. If you receive envelopes, there is one in your packet. If you do not receive envelopes, you may use a Love Offering envelope and mark it Christmas Fund so that your donation is designated for that purpose. Additionally, gifts to the Christmas Fund may be made any time through secure online giving at www.christmasfund.org or in Tithely.

This year's Christmas Fund theme is "Grace upon grace," from John 1:16. Gifts to the Christmas Fund make an immediate impact on those who have so faithfully served us over the years. Thanks to the generosity of UCC members and congregations, no request goes unfulfilled.



Please sign up in the Narthex for 2024. We are looking for acolytes (any age), lay readers, greeters, and altar guild. Snow shovelers are needed from December 2023 through April 2024.

Coming Events

Saturday, December 2, 2023 – Hanging of the Greens 9 am

Saturday, January 27, 2024 – Sportsmen's Night

Saturday, March 9, 2024 – Gone Fishin' Raffle

Please have all year-end reports emailed to the secretary by January 31.



**Youth Fellowship meets on 1st
meets on Sunday of the Month
at 11:15 am after worship.**

Youth Ensemble meets the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday of each month after church until 11:45 am. We play games, sing and play bells.

Christmas Eve Worship Leaders

Elder:	Dec 24th	3 pm	Dennis Silfies
Deacon:	Dec 24th	3 pm	Mary Storm
Acolyte:	Dec 24th	3 pm	TBD
Lay Reader:	Dec 24th	3 pm	Susan Bankes
Greeter:	Dec 24 th	3 pm	Eddie & Karen Smith
Elder:	Dec 24th	5 pm	Pam Puskas
Deacon:	Dec 24 th	5 pm	Amanda Bowers
Acolyte:	Dec 24th	5 pm	TBD
Lay Reader:	Dec 24th	5 pm	Pam Puskas
Greeter:	Dec 24 th	5 pm	TBD
Elder:	Dec 24th	7 pm	Chris Kegel
Deacon:	Dec 24th	7 pm	Jim George
Acolyte:	Dec 24th	7 pm	TBD
Lay Reader:	Dec 24th	7 pm	TBD
Greeter:	Dec 24th	7 pm	TBD
Elder:	Dec 24th	11pm	Tammy White
Deacon:	Dec 24th	11pm	Amanda Bowers
Acolyte:	Dec 24th	11pm	Krum Family
Lay Reader:	Dec 24th	11pm	Jodie Hourt
Greeter:	Dec 24th	11pm	Carol Krum & Family

Staying in Touch

Office Hours Tuesday and Wednesday 11:00 ~ 3:00

www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org

And also "Like" us on:

www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington

secretary@goodshepherduccslatington.org

CONTACTING PASTOR JAMES D. ROBISON, JR

Church Office: 610-767-9680 Mobile Phone: 484-571-6083

Email: jamdarrob@gmail.com

December Worship Leaders

Deacon:		Jim George
Altar Guild:		Linda Coffin
Acolytes:	3	TBD
	10	TBD
	17	TBD
	31	TBD
Lay Readers:	3	Karen Kuntzman
	10	Pam Puskas
	17	Darlene Nothstein
	31	Pam Puskas
Greeters:	3	Carol Krum
	10	Rae Anne Creyer
	17	Madeline Balliet & Donna Keener
	31	Eddie & Karen Smith

Power Point Designers: Deb Craig, Eric Hantz

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

Videographer: Beth Kutzner