GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, PA 18080 610-767-9680

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

Office Hours: T W 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
TH 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation Class
	10:00 am	**Sunday Worship**
		Advent Communion
	12:00 pm	VALOR Dinner Delivered
Thurs:	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fri:	7:00 pm	AA Back to Basics
Sat:	9:00 am	Hall Rental
Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation Class
	10:00 am	**Sunday Worship**
		Christmas Cantata
		Emergency Fund Special Offering

First-Time Guests

Welcome to Good Shepherd, an **Open and Affirming** congregation of the United Church of Christ. We are delighted that you joined us for worship. If you are looking for a spiritual home, please consider Good Shepherd and speak with Pastor James.
REV. JAMES D. ROBISON, JR. can be contacted at the office (610) 767-9680, his mobile phone (484-571-6083), or via his email address at **<jamdarrob@gmail.com>.**

Our Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. James D. Robison, Jr.
Preschool Director	Karen Weaver
Organist/Choir Director	Dr. Yezi Chen
Secretary	Eileen Andrews
Treasurer	Tammy White
Financial Secretary	Colleen Shields
Sexton	Matt Shields

Filming Disclosure: Our services are filmed and recorded for online viewers. As worshipers' faces may be captured, your entry into the Sanctuary constitutes your consent to be photographed, filmed and/or otherwise recorded for streaming or social purposes.

Mission Calendar for November is Turning Point

In 1976, a hotline was established to answer calls from women who were victims of domestic violence in the area. In 1978, the group was granted nonprofit status becoming Turning Point of Lehigh Valley. Since its incorporation, (TPLV) has helped more than 100,000 victims of domestic abuse.

Joyful Noise

Joyful Noise Offering is an outreach mission of the church that goes to individuals or families in need. Please drop your contributions into the small colored buckets during the offering.

Update Offering & (Attendance)

Nov 01-$2,870.50 E-Giving $324.99 (108)
Nov 08-$1,590.00 E-Giving $476.52 (70)
Nov 15-$2,693.00 E-Giving $418.31 (63)
Nov 22-$2,460.00 E-Giving $328.20 (68)

Online offering at **Tithe.ly**
or text **GIVE to 610-615-7657**

We are now streaming on both Facebook and YouTube, both of which have icons on the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ website. If you've had trouble with the streaming volume not being loud enough on Facebook, click on the YouTube link and see if that improves it.

Upcoming Events in the Life of Our Church

- Mission Team is **collecting cans** of **corn** for **Northern Lehigh Food Bank** for **Christmas**. Our goal is 200 cans of corn needed by **Sunday, December 6.**
- Looking for someone to take **Baptismal pictures of the family for Baptismal certificates.**
- Mission Team is **collecting individual applesauce servings** for **Backpack Buddies through December 31**. We collected 231 individual cereal packages & 54 drink mix packets in September & October. Thank You!
- Altar Guild is asking for **empty plastic Blue Bunny ice cream containers.**
- Property Committee is **looking for volunteers to shovel snow this winter.** Sign up in the Narthex.
- **Mission Team** is collecting **mittens, scarves** and **hats** for Sixth Street Shelter and the Rescue Mission. Please place items on the mitten tree. Please bring items by **December 6.**
- **Mission Team** is collecting new and lightly used **blankets through December 6.** A collection box has been placed in the Narthex. There are envelopes in the Narthex, if you would rather donate money.
- **Fundraising** is looking for a **donation** of a **card table** to replace the one that went missing.
- **Mission Team** is collecting food for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Instead of receiving something each day of Advent, reverse it by giving something instead. Please consider preparing a special box to place items in during the season. There are **reverse advent calendars in the Narthex** to guide you with your purchases.
- **Children's Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 13 at 10 am during worship. Rehearsals** will be held **Saturday, December 5 & 12 at 10 am** in the sanctuary. Any adults or children who would like to participate, please contact Amanda Smith at 484-553-9979 or abowers67@gmail.com.
- **New members** will be taken in on **Sunday, December 6**. If interested, please contact Pastor James.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

Family and Friends needing prayer: Richie, Judy Mack, Diane Reifinger, Dale Bossons, Ronald Conarty, Sr., Keith Gross, Lee Haas, Brett Hunsicker, Sandy Keller, Karen Kolek, Heather Moyer, Shane Moyer, Barbara Neff, Rachel Walczer, Tom Alcaro, Karen Anthony, Gail Bell, Marc Benninger, Howard Bilheimer, Lori Clay, Doug Farber, Donna Fox, Steve George, Dwayne Henritzy, Barbara Hower, Gary Johannes, Hayden Keller, Laurie, Brenda Miller, Chris Oertner, Randy Parks, Ty Sander, Gary Schneck, Barry Soldridge, Donna Tully, Jenn Wentz, Margaret Wetzel, John Zellner.

Homebound Members: Marge Bass, Mary Bilheimer, Shirley Blynn, Kay Costenbader, Dennis Derr, Donna Fox, Karl Heffelfinger, Judy Mack, Carol Schweitzer, Barry Silfies, and 'Tillie' Waller.

All the young men and women serving our country: Colby Adams, Anthony Babb, Sean Bolza, Kira (Kern) Kelsey, Michael Kelsey, Marcus Loch, Jacob Molchan, Adam Moyer, Jacqueline Moyer, Spencer Perkins, and Janel Tracy.

Our College Students: Tyla Block ~ Widener, Patrick Conway ~ Jacksonville, Riley Fallon ~ Penn State, Ben Griffith ~ NCC, Katy Griffith ~ Cedar Crest, Sarah Hope, DeSales, Breonna Richardson ~ Westchester, Colleen Shields ~ Strayer, Amanda Smith ~ Delaware Valley, Gabriella Smoyer ~ Cedar Crest, Aiden Solt ~ Lebanon Valley, Luke Zook ~ Villanova

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Acolyte	Mackenzi Palmer
Head Deacon	Amanda Smith
Lay Reader	Darlene Nothstein
Greeter	Randy & Eileen Andrews
Altar Guild	Bonnie Hewitt
Media Team	Marie Bachman, Dr. Yezi Chen, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz and Bryan Horninger

Altar Flowers are to the Honor and Glory of God.
Bulletins are to the Glory of God and In Memory of Loved Ones by Gary & Jean Fatzinger.
The **Christmas Tree** in the Sanctuary is in Memory of Helen Werley by Werley Tree Farm of Kempton.

Birthdays

Nov 30-Pam Puskas
Dec 02-Sandy White
Dec 03-Sallie Solt

Anniversaries

Dec 02-Joseph & Pam (Bossons) Puskas, Sr.
Dec 03-Richard & Penny (Bowers) Keen
Dec 03-Allen & Robin (Zancofsky) Lichtenwalner

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Sunday of Advent



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ORDER OF WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 29, 2026 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness."

~ Desmond Tutu

NOTE: People's responses in **bold**; * rise in body, mind, or spirit

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (HOPE) [Riley Fallon & Eric Hantz]

Reader 1: Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God's unending love, and the evergreen branches remind us of God's everlasting life.

Reader 2: The prophets spoke of hope for God's people. Isaiah cried, *"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down."* (Isaiah 64:1).

Reader 1: In the birth of Christ, God's hope breaks into the world like a shining star.

Reader 2: As we light this candle, we remember that Christ is our hope, now and always.

(One candle is lit.)

HYMN ~ *One Candle Is Lit* (Verse 1) **#128**

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

Our service is in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

In a world filled with uncertainty, God offers the promise of hope. **We come seeking the light that shines in the darkness.**

As we begin our Advent journey, let us awaken to God's presence among us. **We open our hearts to new possibilities and renewed faith.**

Come, let us worship the God of hope! **With expectant hearts, we prepare the way of the Lord!**

*** OPENING PRAYER**

God of hope and promise, as we begin this Advent journey, awaken our hearts to the possibilities of Your love. In moments of uncertainty, strengthen our faith; in times of darkness, help us recognize Your light. May this season renew our spirits and inspire us to become messengers of hope in our world. Amen.

*** HYMN ~ *Come, O Long-expected Jesus* #125**

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

*** INVITATION TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Advent invites us to examine the paths we travel and the ways we sometimes lose sight of God's promises. Let us open our hearts to transformation, trusting that God's hope is greater than our fears.

*** PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Merciful God, **we confess that too often we allow worry to overshadow hope, fear to silence faith, and indifference to replace compassion. Forgive us when we fail to recognize Your presence in the ordinary moments of life. Renew our trust in Your promises and transform us into people who reflect Your hope through kindness, justice, and love. Amen.**

*** WORDS OF GRACE**

Hear the good news! God's love is steadfast, God's promises endure, and God's grace is always making things new. Even when our hope grows dim, God remains faithful. We are forgiven, renewed, and invited to begin again. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR YOUNGSTERS

BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of hope and promise, as we hear Your WORD, open our hearts and minds to the light of Your truth. And inspire us to carry Your love into a waiting world. Amen.

A READING from the Book of Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 [NRSVUE]

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

RESPONSE

The WORD of the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Where Are You, God?

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Responding to God's WORD

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Advent reminds us that hope is more than something we await; it is something we share. **Through our gifts, our service, and our compassion, we become signs of God's hope in the lives of others**. Let us give generously, trusting that even small acts of kindness can bring light into a waiting world. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *Word of God Speak*

*** DOXOLOGY** **#47**

Praise God, whose light brings hope and peace;
Praise Christ, whose love shall never cease;
Praise Spirit, guiding us each day;
Prepare our hearts, O God, we pray. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of endless hope, receive these gifts as expressions of our gratitude and faith. Bless them to bring encouragement to the weary, comfort to the hurting, and hope to those who struggle. May our generosity reflect Your love and prepare the WAY for Christ's presence in our world. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION **see insert**

[We will celebrate Holy Communion in the pews. Children on the Choir side of the sanctuary are invited forward for their blessing during the bread distribution. Children on the pulpit side of the sanctuary are invited forward during the wine distribution. The bread is gluten-free, and the cups are filled with red wine and white grape juice. If communing, please fill out the communion card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate.]

*** HYMN ~ *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** **#119**

Living God's WORD

*** THE COMMISSION, BENEDICTION, AND THREE-FOLD AMEN #312**

POSTLUDE ~ *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5 **CCLI#1783708**