



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3940 Mountain Road, Slatington, PA 18080

610-767-9680

MAY 18, 2025

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

Office Hours: T W TH 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

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|-------|----------|--|
| Sun: | 9:00 am | Faith Formation |
| | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship Service <i>Scrip Orders Delivered</i> |
| | 11:15 am | Confirmation Sessions 14 & 4 |
| Tues: | 7:00 pm | Choir Practice |
| Wed: | 6:00 pm | Preschool Graduation |
| Fri: | 7:00 pm | AA Back to Basics |
| Sat: | 9:30 am | Leave church for Hindu Temple |
| Sun: | 9:00 am | Faith Formation |
| | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship Service <i>Strengthen the Church</i> <i>Special Offering</i> |

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 04-\$2,158.00 E-Giving \$284.43 (62)

May 11-\$1,935.00 E-Giving \$469.02 (86)

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.

- 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, or Wednesday, May 21 to have it included in the June newsletter.**
- 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. **We will be leaving promptly at 9:30 am.**
- **Memorial Day Services** at **Slatedale Cemetery, Monday, May 26 at 8 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

Family of... Renee Phillips

In Hospice... Marion Madenheim, Barbara Mathias, Lawrence Whitenight

Family and Friends needing prayer: Richard Christman, Audrey Rehrig, Frank Soldridge, Angela Weidner, Pope Leo XIV, Sherry Bishop, Deb Craig, Lee Haas, Holley Henderson, Rick & Sandy Keller, Walter Miller, Misty Nagata, Frank Soldridge, 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.

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, Tyla Block at Widener, Aricka Creyer at LCCC, Riley Fallon at Penn State, Ben Griffith at Luzerne, Katy Griffith at Cedar Crest, Sarah Hope at LCCC, 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, Gabriella Smoyer at Cedar Crest, Luke Zook at Villanova.

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Acolyte
Head Deacon
Lay Reader
Greeter
Altar Guild
Media Team

Holden Schaffer
Darlene Nothstein
Pam Puskas
Kelsey & Jordan Knittle-Moser
Sharon Conway
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 & Glory of God.



Birthdays

May 19-Linda Schock
May 20-Aiden Conway
May 22-Megan Robb
May 23-Kelsey Goodhile
May 23-Stephanie Gursky
May 23-Tanner Kresge
May 23-Breonna Richardson
May 24-Jonell Kuremsky



Anniversaries

May 21-Dale & Amy (Neff) Knittle
May 23-Erick & Tania (Olsen) Kresge

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ORDER OF WORSHIP
MAY 18, 2025 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CANTATE

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 fifth Sunday of Easter is “O Sing unto the Lord a new song, for he hath done marvelous things. The Lord hath made known his salvation; his righteousness hath he openly showed in the sight of the heathen.” Cantate loosely translated means ‘sing.’

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *How Great Thou Art*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sing a new song, for God is making all things new! **We lift our voices in praise, for the old has passed away.**

The holy city comes down, and God dwells among us. **Death will be no more, and every tear will be wiped away.**

Let all creation rejoice and sing! **For the Alpha and the Omega has spoken: “It is done!” Let us sing to the Lord, who writes a new song in our hearts!**

*** OPENING PRAYER**

Creator of new beginnings, Composer of heaven’s symphony, today we join the eternal chorus of praise. You make all things new ~ wiping away tears, ending sorrow, and promising life beyond death. Help us to sing not just with our lips, but with our lives. May this time of worship be a song of joy, a melody of hope, and a harmony of love, in the name of the One who is the beginning and the end ~ Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** HYMN ~ *All Creatures of Our God and King***

#22

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

*** CALL TO CONFESSION**

Before God makes all things new, we are invited to lay down all that is broken. Let us come in honesty and hope ~ confessing our sins and singing our need for mercy.

*** CONFESSION**

God of renewal, we confess that we often live as if the old ways still define us. We sing songs of fear instead of trust, of complaint instead of praise, of silence when we should speak. Forgive us. Tune our hearts to Your grace. Teach us a new song of faith, hope, and love ~ in harmony with Your promise to make all things new. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news: The One seated on the throne says, “See, I am making all things new.” Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, and in Him, we are forgiven, renewed, and restored. **Thanks be to God! Our hearts will sing a new song forever. Amen!**

BAPTISM OF EDEN ROSE SHOEMAKER

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

CHILDREN’S CHAT

BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, open our hearts to Your WORD so we may hear not only ancient promises, but present hope. Amen!

A READING from the Book of Revelation 21:1-6 [NRSV]

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,

coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Imagine

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *Here I Am Lord*

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

In the new heaven and earth, there is no scarcity ~ only abundance, joy, and grace.
**As we offer our gifts, we join the song of creation, offering what we have in faith,
so others may hear the music of God's renewing love. Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *Majesty*

*** 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**

Composer of all that is good, receive these gifts as part of our song of praise. Use them to build communities of joy, to comfort those who weep, and to proclaim that You are making all things new. Let every dollar be a note in Your symphony of grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

*** HYMN ~ *He Leadeth Me***

#545

Living God's WORD

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

#312

POSTLUDE ~ *How Majestic Is Your Name*

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

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708



Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Eden Rose Shoemaker** born on September 3, 2022, in Allentown, PA. She is the daughter of Evan & Samantha (Troxell) Shoemaker. Eden joins a sister, Delaney Ann Dugan. Her grandparents are Edward & Angela (Shiffert) Shoemaker, Michael & Lori (Kline) Hottinger and Kenneth Troxell, Jr. Her great grandparents are Vincent & Joyce (Mack) Roman, Kay (Strohl) Shiffert, Carol (Stein) Shoemaker and Kenneth Troxell, Sr. Eden's godparents are Nathan Troxell and Elizabeth Frantz.

The water used for the baptism is from the Jordan River in the Holy Land. The animal placed on the Baptismal Banner marks Eden's entrance in our cradle roll as the beginning of her faith formation process. The Baptismal Candle is lit to remind us that Jesus Christ is our light and guide on the path of faith.