# GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

**NOVEMBER 22, 2026**

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

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

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|---|---|---|
| Sun: | 9:00 am | Faith Formation Class |
| | 10:00 am | **Sunday Worship** |
| | 11:00 pm | Friendsgiving Luncheon Fellowship Hall |
| Tues: | 7:00 pm | **Thanksgiving Eve Eve Service** |
| Thurs: | 7:00 pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| Fri: | 7:00 pm | AA Back to Basics |
| Sat: | 9;00 am | Hanging of the Greens |
| Sun: | 9:00 am | Faith Formation Class |
| | 10:00 am | **Sunday Worship Advent Communion** |
| | 12:00 pm | VALOR Dinner Delivered |

## *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 01-$2,870.50 E-Giving $324.99 (108)
Nov 08-$1,590.00 E-Giving $476.52 (70)
Nov 15-$2,693.00 E-Giving $266.49 (63)

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

- Mission Team is **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.**
- Mission Team is **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.**
- **Property Committee is looking for volunteers to shovel snow this winter.** Sign up in the Narthex.
- **Looking for office volunteers** who would be able and willing to scan a large number of photos and put them on a flash drive (provided) to preserve our congregation's history.
- **Friendsgiving** will be a potluck luncheon after church **today, Sunday, November 22. All are invited**.
- **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 **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.**
- **Mission Team** is collecting new and lightly used **blankets through December 6.** A collection box has been placed in the Narthex. There are envelopes in the Narthex, if you would rather donate money.
- **Hanging of the Greens, Saturday, November 28** at **9 am.** Come help us decorate the church for Advent.
- **Fundraising** is looking for a **donation** of a **card table** to replace the one that went missing.

## Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

**Family and Friends needing prayer**: Dale Bossons, Ronald Conarty, Sr., Keith Gross, Lee Haas, Brett Hunsicker, Sandy Keller, Karen Kolek, Heather Moyer, Shane Moyer, Barbara Neff, Rachel Walczer, 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, Barrie 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 | Jaxon Kline |
| Head Deacon | Amanda Smith |
| Lay Reader | Jodie Hourt |
| Greeter | Tammy Schaeffer |
| Altar Guild | Bonnie Hewitt |
| Media Team | Marie Bachman, Dr. Yezi Chen, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz and Bryan Horninger |

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

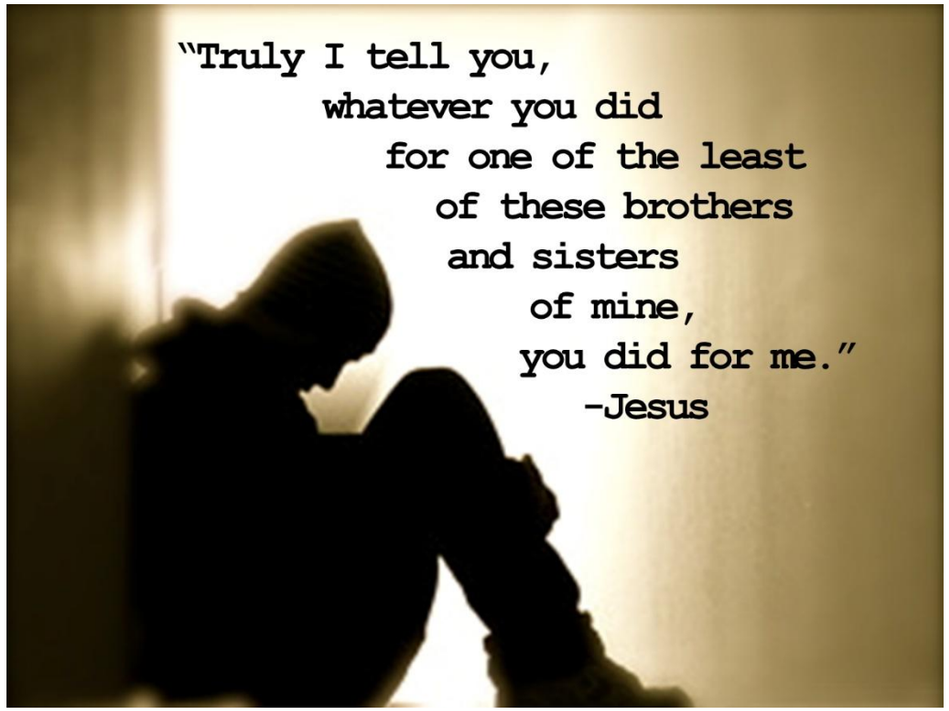
**Birthdays**

Nov 22-Matt Snyder
Nov 23-Marge Bass
Nov 23-Ryan Smoyer
Nov 24-Jasmine Rodrigues
Nov 24-Colleen Shields
Nov 25-Sherry Bishop
Nov 27-John Gellis
Nov 20-Stefan Bartczak
Nov 20-Duke Christman
Nov 20-Carol Kresge
Nov 20-Paul Pitruzzello
Nov 28-Richard Croll
Nov 28-Hudson Rex

**Anniversaries**

Nov 23-Robert & Jane (Humphries) Evans

# GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST




## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026
## 26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## NOVEMBER 22, 2026 - TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.
If you want to be happy, practice compassion." ~ Dalai Lama

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

Gathering for God's WORD

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** ~ *The Solid Rock*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ reigns wherever the hungry are fed and the stranger is welcomed. **Christ reigns wherever compassion becomes action.**

Christ is present in neighbors, friends, strangers, and those easily overlooked. **Christ is present among us.**

Around Christ's table, there is room for everyone. **Come let us worship and give thanks together. Amen!**

*** HYMN ~ *For the Fruit of All Creation*** **#714**

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

*** OPENING PRAYER**

God of abundant love, **You gather us as friends, neighbors, and companions on the journey. Open our eyes to recognize Christ in those around us. Open our hearts to welcome, our hands to serve, and our lives to compassion. May Your reign become visible through the love we share. Amen.**

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**
**And in Jesus Christ, his only Begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell and on the third day rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the**

**right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence, he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**CONVERSATION WITH OUR YOUNGSTERS**

**BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS**

Hearing God's WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds to God's WORD, while connecting the reading of Scripture to a spirit of gratitude, provision, and grace. Amen!**

**A READING** from the Gospel of Matthew 25:31-46 [NRSVUE]

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not

do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

**RESPONSE**

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

**HOMILY ~ Reigning Compassion**

**SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *A Mountain Harvest*** **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 GENEROSITY**

Jesus reminds us that acts of generosity are never insignificant. **Food shared, strangers welcomed, people cared for, and neighbors remembered become signs of Christ's reign among us.** As we celebrate Friendsgiving, let our generosity extend beyond this place and into the world around us. **Amen!**

**OFFERTORY** ~ *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*** DOXOLOGY** **#47**

**Praise God for blessings great and small;**
**Praise God, whose love embraces all;**
**Praise God for gifts we freely share;**
**Praise God, whose grace is everywhere. Amen.**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Generous God, receive these gifts and use them to feed, welcome, comfort, and care. Bless what we give, the tables around which we gather, and the friendships we share. May our generosity become compassion in action and a glimpse of Your reign among us. Amen!**

*** HYMN ~ *Now Thank We All Our God*** **#715**

Living God's WORD

*** FRIENDSGIVING BLESSING**

God of every table, we give thanks for food that nourishes us, friends who walk beside us, laughter that lifts us, and a community where all are welcome. **Bless the food we share and those who prepared it. Bless the conversations and friendships around our tables. And when we leave this place, help us make room at the tables of our lives for the hungry, the lonely, the stranger, and the overlooked.**

May Christ reign among ~ **through kindness, welcome, generosity, and compassion. Amen!**

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

**POSTLUDE** ~ *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

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

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

## Please join us in Fellowship Hall following the service for a time of food and fellowship. All are welcome!

**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: Crackers, canned soup, cereal (hot and cold), baking supplies, canned vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, toilet paper, etc. We are **critically low** on most everything. All contributions are greatly appreciated. **Thank you**!