



# GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, PA 18080

610-767-9680

APRIL 27, 2025

## Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

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

|        |          |   |
|--------|----------|---|
| Sun:   | 9:00 am  | Faith Formation   |
|        | 10:00 am | <b>Worship Service/Humor Sunday</b><br><i>Capital Fund/Emergency<br/>Special Offering</i> |
|        | 11:00 am | Property Meeting  |
|        | 11:15 am | <b>Confirmation Session 13</b>  |
| Mon:   | 6:00 pm  | Family Promise at Heidelberg  |
| Tues:  | 6:00 pm  | Family Promise at Heidelberg  |
|        | 7:00 pm  | Choir Practice  |
| Wed:   | 6:00 pm  | Family Promise at Heidelberg  |
| Thurs: | 6:00 pm  | Family Promise at Heidelberg  |
|        | 6:30 pm  | Pampered Chef Party   |
| Fri:   | 6:00 pm  | Family Promise at Heidelberg  |
|        | 7:00 pm  | AA Back to Basics   |
| Sat:   | 9:00 am  | Outdoor Cleanup   |
|        | 12:00 pm | Doors open for Cash & Gift Card<br>Bingo  |
|        | 6:00 pm  | Family Promise at Heidelberg  |
| Sun:   | 9:00 am  | Faith Formation   |
|        | 10:00 am | <b>Worship Service</b>  |
|        | 11:15 am | Faith Formation Meeting   |

## 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.

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)

April 02-\$230.00 (Lenten Gathering) (41)  
April 06-\$1,485.50 E-Giving \$335.78 (86)  
April 09-\$124.00 (Lenten Gathering) (40)  
April 13-\$2,367.80 E-Giving \$176.14 (103)  
April 17-\$718.60 (Maundy Thursday) (47)  
April 20-6 am-\$1,279.00 (28)  
10 am-\$2,794.75 (134)  
E-Giving \$286.01

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. 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 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.

## Upcoming Events in the Life of Our Church.

- Looking for a pink & blue antique baby cradle that was left in Fellowship Hall and is missing. Please contact the office if you have any information. Pictures of it are on the Narthex Bulletin Board.
- Faith on Tap, Wednesday, April 30 6:30 pm-8:30 pm** at Kornfeind's Market (Korny's Tavern) at 2228 Old Post Rd., Coplay. Topic: What can the Church Learn from Taylor Swift. **More info on the bulletin board in the Narthex.**
- We are collecting packages of goldfish crackers through the end of June for **Backpack Buddies.**
- 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. 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.** **Still looking for a youth to attend as a delegate for either meeting.**
- If you are interested in **touring the Hindu Temple & Islamic Mosque** on **Saturday, May 24** with the confirmands, please sign up in the Narthex.
- New member class** will be on **Sunday, June 1** after the service with **joining on June 8.**

## Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

**In Hospice...** Barbara Mathias

**Family and Friends needing prayer:** Walter Miller, Rich Remaley, Sherry Bishop, Shirley Blynn, Dennis Derr, Lee Haas, Tracey Haydt, Rick & Sandy Keller, Jamie Klotz, Marion Madenheim, Ernest Moyer, Misty Nagata, Chris Oertner, Agnes Puskas, 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  
Head Deacon  
Lay Reader  
Greeter  
Altar Guild  
Media Team

Kendall Frantz  
Joe Conway  
Susan Bankes  
Bob & Michelle Schramel  
Bonnie Hewitt

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*

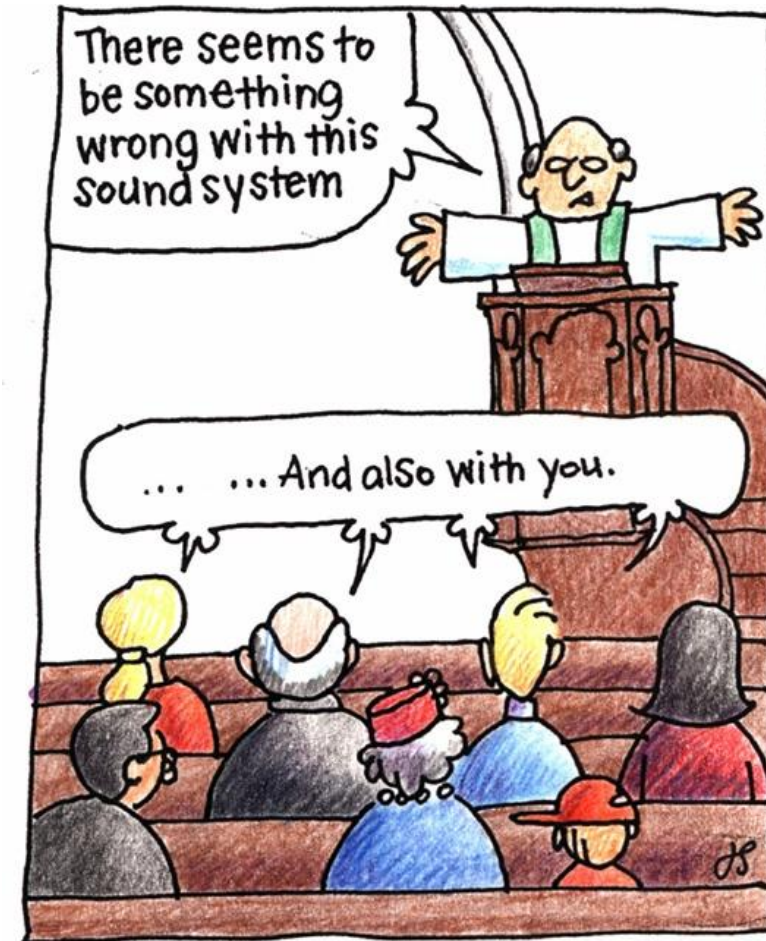
Apr 27-Benjamin Griffith  
Apr 27-Michael Smith  
Apr 29-Joshua Bankes  
Apr 29-Joseph Conway, III  
Apr 29-Freya Lynn Palmer  
Apr 30-Beau Pitruzzello  
Apr 30-Westin Redline  
Apr 30-Holden Schaffer  
May 1-Lisa Kuntz  
May 1-Tyler Rex  
May 2-Kyan Block  
May 2-William Fister  
May 2-Adelyn Rex  
May 2-Karen Smith  
May 3-Mary-Beth Fatzinger



*Anniversaries*

Apr 28-Marie Bachman & Obie O'Brien  
May 1-Jasmine & Megann (Gracely) Rodrigues  
May 3-Carlton & Terri (Reinheimer) Miller

## GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025**  
**2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**APRIL 27, 2025 - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**

**QUASIMODOGENITI**

In the German Reformed tradition, each Sunday of Easter takes its name in Latin from the first few words of the introit prayer. The introit for the second Sunday of Easter is “As newborn babies desire the sincere milk of the WORD. Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee; O Israel, if thou wilt harken unto me.” Quasi modo geniti loosely translated means ‘as newborn babes.’ This Sunday is known as Low Sunday.

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

Gathering for God's WORD

**WELCOME**

Welcome to Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, Slatington! It’s the second Sunday of Easter, also known as *Low Sunday*, when things get a little chill and a lot more cheerful. Why “low”? Because the pressure’s off, the joy is on, and even the early church theologian, Augustine, thought God pulled off the ultimate divine prank: raising Jesus from the dead, *Risus paschalis*, the Easter Laugh. So today, we celebrate with humor, gratitude, and maybe a few holy chuckles. After all, Jesus is the LIFE of the party!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** ~ *I Know that My Redeemer Liveth*

**\* OPENING PRAYER**

**God of resurrection laughter, You raised Jesus from the grave, and in doing so, You turned mourning into dancing, fear into faith, and death into divine punchline. We come today to celebrate with joy, to proclaim with boldness, and to laugh in the face of the grave, because Christ is risen indeed! Let this time of worship stir up holy courage, uncontainable joy, and deep gratitude for Your living Spirit among us. Amen!**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Christ is risen! He is risen indeed ~ and death didn’t see it coming!**

**The tomb is empty, and our hearts are full! Let joy echo through the heavens and laughter rise from the earth!**

**We gather as witnesses, like the apostles before us. Bold in faith, alive in Christ, and filled with holy mischief!**

**Let us worship the God who always gets the last laugh. Alleluia! Amen!**

**HUMOR BREAK**

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

\* **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Even as we rejoice, we remember: sometimes we lose our boldness, forget the punchline of resurrection, and live as if fear still holds the power. But the Risen Christ invites us to return with joy. Let us confess, trusting in God's mercy.

\* **CONFESSION**

**God of grace and glory, we confess that we forget how the story ends. We speak more of fear than of faith, we live more cautiously than courageously, and we trade joy for solemnity. Forgive us, Lord. Remind us that the grave is empty, that hope has risen, and that laughter is holy when it springs from trust in You. Restore to us the joy of resurrection ~ and the courage to share it boldly. Amen.**

\* **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, hear the Good News: The same God who raised Jesus from the dead raises us from fear, forgives our sins, and fills us with resurrection joy! **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!** So smile, dance, and be bold ~ **because nothing can steal the joy of the Risen Lord! Alleluia!**

\* **STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**We believe in You, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to Your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to Yourself.**

**You bestow upon us Your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,**

**binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into Your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be Your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust You forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, Your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in Your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto You. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S CHAT**

## **BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS**

## **HUMOR BREAK**

Hearing God's WORD

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Holy Spirit of the Living God, crack open the Scriptures today with resurrection power. Shake loose any fear, lift every heavy heart, and let Your WORD fill us with bold joy. Speak through the testimony of the apostles ~ and may we leave ready to live as bold witnesses too. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!**

## **A READING** from the Book of Acts 5:27-32 [NRSV]

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

## **RESPONSE**

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

## **HOMILY ~ Resurrection Witness**

## **HYMN ~ *Joy To the World***

**#143**

## **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.

## HUMOR BREAK

Responding to God's WORD

## INVITATION TO SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The apostles gave their whole lives to share the news that Christ is risen ~ **and we too are invited to give with joy and boldness.** In a world that often deals in fear, **let our generosity proclaim resurrection hope.** Let's give not out of obligation, but out of gratitude ~ **because God has already given us the best gift of all. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY** ~ *Rejoice, The Lord is King*

### \* 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

God of flowing joy, You take what we give and multiply it with grace. Use these offerings to spread resurrection laughter, to bring bold hope to fearful places, and to shine Your light in every shadow. Make us bold in giving, faithful in loving, and joyful in all we do, in the name of our Risen and ever-surprising Savior ~ Jesus Christ! Amen!

## HUMOR BREAK

Living God's WORD

### \* HYMN ~ *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

#638

### \* SOLEMN DECLARATION

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

**POSTLUDE** ~ *You Servants of God*

**OUR WORSHIP TOGETHER HAS ENDED;  
OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS BEGINS**

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708