



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 November 2023

Dear family and friends of Good Shepherd ~

Let me begin by saying “thank you” to everyone who made my twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination and celebrating my twenty-five years as the pastor and teacher of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ. I was overwhelmed by those who were able to attend the festivities from the members and friends of Good Shepherd as well as friends of mine from my days of teaching as well as members of the Watsontown Historical Association. The tribute read from my dear friend, Dr. Robin L. Owens, from my seminary days was filled with quality memories of my days at Lancaster Theological.

Recently, I had the opportunity to go through cards and letters and was reminded of so many saints that have walked with me along this journey of faith and calling. People that I have served in my home church and during my student pastorates as well as the years of service to the congregation up to the present. A number of those individuals have entered into God’s kingdom promised to all by Christ who prepared a place for them and prepares a place for us.

It is difficult to comprehend how blessed I have been in answering God’s call to this place and time. God continues to move through our ministry together bringing hope to countless people, many of whom we will never know. I pray as we move forward from this wonderful testimonial, we might continue to witness to the blessings that God has bestowed on us as we continue to serve together in the name of Christ to all God’s children.

In the light of Christ,
Pastor James

NOVEMBER LECTIONARY

November 5, 2023 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Lesson: Matthew 23:1-12

Meditation: Learning Leaders

November 12, 2023 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Lesson: Matthew 25:1-13

Meditation: Wholehearted

November 19, 2023 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30

Meditation: Attitude of Abundance

November 26, 2023 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Lesson: Matthew 25:31-46

Meditation: Reigning Christ

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.**



Mission Outreach for November is Turning Point

Domestic violence is a crime. If you are mentally, sexually, physically assaulted, threatened or harassed by a person you are living with or intimately involved with, you are a victim of domestic abuse. Abuse can be verbal, physical, emotional, sexual or economic. An abused person can be male or female, gay or straight, of any age, race, class, culture, religion or occupation. Recognizing a growing need, a small group came together in 1976 to establish "May Day Anonymous." This dedicated group answered hotline calls from women who were victims of domestic violence in the area.

In 1978, the group was granted nonprofit status and evolved into Turning Point of Lehigh Valley. Since its incorporation, Turning Point of Lehigh Valley (TPLV) has helped more than 85,000 victims of domestic abuse.

www.turningpointlv.org or www.facebook.com/turningpointlv

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 & Friends32

Jane Achey	Levina Irvin	Nyla Grace Njoga
Connie Beblavy	Gary Johannes	Connie Renner
Gail Bell	Rick Keller	Eleanor Schlinkman
Michael Bossons	Sandy Keller	Kylie Schneider
Jim Craig	Bonnie Kleppinger	Eddie Smith
Gene Cree	Deb Koch	Edgar Smith
Rob Davis	Shawn Kress	Sallie Solt
Michael Dieffenderfer	Kevin Kroboth	Marilyn Sowden
Doug Farber	Wayne Kuhns	Rich Taylor
Ann German	Tom Litchauer, Jr.	MaryEllen White
Lisa Gilly	Chris Newhard	Louise Zatoris
Bill Honchell	Faith Mondrick Lauer	

Prayers for Students in higher education:

Megan Banks-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:

Barbara Diehl	Richard Paradis	Betty Ruch
Karen Wiener	Darryl "Whitey" Witman	Shirley Zellner

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 • October 2023

Participants	–	9
Cards Ordered	–	62
Profit	–	\$157.10
Profit Year-To-Date	–	\$1,287.33



Scrip Orders Due on **Sunday, November 12** and delivered on **Sunday, November 19**. It’s not too early to begin thinking about Christmas. Gentle reminder that **December 2023** orders are due *one week earlier* — on **Sunday, December 3rd** with delivery on **Sunday, December 10**.

Totenfest is Sunday, November 5, 2023.

Calendar

Calendar

November Birthdays

Nov 1	Geraldine Boyer	Nov 19	Linda Frey
Nov 2	Connie Beblavy	Nov 19	Eric Hantz
Nov 2	David McGinnis	Nov 19	Dick Nothstein
Nov 3	Ryan Hartmeier	Nov 20	Duke Christman
Nov 6	Sheri Fallon	Nov 20	Jenelle Heilman
Nov 6	Marilyn Reitz	Nov 20	Carol Kresge
Nov 6	Slade Schaffer	Nov 20	Paul Pitruzzello
Nov 6	Dayton White	Nov 21	Alex Beblavy
Nov 9	David Goodhile	Nov 21	Kerry Loch
Nov 10	Jasmine Feller	Nov 22	Matt Snyder
Nov 11	Gerald Phillips	Nov 22	Aspen White
Nov 12	Patti Conway	Nov 23	Marge Bass
Nov 13	Ryan Hewitt	Nov 23	Ryan Smoyer
Nov 13	Kyle Kremposky	Nov 24	Jasmine Rodrigue
Nov 14	Samantha Richardson	Nov 24	Colleen Shields
Nov 15	Ann Johnson	Nov 25	Glenn Bishop
Nov 15	Landon Moll	Nov 25	Sherry Bishop
Nov 15	Kylie Solt	Nov 25	Bryson Rice
Nov 15	Susan Zellner	Nov 27	John Gellis
Nov 16	Andrew Mack	Nov 28	Richard Croll
Nov 17	Brad Ferber	Nov 28	Andrew Trelease
Nov 17	Avery Hewitt	Nov 29	Brian DeLong
		Nov 30	Pam Puskas

October Anniversaries

Nov 1	Randy & Eileen (Brobst) Andrews
Nov 2	Robert & Denise (Rodrigues) Koons, Sr.
Nov 4	Frank & Emily (Fister) Heffernan
Nov 7	Billy & Ashley (Miller) Nagy
Nov 12	Jamie & Angie (Shelly) Rex
Nov 17	Sean & Chelsea (Tinker) Harding
Nov 18	Matt & Kim (Cougle) Rex
Nov 18	Ben & Allison (Conway) Schaffer

Preschool is having a Dine and Donate at D'Sopranos in



Walnutport on Thursday, November 9 from 11 am to 9 pm. Flyers in the Narthex to be presented at time of order. Dine in only.

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 \$605.

Coming in November and December

The Youth Ensemble will be presenting music for two services this fall. On November 19th, the Youth Ensemble will be performing a Thanksgiving hymn on the bells. 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 1 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 Thanksgiving meals and Christmas meals. For Thanksgiving, the corn is needed by Sunday **November 5th** and the corn for Christmas is needed by Sunday **December 3rd**.

GIFT CARD & BASKET BINGO
 SPONSORED BY:
GOOD SHEPHERD U.C.C.
 3940 MOUNTAIN RD., SLATINGTON, PA
www.goodshepherdslatington.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023

- FEATURING -
LONGABERGER® BASKETS and POTTERY

GAMES
 START
 @ 1:00 PM



20 REGULAR
 AND
 5 SPECIAL
 GAMES
\$25.00

50/50 DRAWING - DOOR PRIZES - REFRESHMENTS
 DOORS & KITCHEN OPEN @ 12:00 PM
 FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:
 484-225-2947

- Longaberger name used solely for prize description and is not sponsoring this fundraiser -
 Proceeds will Benefit ORGAN FUND

Congratulations to:

The Winner of the October
 Lottery: Eddie Smith

See Karen Smith to
 participate.



Keystone Working Group – Communications Summary of 2023-08-25 Meeting

The eighth meeting of the Keystone Study Group took place Friday, August 25, 2023. Relying on the grace of God, we have been busy trying to address next steps in our work outlining how **Together We Are Stronger, The Keystone Conference**. The work toward becoming ONE Keystone Conference has caused us to anticipate the many questions which this potential new venture in ministry brings.

Each conference is planning to have conversations this Fall to welcome and explore with leaders and congregations our process. We want to understand how God is speaking to your heart through our affirmation, **“Together We Are Stronger, The Keystone Conference.”** How do you see God creating new vibrancy and hope through this emphasis?

We welcome your responses and invite you to visit the Keystone Conference Project website hosted by the PSEC

~ <https://psec.org/keystone/> Your questions and comments in the next few months will help us all grow toward greater understanding and work together. To contact us, you are invited to use email

at Keystone.Conference.Project@gmail.com or the postal service at Keystone Working Group, 431 Delaware Avenue, Palmerton, PA18071.

Keep an eye out for conversation dates and settings for Fall 2023. In addition, **Save the Date Now** for a “Mini Synod” gathering of all 4 conferences, **June 6-9, 2024, in State College.**



Photos with Santa

Saturday, November 18 from 9 am – 1pm

Sunday, November 19 from 12 – 4 pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FABAF22AAAFAC61-44610099-photos>

Altar Guild is looking for volunteers for December.

Please sign up in the Narthex.

Looking for **acolytes** for the following dates:

November through December

Please **sign up** in the **Narthex** or let Pastor James know.



**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.

THANK YOU!!

A special thank you to all those who organized and participated in the recognition of my anniversary of ordination and years of service in ministry. To the kind words of introduction by Lori Balliet, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates on behalf of Penn Northeast Conference, Darlene Nothstein recalling the days of the merger and how two congregations became one, Beth Kutzner speaking on behalf of the staff and our work together, and the emotional response of Emily McGinnis representing her mother, Debbie Silfies, who did so much to help me in ministry. Words spoken on behalf of so many who made my service so successful by allowing me to stand on sacred ground. To the gifts in recognition of this ministry that included plaques, a crystal carved with praying hands, the \$500 gift of the Good Shepherd and St. Paul's Big Creek, plus the many who gave gift cards and monetary gifts. And for all those who made this celebration possible to Dennis Silfies, Mary Storm, Pam Puskas, Drew Fatzinger, Deb Craig, and so many more that helped bring everything together in a beautiful and welcoming way. Thank you one and all and blessings upon blessings. You are the best thing that has happened to me yet on this wonderful journey. ~

Faithfully, Pastor James

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

Our Church Staff

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

November Worship Leaders

Deacon:	Mary Storm
Altar Guild:	Bonnie Hewitt
Acolytes:	5 TBD
	12 TBD
	19 TBD
	26 TBD
Lay Readers:	5 Susan Bankes
	12 Darlene Nothstein
	19 Eric Hantz
	26 Pam Puskas
Greeters:	5 Carol Krum
	12 Rae Anne Creyer
	19 Madeline Balliet & Donna Keener
	26 Janice Silliman & Tracey Gursky

Power Point Designers: Deb Craig, Eric Hantz

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

Videographer: Beth Kutzner