



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, PA 18080

610-767-9680

MAY 11, 2025

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

Office Hours: M TH 9:00 am - Noon
T 7:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sun: 9:00 am Faith Formation
10:00 am Sunday Worship Service

Mother's Day

Scrip Orders Due

Mon: 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting

Tues: 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Fri: 7:00 pm AA Back to Basics

Sun: 9:00 am Faith Formation

10:00 am Sunday Worship Service

Scrip Orders Delivered

11:15 am Confirmation Sessions 14 & 4

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 May is Muscular Dystrophy

MDA is leading the fight to free individuals – and their families from the harmful effects of muscular dystrophy, ALS and related muscle-debilitating diseases so they can live longer and grow stronger. www.mda.org.

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)

May 4-\$2,158.00 E-Giving \$283.98 (62)

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. 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.

- If you have a **family member graduating** from high school/college/university/trade school and would like to have their information included in our bulletin for **Graduate Sunday** on **June 1**, please take an information sheet in the Narthex and **return it to the office by Sunday, May 25**.
- Northwestern Lehigh Baccalaureate Services** are scheduled for **May 29 at 6 PM at Jacobs Church, 8373 Kings Hwy, New Tripoli, PA 18066** sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Chapter at Northwestern High School.
- We are **collecting packages of individual bags of goldfish** for **Backpack Buddies through June 29**. Northern Lehigh School District serves about 100 families each week. We collected 188 fruit packs for March and April.
- Looking for **volunteers to mow the lawn**. Please sign up in the Narthex for the week you would like to volunteer.
- If you are interested in **touring the Hindu Temple & Islamic Mosque** on **Saturday, May 24** with the confirmands, please sign up in the Narthex.
- Memorial Day Services** at **Slatedale Cemetery, Monday, May 26 at 8:30 am**.
- New member classes** will be held on **June 1 at 11:15 am** with **members joining June 8**.
- 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.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

Families of... Wade Fisher, Rodney Moreira, Kylie Schneider

In Hospice... Barbara Mathias

Family and Friends needing prayer: Frank Soldridge, Sherry Bishop, Deb Craig, Lee Haas, Holley Henderson, Rick & Sandy Keller, Marion Madenheim, Walter Miller, Misty Nagata, 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.

Prayers for Students in higher education: Dane Badman at LCCC, Megan Bankes at Glenville State WV, Tyla Block at Widener, Aricka Creyer at LCCC, Carissa Fallon at Penn State, Riley Fallon at Penn State, Ben Griffith at Luzerne, Katy Griffith at Cedar Crest, Emma Hope at Kutztown, Sarah Hope at LCCC, Evan Horninger at DeSales, Olivia Horninger at Cedar Crest, Cece Pyfer at LCCC, Jade Rice at DeSales, Brody Ritter at the University of Delaware, Caden Shields at Muhlenberg, Colleen Shields at Strayer, Caleb Sommers at Kutztown, Calista Smoyer at West Virginia, Gabriella Smoyer at Cedar Crest, Luke Zook at Villanova.

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Acolyte
Head Deacon
Lay Reader
Greeter
Altar Guild
Media Team

Matthew Bowers
Darlene Nothstein
Peter Beblavy
Colleen Shields
Sharon Conway

Marie Bachman, Deb Craig, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky,
Eric Hantz, Bryan Horninger, Evan Horninger, and Beth Kutzner

Altar Flowers are to the Honor & Glory of God.
Bulletins are to the Glory of God and in Memory of Stephen Dieter by daughter Fiona Dieter.



Birthdays

May 11-Carrie John
May 12-Hayley Knittle
May 12-Kenneth Ritter
May 12-Sandy Sillers
May 12-Annette Zuber-Kohler
May 12-Matthew Shields, Sr.
May 16-Donna Fox



Anniversaries

May 11-Tom & Jodie (Sillers) Hourt
May 13-Kelsey & Jordan Knittle-Moser
May 13-Tyler & Taylor (Lagler) Rex
May 14-Kevin & Kellie (Romig) Smith
May 16-Terry & Debra (Ledo) Derhammer
May 17-Gerald & Shirley (Bowman) Phillips

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ORDER OF WORSHIP
MAY 11, 2025 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MOTHER'S DAY

JUBILATE

In the German Reformed tradition, each Sunday of Easter takes its name in Latin from the first few words of the introit prayer. The introit for the fourth Sunday of Easter is “Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands; sing forth the honor of his Name; make his praise glorious.” Jubilate loosely translated means ‘rejoice.’

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

Gathering for God's Word

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, people of God, let us gather in gratitude and awe. **For the Lord is at work among us, bringing life and lifting the lowly.**

Today we remember Tabitha, a woman full of good works and love. **And we give thanks for all who show us Christ through compassion ~ mothers, mentors, friends, and neighbors.**

God, who raised Tabitha, still brings life where there was loss, and hope where there was grief. **Let us worship the God of resurrection and love!**

*** OPENING PRAYER**

Loving and life-giving God, on this day, we remember with joy the faithful witness of Tabitha ~ a woman whose kindness rippled through her community. **We give thanks for all who, like her, reflect Your grace: mothers, grandmothers, sisters in faith, and all who nurture life. Bless this time of worship. Raise up in us a spirit of compassion and care. May our hearts be open to Your Word and to one another. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

*** HYMN ~ *Faith of Our Mothers*** (to the tune of Faith of Our Fathers)

Verse 1:

**Faith of our mothers, strong and true, In quiet prayers and works they grew,
Through trials faced with patient grace, Their lives revealed God’s love and face.
Faith of our mothers, holy faith, We will be true to thee till death.**

Verse 2:

**Faith of our mothers, guiding light, Through darkest days and longest night,
Their gentle hands and voices taught The truths of Christ our hearts have caught.
Faith of our mothers, living flame, Still burns in us in Jesus' name.**

Verse 3:

**Faith of our mothers, gift divine, We see in them God's sacred sign,
Their courage, hope, and steadfast care, Have led us in the way of prayer.
Faith of our mothers, cherished song, Forever in our hearts lives strong.**

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

*** CALL TO CONFESSION**

Even in our best efforts to do good, we fall short of the love we are called to live. But God is gracious, always ready to forgive, to heal, and to restore. Let us come honestly before the Lord in confession.

*** CONFESSION**

God of mercy, we confess that we have not always followed the example of Christ or the compassion of saints like Tabitha. We have ignored the needs around us, withheld kindness, and forgotten the power of small, loving acts. Forgive us. Renew us with Your Spirit. Help us to live with love, serve with joy, and follow where Jesus leads. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, hear the Good News: God raised Tabitha to life, just as God raises us from sin to grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and made whole. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

*** STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

We believe in You, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to Your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to Yourself.

You bestow upon us Your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into Your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be Your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist

the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust You, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, Your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in Your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto You. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of compassion and wonder, as we open Your WORD, open our hearts. Let the story of Tabitha remind us that You work through ordinary people and simple acts of love. Speak to us through Scripture and guide us to live lives worthy of Your calling. Amen!

A READING from the Book of Acts 9:36-43 [NRSV]

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Life-giving Acts

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *Glory to God Forever*

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

Tabitha's generosity blessed a whole community ~ her life was a gift, and her legacy was love. **As we give our tithes and offerings, let us remember: Every act of giving can be an act of love. Every gift shared in faith becomes a part of God's life-giving work. Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*** 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 gifts to You ~ in memory of the love that has shaped us, and in hope for the lives still to be touched. Bless these offerings, that they may bring healing, hope, and joy in Jesus' name. May we, like Tabitha, use what we have to serve You with glad hearts. Amen!

*** HYMN ~ *Rock of Ages***

#214

Living God's WORD

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

#312

POSTLUDE ~ *To God Be the Glory*

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

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708