



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, PA 18080

610-767-9680

JULY 12, 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/Baptism**
Scrip Orders Due

Mon: 6:00 pm VBS

Tues: 6:00 pm VBS

Wed: 6:00 pm VBS

Thurs: 6:00 pm VBS

Fri: 6:00 pm VBS

7:00 pm AA Back to Basics

Sat: 6:00 pm VBS Campout

Sun: 10:00 am **Sunday Worship**

Closing VBS program

Scrip Orders Delivered

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
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 July is School of Theology at Moravian University (formerly Lancaster Theological Seminary)

They are an ecumenical seminary that is known for academic excellence, celebration of differences across Christian traditions, and creative engagement on issues of importance to our world. www.lancasterseminary.edu

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)

July 05-\$1,914.40 E-Giving \$446.61 (88)

Online offering at **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.

- **VBS Theme Into the Wilderness with God at Camp Good Shepherd, July 13-17th 6-8pm** Campout, July 18-19th with hot dog/hamburger dinner and light breakfast before church on the 19th Closing: during church service on the 19th at 10am. See Amanda Smith to register.
- 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. Northern Lehigh School District serves about 100 families each week.
- We are **looking for sponsors** for **Bulletins, flowers** and **Holy Grounds refreshments**. Please sign up on the calendar on the bulletin board.
- **Looking for volunteers to mow grass**. Mowers and gas are provided by the church. Sign up in the Narthex.
- **Looking for office volunteers over the summer** who would be able and willing to scan a large number of photos and put them on a flash drive (provided) as a way to preserve our congregation's history. Please contact Pastor James or Eileen Andrews if you would like to help.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

Family of... William "Bill" George

Family and Friends needing prayer: Barry Soldridge, Marc Benninger, Cheryl Henning, Dale Bossons, Michael Bossons, Penny Keen, Bryan Puskas, Deb Derhammer, Jennifer Frohnheiser, Lee Haas, Diane Hardey, Brett Hunsicker, Bruce Kralik, Don Kutzner, Tina Minnich, Barry Silfies, Eddie Smith, Carol Ziegenfus, Tom Alcaro, Karen Anthony, Gail Bell, 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

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.



Birthdays

Jul 12-Tucker Hosier

Jul 13-Joseph Bartczak

Jul 15-Rowan Sander

Jul 17-Tyla Block

Jul 17-Bob Koons

Jul 18-Beth Kutzner



Anniversaries

Jul 17-Randy & Cindy (Passaro) Parks

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Acolyte	Mackenzi Palmer
Special Music	Eric Hantz
Head Deacon	Mary Storm
Lay Reader	Evan Shoemaker
Greeter	Linda Soldridge
Altar Guild	Elizabeth Alcaro & Nancy Leitgeb
Media Team	Marie Bachman, Deb Craig, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz, Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger, and Beth Kutzner

Altar Flowers are to the Honor and Glory of God.
Bulletins are to the Glory of God and in Honor of granddaughter, Raelyn Rinker’s birthday
by Tammy Schaeffer.

Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Zoey Ann Frable**, born on November 4, 2024. She is the daughter of Victoria Snyder and Jeremy Frable. Her grandparents are Glenn Snyder & Elizabeth (Schellhamer) Halada and Joyce (Walters) Frable. Her great grandmother is Ruth (Hunsicker) Walters. Zoey’s godparents are Conway & Tammy (Snyder) Guynn.

Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Leo Charles Smith**, born on November 22, 2024. He is the son of Tyler & Caitlin (Haberin) Smith. His grandparents are Martin, Jr. & Maria (Mangano) Haberin and George & Debra (Kuntz) Smith. His great grandmother is Frances (Hewitt) Kuntz, a member of Good Shepherd. Leo’s godparents are Trent & Amanda (Bowers) Smith, members of Good Shepherd.

The water used for the baptisms is from the Jordan River in the Holy Land. The animals placed on the Baptismal Banner mark Zoey & Leo’s entrance on our cradle roll as the beginning of their faith formation process. The Baptismal Candle is lit to remind us that Jesus Christ is our light and guide on the path of faith.

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026
7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP

JULY 12, 2026 - SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*

* SOLEMN DECLARATION

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Sower goes out to sow, scattering seeds far and wide. **All God’s love is generously offered to all.**

Some seeds fall on rocky ground, some among thorns, and some on good soil. **May our hearts be open and ready to receive.**

God’s WORD brings hope and growth in new life. **We come to worship to be transformed by Your love. Amen.**

* HYMN ~ *Fairest Lord Jesus*

#97

* OPENING PRAYER

Generous God, You scatter the seeds of Your love and grace throughout the world. Open our hearts to receive the gifts You offer. Remove the stones of fear, the thorns of worry, and anything that keeps us from growing in faith. Nurture within us lives that bear the fruits of compassion, justice, kindness, and hope. As we worship You this day, prepare us to hear Your WORD and follow Your WAY. Amen.

Celebrating God's WORD in Our Midst

CONVERSATION WITH OUR YOUNGSTERS AND VBS BLESSING

Today we offer our prayers and blessings for all who will participate in our VBS Program entitled, “Into the Wilderness with God at Camp Good Shepherd.”

The wilderness is a place of adventure, discovery, challenge, and growth. Throughout scripture, God's people encountered God's presence in the wilderness ~ in moments of

wonder, learning, and transformation. As we prepare for this journey together, we ask God's blessing upon all who will share in this ministry. Let us pray.

Loving God, You led Your people through the wilderness with a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. You met Moses on the mountain, fed Your people with manna, and strengthened Jesus during his time in the desert.

Today we ask Your blessing upon the children and youth who will gather to learn, play, sing, create, and grow in faith experiencing You in the Wilderness here at Camp Good Shepherd. May it be a time of sowing seeds that fill their hearts with curiosity, joy, and wonder. Help them discover that wherever they go, Your love goes with them.

Bless our camp counselors, volunteers, and leaders. Grant them patience, wisdom, creativity, and energy. May they reflect Your love through their words, actions, and care for every child during this time of friendship and laughter, learning and service, exploration and discovery. May these seeds of faith that are sown, take root and grow strong. For wherever the journey leads, Your Spirit goes before us. Amen.

Children, youth, counselors, teachers, and volunteers, may God bless your journey into the wilderness. May you walk with courage, learn with wonder, serve with joy, and discover anew that God's love is with you every step of the way. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

BAPTISM OF ZOEY ANN FRABLE AND LEO CHARLES SMITH

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

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sower of Truth, plant Your WORD deep within us. Open our minds to understand, our hearts to receive, and our lives to respond faithfully to the message we hear today. Amen!

A READING from the Gospel of Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 [NRSVUE]

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!”

“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ A House Divided

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* and *Straight to the Heart*
Eric Hantz

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

The Sower in Jesus' parable scatters seed abundantly, trusting that growth will come. In the same spirit, we are invited to share generously from the gifts God has entrusted to us. **As we offer our gifts, may they become seeds of hope in our community and beyond. Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

*** 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, receive these gifts and the lives from which they come. Bless them and multiply their impact, that they may bear fruit for Your reign of love and justice. Plant seeds of hope through our giving and help us become faithful stewards of all that You have blessed us with on our journey. In Christ we pray. Amen!

*** HYMN** ~ *It Is Well with My Soul*

#561

Living God's WORD

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

#312

POSTLUDE ~ *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708

MUSIC ~ Eric Hantz

Eric would like to thank you for allowing him to be part of the special music program whether on guitar, piano or just running the soundboard and creating general chaos for Pastor James and his microphone.....

.....that's the part that really gets me excited.....Eric