



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

APRIL 28, 2024

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

Office Hours: T W 11 am – 3 pm, Th 9 am – 12 pm

Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation
	10:00 am	Worship Service <i>Capital Fund Special Offering</i>
	11:00 am	Youth Ensemble
	12:00 pm	VALOR Delivered
	6:00 pm	Family Promise at Heidelberg
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
Fri:	6:00 pm	Family Promise at Heidelberg
	7:00 pm	AA Back to Basics
Sat:	1:00 pm	Cash & Gift Card Bingo
		Doors Open at Noon
	6:00 pm	Family Promise at Heidelberg
Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation
	10:00 am	Worship Service

First-Time Guests

Welcome to Good Shepherd, an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We are delighted that you have 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>.

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

Upcoming Events in the Life of Our Church.

- **May 4 – Cash and Gift Card Bingo.**
Doors open at Noon. Kitchen will be open.
- **Saturday, May 4, Confirmation class** will be visiting the **Hindu Temple** at **11 am** and the **Mosque** in Allentown at **1 pm**. If interested, please let Pastor James know.
- We are **collecting snack cracker packs** to fill 125 bags for Kids packs over the summer break for NL Food Bank. Please have them at church **by Sunday, May 19**.
- **Scoring-a-Goal:** Aricka Creyer is hosting a field hockey clinic at Eagles Nest for **girls in grades K-3, May 20-24, 6-8 pm**, to help her achieve her Gold Award. Donations of gently used equipment for NL Youth Assoc.is appreciated. Contact Aricka at amc122305@gmail.com.
- **Faith Formation** will be honoring **graduates** on **June 9, 2024**. Please fill out the forms in the Narthex by May 19.
- **New Members Class** on **June 2 at 11:15 am** for those interested in joining our church. They will be received on **June 16**.
- Property Committee needs people to **mow the grass**. Please sign-up in the Narthex.
- **Youth ensemble** meets the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday of each month after church. This spring the children will be presenting music during church on **May 12** and **June 9**.



Anniversaries

- Apr 30-Marie Bachman & O. B. O'Brien
- May 01-Jasmine & Megann (Gracely) Rodrigues
- May 02-Donald & Roxy (Oldt) Schraden
- May 03-Carlton & Terri (Reinheimer) Miller

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Head Deacon	Jim George
Lay Reader	Eric Hantz
Greeter	Randy & Eileen Andrews
Altar Guild	Sharon Conway
Media Production Team	Marie Bachman, Deb Craig, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz, Bryan Hominger and Beth Kutzner



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

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

Family of... Edith Roeder
In Hospice... Louise Croll, Barbara Mathias
Family and Friends needing prayer: Tiffany Silfies, Michael Bossons, Larry Correll, Sheri Fallon, Anthony Keen, Mike Passaro, Dennis Silfies, DeeDee Sloane, Eddie Smith, Ed Zook, Jane Achey, Gail Bell, Jim Craig, Lisa Gilly, Keith Gross, Shawn Kress, Kevin Kroboth, Wayne Kuhns, Faith Mondrick Lauer, Chris Newhard, Connie Renner, Kylie Schneider, Sandy Serfass, Mary Storm, Frank Strohl, Rich Taylor, MaryEllen White, Helen Zolnowsky.

Homebound Members: Marge Bass, Mary Bilheimer, Peter and Shirley Blynn, Kay Costenbader, Dennis Derr, Donna Fox, Betty Humanick, Richard Kuntz, Carol Schweitzer, and Susan 'Tillie' Waller.

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

Prayers for Students in higher education: Megan Bankes at Glenville State WV, Asa Blynn at Kutztown Univ., Dylan Coffin at Moravian Univ., Carissa Fallon at Penn State Univ., Riley Fallon at Penn State Univ., Ben Griffith at Wilkes Univ., Emma Hope at Kutztown Univ., Evan Horninger at DeSales Univ., Olivia Horninger at Cedar Crest College, Mitchell Hourt at Moravian Univ., Jade Rice at Bloomsburg Univ., Brody Ritter at the University of Delaware, Caden Shields at LCCC, Cameron Shields at Kutztown Univ., Colleen Shields at Strayer Univ., Caleb Sommers at Kutztown Univ., Calista Smoyer at West Virginia Univ., Gabriella Smoyer at Cedar Crest College, Luke Zook at Villanova Univ.

Offerings Mission Calendar

Our Mission focus for **April** is **Autism Awareness**. Every year, autism organizations around the world celebrate Autism Awareness with unique fundraising and awareness-raising events. Use **#LightItUpBlue** to share your experience across social media and help light the world up blue this April. Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions across the spectrum and throughout the life span.

Joyful Noise Offering

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.

Financial Update Offering & (Attendance)

Apr 07-\$1,946.00 E-Giving \$484.47 (85)
 Apr 14-\$1,944.50 E-Giving \$243.55 (76)
 Apr 21-\$1,679.00 E-Giving \$292,07 (54)

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



Birthdays

- Apr 29-Joshua Bankes
- Apr 29-Joseph Conway, III
- Apr 29-Freya Lynn Palmer
- Apr 30-Kase Kohler
- Apr 30-Beau Pitruzzello
- Apr 30-Westin Redline
- Apr 30-Holden Schaffer
- May 01-Lisa Kuntz
- May 01-Tyler Rex
- May 02-Kyan Block
- May 02-William Fister
- May 02-Karen Smith
- May 03-Mary-Beth Fatzinger
- May 04-Brynn Frano
- May 04-Elizabeth Frantz

ORDER OF WORSHIP

APRIL 28, 2024 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Cantate

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 fifth Sunday of Easter is “O Sing unto the Lord a new song, for he hath done marvelous things. The Lord hath made known his salvation; his righteousness hath he openly showed in the sight of the heathen.” Cantate loosely translated means ‘sing.’

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

* **SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Praise God, all people! **Praise the Lord, all creation!**

whales doing backflips in the air, squid and octopi dancing on the ocean floor;
giant redwoods stretching to the sky, tomato vines cuddling around a stake.

Mountains towering up before us, and valleys shielding us from wind;

5-year-olds sitting in a story-time circle, grandparents singing 'their song.'

Redbuds decorating our backyard, grass growing faster than our children;

seals getting a suntan on the rocks, teenagers knotted together at church.

Praise the Lord, all creation! **Praise God, all people! Amen!**

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** ~ *My Life Flows On*

#619

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

* **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us join in a moment of reflection, acknowledging our shortcomings and embracing God’s mercy.

* **CONFESSION**

Christ, our WAY, our truth, our life, You have shown us the way, so clearly and fully. You have not simply told us how to live, You have shown us. But we still don’t get it. We do not believe all You have said to us; we do not trust the way

You have shown us. Help us, O God. Forgive us. Open our ears to Your truth, open our eyes to Your way, and lead us into new life. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Through Christ's sacrifice, we are cleansed; embrace his love and be free.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

CHILDREN'S CHAT

BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Illuminate our hearts, O God, so we might understand Your truth. Amen!

A READING from the Gospel of John 15:1-8 [NRSV]

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Abiding in Love

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *Walking by Faith*

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 SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Let us unite in generosity, supporting Good Shepherd's mission to care for those in need. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *We Fall Down*

* 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

Thank You, Awesome God, for the privilege to give. Bless our gifts of tithes and offerings, that they together with us might bring forth Your kingdom here on earth through the light of Christ. Amen!

* HYMN ~ *I Am Thine, O Lord*

#601

Living God's WORD

* THE COMMISSION, BENEDICTION, AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

#312

POSTLUDE ~ *Help Us Accept Each Other*

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708

Cash &

May 4th, 2024
1:00 pm



Doors open at Noon
Kitchen will be open

BINGO

\$25 20 Regular Games
5 Specials

All Regular Games Win
\$25 Gift Card or \$25 Cash

As Specified

All Special Games Win Various Cash Prizes

Good Shepherd
United Church of Christ
3940 Mountain Rd Slatington, PA 18080
For Info Call Bonnie 484-225-2947

Lic # PA0153R23

Tickets Sold in Advance or at the Door

www.GoodShepherdUCCSlatington.org

www.facebook.com/GSUCC.Slatington



125

Kids Snack Cracker
Packs for Northern
Lehigh Food Bank
Sunday, May 19th