



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

Office Hours:		M W 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
		TH 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Sun:	10:00 am	Sunday Worship Mortgage Special Offering Scrip Orders Due
	11:00 am	Pizza in Fellowship Hall before Bear Junction Mini Golf at noon.
Fri:	7:00 pm	AA Back to Basics
Sun:	10:00 am	Outdoor Sunday Worship/Picnic Scrip Orders Delivered Orders due for hoagies/donuts

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 September is Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

FMSC is a Christian non-profit who is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC meals are developed by food science and nutrition professionals to supplement nutritional needs and reduce problems with malnutrition. FMSC works with food distribution partners that stay with communities for the long-haul, empowering them to move from relief to development.

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 \$359.60 (69)

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

- Preschool is **selling Thomson's Hoagies & Krispy Kreme donuts**. Order forms in the Narthex. **Order deadline Sunday, September 20.**
- 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.
- Fill out the **College Student Information sheet** in the Narthex to include your college student on our prayer list this fall.
- Harvest Home** is **Sunday, September 27**. Please **bring your non-perishable gifts** any time before then. Suggestions: cereal, pasta, canned vegetables, canned soup, canned fruit, peanut butter, jam, Jello mix, cake mixes, brownie mixes. Benefits the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.
- We are **collecting individual cereal boxes** for **Backpack Buddies through October 31**. We collected 81 cans of pasta, 12 packages of goldfish & 18 drink mix packets in July & August.
- Clean up day** at the **Pavilion, Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 9 am** in preparation for picnic.
- Outdoor Worship & Picnic, Sunday, September 20, 2026**. Sign-up sheets in the Narthex for casseroles & desserts, adult & children prizes for games, and donations for the cake walk.
- Help needed** to set up for basket social on **Friday, October 2**. **Baskets** can be dropped off between 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.
- Walk-In Basket Social Saturday, October 3, 2026**. Sign-up sheets in the Narthex for baskets, donations to make baskets, baked goods, and/or help the day of the event.
- Looking for volunteers to mow grass** for the **weeks of September 27**, and the **month of October**. Mowers and gas are provided by the church. Sign up in the Narthex.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

Family of...Peggy Mahler

In Hospice...Barbara Cannon, Allison Pickwick

Family and Friends needing prayer: Jeff Hewitt, Joanne Passaro, Harriet Schmon, Megane Streisel, Jean Fatzinger, Lee Haas, Diane Hardey, Dwayne Henritzy, Tania Hewitt, Brett Hunsicker, Tom Alcaro, Karen Anthony, Gail Bell, Marc Benninger, Howard Bilheimer, Lori Clay, Doug Farber, Donna Fox, Steve George, Barbara Hower, Gary Johannes, Hayden Keller, Laurie, Chris Oertner, Randy Parks, Ty Sander, Gary Schneck, Barry Soldridge, Donna Tully, Jenn Wentz, John Zellner

Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Veea Liz Barclay** born on October 18, 2020 and **Venna Layne Barclay** born on September 12, 2024. They are the daughters of Stephen & Ashley (Hahn) Barclay. We welcome them along with their maternal and paternal grandparents and great grandparents, in their special celebration.

The water used for the baptisms are from the Jordan River in the Holy Land. The Baptismal Candles are lit to remind us that Jesus Christ is our light and guide on the path of faith.

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Acolyte
Head Deacon
Lay Reader
Greeter
Altar Guild
Media Team

Jaxon Kline
Evan Shoemaker
Eric Hantz
Alice Kegel
Mary Storm

Marie Bachman, Dr. Yezi Chen, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky,
Eric Hantz and Bryan Horninger

Altar Flowers are to the Honor and Glory of God.

Bulletins are to the Glory of God and in Memory of Barbara & Lester Storm by Mary Storm.



Birthdays

Sept 13-Jodie Hourt
Sept 13-Joanne Passaro
Sept 13-Michelle Schramel
Sept 14-Judy Neff
Sept 15-Gail Fetchko
Sept 16-Dale Knittle
Sept 16-Dean Knittle
Sept 17-Alorah Badman
Sept 17-Annette Fatzinger
Sept 17-Luke Hosier
Sept 17-Heather Moyer
Sept 18-Taylor Farber
Sept 18-Addison Schappell
Sept 19-Owen Amey
Sept 19-Darryl Fatzinger
Sept 19-Karen Kuntzman



Anniversaries

Sept 19-John & Susan (DeLong) Zellner

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 - SECOND SUNDAY OF CREATION
FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY

“You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *God Will Take Care of You*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

When the way before us seems impossible, God calls us forward.

When fear surrounds us, God reminds us that we are not alone.

When we stand between what has been and what is yet to come, God makes a way.

We will trust the presence of God and take the next faithful step.

Come, people of God, bring your fears, your hopes, and your questions.

We come ready to discover new possibilities.

Come, let us worship the God who leads us toward freedom.

Let us worship God together!

*** OPENING PRAYER**

God of freedom and possibility, **You meet us at the edge of uncertainty and invite us to move forward. When fear tells us to turn back, give us courage. When obstacles seem impossible, give us hope. When we cannot see the path ahead, remind us that Your presence goes with us. Open our hearts in this time of worship and prepare us to follow wherever Your love may lead. Amen.**

*** HYMN** ~ *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

#75

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

*** PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Liberating God, sometimes we are more comfortable with what we know than with the freedom You place before us. We confess that fear can keep us standing still. We cling to old habits, familiar assumptions, and ways of living that no longer bring life. Sometimes we believe there is no way forward, and we fail to notice the possibilities you place before us. Forgive us when fear becomes stronger than faith. Give us courage to release what holds us back. Open our eyes to paths we have not yet imagined. Help us trust that even when the journey is difficult, we do not walk it alone. Transform us into people willing to move toward freedom and compassion. Amen.

*** WORDS OF GRACE**

God does not leave us trapped by the failures of yesterday or the fears of today. God's grace opens possibilities, God's love surrounds us, and God's Spirit leads us forward. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited to begin again. Thanks be to God. Amen.

BAPTISMS OF VEEA LIZ BARCLAY AND VENNA LAYNE BARCLAY

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

CONVERSATION WITH OUR YOUNGSTERS

BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, open our hearts as Your WORD is read. Through this ancient story of a people passing through the sea, help us hear Your invitation for our lives today and help us recognize the new paths You are opening among us. Amen.

A READING from the Hebrew Text of Exodus 14:19-31 [NRSVUE]

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Road to Freedom

HYMN ~ *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

#86

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

Generosity is an act of trust. When we share what we have, we declare that fear and scarcity will not control us. We choose instead to participate in God's work of creating hope and new possibilities and that God can use what we offer to make a difference. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*

*** 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 open doors of possibility, to lift burdens, to feed those who hunger, to welcome those who feel forgotten, and to bring hope where despair has taken hold. As You led Your people through the waters toward freedom, lead us to use all that we have and all that we are in the service of Your love. Amen.

*** HYMN ~ *God of Our Life***

#713

Living God's WORD

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

POSTLUDE ~ *Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven*

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

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