



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, PA 18080

610-767-9680

JUNE 29, 2025

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

Office Hours: T W 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

TH 8:00 am – Noon

Sun: 10:00 am **Sunday Worship**
11:15 am **Open & Affirming Sunday**
12:00 pm Potential Confirmands Meeting
VALOR Dinner Delivered
Wed: 6:30 pm Financial Peace University
Fri: 7:00 pm AA Back to Basics
Sun: 10:00 am **Sunday Worship**
God & Country Communion

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 June is Northern Lehigh Pastoral Association

Northern Lehigh Pastoral Association is an ecumenical group of authorized ministers serving the Northern Lehigh Area. They sponsor scholarships at Northern Lehigh HS, organize baccalaureate services and midweek Lenten services in the community.

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)

Jun 01-\$1,812.00 E-Giving \$191.44 (81)
Jun 08-\$2,115.00 E-Giving \$607.76 (104)
Jun 15-\$1,725.00 E-Giving \$343.87 (66)
Jun 22-\$2,411.00 E-Giving \$239.19 (81)

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. We've tested it and believe it is an improvement." Thank you for your patience. Sincerely, Good Shepherd Media Team."

Upcoming Events in the Life of Our Church.

- Financial Peace University, Wednesday's 6:30-8 pm taught by Monica Griffith again this summer. Dates are June 11,18,25, July 2,9,23,30, August 6, 13. No class on Wednesday, July 16. See Monica Griffith for more information. In-Person Class Registration: <https://www.financialpeace.com/app/classes/031621> Virtual Class Registration: <https://www.financialpeace.com/app/classes/722606> **It's not too late to register.**
- Pastor James is preparing sessions for the **next confirmation process**. Anyone who has completed 5th grade and desires to join the church is welcome to attend, along with their parents **today, June 29 at 11:15 am**, for a brief meeting. Please share this information with others who might be interested.
- Vacation Bible School** will be **Monday, July 14** through **Sunday, July 20**. For more information, see Amanda Smith.
- Set-up/decorating on Sunday July 13th after worship for VBS** at Heidelberg. If anyone is available to help, it would be greatly appreciated.
- Saturday July 19th** there will be a **"Road Rally"** to tie in with the VBS theme. It is a **scavenger hunt** but you drive to different places based on the clues. Anyone can join, even if they do not attend VBS. Please bring money for lunch after. It would **start at Heidelberg at 10am** and end around noon.
- We are **collecting canned spaghetti with pull top tabs** for **Backpack Buddies through August 31**. Northern Lehigh School District serves about 100 families each week. This program continues through the summer.
- Summer Breakfast Bunch** at **St. John's Lutheran Church**, Slatington will provide breakfast and a bag lunch **Monday through Friday** from **8:30 – 10 am**. The program will run from **June 16-August 22** for **ages 2 – 17. Volunteers and monetary donations or gift cards to local grocery stores are needed.** Contact St. John's Lutheran Church at 610-767-6361 or email them at stjohnslatington@gmail.com.
- Looking for office volunteers** who have organizational skills and enjoy history. Also looking for someone who is able to scan a large number of photos and put them on a flash drive. Please contact Pastor James or Eileen Andrews if you would like to help

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

In Hospice... Rick Keller

Family and Friends needing prayer: Taylor Bonser, Barbara Cannon, Randy Dailey, Chris Ivan, Vivian Neff, Frank Soldridge, Randy Andrews, Sherry Bishop, Deb Craig, Jean Fatzinger, Lee Haas, Erik Henritz, Rich Keen, Sandy Keller, Karen Kolek, Dillon Sherman, Chastity Corvino, Doug Farber, Frank Hart, Tracy Haydt, Barbara Hower, Gary Johannes, Hayden Keller, Susan Lukon, Chris Oertner, Dennis Raver, Rich Remaley, Gary Schneck, Frank Strohl, Jenn Wentz, John Zellner, 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, 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.

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

Beth Kutzner
Kendall Frantz
Eddie Smith
Marie Bachman
Karen Smith
Penny Keen

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

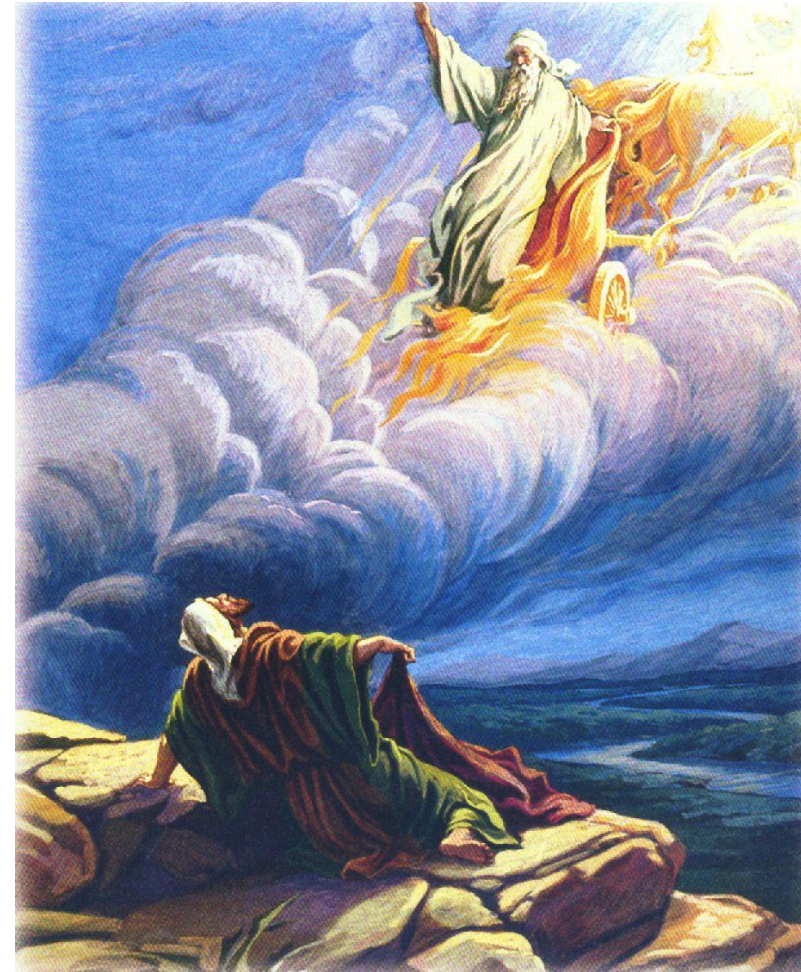
Jun 30-Cindy Parks
July 1-Connie Fogle
July 1-Isabella Palmer
July 1-Jennifer Sommers
July 1-Shane White
July 3-Ellen Biegly
July 4-Mason Bowers
July 4-Evelyn Flexer
July 4-Frank Gellis
July 4-Judy Mack
July 4-Diane Reitz



Anniversaries

July 2-Wally & Jackie (Minnich) Amey

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025
3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP

JUNE 29, 2025 - THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

* **SOLEMN DECLARATION**

Our service is in the name of the Holy One ~ Creator, Christ, and Spirit. **A God of welcome, inclusion, and boundless love. Amen.**

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Who do you say that Jesus is? **He is the Christ, the living presence of God's love among us.**

Upon that rock of justice and compassion, Christ builds a welcoming Church. **We are the living stones ~ diverse, beloved, and called together in grace.**

Come, let us worship the One who embraces all, who opens every door, and whose love knows no bounds. **With gratitude and celebration, we worship God!**

* **HYMN** ~ *Fairest Lord Jesus*

#97

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

* **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?" Too often, our lives echo the world's exclusion rather than Christ's embrace. Let us come with honesty and hope before the God whose mercy welcomes us all.

* **CONFESSION**

Christ of compassion, You call us to love without limits, but we have drawn lines and built walls. You welcome all people, yet we

have closed our hearts to some. Forgive us for our silence in the face of injustice, for the times we have not spoken or acted in love. Restore us with Your Spirit, that we may live boldly as Your Open and Affirming people. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved of God, hear this good news: Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God's grace is wider than we can imagine, and it is for *you*. **In Christ, we are accepted, forgiven, and made new. Thanks be to God! Amen!**

CHILDREN'S CHAT

BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of power and might help us understand more fully Your WORD of Life. Amen!

A READING from the Book of 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 [NRSV]

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, he and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please. The LORD has sent me on to Bethel." Elisha replied, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please. The LORD has sent me on to the Jordan." Elisha replied, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two went on together.

Fifty of the guild prophets followed and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood next to the Jordan. Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up and struck the water: it divided, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, “Request whatever I might do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha answered, “May I receive a double portion of your spirit.”

He replied, “You have asked something that is not easy. Still, if you see me taken up from you, your wish will be granted; otherwise not.”

As they walked on still conversing, a fiery chariot and fiery horses came between the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind, and Elisha saw it happen. He cried out, “My father! my father! Israel’s chariot and steeds!” Then he saw him no longer.

He gripped his own garment, tore it into two pieces, and picked up the mantle which had fallen from Elijah. Then he went back and stood at the bank of the Jordan.

Wielding the mantle which had fallen from Elijah, he struck the water and said, “The LORD, the God of Elijah—where is he now?”* He struck the water: it divided, and he crossed over.

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Pick Up the Mantle

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *Amazing Grace*

Beth Kutzner

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

Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom and called the Church to be a force for grace and justice. **We offer our gifts today, trusting that God will use them to open doors, to build hope, and to bless the world. Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *The Old Rugged Cross*

*** 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**

God of welcome, receive these gifts as a sign of our trust in Your vision for the world. Bless this offering and bless us ~ that we might be a Church of courage and compassion, a community where *all* are truly affirmed and loved. In Christ's name, Amen.

Living God's WORD

*** HYMN ~ *Pass It On***

#477

*** BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN**

#312

POSTLUDE ~ *Rejoice in God's Saints*

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

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708