



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

AUGUST 9, 2026

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

Office Hours:		T W 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
		TH 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Sun:	10:00 am	Sunday Worship <i>Scrip Orders Due</i>
	11:30 am	Hall Rental
Mon:	7:00 pm	Consistory Meeting
Fri:	7:00 pm	AA Back to Basics
Sun:	10:00 am	Sunday Worship <i>Scrip Orders Delivered</i>
	12:00 pm	Hall Rental

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. 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 small colored buckets during the offering.

Update Offering & (Attendance)
Aug 02-\$1,532.40 E-Giving \$201.05 (93)

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.

Upcoming Events in the Life of Our Church

- Looking for someone to take **Baptismal pictures of the family for the Baptismal certificates.**
- Mini Golf at Bear Rock Junction** has been **rescheduled for Sunday, September 13 at noon.** There will be pizza after church in Fellowship Hall before heading out to the golf course.
- We are **collecting individual cans of pasta (pull tab top) for Backpack Buddies through August 31.** We collected 413 individual packages of goldfish in May & June. Thank you all for your donations.
- Summer Breakfast Bunch at St. John's Lutheran Church,** Slatington provides breakfast and a bag lunch Monday-Friday 8:30 am-10 am. **Program runs until August 24 for ages 2-7. Volunteers and monetary donations or gift cards to local grocery stores** are needed. To volunteer or donate, call the church office at 610-767-6361 or email them at stjohnslatington@gmail.com.
- \$5 Boscov's Shopping Passes** available in the Narthex for online/ in store shopping **Wed. October 21.**
- Looking for volunteers to mow grass** for the **weeks of August 9, August 30, September 20, September 27,** and the **month of October.** Mowers and gas are provided by the church. Sign up in the Narthex.
- Looking for office volunteers** who would be able and willing to scan a large number of photos and put them on a flash drive (provided) to preserve our congregation's history. Please contact Pastor James or Eileen Andrews if you would like to help.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

Families of... Carol Adams, Carol George, Bob Jischke, Betty Wagner

Family and Friends needing prayer: Barbara Beltz, Deb Derhammer, Jennifer Frohnheiser, Lee Haas, Diane Hardey, Brett Hunsicker, Bruce Kralik, Don Kutzner, Jameson & Krissy Scott, Carol Ziegenfus, Tom Alcaro, Karen Anthony, Gail Bell, Marc Benninger, Lori Clay, Doug Farber, Donna Fox, Steve George, Barbara Hower, Gary Johannes, Hayden Keller, Laurie, Chris Oertner, Randy Parks, Ty Sander, Gary Schneck, Donna Tully, Jenn Wentz, John Zellner

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, and Janel Tracy.

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Acolyte
Special Music
Head Deacon
Lay Reader
Greeter
Altar Guild
Media Team

Callie McGinnis
Lydia DeLong, Soloist
Matt Shields
Rae Anne Creyer
Rae Anne Creyer & Wynn
Sharon Conway

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 09-Noah Griffith
Aug 09-Alice Kegel
Aug 10-Robert White
Aug 12-Jean Gellis
Aug 12-Arthur Kuntz
Aug 15-Kayla Sander



Anniversaries

Aug 15-Bryan & Amy (Heffelfinger) Horninger

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**FROM
DREAMS TO
DESTINY: THE
JOURNEY OF
JOSEPH WITH
GENESIS
37:1-4, 12-28**



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026
11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

AUGUST 9, 2026 - ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Character is revealed when no one is watching.” ~ John Wooden

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

* SOLEMN DECLARATION

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us gather before God, who journeys with us through every season life. **In times of joy and in times of struggle, God remains faithful.**

God meets us in family bonds, in broken relationships, and in unexpected turns of life. **We come seeking wisdom, healing, and hope.**

God calls us to live with integrity, compassion, and courage. **Let us worship the God who is present in every chapter of our story. Amen.**

* **HYMN** ~ *I Cannot Dance, O Love*

#290

* OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God, You know the complexities of our lives and relationships. You see our hopes and disappointments, strengths and our struggles. As we gather for worship, help us to recognize Your presence amid the joys and challenges of our journey. Teach us to live with humility, to seek reconciliation where there is division, and to trust that Your purposes are at work even when the path ahead is unclear. Fill us with Your Spirit and draw us closer to You and to one another. Amen.

Celebrating God's WORD in Our Midst

CONVERSATION WITH OUR YOUNGSTERS

BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS

**BAPTISMS OF WILLOW JANE, HARPER DANIELLE, FINLEY GRAY
TALAGIO, AND JAYCE RYAN KOCH**

Exhortation

Promise of the Congregation

Do you who witness this sacrament promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized?

We promise our love, support and care. As we baptize you with water, there is grace upon your life and we promise to help you realize you are loved by God and we love you, too. And we promise through everything; we will be here for you. Amen.

Blessing of the Water

Sacrament of Baptism

BAPTISMAL HYMN ~ *Jesus Loves Me This I Know*

#113

Lighting of Baptismal Candle and Placing of Name on Baptismal Banner

Presentation at the Altar and Prayer

DEDICATION OF THE PRETEEN CLASSROOM

Introduction: Today we pause in our worship to celebrate more than the completion of a room. We give thanks for Noah Griffith who saw a need, offered their gifts, and chose to serve others through their Eagle Scout project. This classroom is more than walls, paint, and furnishings. It is a place where faith will be nurtured, friendships formed, questions welcomed and lives shaped by God's love. We are grateful for the vision, dedication, and countless hours of work that have made this space possible.

Prayer of Dedication: Gracious and loving God, we dedicate this Preteen Classroom to your glory and to the ministry of your church. Bless all who enter this space. May it be a place of welcome, curiosity, laughter, learning, and belonging. May young people discover your love here, grow in faith, and be encouraged to share their gifts with the world. We give You thanks for Noah, whose vision, leadership, and service made this project possible along with the many people who supported and guided him through this process. Bless them in all the journeys ahead, and continue to inspire them to lead with courage, compassion, and integrity. In the spirit of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve, we pray. Amen.

Act of Dedication:

People of God, what is dedicated to God's service should be used with joy and faithfulness. **We dedicate this classroom to the education, fellowship, and spiritual growth of our children.**

May all who learn here grow in wisdom, compassion, and love. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of wisdom, as we hear the story of Joseph and his brothers, help us recognize ourselves in the story so we might hear Your call toward faithfulness, compassion, and trust. Amen!

A READING from the Hebrew text of Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 [NRSVUE]

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. These are the descendants of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it

down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ When All Seems Lost

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *It Is Well With My Soul*

Lydia DeLong, Soloist

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 GENEROSITY

God’s vision is always larger than our limitations. Let us give generously, trusting that God can use even small acts of faithfulness to bring blessings to others. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *Where He Leads Me*

*** 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**

Gracious God, may these offerings be blessed for strengthening communities, restoring relationships, and extending Your compassion to all who are in need. May our offerings reflect hearts that seek Your justice, sharer Your generosity, and trust in Your guiding presence. In Your holy name we pray. Amen!

* HYMN ~ *Help Us Accept Each Other*

#487

Living God's WORD

* THE COMMISSION, BENEDICTION, AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

#312

POSTLUDE ~ *How Firm a Foundation*

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

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708



Thank you to our soloist today, Lydia Weller.

Lydia is the high school choir director at Lehigh Area High School. She obtained her bachelor's degree in music education from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2018. She is working towards a master's degree in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is so excited to share this song with you and hope you can reflect on its meaningful words.



Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Willow Jane** and **Harper Danielle** born on January 10, 2023. They are the twin daughters of Shelby Z Repsher and Stephen Talago. Their grandparents are John Repsher, Jr., Kimberly (Gilbert) Schoch and Andrew & Tina (Manes) Talago. Willow & Harper join a sister, Rylee Hechler, stepsister, Maddy Talago and stepbrothers, Finley Talago & Aiden Wicklein.

Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Finley Gray Talago**, born on September 12, 2016. He is the son of Stephen Michael Talago and the late Amanda Marie Wicklein. His grandparents are Andrew & Tina (Manes) Talago and Christine Kuhns. Finley has a brother, Aiden Wicklein, a sister, Maddy Talago and stepsisters Willow & Harper Hechler.

Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Jayce Ryan Koch**, born on November 2, 2006. He is the son of Ryan Patrick & Kyle Lynn "Kylelynn" (Gilbert) Koch. His grandparents are Glen & Nancy (Carrington) Behler, the late Marilyn Jane (Heller) Gilbert Romanishan, the late Stanford Daniel Gilbert, and the late James Koch.

Jayce has an older brother, Derrek Alexander Koch.

The animals placed on the Baptismal Banner mark Willow & Harper's entrance on our cradle roll as the beginning of their faith formation process.

The water used for the baptisms are from the Jordan River in the Holy Land. The Baptismal Candles are lit to remind us that Jesus Christ is our light and guide on the path of faith.



Thank you to the following sponsors of Noah Griffith's Eagle Scout Service Project, the new Christian Education Classroom:

- Bonnie Hewitt & Robert Shelly ~ In Memory of Eugene & Luella Miller
- Memorial Fund ~ In Memory of Eugene & Luella Miller
- Randy & Eileen Andrews ~ In Honor of Susan Zellner, Volunteer Extraordinaire
- Deb Craig ~ In Honor of Families
- Janice Franssen ~ To the Glory of God
- Tracey Gursky ~ In Memory of Richard S. Gross
- Eric Hantz ~ In Memory of April Hantz
- Brett & Michele Hunsicker ~ In Honor of Jordan Hunsicker, Troop 65 Eagle Scout
- Chris & Alice Kegel ~ To the Glory of God
- Beth Kutzner ~ In Celebration of the Chancel Choir
- Dick & Darlene Nothstein ~ In Memory of Our Parents
- MaryAnn Storm ~ In Honor of her Mother, Mary Storm
- John & Susan Zellner ~ To the Glory of God
- Richard Schock & Michele Schock ~ Donated their cabinetry and woodworking time and talents
- Evan Shoemaker ~ Donated his electrical technology time and talents
- Sean Palmer ~ Donated his carpentry and contractor time and talents
- Scouts and Leaders of Troop 72 Camp Spirit Fogelsville ~ Donated painting time and talents

"WALK-IN" **- ONE DAY -** **BASKET SOCIAL**

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026

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. #: 0275R25