



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

MARCH 19, 2023

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

T and W Office Hours: 11 am – 3 pm

Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation Rehearsal for Palm Sunday skit
	10:00 am	Worship Service <i>Scrip Orders Delivered</i>
	11:00 am	Youth Ensemble
	11:00 am	Fundraising Committee Meeting
	11:15 am	Faith Formation Team Meeting
Wed:	6:30 pm	Lenten Gathering with soup/salad
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir
Fri:	7:00 pm	AA Back to Basics
Sat:	9:00 am	Indoor Cleanup
Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation Rehearsal for Palm Sunday skit
	10:00 am	Worship Service <i>Corn due for Food Bank</i>
	11:30 am	Easter Choir practice with brass and Organ until 1:00 pm
	12:00 pm	VALOR Dinner Delivered

First-Time Guests

Welcome to Good Shepherd 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.
Faith Formation Director	Amanda Dieter
Preschool Director	Karen Weaver
Organist	TBD
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

- **March 25 – Indoor Cleanup 9:00 am.** Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.
- Please join the **Chancel Choir** for rehearsals on **Sunday, March 26** from **11:30 am to 1:00 pm** and **Tuesday, April 4** from **7:00 to 8:30 pm** for **Easter Sunday** and/or **Maunday Thursday**. The **Youth Ensemble/Faith Formations** will be presenting a skit during church on Palm Sunday. All youth are welcome to join us for rehearsals, this coming **Sunday, March 19th** at **9 am** and again on **Sunday, March 26th** at **9 am**. The skit will be performed during the Palm Sunday Service on **April 2** at **10:00 AM**. This skit will include drama and music! **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. Youth Ensemble will not meet March 26.
- On **April 1, 2023, Family Promise** will be holding their **Annual Homecoming** at the beautiful **Aster Event Center at Hyatt Place in Allentown** at **5:30 pm**. Please contact Ann Hayes at ahayes2395@gmail.com.
- **Good Friday Services** will be held on **Friday, April 7** at **Heidelberg Union Church** at **7:00 pm**.
- **Children's Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 8** at **11:00 am**. Looking for donations of plastic eggs, candy and special prizes. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.
- **Gift Card & Basket Bingo – Saturday, April 15.** Doors and kitchen open at 12:00 pm, games start at 1:00 pm. 20 regular and 5 special games for \$25. Proceeds will benefit the Organ Fund.



Mar 19-David & Emily (Silfies) McGinnis
Mar 21-James & Eileen (Walters) George
Mar 25-Anthony & Keyla (Saez) Babb

Our Worship Leaders Today

Guest Organist	Judy Bingham
Acolyte	TBD
Head Deacon	Darlene Nothstein
Lay Reader	Darlene Nothstein
Greeter	Jean & Gary Fatzinger
Altar Guild	Julie Solt
Media Production Team	Deb Craig, Riley Fallon, Eric Hantz, Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger and Beth Kutzner



Altar Flowers are to the Honor and Glory of God.
The **Bulletins** are in Honor of Dorothy Arnold by Tracey Gursky.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

Family and Friends needing prayer: Karen Smith, Butch Biegly, Sherry Bishop, John Erndl, Greg Fink, Jeff Hanzarik, Jennifer Harris, Holley Henderson, Sandy Keller, Sandy Sillers, Lawrence Whitenight, Jane Achey, Dave Bauer, Laura Castellani, Michael Dieffenderfer, Lisa Gilly, Jane Haldeman, Dan Hamm, Jim Joyce, Shawn Kress, Kevin Kroboth, Wayne Kuhns, Chris Newhard, Connie Renner, Alice Schnell, Dee Dee Sloane, Craig Solt, Sallie Solt, Rich Taylor.

*Purged at beginning of each month.
Renews are welcome*

Homebound Members: Marge Bass, Mary Bilheimer, Kay Costenbader, Dale-Ann Derr, Dennis Derr, Betty Humanick, and Susan 'Tillie' Waller.

All the young men and women serving our country: Colby Adams, Anthony Babb, Dalton Housenick, Kira (Kern) Kelsey, Michael Kelsey, Rebecca McMichael, David Neff, Spencer Perkins, Nicholas Sander, Clint Schaeffer, Benjamin Schaffer, Jacqueline Tracy, and Janel Tracy.

Prayers for Students in higher education: Megan Bankes at Glenville State WV, Asa Blynn at Kutztown University, Angie Carbin at Widener University, Dylan Coffin at Moravian University, Carissa Fallon at Penn State, Ben Griffith at Wilkes University, Emma Hope at LCCC, Evan Horninger at DeSales University, Olivia Horninger at Cedar Crest College, Jade Rice at Bloomsburg University, Brody Ritter at the University of Delaware, Caleb Sommers at Kutztown University, Ariana Smoyer at Metro Beauty Academy, Calista Smoyer at West Virginia University, Luke Zook at Villanova University.

Offerings Mission Calendar

Our Mission focus for **March** is **Habitat for Humanity**. We build because we believe that everyone, everywhere should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. More than building homes, we build communities, we build hope and we build the opportunity for families to help themselves. Your donation will help families break the cycle of poverty and build long-term financial security. With an affordable, stable home, families have more to spend on food, medicine, childcare, education and other essentials. www.habitat.org.

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 that one of our youth is holding in the Narthex prior to the service.

Financial Update Offering & Attendance

Mar 01-\$133.00 (34)
Mar 05-\$3,499.00 E-Giving \$628.40 (76)
Mar 08-\$165.20 (32)
Mar 12-\$1,650.00 E-Giving \$422.72 (55)

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



Birthdays

Mar 19-Gary Fatzinger
Mar 21-Sandy Hantz
Mar 21-Dwayne Kern
Mar 22-Linda Coffin
Mar 22-Ryan Hausman
Mar 23-Jean Fatzinger
Mar 23-Tillie Waller
Mar 24-Randy Parks
Mar 24-Eric Smith
Mar 25-Megan Bankes
Mar 25-Tania Kresge
Mar 25-Michael Sander

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MARCH 19, 2023 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

* SOLEMN DECLARATION

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship God together as a community of faith. **Amen.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN ~ *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

#196

* SERVICE OF THE LENTEN CROSS ~ *Sponge*

“When Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), ‘I am thirsty.’ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” - John 19:28b- 30

Hyssop was used for purification in the temple and was a sign of cleanliness. We read in Psalm 51, “Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean.” And it was with the hyssop branch that the Israelites painted their doorposts with the blood of the sacrificial lamb during the Passover saving them from death. Jesus was mistreated for our sins and remained sinless. How have we mistreated others as Jesus was mistreated on the cross ~ how have we been called to forgive those who mistreat us?

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins, for the Holy One delights in blessing those who seek to walk with God.

* CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. Please keep raising us from the deadness of sin so that we might know Your mercy and grace through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Sisters and brothers, we are forgiven by the faith of Christ. **Amen!**

*** GLORY TO GOD (both verses)**

#34

*** LENTEN CONFSSIONAL 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.

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and our minds, so that we can understand the fullness of Your WORD. Amen!

A READING from the Gospel of John 9:1-41 [NRSV]

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his

sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Sacred Encounters

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ Come to the Garden

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

Our lives overflow with the Goodness of God. Let us share what we have so abundantly received so others might know the good news in Christ. Amen.

*** DOXOLOGY**

#46

**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**

We thank You, God, that You have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of Your world. May this offering of our life and labor reveal Your love as we seek to share Your promised reign with all creation. Amen!

*** RECESSIONAL HYMN ~ *Go, My Children, with My Blessing***

#431

Living God's WORD

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

POSTLUDE

Liturgy from *Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion, Year C*, Volume 1 CCLI#1783708