



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

MAY 28, 2023

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

T and W Office Hours: 11 am – 3 pm

Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation
	9:00 am	Women of the Bible The 2 Marys
	10:00 am	Worship Service w/ Communion
		Confirmation Sunday
	11:00 am	Grill 'In Raffle Drawing
	11:00 am	Youth Ensemble
Tues:	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Practice
Fri:	7:00 pm	AA Back to Basics
Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation
	9:00 am	Women of the Bible/final session
	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:15 am	Youth Fellowship

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/Pianist	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

- **Grill 'In Raffle** will be held **today, Sunday May 28** after church in the Narthex.
- Sally Loch is leading an **8-week women's group** entitled **Women of the Bible**, during Faith Formation at **9 am** ending June 4.
- If you or a loved one are **graduating in 2023**, please fill out the form in the Narthex and place it in the offering plate by **next Sunday, June 4**, so that we can honor them on **June 11** during **Graduation Sunday**.
- Fundraising will be holding a **Church Yard Sale on Saturday, June 10** from **9 am to 2 pm**. We will be taking donations of items to sell, **NO FURNITURE PLEASE**, starting **this week, Sunday, May 28** until **Sunday, June 4**. Also looking for volunteers to help with pricing items and on the day of the sale. All proceeds to benefit a new office copier. Keep the church in mind as you are doing your Spring Cleaning.
- **Clothing drop-off box** at the rear of the property earns the church money per pound. If you are cleaning out your closets, this is a good fundraiser for the church.
- **Preschool Summer camp registration** is open for the following weeks: June 12-16, June 19-23, July 31-Aug 4, Aug 7-11. Hours are Monday-Friday 9 am to noon. Registration is \$100 per week, For more information or to register, contact Karen Weaver at karenls2@hotmail.com or 610-657-5133.
- **Vacation Bible School is June 25 – June 29**. Registration forms are in the Narthex. Volunteers needed along with snacks for Sunday – Wednesday.
- **Redner's Save-A-Tape** bucket in Narthex. The church gets 1% of your receipt if you have a Save-A-Tape card from Redner's.

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Guest Organist	Mitchell Hourt
Acolyte	Matthew Bowers
Head Deacon	Joe Conway
Lay Reader	Darlene Nothstein
Greeter	Matthew Bowers & Penny Keen
Altar Guild	Penny Keen
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 to the Honor and Glory of God.
The Geraniums adorning the sanctuary are given to the honor and glory of God and in honor of the friends and members of Good Shepherd by Rev. James Robison, Jr.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

Families of... Amy Hollenbach, Justin Thompson
Family and Friends needing prayer: Amanda Dieter, Fiona Dieter, Jen G, Spencer Perkins and the citizens of Guam, Gary Anthony, Connie Beblavy, Doug Farber, Beverly Fehnel, Lee Haas, Dwayne Kern, Eddie Smith, Jane Achey, Gail Bell, Jim Craig, Michael Dieffenderfer, Lisa Gilly, Bob Koons, Shawn Kress, Kevin Kroboth, Wayne Kuhns, Chris Newhard, Connie Renner, Alice Schnell, Dee Dee Sloane, Craig Solt, Sallie Solt, Rich Taylor, Anna Mae Weiss

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

Homebound Members: Marge Bass, Mary Bilheimer, Kay Costenbader, 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, Benjamin Schaffer, Jacqueline Tracy, and Janel Tracy.



Anniversaries

May 29-Blaine & Marilyn (Bisko) Reitz
Jun 01-Greg & Connie (Smoyer) Fogle
Jun 03-Chad & Jennifer (Derr) Sommers

Offerings Mission Calendar

Our Mission focus for **May** is **Muscular Dystrophy**. MDA is leading the fight to free individuals – and the families who love them – from the harmful effects of muscle-debilitating diseases. We use our collective strength to help kids and adults live longer and grow stronger by finding research breakthroughs across diseases, caring for individuals from day one and empowering families with services and support across America. www.mda.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

May 07-\$2,201.00 E-Giving \$368.57 (67)
May 14-\$2,405.00 E-Giving \$357.95 (104)
May 21-\$1,881.00 E-Giving \$391.34 (66)

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



Birthdays

May 28-Ann Behler
May 28-Amanda Bowers
May 28-Richard Schock
May 29-Amy Horninger
May 29-David Silfies
May 31-Cheryl Bowers
May 31-Rick Keller
May 31-Emma Kremposky
Jun 01-June Frohnheiser
Jun 01-Michelle Walters
Jun 02-David Derkits
Jun 02-Donna Heller
Jun 02-Mark Schaeffer
Jun 03-Sharon Conway
Jun 03-Michael Passaro
Jun 03-Shirley Smith

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MAY 28, 2023 - PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts away every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit."

Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to our source of life.

The Gardener trims clean every branch that does produce fruit, so that it will produce even more fruit. We are already clean because of what Christ has said to us.

Holy Spirit, may we trust Your nudging and pruning.

Stay joined to Christ, as Christ stays joined to us. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, we cannot produce fruit unless we stay joined to Christ.

Holy Spirit, keep us away from distractions that do not sustain us.

Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. If we stay joined to Christ, and Christ stays joined to us, then we will produce lots of fruit. But we cannot do anything without Jesus.

Holy Spirit, may we produce a harvest of Christ's love to nourish the world. Amen.

* HYMN ~ *Spirit*

#249

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

* CONFESSION

God, we have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love. We do not keep Your WORD, and when we participate in gossip, our words and deeds cause pain. Forgive us by the power of Your mercy, that we might stand in the goodness of Christ and walk in the light of his love. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Sisters and brothers, your sins are forgiven by the faith of Christ, who chose love over hatred and forgiveness over blame. **Amen!**

*** RESPONSE ~ *My Tribute***

#39

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

COVENANT WITH PARENTS OF THE CONFIRMANDS

COVENANT WITH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF GOOD SHEPHERD UCC

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FOR THE CONFIRMANDS

Almighty God, who in baptism received these Your servants into the Church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of Your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving You, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

[Confirmands come before the Altar and kneel as their name is called]

Adam Jonathan Griffith

Madison Marie Sommers

EXTENDING THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

A READING from the Gospel of John 20:19-23 [NRSV]

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Life-Giving Spirit

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *Send Down Your Spirit Lord* Chancel Choir
with Eric Hantz, Bass Guitar

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

With Thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. **Amen.**

* 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

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!

COMMUNION LITURGY (Sung to the tune of *Hallelujah* by Leonard Cohen)

The night before our Savior died, A Seder meal was set aside
And friends of Jesus came with Him to eat it.

The bread was passed, the wine was poured,
And everybody, praised the Lord
With a glorious and gracious Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

And when the Seder meal was through The Lord took bread and raised it to
Our God above and gave a blessing for it.
He broke the bread and said to all
“Each time you eat, you will recall,
It was me that gave my body for ya.”
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Then Jesus took His cup in hand
He raised it up to God and then
He asked His God to place a blessing on it.
He passed the cup for all to drink. He said, “Remember me and think
Of this wine as the blood I'm shedding for ya”
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Holy Spirit come upon these gifts, and those here looking on,
As we commit our lives to You in service.
Bless these gifts and bless our lives; we lift our hearts, we lift our eyes,
To new life in Your grace and peace and justice.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Sung to the tune of *Hallelujah* by Leonard Cohen)

**We thank You God for all Your love, Your gifts You share from up above
You love us so, though we do not deserve it.
You share the WAY through Jesus Christ to plant the seeds for eternal life**

**And ask that You hear our grateful Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

*** HYMN ~ *This Is a Day of New Beginnings* #518**

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* CCL#1783708

Our Confirmands

Adam Jonathan Griffith is the son of Monica (Zellner) Griffith and Jonathan Griffith. He is the grandson of John and Susan (DeLong) Zellner. He has 2 brothers, Ben and Noah and a sister Katy.

Adam was baptized December 19, 2010 at Good Shepherd UCC by Rev. James D. Robison, Jr.

Adam is in Sixth Grade at Northwestern Lehigh Middle School. His activities include Youth Fellowship, Boy Scouts, Football, Wrestling, Baseball, and archery.

In his spare time, he enjoys reading, camping, hiking, bike riding and swimming. After confirmation he would like to continue to attend church, help at Vacation Bible School and with fundraisers.

Madison Marie Sommers is the daughter of Chad and Jennifer (Derr) Sommers and the granddaughter of Dennis Derr. She has an older brother, Caleb, who is attending college.

Madison was baptized October 11, 2009 at First UCC Palmerton by Rev. H. Richard McClain.

Madison is in Eighth grade at Palmerton Jr. High School and participates in her school's drama club, chorus and cheerleading. Let's go Bombers!

In her spare time, she enjoys drawing, reading and writing stories. After confirmation, she would like to help with fundraising efforts. She really enjoyed helping with our old church's basket social and helping with dinners. She would also love to help decorate for the different seasons and holidays. She and her mom joined the Altar Guild and are looking forward to volunteering.

She is thinking of joining the choir if her school schedule allows it. Madison is looking forward to being an adult member of our church and helping to shape it for future generations.



Fundraising will be holding a **Church Yard Sale on Saturday, June 10 from 9 am to 2 pm.** Also looking for volunteers to help with pricing items and on the day of the sale. Proceeds will go for a new church copier. Keep the church in mind as you are doing your Spring Cleaning. We will be taking donations of items to sell, **NO FURNITURE PLEASE**, starting Sunday, May 28 until Sunday, June 4.

Dates & Times for Yard Sale Item Drop Off

Sunday, May 28 – After church until 2 pm

Tuesday, May 30 – 11 am – 2 pm

Wednesday, May 31 – 6 pm – 8 pm

Sunday, June 4 – After church until 2 pm

Tuesday, June 6 – 11 am – 2 pm

Thursday, June 8 – 6 pm – 8 pm