



# GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, PA 18080

610-767-9680

APRIL 20, 2025

## Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

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

Sun:	6:00 am	Easter Sunrise Service/w Communion
	9:00 am	Faith Formation
	10:00 am	Easter Sunday Worship Service/w Communion
		<i>Scrip Orders Delivered</i>
Tues:	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Fri:	7:00 pm	AA Back to Basics
Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation
	10:00 am	Worship Service/Humor Sunday <i>Capital Fund/Emergency Special Offering</i>
	11:00 am	Property Meeting
	11:15 am	Confirmation Session 13
	6:00 pm	Family Promise at Heidelberg

## 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. It is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God and know the love and peace that comes from sharing God's Spirit. 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](mailto:jamdarrob@gmail.com)>.

## Our Church Staff

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

## Mission Calendar for April is Autism Awareness

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions across the spectrum and throughout the life span. Use #LightItUpBlue to share your experience across social media and help light the world up blue this April. [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

## 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 red bucket during the offering.

## Update Offering & (Attendance)

Apr 02-\$230.00 (Lenten Gathering) (41)  
Apr 06-\$1,485.50 E-Giving \$335.78 (86)  
Apr 13-\$2,367.80 E-Giving \$160.69 (103)

Online offering at [Tithe.ly](https://www.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. We've tested it and believe it is an improvement." Thank you for your patience. Sincerely, Good Shepherd Media Team."

Filming Disclosure: Our services are filmed and recorded for online viewers. As worshippers' 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.

## Upcoming Events in the Life of Our Church.

- There are extra weekly offering envelopes in the Narthex on the center podium. 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.
- We are collecting packages of individual fruit cups for Backpack Buddies through April 27.
- We are hosting Family Promise at Heidelberg UCC the week of April 27 and are still in need of volunteers. No clearance needed for set up, tear down, meal prep. For overnight hosts 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> are needed. Anyone interested in helping, please see Ann Hayes or email her at [ahayes2395@gmail.com](mailto:ahayes2395@gmail.com).
- Pampered Chef Party, Thursday, May 1 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP by April 27 to Kellie at 610-349-3984 or Bonnie at 484-225-2947. Food samples and refreshments will be available.
- Cash & Gift Card Bingo, Saturday, May 3 at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. \$25 for 20 regular games and 5 specials. Doors open at Noon. Kitchen will be open.
- Outdoor Clean-up Saturday, May 3 from 9 am to noon. Sign up sheet in the Narthex.
- PNEC Spring Meeting will be May 3 at Union UCC, Neffs. PNEC Fall Meeting and Final PNEC Meeting will be November 1, 2025 at St. John's UCC, Nazareth.
- If you are interested in touring the Hindu Temple & Islamic Mosque on Saturday, May 24 with the confirmands, please sign up in the Narthex

## Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

Families of... Marian Humenick, Midge Klotz, Grace Moyer, Scott Pellington

In Hospice... Barbara Mathias

Family and Friends needing prayer: Sherry Bishop, Dennis Derr, Agnes Puskas, Shirley Blynn, Lee Haas, Tracey Haydt, Rick & Sandy Keller, Jamie Klotz, Marion Madenheim, Ernest Moyer, Misty Nagata, Chris Oertner, Gary Schneck, Destinee Slanina, Chastity Corvino, Doug Farber, Frank Hart, Barbara Hower, Gary Johannes, Hayden Keller, Susan Lukon, Eva Marie Poliquim, Dennis Raver, Kylie Schneider, Frank Strohl, Jenn Wentz, John Zellner, Helen Zolnowsky..

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

Homebound Members: Marge Bass, Mary Bilheimer, Shirley Blynn, Kay Costenbader, Dennis Derr, Donna Fox, Judy Mack, Carol Schweitzer, 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, Rebecca McMichael, Jacob Molchan, Adam Moyer, Jacqueline Moyer, Spencer Perkins, Benjamin Schaffer, and Janel Tracy.

Prayers for Students in higher education: Dane Badman at LCCC, Megan Bankes at Glenville State WV, Tyla Block at Widener, Aricka Creyer at LCCC, Carissa Fallon at Penn State, Riley Fallon at Penn State, Ben Griffith at Luzerne, Katy Griffith at Cedar Crest, Emma Hope at Kutztown, Sarah Hope at LCCC, Evan Horninger 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, Caleb Sommers at Kutztown, Calista Smoyer at West Virginia, Gabriella Smoyer at Cedar Crest, Luke Zook at Villanova.

*Our Worship Leaders Today.*

Acolyte	(6 am)	Jazmin Richardson
	(10 am)	Holden Schaffer
Head Deacon	(6 am)	Amanda Smith
	(10 am)	Joe Conway
Elder	(6 am)	Pam Puskas
	(10 am)	Tammy White
Lay Reader	(6 am)	Amanda Smith
	(10 am)	Kelsey Knittle-Moser
Greeter	(6 am)	Colleen Shields & Family
	(10 am)	David, Emily & Callie McGinnis
Brass Ensemble	(10 am)	Brian Eckert, Mitchell Hourt, Joe Plechavy, Mike Reph
Altar Guild		Bonnie Hewitt
Media Team		Marie Bachman, Deb Craig, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz, Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger, and Beth Kutzner

**Altar Flowers and Bulletins are to the Honor & Glory of God.**



***Birthdays***

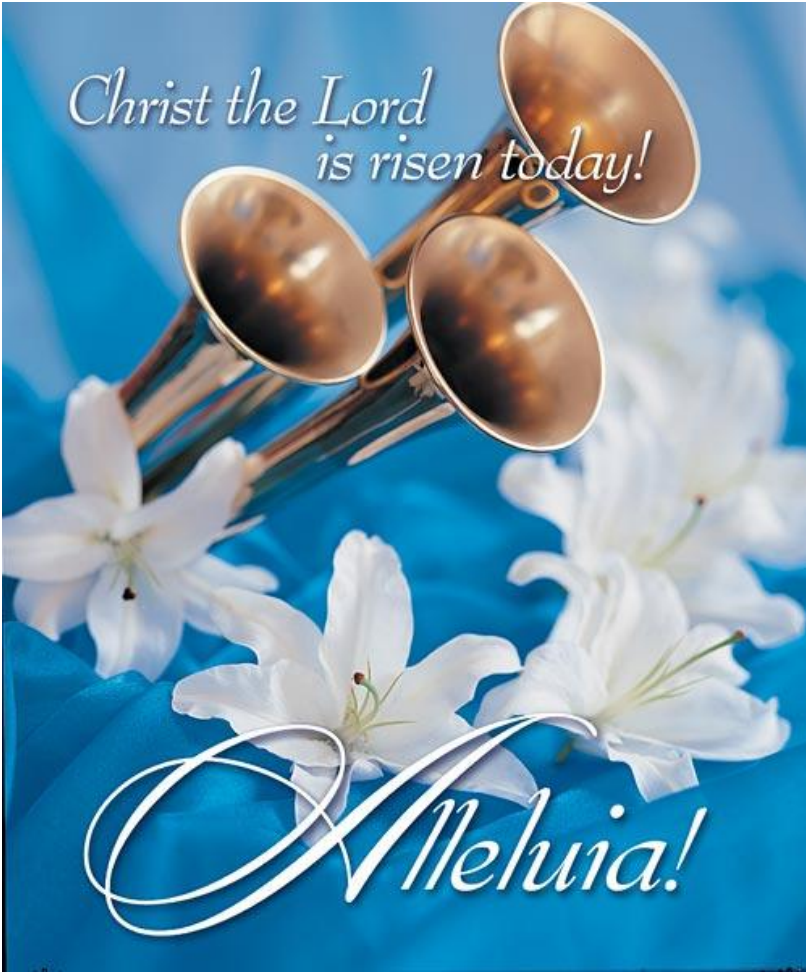
April 20-Drew Rice  
April 20-Toby Sander  
April 25-Bob Beblavy  
April 26-Sean Palmer



***Anniversaries***

April 21-Drew & Mary-Beth (Kern) Fatzinger, Jr.  
April 22-Dwayne & Janet (Matthews) Kern  
April 24-Jeff & Linda (Bachman) Coffin  
April 25-Michael & Kayla (Creed) Sander

**GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025  
EASTER SUNDAY**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

APRIL 20, 2025 - EASTER SUNDAY

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

Gathering for God's WORD

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** ~ *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* (6am)

*Kanon* (10am)

Brass Ensemble

## \* SOLEMN DECLARATION

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

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved Church, Behold the victory of our God: Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave. **Christ is risen! Allelujah!** Sin and death shall reign no more. **Christ is risen! Allelujah!** Let this place resound with joy. **Christ is risen! Allelujah!**  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\* **HYMN** ~ *Christ Arose* (6 am)

**#224**

\* **HYMN** ~ *My Redeemer's Love* (10am)

[Chancel Choir/Congregation to  
sing when directed]

**I will sing of my redeemer and his wondrous love to me;  
On the cruel cross he suffered from the curse to set me free.  
Sing, O sing of my love of my redeemer, with his blood he purchased me,  
On the cross he sealed my pardon, paid the debt and made me free.**

**I will sing of my redeemer and his heavenly love for me;  
He from death to life hath brought me, Son of God, with him to be.  
Sing, O sing of my redeemer, with his blood he purchased me,  
On the cross he sealed my pardon, paid the debt and made me free.**

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

## \* CALL TO CONFESSION

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them.  
Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

## \* CONFESSION

**Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been raised from the waters of baptism to share in Your glorious resurrection. Yet we have not lived**

**as Easter people. We are unsure of Your promise, confused about Your will, and afraid in the face of danger. Like Mary, we weep at the tomb, but do not recognize Your presence. Call us by name, risen Lord, that we may know You with confidence. Whenever we are tempted to fear death, give us courage to confess Your Easter victory. Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts, keep our minds on Your reconciling love. Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil reveal again to us Your triumph over the destructive powers of oppression. Forgive us our sin and let our lives be a testimony to Your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In his resurrection, Jesus wipes away our sins. We are forgiven. **Amen!**

**\* STATEMENT OF BELIEF**

**Christ!**

**Christ is!**

**Christ is risen!**

**Christ is risen indeed!**

**Hallelujah! Amen!**

**\* HYMN ~ *Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise* (10am)**

**4 verses found on page 216**

[Brass / Congregation to  
sing when directed]

**CHILDREN'S CHAT (10 am)**

Hearing God's WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Almighty God, by the power of Your Spirit roll away the stone and reveal to us the WORD of Life. Amen!**

**A READING from the Gospel of John 20:1-18 [NRSV]**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He

saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

## **RESPONSE**

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

## **HOMILY ~ Resurrection Joy**

**SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *The Heavens Proclaim* (10am) Chancel Choir/Brass Ensemble**

## **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.**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

[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.]

#### INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

This table does not belong to any denomination, church, or community.

It belongs to Jesus. It was at table that he met people, heard their stories, and shared his. It was at table that he deepened his friendship with poor folk and prostitutes, the business class and puzzled bystanders. It was at table that he shared profound insights into who God is and what God wants. And it was at table, with bread and wine, that he initiated the sacrament we now celebrate.

So, come to this table. Leave any baggage of arrogance or unworthiness behind. Do not think, 'This is not for me.' Think rather of Jesus saying, 'I am for you,' and accept his invitation to be the friend he cherishes and longs to feed.

#### COMMUNION PRAYER

God be with you. **And also with you.**

People of Easter morning, lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the One who has raised Jesus from the grave.**

Let us with Easter joy give thanks to the One who raises us to new life. **We sing our alleluias to the Divining for it is right to give God thanks and praise.**

On this day of joy and hope, Redeemer of the lost, we sing our praise to You. Very early in the morning, Your WORD shattered the silence of chaos, and grace flowed forth like a river. You reached down and gathered up the dust of creation, forming us into Your image, and breathing life into us. Yet the day came when we chose to turn from You believing our wisdom was superior to Your will for us. You sent us the prophets, to speak of Your gracious hope, but we refused to listen. When You could have let us remain in the clutches of sin and death, You sent Jesus to be one of us, so we could come home to You.

Therefore, we join our voices this morning with those who stood at the empty tomb, as well as those of every time and place whose empty hearts have been filled by Your Spirit, singing our Easter joy to You:

\* SERAPHIC HYMN (sung in unison, # 522)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;**

**Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory;**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord;**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Merciful God, ... Creator of all that is good, Jesus entered the shadows of hell to lead us into hope's light, Jesus embraced our sin so we could be forgiven, Jesus welcomed death so we could enter life eternal. Even as we believe what we may not understand, we trust that mystery we call faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## EPICLESIS

It is here at this Table, Resurrecting God, that we are fed by Your love. Pour Your Spirit upon this Bread and this Cup, fill us with the spirit of Your son, Jesus Christ, so we may go forth to be Your people. Feed us with the bread of Heaven, so we can fill the hunger of the world. Touch our lips with salvation's cup, so we can proclaim the good news of this day to everyone we meet. And when that morning comes when we are united with all the saints gathered around heaven's Table, we will lift our voices to You, God in Community, Holy in One, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

As Jesus broke bread, **we break this bread.**

As Jesus shared wine, **we share this cup.**

## HYMN ~ *Agnus Dei* ~ (sung in unison)

**O Christ Thou Lamb of God who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ Thou Lamb of God who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ Thou Lamb of God who takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.**

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Take this bread, share this cup. **In these Christ comes to us with love from God.**

Come, for all things are ready. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Gracious and Merciful God, we give You thanks and praise that on this first day of the week we can gather around this Your Table, where the simple gifts of bread and cup are made sacred by the anointing of Your Spirit. Strengthened by the Bread of Life, we will open the gates of justice for all oppressed by fear and hate. Filled with the Cup of Grace, we will dry the tears of all who weep from loneliness and grief. And when that final day comes, our hidden lives will**

**be revealed as we gather with our sisters and brothers around the Table of Joy in Your presence, forever singing our praises to You, God in Community, Holy in One.**

Responding to God's WORD

**INVITATION TO SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

God has given us life in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. **In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the fruit of our labor to God's service. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY** ~ *Thine Is the Glory*

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**#47**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Almighty God, by Your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives in union with our risen Lord who lives and reigns with You forever. Amen!**

**\* HYMN** ~ *He Lives* (6 am)

insert

**\* HYMN** ~ *Lead on, O King Eternal* (10am)

# 632

Living God's WORD

**\* THE COMMISSION, BENEDICTION, AND THREE-FOLD AMEN**

**#312**

**POSTLUDE** ~ *Ode to Joy*

Brass Ensemble

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708



# Easter Flowers

## IN MEMORY OF:

Emmanuel & Etta Ackerman  
Darlene Bean, Sister  
Andy Behler, Friend  
Jenna & Derek Brobst, Niece & Nephew  
Austin Hunsicker  
Arlene Hennings, Mother  
Carl & Dorothy Kegel, Parents  
John & Pearl Kutzner  
Dad & Mommy  
Our Mothers, Dale Ann Derr & Susan Moser  
Our Family  
Chuck Portz, Brother  
Patricia (Koch) Robison, Mother  
Debbie Silfies, Grandmother  
James Skubish, Son  
Delbert & Pauline Smith, Parents  
Lester & Barbara Storm  
Faithful Members & Friends of Good Shepherd  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones (2)  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones (10)

## BY:

Beth Kutzner  
Randy & Eileen Andrews  
Chris & Alice Kegel  
Randy & Eileen Andrews  
Jennifer & Chad Sommers  
Dennis & Barry Silfies  
Chris & Alice Kegel  
Beth Kutzner  
Penny Keen  
Jennifer & Chad Sommers  
Dick & Darlene Nothstein  
Jodie Hourt  
Pastor James  
Callie McGinnis  
Randy & Eileen Andrews  
Chris & Alice Kegel  
Mary Storm  
Pastor James  
Carol & David Blose  
Sharon & Joe Conway  
Linda Soldridge  
Matthew & Bonnie Hewitt &  
Robert Shelly

# Easter Flowers

## IN HONOR OF:

Adam Bishop's Birthday, Son  
Children & Grandchildren  
Christopher Culp, Nephew  
Joseph Culp, Nephew  
Macie & Zach Haberman  
Mitchell Hourt  
My Grandchildren  
Our Family  
Sandy "Gram" Sillers  
Linda Soldridge, Mom  
To the Glory of God  
Faithful Members & Friends of Good Shepherd

## BY:

Sherry Bishop  
Mary Storm  
Pastor James  
Pastor James  
Jodie Hourt  
Jodie Hourt  
Susan Bankes  
Dick & Darlene Nothstein  
Jodie Hourt  
Penny Keen  
Ann & Biff Hayes  
Pastor James

