



# GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

DECEMBER 8, 2024

### 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 **Worship Service**  
*Corn Due for NLFB*

11:00 am Fundraising Meeting

Tues: 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Fri: 7:00 pm AA Back to Basics

Sat: 9:00 am Chancel choir dress rehearsal

Sun: 9:00 am Faith Formation  
 10:00 am **Worship Service**  
**Christmas Cantata**  
*Christmas Fund Special Offering*

### 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 December is AIDS Awareness Month

To increase knowledge about HIV and access to HIV services for people most at risk for or living with HIV.

### 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)

Dec 01-\$4,442.00 E-Giving \$743.71 (102)

Online offering at [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) or text GIVE to 610-615-7657

The **Christmas Tree** is in Loving Memory of Helen Werley, donated by Werley's Tree Farm of Kempton.

The **Poinsettias** are in Honor of the Members and Friends of Good Shepherd, donated by Pastor James.

### Snow, Ice, Winter Emergency Cancellations

check out TV Channel 69 or Radio Station WAEB 790am, our website and Facebook sites. Email or Texts.

### Upcoming Events in the Life of Our Church.

- We are collecting cans of corn for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Donations due Today.
- **Fundraising Meeting, today following the church service.**
- **Candelabra Flower orders due by Sunday, December 15.** Order forms in Narthex.
- **The Chancel Choir will present the Christmas cantata *For He Alone is Worthy* during the December 15th church service.** The cantata will be narrated by Pete Beblavy and Sheri Fallon. **The choir will gather for a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 14th from 9am - 12pm. The Chancel Choir welcomes all who would like to participate!** Contact Beth for sheet music!
- The Chancel Choir and Media Team will be celebrating the season with a Christmas Party on December 17th and are looking forward to a time of fellowship and celebration. Youth Ensemble has been incorporated into Faith Formations.
- Faith Formations, at 9 am on Sundays, will start with music and prayer in the social hall. **Children from Faith Formation will be presenting special music during the 3 pm Christmas Eve service.**
- **Valley Voices Community Chorale** will share a "**Winter/Christmas**" concert at the Slatington United Presbyterian Church located at 6750 PA Route 873, Slatington, PA on **December 22 at 3 pm.** The concert will include some traditional Christmas selections & some familiar special selections. During the performance we will include some special hymns to be sung by the audience & the special closing number will hopefully be enjoyed by all. A free will offering will be accepted & refreshments will follow the program. Any questions you may have can be answered by calling Anna Mary Milot Co-Ordinator, Director at 610-767-8337.
- Articles for the **January newsletter** are due in the office **by December 23.**

### Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

**In Hospice...**Louise Croll, Betty Humanick, Barbara Mathias

**Family and Friends needing prayer:** Barry Silfies, Lee Haas, Eva Marie Poliquim, Mark Schaeffer, Doug Farber, Frank Hart, Tammy Henninger Filchner, Gary Johannes, Hayden Keller, Susan Lukon, Steve Mansueto, Dennis Raver, Kylie Schneider, Frank Strohl, Jenn Wentz, 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, 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, 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, Cameron Shields at LCCC, Colleen Shields at Strayer, Caleb Sommers at Kutztown, Calista Smoyer at West Virginia, Gabriella Smoyer at Cedar Crest, Luke Zook at Villanova.

Today we celebrate the sacrament of **Holy Baptism** for **Jameson Jeffrey Schappell**, born on July 22, 2024, in Allentown, PA. He is the son of Tyler & Kayla (Belles) Schappell. Jameson joins a sister, Addison Lyn Schappell. His grandparents are Jeffrey & Stacey (Walker) Schappell and Kevin & Kellie (Romig) Smith. His great grandparents are Woodrow & Nancy (Eroh) Schappell, Clifford & Sarah (Tyson) Romig, Anita (Kloiber) Belles and Edward & Karen (Youse) Smith.

Jameson's godparents are Jakob Traca and Alyssa Lewis.

The water used for the baptism is from the Jordan River in the Holy Land. The animal placed on the Baptismal Banner marks Jameson's entrance in our cradle roll as the beginning of his faith formation process. The Baptismal Candle is lit to remind us that Jesus Christ is our light and guide on the path of faith.

*Our Worship Leaders Today.*

Acolyte  
Head Deacon  
Lay Reader  
Greeter  
Altar Guild  
Media Team

Holden White  
Amanda Smith  
David Nothstein  
Karen Smith  
Deb Craig & Fiona Dieter

Marie Bachman, Deb Craig, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz,  
Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger, and Beth Kutzner

**Altar Flowers** are to the Glory of God and in Memory of Luella Miller by Bonnie & Matthew Hewitt and Robert Shelly.

**Bulletins** are to the Honor & Glory of God.



*Birthdays*

Dec 8-Dot Arnold  
Dec 8-Evan Hantz  
Dec 9-Marie Bachman  
Dec 9-Shirley Blynn  
Dec 9-Wesley Loch  
Dec 9-Joshua Richardson  
Dec 9-Calista Smoyer  
Dec 10-Dawn Beblavy  
Dec 14-Evelyn Haas



*Anniversaries*

Dec 10-Matthew & Amber (Miller) Snyder

## GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 8, 2024 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Gathering for God's WORD

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *What Child Is This?*

#### \* SOLEMN DECLARATION

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

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel! **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!**

For God is with us, smiling upon us with love. **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!**

For Christ has saved us from our enemies, our sins, and our fears. **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!**

For God's Spirit shines upon us, giving light for our darkness. **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!**

Let us worship God together! **Amen.**

#### \* HYMN ~ *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

#125

#### \* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (based on Malachi 3:2b-3) ~ **The Griffith Family**

The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness."

**In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until the reign of heaven comes to earth.

#### \* HYMN ~ *One Candle Is Lit* (Verse 2)

#128

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

#### \* CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us approach God to seek God's mercy and forgiveness.

**\* CONFESSION**

**We come before You, Mighty God, asking forgiveness and cleansing for our lives that are rough and unfinished. Cleanse us, purify us, give us Your gentle love, Your pure peace, and Your shining hope. Let the offering of our lives be beautiful and unhindered. Let our hearts be steadfast and sure as we face the future, knowing that the future is Yours and held in Your kind and loving hands. Amen.**

**\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The Psalmist proclaims: “Blessed be the God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. **By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.**” We are forgiven. Amen!

**\* PRAISE VERSICLE ~ *Angels We Have Heard on High* (chorus only) #155**

**\* A CHRISTMAS CREED**

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.**

**I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town, and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.**

**I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.**

**I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.**

**I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:**

**I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother’s arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God’s love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.**

**I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.**

**I believe in God who gives us the best of Godself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem for me and for the world.**

## **BAPTISM OF JAMESON JEFFREY SCHAPPELL**

### 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

### **CHILDREN'S CHAT**

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

Hearing God's WORD

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**God be with us that through Your WORD of Life, You will be revealed to us. Amen!**

### **A READING** from the Gospel of Luke 3:1-6 [NRSV]

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

### **RESPONSE**

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

**HOMILY ~ Comfort and Cleansing in the Midst of Change**

**SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *A Star Will Soon Shine***

**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**

In this busy season, our most important preparations will happen here in our hearts when we make a way for God to come into our lives, when we “prepare the way of the Lord.” **Amid our preparations, we bring gifts to share so that God’s love will shine brightly through the ministry of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ and in our own lives as well.** Let us gather our offerings in Christ. **Amen.**

**OFFERTORY ~ *More Precious Than Silver***

**\* 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**

**Loving God, in this Advent season, we bring our offerings with hearts open to Your call. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, may our gifts help prepare the way for Your kingdom. Use these offerings to bring hope, justice, and transformation. Help us look beyond the surface, to see Your work in surprising places and people. Bless our giving, that it may shine with the presence of Emmanuel. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen!**

**\* HYMN ~ *A Stable Lamp Is Lighted***

**#141**

Living God's WORD

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

**#312**

**POSTLUDE ~ *Come, O Long-expected Jesus***

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts Ministries, and served as an organist and music minister in United Methodist congregations in the Northwest Texas and North Texas Annual Conferences, 2024; Liturgy from *Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion, Year C, Volume 1*

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