



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

SEPTEMBER 27, 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/Harvest Home
	12:00 pm	VALOR Dinner Delivered
Thurs:		No Choir Rehearsal
Fri:	6:00 pm	Set-up for Basket Social
	7:00 pm	AA Back to Basics
Sat:	12:00 pm	Walk-In Basket Social
Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation Class
	10:00 am	Sunday Worship
		Worldwide Communion

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 \$662.93 (69)
Sept 13-\$1,999.00 E-Giving \$251.10
Sept 20-\$1,608.00 E-Giving \$352.87 (56)

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.** We collected 81 cans of pasta, 12 packages of goldfish & 18 drink mix packets in July & August.
- 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>.
- **Help needed** to set up for basket social on **Friday, October 2.** **Baskets** can be dropped off 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 **month of October.** Mowers and gas are provided by the church. Sign up in the Narthex.
- **Jersey Sunday, Sunday, October 25** Wear your favorite team jersey to church.
- **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.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

Family of...Eleanor Lalik

In Hospice...Barbara Cannon

Family and Friends needing prayer: 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, Barbara Hower, Gary Johannes, Hayden Keller, Laurie, Chris Oertner, Randy Parks, Ty Sander, Gary Schneck, Barry Soldridge, Donna Tully, Jenn Wentz, 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,

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Acolyte
Head Deacon
Lay Reader
Greeter
Altar Guild
Media Team

Jaxon Kline
Evan Shoemaker
Pam Puskas
Randy & Eileen Andrews
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.
Holy Grounds was sponsored by Pastor James.



Birthdays

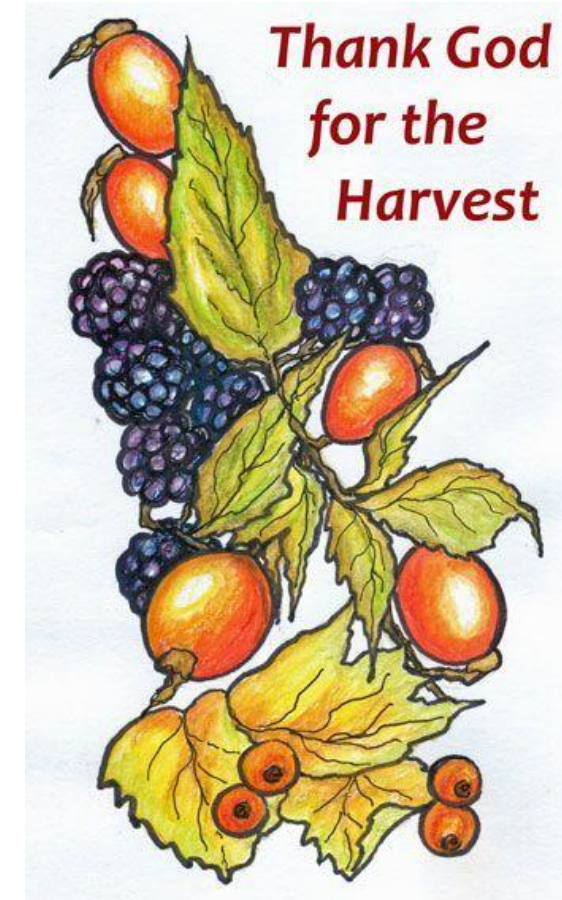
Sept 28-Zachary Haberman
Sept 28-Nancy Leitgeb
Sept 28-Barrett Rice
Sept 29-Nichole Jones
Sept 29-Travis Redline
Sept 30-Diane Fister
Oct 01-Ryan Fister
Oct 01-Brett Hunsicker
Oct 01-Bryan Puskas
Oct 02-Jesse White



Anniversaries

Sept 27-David & Kelsey (Kuntz) Goodhile
Sept 30-Gary & Robin (Balliet) Bellesfield
Oct 02-Wenbo Gao & Yezi Chen

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF CREATION
HARVEST HOME CELEBRATION

**“When you have more that you need, build a longer table,
not a higher fence.” ~ Unknown**

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *For the Beauty of the Earth*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

In seasons of abundance and in seasons of need, God is with us. **We gather with grateful hearts.**

In the wilderness, water flowed from the rock. **In our lives, blessings often come from unexpected places.**

Today we celebrate the harvest ~ the gifts of the earth, the work of human hands, and the generosity of this community. **We give thanks for enough to nourish us and enough to share.**

Come, let us worship the God who provides, sustains, and calls us to care for one another. **With gratitude and joy, let us worship God!**

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

#718

Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

*** PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Providing God, **You have given us a world filled with beauty, nourishment, and possibility, yet we confess that we do not always receive Your gifts with gratitude. We worry that there will not be enough. We hold tightly to what we have. We waste what others desperately need. We sometimes forget those whose tables are empty while ours are full. Forgive us when fear becomes stronger than generosity. Transform our gratitude into action. Open our hands as well as our hearts. Teach us to recognize that what we have is not simply ours to keep, but a gift to enjoy and share. Make us people who trust Your abundance and work so that all may have enough. Amen.**

* WORDS OF GRACE

Even in the wilderness, God did not abandon the people. Water flowed, thirst was satisfied, and the journey continued. **God's grace continues to meet us in our own wilderness places. We are forgiven, renewed, and invited to live with grateful and generous hearts. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR YOUNGSTERS

BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS

Celebrating God's WORD in Our Relationships

BAPTISM OF HUDSON JAMES REX

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

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Providing God, open our eyes to recognize Your provision, our hearts to receive Your gifts with gratitude, and our hands to share those gifts with others. May Your WORD become living water for us today. Amen.

A READING from the Hebrew Text of Exodus 17:1-7 [NRSVUE]

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead

of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ God's Sustaining Presence

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *Here I Am Lord*

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

Harvest Home reminds us that gratitude is more than saying “thank you.” Gratitude becomes generosity. The food gathered before us represents more than cans, boxes, and bags. Each gift represents a meal for someone who is hungry, encouragement for someone who is struggling, and a reminder that they are not forgotten. **Just as water flowed from the rock in the wilderness, may God's abundance flow through us. Let us offer our gifts with gratitude for what we have received and with hope that through our sharing, someone else's wilderness may become a little less difficult. Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *Give Thanks*

* 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**

God of the harvest, we dedicate these gifts and our offerings to You. Bless the food gathered here and the hands that have generously provided it. Bless those who planted and harvested, processed and prepared, transported and stocked the food we receive each day. And especially bless those who will receive these gifts. May these offerings bring nourishment to hungry bodies, hope to weary hearts, and dignity to every person. Amen.

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

#714

Living God's WORD

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

POSTLUDE ~ *Now Thank We All Our God*

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708



Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Hudson James Rex**, born on November 28, 2025. He is the son of Tyler & Taylor (Lagler) Rex. His grandparents are Timothy & Angela (Brown) Lagler and James & Angela (Shelly) Rex. His great grandparents are Pauline (Gardner) Lagler, Nancy (Brown) Wing, Terry & Susan (Schlosser) Shelly and Linda (Falk) Rex. Hudson joins a brother, Mason and a sister, Emersyn.