# GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

**NOVEMBER 15, 2026**

## *Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd*

**Office Hours: T W 8:00 am – 1:00 pm**
**TH 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

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| Sun: | 9:00 am | Faith Formation Class |
| | 10:00 am | **Sunday Worship** |
| | | *Energy Needs Offering* |
| | | *Scrip Orders Delivered* |
| Thurs: | 7:00 pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| Fri: | 7:00 pm | AA Back to Basics |
| Sun: | 9:00 am | Faith Formation Class |
| | 10:00 am | **Sunday Worship** |
| | 11:00 am | Friendsgiving Potluck Luncheon |

## *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. 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*

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|---|---|
| Pastor | Rev. James D. Robison, Jr. |
| Preschool Director | Karen Weaver |
| Organist/Choir Director | Dr. Yezi Chen |
| 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 November is Turning Point

In 1976, a hotline was established to answer calls from women who were victims of domestic violence in the area. In 1978, the group was granted nonprofit status becoming Turning Point of Lehigh Valley. Since its incorporation, (TPLV) has helped more than 100,000 victims of domestic abuse.

### 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 small colored buckets during the offering.

### Update Offering & (Attendance)

Nov 1-$2,870.50 E-Giving $324.99 (108)
Nov 8-$1,590.00 E-Giving $235.29 (70)

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.

## Upcoming Events in the Life of Our Church

- We are **collecting cans** of **corn** for **Northern Lehigh Food Bank** for **Christmas**. Our goal is 200 cans of corn needed by **Sunday, December 6.**
- Looking for someone to take **Baptismal pictures of the family for Baptismal certificates.**
- We are **collecting individual applesauce servings** for **Backpack Buddies through December 31**. We collected 231 individual cereal packages & 54 drink mix packets in September & October. Thank You!
- Altar Guild is asking for **empty plastic Blue Bunny ice cream containers.**
- **Looking for volunteers to shovel snow this winter.** Sign up in the Narthex.
- **Altar Guild** is looking for a donation of a card table.
- **Consistory** is calling a **Congregational Meeting today** Sunday, **November 15th** following church.
- **Friendsgiving** will be a potluck luncheon after church on **Sunday, November 22.** All are invited. Please sign up in the Narthex if you want to share a casserole or dessert or plan to attend.
- **Worship Team** invites you to our **Community Thanksgiving Eve Eve service** on **Tuesday, November 24th** at **7pm** ~ **bring two loaves of bread/two bottles of grape juice** for blessing (one being donated to those in need while the other to be returned for your Thanksgiving table).
- **Mission Team** is collecting **blankets through December 6.**
- **Worship Team** is collecting **mittens, scarves** and **hats** for Sixth Street Shelter and the Rescue Mission. Please place items on the mitten tree. Please bring items by **December 6.**
- **Hanging of the Greens, Saturday, November 28** at **9 am.** Come help us decorate the church for Advent.

## Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

**Family of**…Diane Hardey, Barry Ramaly

**Family and Friends needing prayer**: Karen Kolek, Barbara Neff, Rachel Walczer, Dale Bossons, Ronald Conarty, Sr., Keith Gross, Lee Haas, Brett Hunsicker, Sandy Keller, Heather Moyer, Shane Moyer, Tom Alcaro, Karen Anthony, Gail Bell, Marc Benninger, Howard Bilheimer, Lori Clay, Doug Farber, Donna Fox, Steve George, Dwayne Henritzy, Barbara Hower, Gary Johannes, Hayden Keller, Laurie, Brenda Miller, Chris Oertner, Randy Parks, Ty Sander, Gary Schneck, Barry Soldridge, Donna Tully, Jenn Wentz, Margaret Wetzel, John Zellner.

**Homebound Members**: Marge Bass, Mary Bilheimer, Shirley Blynn, Kay Costenbader, Dennis Derr, Donna Fox, Judy Mack, Carol Schweitzer, Barry Silfies, 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, Jacob Molchan, Adam Moyer, Jacqueline Moyer, Spencer Perkins, and Janel Tracy.

**Our College Students:** Tyla Block ~ Widener, Patrick Conway ~ Jacksonville, Riley Fallon ~ Penn State, Ben Griffith ~ NCC, Katy Griffith ~ Cedar Crest, Sarah Hope ~ DeSales, Breonna Richardson ~ Westchester, Colleen Shields ~ Strayer, Amanda Smith ~ Delaware Valley, Gabriella Smoyer ~ Cedar Crest, Aiden Solt ~ Lebanon Valley, Luke Zook ~ Villanova

**Our Worship Leaders Today**.

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|---|---|
| Acolyte | Callie McGinnis |
| Head Deacon | Amanda Smith |
| Lay Reader | Amanda Smith |
| Greeter | Karen Smith |
| Altar Guild | Bonnie Hewitt |
| Media Team | Marie Bachman, Dr. Yezi Chen, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz and Bryan Horninger |

**Altar Flowers** and **Bulletins** are to the Honor and Glory of God.

**Birthdays**

Nov 15-Ann Johnson
Nov 15-Landon Jones
Nov 15-Kylie Solt
Nov 15-Susan Zellner
Nov 19-Linda Frey
Nov 19-Eric Hantz
Nov 19-Dick Nothstein
Nov 20-Stefan Bartczak
Nov 20-Duke Christman
Nov 20-Carol Kresge
Nov 20-Paul Pitruzzello
Nov 21-Alex Beblavy
Nov 21-Kerry Loch

**Anniversaries**

Nov 15-Matthew & Emma (Blades) Shields, Jr.
Nov 18-Ben & Allison (Conway) Schaffer

# GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST




## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026
## 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## NOVEMBER 15, 2026 - TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." ~ Thomas Edison**

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

Gathering for God's WORD

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** ~ *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

God has entrusted us with gifts, possibilities, and opportunities. **We gather to discover how we might use them faithfully.**

We are called not simply to preserve what we have, but to put it to work. **We will serve boldly, love generously, and live faithfully.**

Come, let us worship the God who trusts us with the work of ministry. **Let us worship God together. Amen**

*** HYMN ~ *God of the Fertile Fields*** **#695**

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

*** OPENING PRAYER**

Generous God, **You have entrusted us with gifts beyond measure ~ our time, abilities, resources, relationships, and opportunities. Free us from the fear that causes us to bury what we have been given. Give us courage to use our gifts extravagantly for Your purposes, so that through us Your love may grow and Your grace may be shared. Amen.**

**CONVERSATION WITH OUR YOUNGSTERS**

**BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS**

Hearing God's WORD

**A READING** from the Gospel of Matthew 25:14-30 [MSG]

"It's also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master's investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master's money.

"After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: 'Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

"The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master's investment. His master commended him: 'Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

"The servant given one thousand said, 'Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.'

"The master was furious. 'That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.

"'Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this "play-it-safe" who won't go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness.'

**RESPONSE**

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

**HOMILY ~ Extravagant Opportunity**

**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 GENEROSITY**

God places much into our hands ~ not simply to keep, but to use. Our offering is one way we accept the opportunity to participate in God's work. Let us give generously, trusting that what we offer can become part of something greater than ourselves.

**OFFERTORY** ~ *Simple Gifts*

*** 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**

**Generous God, receive these gifts and all that we offer through our lives. Multiply them through ministries of compassion, welcome, justice, and hope. Give us wisdom to recognize opportunities for service and courage to act upon them. Amen.**

*** HYMN ~ *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*** **#718**

Living God's WORD

*** TRANSITION TO THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

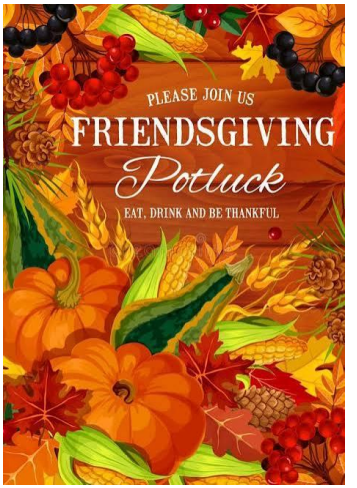
Our worship now continues through the shared work of our congregation. The gifts God has entrusted to us include our voices, our ideas, our responsibilities, and our vision for the future. **May we use them faithfully and generously. Amen.**

With gratitude for the ministry we share and openness to the opportunities before us, I call upon our Consistory to come forward and begin our Congregational Meeting.

**BENEDICTION**

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

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5 **CCLI#1783708**




Sunday, November 22, 2026 following the service in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up in the Narthex and let us know how many will be attending and if you plan on bringing a dish.

**Northern Lehigh Food Bank** is in urgent need of canned meats such as Spam, small canned hams, canned chicken (but not tuna). Grocery items are much needed: No crackers, canned soup, cereal (hot and cold), baking supplies, canned vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, toilet paper, etc. We are at a critical low on most everything. All contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank you!