



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, PA 18080

610-767-9680

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

Office Hours: T 11 am – 3 pm; W 1 pm – 6 pm

Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation
	10:00 am	Worship Service/Scout Sunday
	11:00 am	Youth Ensemble
	12:00 pm	VALOR Meal Delivered
Wed:	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Service
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Fri:	7:00 pm	AA Back to Basics
		Open Preschool Enrollment
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 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.

- **Youth Ensemble** meets the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday of each month after church until 11:45 am. We play games, sing, and play bells. Children ages 5 and up are invited to participate. Littles, ages 3 and 4, can participate with an adult present. This spring the children will be presenting music during the following church services: **April 14, May 12, and June 9.**
- **Flower and Bulletin Sponsor Calendar** in the Narthex.
- **Open Preschool enrollment for 2024 begins March 1** for all children 3 and 4 years old.
- **Lenten Gatherings – February 28, March 6, 13 and 20 at 6:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall with a Soup and Salad dinner followed by a play entitled *Eyewitness, A Lenten Drama Series*.
- **Easter Flower orders due by March 7 for delivery on Easter.** Order forms are in the Narthex.
- **Faith Formation** is requesting **donations of hard-boiled eggs, plastic eggs, and prizes** for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 30. Please see Pam and have eggs cooked and here by Sunday, March 24. Sign-up sheets in the Narthex.
- **Feed My Starving Children** at Neffs UCC, Sunday, March 10 from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm. Sign up in the Narthex.
- **220 cans of Corn needed for Northern Lehigh Food Bank Easter meal** handout by **March 10.**

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Head Deacon	Amanda Bowers
Acolyte	Connor Solt
Lay Reader	Rae Anne Creyer
Greeter	Rae Anne Creyer & Judy
Altar Guild	Mary Storm
Media Production Team	Deb Craig, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz, Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger 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... Theodore Oswald

Family and Friends needing prayer: Tina Fetchko, Sue Jones, Allen Pickwick, Allison Pickwick, Larry Reinhart, Sherry Bishop, Amanda Dieter, Donna Fox, Keith Gross, Lee Haas, Bruce Schnell, Marilyn Sowden, Jane Achey, Gail Bell, Jim Craig, Rob Davis, Doug Farber, Lisa Gilly, Shawn Kress, Kevin Kroboth, Wayne Kuhns, Faith Mondrick Lauer, Chris Newhard, Chris Oertner, Connie Renner, Kylie Schneider, Sandy Serfass, Sallie Solt, Mary Storm, Rich Taylor, MaryEllen White, Helen Zolnowsky.

Homebound Members: Marge Bass, Mary Bilheimer, Kay Costenbader, Dennis Derr, Betty Humanick, Richard Kuntz, 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., 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 **February** is **Soup/Ecumenical Kitchen.** Nourishing those in Need for over 35 years by feeding the hungry, serving more than 35,000 meals a year and providing access to medical care for those in need. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 8th & Walnut Streets, Allentown, PA 18101 Noon to 1 pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The LLC Soup Kitchen provides a nutritious well-balanced meal to all who are hungry as most live at or below poverty level.

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)

Feb 04-\$2,568.00 E-Giving \$217.49 (68)
Feb 11-\$3,577.00 E-Giving \$510.82 (73)
Feb 14-\$694.00 (55)
Feb 18-\$940.00 E-Giving \$161.16 (68)

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



Birthdays

Feb 27-Pam Knappenberger
Feb 27-Sara Ruch
Feb 27-Todd Solt
Mar 02-Melissa Gellis

Snow, Ice, Winter Emergency Cancellations

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
FEBRUARY 25, 2024 - SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
KEEP THE FAITH, SHARE THE LOVE
REMINISCERE ~ To Remember
SCOUT SUNDAY

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *How Can I Keep From Singing*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

As we journey through Lent, may our faith be a guiding light.
We hold fast to the faith, embracing the love God freely gives.
Let us unite, sharing God's love through acts of kindness. **Amen.**

*** HYMN ~ *In the Cross of Christ I Glory***

#207

*** SERVICE OF THE LENTEN CROSS ~ Whip**

"They spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, 'Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?'" - Matthew 26:67-68
The whip reminds us of the abuse Jesus took on our behalf as an atonement for our sins thus receiving our punishment. By his stripes we are saved.

*** OPENING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, as we journey through Lent, grant us the strength to hold onto our faith in times of doubt. Inspire us to be vessels of Your love, reaching out to those in need, and bringing comfort to the brokenhearted. Amen.

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

TIME OF CONFESSION

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other, first in silent prayer.
Holy God, we open our hearts to You this day, and offer the truth of our lives: the fear that stifles us, the prejudice that blinds us, the ignorance that hobbles

us, the doubt that plagues us. Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely places, see the world with new and gracious eyes, move to those places where love is needed, have faith that You are with us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

LENTEN CONFESSIONAL CREED

I confess my need of God for all that I am and all that I have.

I confess my need of Jesus Christ for healing in relationships and guidance in my life that I might be a worthy steward of all that has been entrusted to me.

I confess my need of the Holy Spirit to kindle the Divine spark in my heart that draws me closer to the Holy so I may respond in love to all.

THE SCOUT LAW ~

see insert

BLESSING OF SCOUTS

O God, your will is that all your children should grow into fullness of life. We lift to you the ministry of scouting. We offer you thanks for camping, to teach us that the world is our great home; for study and work, to build character; for service, to see our responsibility to those in need; for encouragement in genuine patriotism and vital faith.

Bless the work of scouting, in this place and around the world, that, through its efforts, the young may, like our Lord, increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with you and all people. Amen.

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of signs and wonders, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds with Your WORD so that we may we come to an understanding of new life it offers. Amen!

A READING from Psalm 22:23-31 [NRSV]

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. To him indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about

the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Always Close

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *Into the Garden*

Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER ~

see insert

Responding to God's WORD

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

In the spirit of love and faith, **let us offer our gifts to strengthen the bonds of compassion and kindness within our midst. Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

* 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, we dedicate these offerings with gratitude for the abundance You have bestowed upon us. May the sacrificial giving of this congregation be a source of hope for a brighter future, where love and compassion prevail in our community. Amen!

*** HYMN ~ *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me***

#214

Living God's WORD

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

#312

POSTLUDE ~ *Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant*

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

9:00 am Faith Formation

9:45 Procession with donkey and Blessing of the Palms

10:00 am Worship Service

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

March 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

March 29, 2024 Noon to 3:00 pm

Good Friday Service

March 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Easter Services with Holy Communion

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Sunrise Service 6:00 am

Regular Worship 10:00 am

Please join us as we worship the Risen Savior

THE SCOUT LAW

The Scout Laws are a guiding light to millions of young people throughout the world based on writings from long ago.

Exodus states ‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.’

A Scout does their best to be honest and fair. A Scout is trustworthy.

Luke states, ‘He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much’

A Scout is friendly. A Scout is loyal.

Deuteronomy states, ‘Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.”

A Scout is helpful. A Scout is considerate and caring. A Scout is friendly.

Ephesians states, ‘Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.’

A Scout is responsible for what they say and do. A Scout is courteous.

Proverbs states, ‘The righteous know the needs of their animals.’

A Scout respects themselves and others. A Scout is kind.

Ephesians states, ‘Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.’

A Scout is obedient. A Scout respects authority.

Proverbs states, ‘A cheerful heart brings a smile to your face.’

A Scout is cheerful.

Proverbs also states, ‘Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer or ruler, she prepares her food in summer, and gathers her sustenance in harvest.’

A Scout is thrifty. A Scout uses resources wisely.

Deuteronomy states, ‘Be strong and of good courage, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.’

A Scout is brave. A Scout is courageous and strong.

Psalms 24 states, ‘Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.’

A Scout makes the world a better place. A Scout is clean.

And Matthew states, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest commandment.

A Scout is reverent toward God and faithful in their religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion by being a sister and brother to others.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

What is your promise Girl Scouts?

On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

What is your oath Boy Scouts?

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

As God's beloved children, let us pray for the world, the church, and all those in need, especially this day, Scout Sunday, as we reaffirm our support to helping all.

In Your great mercy, LORD, hear our prayer.

For open, honest and fair relationships between nations, cultures, communities of faith and families so that we honor each other and, in so doing, give glory to You. O God,

In Your great mercy, LORD, hear our prayer.

For lives that serve Your creation by using resources wisely and for people who try to make the world a better place so that the generations who come after us can share the beauty of Your creation, O God,

In Your great mercy, LORD, hear our prayer.

For our spirits to be friendly and helpful to all people ~ even to those who are unfriendly to us so that we set the example of how You ask us to live in the world. O God,

In Your great mercy, LORD, hear our prayer.

For the ability to be considerate and caring in our relationships and our interactions with others so that we are constantly working at building up relationships instead of breaking them down. O God,

In Your great mercy, LORD, hear our prayer.

For the power to be courageous and strong ~ never afraid of doing what is right regardless of what our peers and the culture tell us. O God,

In Your great mercy, LORD, hear our prayer.

For the gift of respect ~ respect for myself and others and respect for those in authority so that we recognize the humanity in everyone, lift up the dignity of all people and ensure a society that values each individual. O God,

In Your great mercy, LORD, hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O LORD, we commend all people and all the needs we place before You in our prayers. O God,

In Your great mercy, LORD, hear our prayer.

Hear us according to Your steadfast love, O God, and in Your great compassion bring us to resurrection and rebirth in Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, **Our Father...**