



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, PA 18080

610-767-9680

AUGUST 3, 2025

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

Office Hours: W TH 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

F 8:00 am – Noon

Sun: 10:00 am **Sunday Worship/Communion**
12:00 pm Bear Rock Junction
Wed: 6:30 pm Financial Peace University
Fri: 7:00 pm AA Back to Basics
Sun: 10:00 am **Sunday Worship**
Scrip Orders Due

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>.

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

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.

Mission Calendar for August is Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley

Their mission is to provide hardworking families with simple, decent affordable housing. They work in partnership with families to help them secure a better place to live and raise their families.

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)

Jul 06-\$2,290.00 E-Giving \$457.97 (76)
Jul 13-\$1,470.00 E-Giving \$176.14 (43)
Jul 20-\$2,898.00 E-Giving \$301.46 (67)
Jul 27-\$2,399.00 E-Giving \$340.25 (85)

Online offering at [Tithe.ly](https://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."

Upcoming Events in the Life of Our Church.

- Financial Peace University, Wednesday's 6:30-8 pm taught by Monica Griffith again this summer. The remaining dates are August 6 and 13. See Monica Griffith for more information. In-Person Class Registration: <https://www.financialpeace.com/app/classes/031621> Virtual Class Registration: <https://www.financialpeace.com/app/classes/722606> **It's not too late to register.** You will have up to a year to access the course after registering.
- We are collecting canned spaghetti (or any pasta) with pull top tabs for Backpack Buddies through August 31. Northern Lehigh School District serves about 100 families each week. This program continues through the summer.
- Looking for volunteers to mow the lawn. Please sign up in the Narthex for the week you would like to volunteer.
- Summer Breakfast Bunch at St. John's Lutheran Church, Slatington will provide breakfast and a bag lunch Monday through Friday from 8:30 – 10 am. The program will run until August 22 for ages 2 – 17. Volunteers and monetary donations or gift cards to local grocery stores are needed. Contact St. John's Lutheran Church at 610-767-6361 or email them at stjohnslatington@gmail.com.
- Looking for additional office volunteers who are willing to look at photos and try to identify the people in them for our archives. Please contact Pastor James or Eileen Andrews if you would like to help.
- Looking for volunteers to teach Faith Formation twice a month beginning in the fall. See Pastor James or Amanda Smith if interested.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

Families of...Rick Keller, Felicia Spinelli-Dixon

Family and Friends needing prayer: Jonathan Andrews, Randy Andrews, Sherry Bishop, Chad Dieter, Jean Fatzinger, Lee Haas, Penny Keen, Sandy Keller, Art Rudlick, Barbara Cannon, Chastity Corvino, Doug Farber, Frank Hart, Tracy Haydt, Barbara Hower, Gary Johannes, Hayden Keller, Frances Kuntz, Susan Lukon, Chris Oertner, Dennis Raver, Rich Remaley, Gary Schneck, 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.



Anniversaries

Aug 5-Todd & Julie (Coffin) Solt

Aug 7-Edwin & Dena (Weil) Krum II

Dave Matsinko is a talented multi-instrumentalist, singer, and teacher from NEPA. Matsinko brings a love of music and an interest in history together by performing traditional folk and American Heritage Music. Dave interprets music from the folk and old-time American traditions on modern instruments with fine vocals, lively instrumentals, story telling, and great joy in bringing this music to modern ears. The program is performed with vocals, guitar, old-time banjo, mandolin, and mountain dulcimer. Through his music, Dave carries forward the stories and musical legacy of the people and history of Pennsylvania.

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Special Music	Dave Matsinko
Acolyte	Holden White
Head Deacon	Joe Conway
Head Elder	Chris Kegel
Lay Reader	Eric Hantz
Greeters	Alice Kegel
Altar Guild	Sharon Conway
Media Team	
	Marie Bachman, Deb Craig, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz, Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger, and Beth Kutzner

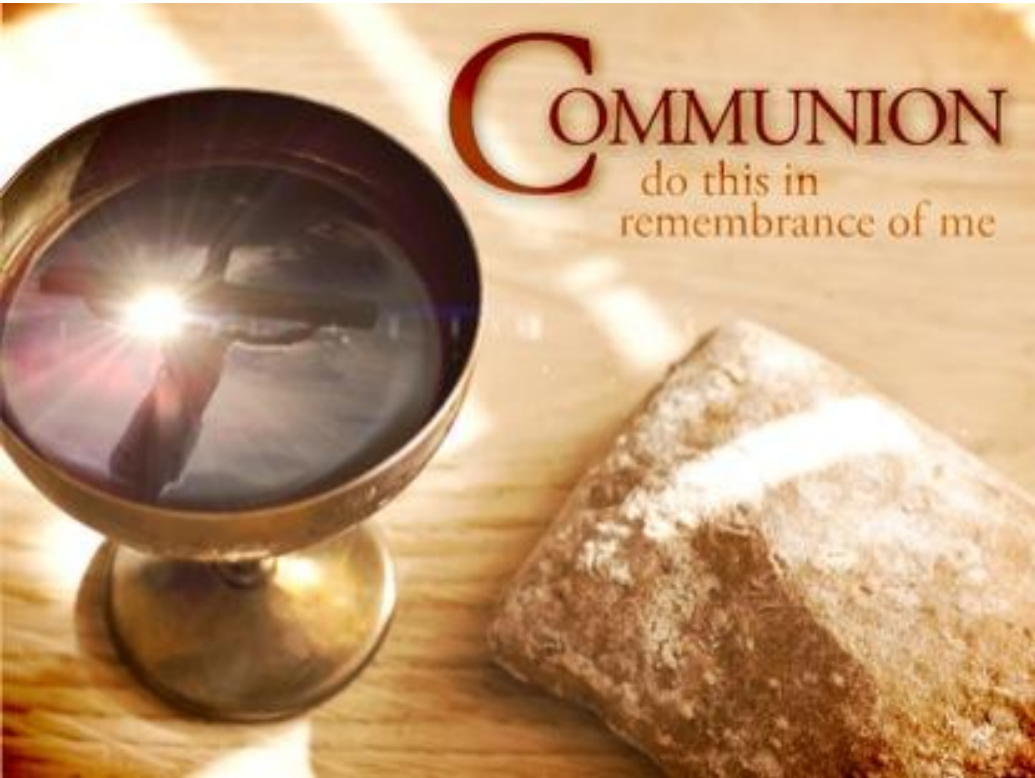
Altar Flowers and **Bulletins** are to the Honor and Glory of God.



Birthdays

- Aug 3-Chelsea Harding
- Aug 3-Dalton White
- Aug 8-Michelle Harding
- Aug 8-Kelsey Knittle-Moser
- Aug 8-Craig Solt
- Aug 9-Noah Griffith
- Aug 9-Alice Kegel

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025
8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP
AUGUST 3, 2025 - EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUMMER COMMUNION

Be still and know that I am God. ~ Psalm 46:10

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *Here I Am, Lord*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, all who are weary from the heat and the burden of the world. **We come seeking the cool waters of God's peace.**

Come, all who rejoice in sunshine and summer days. **We come to give thanks for creation's beauty and God's faithfulness.**

In this season of growth and rest, let us worship the One who sustains us. **We gather in joy, with open hearts, to worship God together. Amen.**

*** HYMN** ~ *Softly and Tenderly*

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Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

CHILDREN'S CHAT

BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Tune our hearts, O God, that we might sing Your praise as we become reflections of Your love and mercy through the power of Your WORD. Amen!

A READING from the Gospel of Luke 12:13-21 [NRSV]

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "'Soul, you have ample goods laid

up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” ’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”.

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Soul Investment

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *Uncloudy Day*

Dave Matsinko, Strings

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

As the earth yields its fruit in this season, so too we are invited to offer the fruits of our lives to God. Let us give with joy and generosity, trusting that what we offer ~ whether great or small ~ will be used by God to nourish and bless. Amen.

OFFERTORY ~ *My Shepherd is the Living God*

*** 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 as we carry out the ministry of our risen LORD who lives and reigns with You forever. Amen!

Receiving God's WORD

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

[We will celebrate Holy Communion in the pews. Children are invited forward for their blessing during the bread 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

Christ's invitation is simple...sit down where you are.

You don't need to run off somewhere else ~ communion is where you are ~ sit down. The disciples complained ~ it is a deserted place, and the hour is late. Jesus said, "They need not go away" ~ no one needs to go away.

No one is deserted and no one is late ~ not you who are alone, because you are vulnerable to virus, or you who would feel alone because something has made your life a wilderness.

Jesus has compassion on every crowd, healing them, even the hungry, one by one by one.

Here is green grass, someone to help you sit down, someone to help you stand up again, someone to bless Communion, so it will be enough, and break it into pieces you can handle. Sit down where you are.

COMMUNION PRAYER

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

People of God, lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God on high.**

Let us give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ who raises us to new life. **We sing the praises of our Master and our Friend.**

We remember the Creator fed the aurora borealis and ocean depths, pterodactyls and diatoms, all we see now that grows and breathes, all that swims, swarms, slithers, all that runs, flies, leaps, and loves.

We remember Jesus Christ played vintner at a wedding feast, rubbed elbows with Zacchaeus' friends, taught the disciples that they should not substitute anything like stone or snake for really important menus like reduced lunch, soup kitchens, food pantries, or meals on wheels,

and, amid profound grief for his cousin John's death, expanded the disciples' understanding of the hope in bread crust and fish scraps, and then, when they forgot ~ did it again.

We remember a Passover in Jerusalem when Jesus borrowed an upper room, soaked and scrubbed the tired feet of others, and explained that there is a God-shaped hole in everyone's belly and Jesus would fill it with love.

Remembering is beautiful, but there is not much taste in it. Let us stop running to nearby villages with our hunger and thirst, and sit down here and now, to eat and drink to be blessed and broken.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Merciful God, we recall anew ... we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

EPICLESIS

In the story about feeding a multitude, Jesus asked that people bring to him what they had. You have done that today. In your many kitchens and living rooms, rest your

hands lightly upon these elements of bread and fruit of the vine as we do here in the sanctuary of the Good Shepherd, setting them apart to become for us a sacrament, a remembrance, a WAY. We ask God's blessing on them to make them enough.

God of compassion, You bless everything, even that which is broken, which we bring to You. Our deep scarcity becomes enough to sustain us, and then our "enough" becomes an abundance we could never imagine. We pray that Your Spirit of life and love, of tenderness and power, rest upon all bread and every cup, that they may feed the inmost need of each child of Yours and pour forth a grace that can change the world. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in You. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

Bread blessed and broken; **the bread of life broken for all.**

Fruit of the vine blessed and shared; **the cup of grace overflowing for all.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, O Holy One, and refreshed by the fruit of the vine, we thank You for this food of charity and beseech You that it might confirm our hearts and stir us to serve You. Help us gather the leftovers from the miracles in our lives and give them away to those in need. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

*** HYMN ~ *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ***

#422

Living God's WORD

*** THE COMMISSION**

Go now into the warmth of the sun and the rhythm of summer days. May you rest deeply, grow quietly, and serve boldly. Carry the peace of Christ in your heart, the light of God in your spirit, and the refreshing wind of the Holy Spirit in your steps.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen!

*** BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN**

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POSTLUDE ~ The Voice of Jesus Calls His People

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708