



# GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

SEPTEMBER 20, 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:          | 10:00 am | Outdoor Sunday Worship/Picnic<br><i>Scrip Orders Delivered</i> |
| Fri:          | 7:00 pm  | AA Back to Basics                                              |
| Sun:          | 9:00 am  | Faith Formation Class                                          |
|               | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship/Harvest Home                                    |
|               | 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](mailto: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 \$662.93 (69)  
Sept 13-\$1,999.00 E-Giving \$251.10 (75)

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

- **Yezi Chen** will present a **solo piano recital** in the sanctuary on **Saturday, September 26 at 3:00 PM. Admission is free**, and everyone is welcome to attend.
- **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.
- Altar Guild is asking for **empty plastic Blue Bunny ice cream containers** for taking home Altar Flowers.
- 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**. We collected 81 cans of pasta, 12 packages of goldfish & 18 drink mix packets in July & August.
- **Help needed** to set up for basket social on **Friday, October 2. Baskets and baked goods** 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.
- **\$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 **weeks of September 27**, and the **month of October**. Mowers and gas are provided by the church. Sign up in the Narthex.
- 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://fplehighvalley.org/volunteer>.

## Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

**Family of...**Allison Pickwick

**In Hospice...**Barbara Cannon

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

**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.**

Head Deacon  
Lay Reader  
Greeter  
Altar Guild  
Media Team

Evan Shoemaker  
Pastor James  
Randy & Cindy Parks  
Mary Storm  
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**

Sept 20-Christopher Lorah  
Sept 20-Nicholas Sander  
Sept 21-Mark Miller  
Sept 23-Chad Sommers  
Sept 24-Eddie Smith



**Anniversaries**

Sept 20-Dennis & Keri (Rose) Dimmig  
Sept 21-Jarett & Danielle (Schmidt) White  
Sept 25-Michael & Cheryl (Bender) Bowers

**GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026**  
**17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 - THIRD SUNDAY OF CREATION**  
**OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

**“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”**  
**~ African Proverb**

Gathering for God's WORD

**PRELUDE** ~ Guitar Solo, Eric Hantz

**GATHERING WORDS**

Today we worship a little differently. Our sanctuary is the world around us. The sky is our ceiling. The earth is beneath our feet. The sounds of creation become part of our music. And when worship ends, we will continue our celebration around tables, sharing food, laughter, conversation, and some family fun. But first, we gather as God's people to remember a simple promise: **God is with us, and God's grace is enough for today.**

**HYMN** ~ *Morning Has Broken*

**#53**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**God of creation, we thank You for this beautiful day and for the gift of gathering together. You fed Your people when they were hungry. You traveled with them when they were uncertain. You gave them enough for each day. Be present among us now. Bless our worship, our baptism, our picnic, our laughter, and our play. Remind us that church happens whenever Your people gather in love, welcome one another, share what they have, and celebrate Your grace. May this entire day become our offering of thanksgiving to You. Amen.**

**WHAT WE BELIEVE TOGETHER**

What do we believe?

**We believe in the God of love, hope, and peace.**

**We follow Jesus Christ, who showed us how to live with compassion and courage.**

**We trust the Holy Spirit to renew our minds and guide our lives.**

**We believe truth matters, kindness matters, justice matters, and the way we treat one another matters.**

**We believe God's grace can transform us and God's peace can work through us. Amen.**

Hearing God's WORD

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**God of wilderness and wonder, as Scripture is read, open our eyes to the unexpected ways You provide for us. Open our ears to Your voice. Open our hearts to Your grace. Amen!**

**A READING** from the Hebrew Text of Exodus 16:2-7 [MSSG]

The whole company of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron there in the wilderness. The Israelites said, “Why didn’t God let us die in comfort in Egypt where we had lamb stew and all the bread we could eat? You’ve brought us out into this wilderness to starve us to death, the whole company of Israel!”

God said to Moses, “I’m going to rain bread down from the skies for you. The people will go out and gather each day’s ration. I’m going to test them to see if they’ll live according to my Teaching or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they have gathered, it will turn out to be twice as much as their daily ration.”

Moses and Aaron told the People of Israel, “This evening you will know that it is God who brought you out of Egypt; and in the morning you will see the Glory of God. Yes, he’s listened to your complaints against him. You haven’t been complaining against us, you know, but against God.”

## **RESPONSE**

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

## **HOMILY ~ Tensions in the Wilderness**

Responding to God's WORD

## **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

Generosity is one way we practice trust in God. **What we offer supports ministry, feeds neighbors, welcomes children, strengthens community, and helps God's love become visible beyond ourselves. Let us give with grateful hearts.**

## ***BRING A GIFT OF LOVE***

**Bring a gift of love. Bring a gift of love. Bring a gift of love today.  
Bring an offering to our Lord and King tell the world he is the way.  
Bring a gift of love. Bring a gift of love. Bring a gift of love today.  
In this quiet hour of worship bring a gift of love.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God, receive these gifts and use them to feed, welcome, comfort, teach, and serve. May our generosity help others discover there is enough grace and love. And there is always room in God's family. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, today we give thanks.

For the beauty of creation, **we give You thanks.**

For food that nourishes us, **we give You thanks.**

For the gift of baptism and new beginnings, **we give You thanks.**

For children and youth, for parents and grandparents, for friends and neighbors, for every generation represented here, **we give You thanks.**

We also remember those traveling through wilderness places today: **those who are hungry**, those who are lonely, **those who are grieving**, those who are worried about tomorrow, **those searching for a place to belong.**

**May we become part of Your answer to their prayers. Give us enough faith for today, enough courage for the journey, and enough love to share generously.**

**And so we pray Christ'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.**

God of abundance, our worship continues around these picnic tables. Bless the food prepared for us and all the hands that made it possible. Bless our conversations and laughter. Bless the children who will run and play. Bless the adults who may discover that they are still children when the games begin! Keep us safe in our activities, patient with one another, and generous in our welcome. May no one feel like a stranger today. As we eat, laugh, play, and spend time together, remind us that these ordinary moments are also holy. **For food, friendship, family, faith, and fun, we give You give thanks. Amen!**

**HYMN ~ *This Is My Father's World***

**#59**

**POSTLUDE ~ Guitar Solo, Eric Hantz**

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708

# **"WALK-IN"** **- ONE DAY -** **BASKET SOCIAL**

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**Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026**

**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

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**Tickets will be drawn at 2:00 PM**

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**Tickets Available at Door**

**( 1 ) 26 Chance Ticket for \$5.00**

**( 5 ) 26 Chance Tickets for \$20.00**

**Winners Will Be Notified**

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**Kitchen Open**

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**Good Shepherd U.C.C.**  
**3940 Mountain Rd, Slatington, PA**  
**610-767-9680**

Lic. #: 0275R25

Help needed to set up on Friday, October 2 at 6:00 pm.

Help needed at basket social,

Baskets needed.

See Bonnie Hewitt or Karen Smith to volunteer.