



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

JULY 26, 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
12:00 pm VALOR Dinner Delivered
Fri: 7:00 pm AA Back to Basics
Sun: 10:00 am Sunday Worship
Summer Communion
12:00 pm Mini Golf at Bear Rock

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 worshippers’ 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 \$749.94 (88)
July 12-\$2,544.00 E-Giving \$268.11 (91)
July 19-\$3,281.00 E-Giving \$174.91 (96)

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 **set up the Power Point** for **Sunday services**. This can be done remotely. Contact Eric Hantz, Eileen Andrews or Pastor James if you are interested.
- Looking for someone to take **Baptismal pictures of the family for the Baptismal certificates**. Please see Pastor James if interested.
- Mini Golf at Bear Rock Junction, Sunday, August 2 at noon**. See RaeAnne Creyer for more information.
- Faith Night at the Iron Pigs, Friday, August 28, 2026. Tickets cost \$13**, which includes a \$2 food voucher. Game starts at 6:45 pm. See RaeAnne Creyer or email her at raeaa-6@gmail.com
- 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.
- 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.
- 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** 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 over the summer** who would be able and willing to scan a large number of photos and put them on a flash drive 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

Families of... Sherry Castello, Kathy Christman, Jonathan Williams

In Hospice... Diane Reitz

Family and Friends needing prayer: Grace Remaly, Marc Benninger, Dale Bossons, Michael Bossons, Deb Derhammer, Jennifer Frohnheiser, Lee Haas, Diane Hardey, Cheryl Henning, Brett Hunsicker, Penny Keen, Bruce Kralik, Don Kutzner, Bryan Puskas, Barry Silfies, Barry Soldridge, 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.

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.

Our Worship Leaders Today.

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

Evan Kresge
Mackenzi Palmer
Mary Storm
Carol Oswald
Gary & Jean Fatzinger
Elizabeth Alcaro & Nancy Leitgeb
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

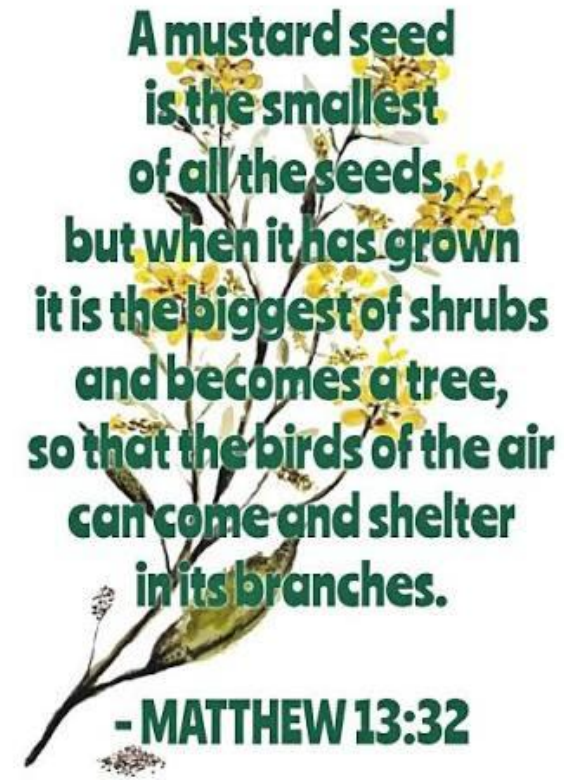
Jul 29-William Ruch
Jul 29-Matthew Shields, Jr.
Jul 30-Joe Puskas
Jul 31-Terry Derhammer
Jul 31-Mason Rex
Aug 1-Jackson Koneschusky



Anniversaries

Jul 27-Travis & Elizabeth (Shoemaker) Frantz
Jul 27-William “Biff” & Ann (Leiphart) Hayes
Jul 27-Roy Kleintop & “Tillie” Waller
Jul 28-Kerry & Sally (Sensinger) Loch

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026
9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP
JULY 26, 2026 - NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.” ~
Vincent van Gogh

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *Shout to the Lord*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

The reign of God begins like a tiny seed planted in the earth. **Yet it grows beyond what we can imagine.**

The reign of God works quietly, like yeast in the dough.
Transforming lives, communities, and the world.

God invites us to discover treasures of hope, love, and purpose. **We come to worship with open hearts and eager spirits.**

*** HYMN ~ *I Am Thine, O Lord***

#601

*** OPENING PRAYER**

God of surprises, You reveal Your presence in small beginnings and unexpected places. Open our eyes to see the treasures of Your reign among us. Help us recognize the ways Your love is at work in our lives and in the world around us. Nurture our faith, deepen our commitment, and inspire us to share Your hope with others. May our worship this day 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

Hearing God's WORD
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy Wisdom, as we hear Your WORD, open our hearts to
recognize the hidden treasures of Your grace. Amen!**

A READING from the Gospel of Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 [NRSVUE]

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the

kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Weaving the Future

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *After the Rain*

Mackenzi Palmer, Clarinet

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

Jesus spoke of a treasure hidden in a field and a pearl of great value. When we discover something truly precious, our response is gratitude and joyful commitment. **Today we offer our gifts as a sign of thanksgiving for God’s abundant blessings and as an investment in the work of God's reign among us. Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*

*** 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**

Generous God, receive these gifts and the lives from which they come. Bless them and use them to nurture hope, extend compassion, and strengthen Your work in the world. May these offerings, like mustard seeds planted in fertile soil, grow beyond our imagining and bear fruit for generations to come. Amen!

*** HYMN ~ *Take My Life* (vs. 1-3)**

#609

Living God's WORD

*** THE COMMISSION, BENEDICTION, AND THREE-FOLD AMEN #312**

POSTLUDE ~ *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

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

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708

Kenzi Palmer attends Palmerton Area SD and has been playing clarinet for 2 years. One day she would like to learn how to play bass clarinet.

Please join us next Sunday, August 2 for Summer Communion.