

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 October 2025

Dear Friends and Members of Good Shepherd UCC ~

October greets us with vibrant color and sacred opportunities to connect ~ with God, with one another, and with the wider world. It is a month filled with celebration, community, and the joyful diversity of our shared faith.

We begin with *Worldwide Communion Sunday*, joining Christians across the globe at Christ's table. In bread and cup, we remember that we are part of something larger than ourselves ~ one body, many members, united in love and service. We also gather for the *Blessing of the Animals*, honoring the creatures that share our lives and reflect God's creativity. Whether furry, feathered, or scaled, our pets remind us of unconditional love and the goodness of creation. All are welcome—two-legged, four-legged, and everything in between!

This October, we mark the *300th anniversary of the first communion of the German Reformed Church in the United States*, held in 1725. We honor the deep roots of our Reformed tradition, giving thanks for the faith, courage, and vision of those who came before us. Their witness continues to shape who we are today: a united and uniting church, guided by grace and always reforming.

As the month continues to unfold, we open our doors and hearts for *Trunk or Treat*, offering a safe and joy-filled space for children and families in our community. Laughter, costumes, and kindness light the evening.

May this October fill you with gratitude for the past, joy in the present, and hope for all that is still to come.

~ Pastor James

OCTOBER LECTONARY

October 5, 2025	17th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Psalm 137
Meditation:	Free to Grieve
October 12, 2025	18th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Meditation:	Planting Life
October 19, 2025	19th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Luke 18:1-8
Meditation:	Ask Boldly; Live Justly
October 26, 2025	20th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Luke 18:9-14
Meditation:	Take Heart

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

World Communion ~ October 5, 2025 at 10:00 am

Virtual Worship Services: Our Facebook Page:

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

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



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. Hopefully you enjoyed your vacation and you are planning to return to regular worship on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Please don't forget to fill your envelopes that didn't make it while you were on vacation! God was still here!

**Mission Outreach for October is
Guardianship Support Agency Inc**

The mission of Guardianship Support Agency is to act as guardian for decision impaired persons who are unable to take care of their own financial and/or personal needs and have no other person willing and/or qualified to do so. They are located at St. John's UCC, Allentown, PA. Mailing address is PO Box 8540, Allentown PA 18105-8540. Phone number is (610) 351-2013.

Feed My Starving Children will be held at Neffs UCC. **Our church is signed up for October 12** from 12 to 2 pm. If you are interested, please sign up in the Narthex so that we have an idea of how many spots we will need.

FAMILY PROMISE

Our host week for Family Promise is October 19-26. Emails were sent to previous volunteers and you can sign up via the Signup Genius link within the email. New volunteers are always welcome! Family Promise Volunteer requirements (only needed if you are serving in the capacity of evening host or overnight host) are the PA Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse Clearance as well as the Family Promise training which can be viewed at <https://fplehighvalley.org/volunteer> or see Ann Hayes.

The **Chancel Choir** has started rehearsing and complementing our worship services with their joyful noise. Chancel Choir meets Tuesdays from 7-8 PM. Chancel Choir pieces for October include The Table is Set, This Little Light of Mine, and Be Joyful! Be Joyful! **The annual Christmas Cantata will be held on December 7th.** This year's cantata is titled "This is Christmas". The energy and soaring melodies will have your heart singing praises to the coming of the Christ Child! Consider joining the Chancel Choir in this spectacular musical moment! Sheet music and CDs or MP3 recordings will be available for at home practice. A dress rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 6th from 9AM-12PM. 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!



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



Homebound Members

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

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

Gail Bell	Gary Johannes	Karen Papay
Barbara Cannon	Penny Keen	Dennis Raver
Chastity Corvino	Hayden Keller	Rich Remaley
David Demera	Sandy Keller	Gary Schneck
Doug Farber	Frances Kuntz	Frank Soldridge
Lee Haas	Lauri	Frank Strohl
Frank Hart	Ronald Leitgeb	Jenn Wentz
Barbara Hower	Walter Miller	John Zellner
Brett Hunsicker	Robie Niksher	Helen Zolnowsky
	Chris Oertner	

Purged at beginning of each month, Renewals are welcomed

For The Families Of Those Who Have Entered Eternal Life:

Cole Hausman	Baby Henderson	Jeff Kistler
Tyler Kravatz	Jennifer Polak	Vivian Neff
Pat Reimert	Warren “Boise” Reitz	
Donna Walters	Michael Yonney	

SCRIP Report • September 2025

Participants	–	10
Cards Ordered	–	53
Profit	–	\$109.98

Orders Due **Sunday, October 12** with delivery on **Sunday, October 19**. It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas gift cards! **Please ask family and friends, neighbors and coworkers.**

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated for William Sanders Ruch on July 27, 2025 at Good Shepherd UCC.

William, born July 29, 2024, is the son of Jonathan & Sara (Sanders) Ruch. He joins a sister, Hailey. William's grandparents are Gregory & Lisa (Ter Horst) Sanders, Ruth (German) Ruch and the late Frederick Ruch, Jr. Welcome William!!

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Faith Formations started meeting again on Sunday, September 28th. Groups for all age levels start at 9:00 AM with opening activities occurring in the social hall. **Faith Formation will be presenting special music on October 26th.** In addition to weekly Faith Formation groups, a number of fun activities are planned for the fall season! There will be a Trunk or Treat after church on October 26. A light lunch will be provided and there will be games and fun for all children. On December 21, Faith Formation will be sponsoring Christmas Caroling after church. All family members are welcome to join as we travel to homebound members to spread holiday cheer! Be sure to join in all of the fun activities to come, and help support our youth in their faith journey!

2025 Fall Confirmation Schedule

Session 8 ~ *Worship*

Date: Sunday – September 28, 2025; 11:15am – 2:00 pm

Session 9 ~ *Sacraments*

Date: Sunday – October 5, 2025; 11:15 am – Noon

Session 10 ~ *Church History*

Date: Saturday – October 25, 2025; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Calendar

Calendar

October Birthdays


Oct 1	Ryan Fister	Oct 15	Kara Rice
Oct 1	Brett Hunsicker	Oct 15	Phillip White
Oct 1	Bryan Puskas	Oct 17	Debra DeLong
Oct 2	Jesse White	Oct 17	Jonathan Ruch
Oct 4	Holly Henderson	Oct 17	Jarett White
Oct 4	Adam Griffith	Oct 22	Lee Haas
Oct 5	Barbara Lorah	Oct 22	David Harding
Oct 6	Linda Soldridge	Oct 22	Matthew Rex
Oct 8	Danielle White	Oct 22	Parker Schaffer
Oct 9	Allison Kremposky	Oct 22	Dennis Silfies
Oct 11	Obie O'Brien	Oct 24	Erick Kresge
Oct 12	Mary Bilheimer	Oct 27	Carlee Hunsicker
Oct 12	Travis Frantz	Oct 28	Billy Nagy
Oct 12	Madison Harding	Oct 30	Eileen George
Oct 12	Jeff Hewitt	Oct 30	Robin Lichtenwalner
Oct 15	Esmae Bartczak	Oct 30	Sally Loch

The Winner of the September Lottery was: Robert Shelly

See Karen Smith to participate.

A sincere **Thank You** to Dean Harper, Jodie Hourt, Nancy Leitgeb, Kevin Minnich, Matt Shields, Craig Solt, MaryAnn Storm and John Zellner for mowing the grass and making sure our church property looked nice all summer.


Love Your Neighbor

Community Outreach Day 

Saturday, November 15

Together, we can do so much more!

Save the Date,
Watch for Sign
Ups!



Our churches will share in a day of service projects like Habitat for Humanity, packing toiletry and clean up kits, and yard clean ups for church members.

Participating Churches include:
 Union UCC, Neffs; St. John's UCC Laury's Station;
 Jordan UCC, Allentown;
 Heidelberg Union, Slatington;
 Good Shepherd UCC, Slatington; Union Lutheran,
 Schnecksville; Grace UCC Northampton,
 St. John's UCC, Fullerton.

October Anniversaries

Oct 6	Bob & Connie (Kegel) Beblavy
Oct 6	Glenn & Pam (Weaver) Knappenberger
Oct 8	Trevor & Madison (Zangl) Rex
Oct 10	Jake & Holley (Bowers) Henderson
Oct 10	Chris & Alice (Smith) Kegel
Oct 10	Marcus & Heather (Chandler) Kremposky
Oct 10	Jonathan & Sara (Sanders) Ruch
Oct 12	Kevin & Stephanie (Bortz) Fister
Oct 12	Jordan & Tiffany (Hamm) Hunsicker
Oct 14	Robert & Michelle (Horn) Schramel
Oct 15	Craig & Sallie (Arndt) Solt
Oct 17	Michael & Barbara (Hermann) Kremposky
Oct 19	David & Jonell (Rinker) Kuremsky
Oct 20	Jeff & Karen (George) Bachman
Oct 26	Edward & Nanette (Hayes) Zink
Oct 31	Kyle & Ashleigh (Nichol) Hermany

300th Anniversary Celebrations of the German Reformed Church in America

October 12-1:30 pm, Falkner Swamp UCC, 2077 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville w/ *General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson.*

Historic ONLINE Presentation held via zoom beginning at 7 pm:

October 28th- *A Lasting Legacy: Gifts of the Reformed Tradition to the emerging church* w/ Dr. Randall Zachman.

For more information about this event [click here](#).



For more information visit <https://psec.org/event/300th-anniversary-of-the-german-reformed-church/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

You're Invited to a Sleep-Over on Friday October 3rd-Saturday October 4th Time: 6:00pm-9:30am at Good Shepherd UCC-in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza, ice cream, snacks, & light breakfast will be provided. We will be playing games, baking cookies, watching a movie, and painting pumpkins for the Faith Formation's pumpkin contest! Please come in appropriate sleepwear and bring a sleeping bag/blanket, pillow, teddy bear, and a snack to share. **All children MUST have a completed permission slip in order to participate. See Amanda Smith for a permission slip or if you'd like to volunteer.

Sunday, October 5, Blessing of the Animals at 9:45 am before church. Location to be determined by weather conditions.

"WALK-IN" - ONE DAY - BASKET SOCIAL

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Tickets will be drawn at 2:00 PM

Tickets Available at Door

(1) 26 Chance Ticket for \$5.00

(5) 26 Chance Tickets for \$20.00

Winners Will Be Notified

Kitchen Open

**Good Shepherd U.C.C.
3940 Mountain Rd, Slatington, PA
610-767-9680**

Lic. #: 0228R24

Cash & Gift Card Bingo - Saturday, November 9th, 2024

GOOD SHEPHERD UCC, SLATINGTON
(Non-Profit Organization)



Bosco's
FRIENDS
HELPING
FRIENDS IN-STORE & ONLINE

ONE DAY ONLY - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- 25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS*
- REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD
One Winner at every Bosco's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

For Shopping Passes or information, contact:
KAREN – 610-767-3776
BONNIE – 484-295-2947

*Exclusions apply. For more details visit boscos.com/friendshelpingfriends

A \$50 Cheesecake Factory Gift Card will be awarded to the person getting the most donations over 10 passes. In the event of a tie, we will draw a name.

We are collecting individual boxes of cereal (variety packs) for Backpack Buddies through October 31. We collected 98 cans of spaghetti and 60 bags of snack crackers during July and August. Northern Lehigh School District serves about 100 families each week.

We are collecting 200 cans of corn for both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals at the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.

Thanksgiving -corn needed by Sunday 11/9

Christmas-corn needed by 12/7

Bonnie Bates is retiring after serving the Penn Northeast Conference for 8 years as PNEC's Conference Minister. To say, "thank you", we are having a banquet in her honor on Sunday, November 16, 2025, 3-7 pm at Northampton Community Center, 1601 Laubach Ave, Northampton. Cost: \$30/person. To make reservations send a check to PNEC, 431 Delaware Ave., Palmerton, PA 18071 with a list of attendees or use [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly/eventregistration/#/10377579) at: <https://tithe.ly/eventregistration/#/10377579>.

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

October Worship Leaders

Deacon:		Matt Shields
Elder:		Pam Puskas
Altar Guild:		Penny Keen
Acolytes:	5	Callie McGinnis
	12	Mackenzie Palmer
	19	Callie McGinnis
	26	Mackenzie Palmer
Lay Readers:	5	Lori Balliet
	12	Linda Coffin
	19	David Nothstein
	26	Donna Keener
Greeters:	5	Randy & Eileen Andrews
	12	Carol Krum
	19	Evan & Samantha Shoemaker
	26	Tammy White
Power Point Designers:		Deb Craig, Eric Hantz
A/V Operators:		Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger, Beth Kutzner
Web Designer:		Marie Bachman