



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

OCTOBER 4, 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
Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation Class
	10:00 am	Sunday Worship
		Worldwide Communion
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
		<i>Scrip Orders Due</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. 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/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 October is Guardianship Support Agency Inc

The mission of Guardianship Support Agency is to act as guardian for decision impaired persons who are unable to take care of their own financial and/or personal needs and have no other person willing and/or qualified to do so.

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)

Sept 06-\$1,747.00 E-Giving \$662.93 (69)
Sept 13-\$1,999.00 E-Giving \$251.10
Sept 20-\$1,608.00 E-Giving \$352.87 (56)
Sept 27-\$3,264.60 E-Giving \$287.15 (80)

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.

Upcoming Events in the Life of Our Church

- **Feed My Starving Children** will be held at **Mack Trucks**, 7000 Alburtis Rd, Macungie PA. **Our church is signed up for October 18** from 1-3 pm. Those interested, please sign up in the Narthex so that we have an idea of how many spots we will need. See Rae Anne Creyer for more information.
- Looking for someone to take **Baptismal pictures of the family for Baptismal certificates.**
- We are **collecting individual cereal boxes for Backpack Buddies through October 31.**
- Our host week for **Family Promise** is **October 11-18.** Emails were sent to previous volunteers, and you can sign up via the Signup Genius link within the email. **New volunteers are always welcome!** Family Promise Volunteer requirements (only needed if you are serving in the capacity of evening host or overnight host) are the PA Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse Clearance as well as the Family Promise training which can be viewed at <https://fp.lehighvalley.org/volunteer>.
- We are **collecting cans of corn for Northern Lehigh Food Bank for Thanksgiving.** Our goal is 200 cans of corn needed by **Sunday, November 8.**
- Altar Guild is asking for **empty plastic Blue Bunny ice cream containers** for taking home Altar Flowers.
- **\$5 Boscov’s Shopping Passes** available in the Narthex for online/ in store shopping **Wed. October 21.**
- **Looking for volunteers to mow grass for the month of October.** Mowers and gas are provided by the church. Sign up in the Narthex.
- **Trunk or Treat, Sunday, October 25 ~ 12:00 pm.** Pizza and chips will be served to the children before the event starts. Sign up sheets in the Narthex for treats and decorating your vehicle.
- If you would like to **have a loved one remembered** during our **Totenfest service on November 1,** please send a picture to secretary@goodshepherducc.org **no later than October 25, 2026.** Please include name and dates of birth and death.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

In Hospice...Barbara Cannon

Family and Friends needing prayer: Jane Evans, Sandy Keller, Brenda Miller, Shane Moyer, Lee Haas, Diane Hardey, Brett Hunsicker, Megane Streisel, Tom Alcaro, Karen Anthony, Gail Bell, Marc Benninger, Howard Bilheimer, Lori Clay, Doug Farber, Donna Fox, Steve George, Dwayne Henritz, Barbara Hower, Gary Johannes, Hayden Keller, Laurie, Chris Oertner, Randy Parks, Ty Sander, Gary Schneck, Barry Soldridge, Donna Tully, Jenn Wentz, Margaret Wetz, John Zellner.

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, 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, Gabriella Smoyer ~ Cedar Crest, Luke Zook ~ Villanova

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Guest Speaker
Acolyte
Head Deacon
Head Elder
Lay Reader
Greeter
Altar Guild
Media Team

Rev. Candi Cain-Borgman
Evan Kresge
Matt Shields
Pam Puskas
Marie Bachman
Mary Storm
Sharon Conway
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

Oct 04-Adam Griffith
Oct 05-Barbara Lorah
Oct 06-Linda Soldridge
Oct 08-Danielle White
Oct 09-Allison Kremposky



Anniversaries

Oct 06-Bob & Connie (Kegel) Beblavy
Oct 06-Glenn & Pam (Weaver) Knappenberger
Oct 08-Trevor & Madison (Zangl) Rex
Oct 10-Chris & Alice (Smith) Kegel
Oct 10-Marcus & Heather (Chandler) Kremposky
Oct 10-Jonathan & Sara (Sanders) Ruch

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026
19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP
OCTOBER 4, 2026 - NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WORLDWIDE COMMUNION

“The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge.” ~ Bertrand Russell

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

God speaks these words to us: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of slavery." **We were lost, but God rescued us!**

"You shall have no other gods before me." **We will love and serve the Lord alone.**

"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy." **We rest in God's peace and worship God's holy name. Amen.**

*** HYMN** ~ *The Church's One Foundation*

#272

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

*** CALL TO TRANSFORMATION**

God's wisdom invites us to examine how we live ~ with God, with our neighbors, with creation, and with ourselves. Trusting in grace, let us bring before God those places where we have lost our way.

*** PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

God of wisdom and grace, **You call us toward lives of love, justice, honesty, rest, and respect. Yet we confess that we sometimes choose what is convenient instead of what is right. We put possessions, success, opinions, and ourselves at the center. We fail to honor the dignity of others. We neglect the gift of rest. We allow anger and fear to shape our relationships. Forgive us when we lose our way. Write Your wisdom on our hearts. Free us from what diminishes life and lead us toward what makes life whole. Give us courage to love You, our neighbor, and ourselves more faithfully. Guide us into new life. Amen.**

*** WORDS OF GRACE**

God meets us not with condemnation, but with freedom, forgiveness, and another opportunity to walk a better way. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of wisdom, help us hear Your WORD not simply as rules from long ago, but as wisdom for living faithfully today. Give us ears to hear, hearts to understand, and courage to live what we learn. Amen.

A READING from the Hebrew Text of Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 [NRSVUE]

Then God spoke all these words,

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

“You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.”

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Wisdom for the Way

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's commandments teach us that faithful living includes how we use what has been entrusted to us. Our generosity becomes one way we care for our neighbors, strengthen our community, and participate in God's work. Let us give with gratitude and joy. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *People Need the Lord*

*** 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 the lives they represent. Use them to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, comfort those who struggle, strengthen this community, and bring hope where it is needed most. May our giving become part of Your wisdom lived out in the world. Amen!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

[We will celebrate Holy Communion in the pews. Children on the Choir side of the sanctuary are invited forward for their blessing during the bread distribution. Children on the pulpit side of the sanctuary are invited forward during the wine distribution. The bread is gluten-free, and the cups are filled with red wine and white grape juice. If communing, please fill out the communion card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate.]

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

Christ's invitation is broad ~ to Baptists, Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, Pentecostals, Mennonites, Anglicans, Episcopalians, Lutherans, members of the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ, and many more.

We are here because Jesus has called us ~ strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious.

It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers and invites to his table where, in bread and wine, he meets us and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other. So come, not because you understand, but because you are understood. Come, not because of how you feel, but because God has food for you. Come not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you, just as you are. This table

does not belong to any denomination, church, or community. It belongs to Jesus who invites us all to come to the table. There are no restrictions, only the wide-open arms of God.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Loving Creator, on this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize Your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Diverse in our cultures yet nourished as one, give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love Your children everywhere as Jesus taught us. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Merciful God, we recall anew ... and we proclaim:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

EPICLESIS

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and this fruit of the vine that they might unite us with people around the world so we might see Christ in all for whom Christ died. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

As Jesus broke bread, **the bread on our table is blessed and broken.**

As Jesus shared wine, **the cup on our table is blessed and shared.**

HYMN ~ *Agnus Dei* ~ (sung in unison)

O Christ Thou Lamb of God who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ Thou Lamb of God who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ Thou Lamb of God who takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Take this bread, share this cup. **In these Christ comes to us with love from God.**

Come, for all things are ready. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we offer our thanks, for the whole communion of saints' witnessing to this feast, and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. May our hearts continue to be full of gratefulness through the broken bread as we commit to the work yet to come. By this shared cup may we each be claimed for the proclamation of Your Reign. Amen.

*** HYMN ~ *In Christ There Is No East or West***

#687

Living God's WORD

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

POSTLUDE ~ *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

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