



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

Glance at the Week Ahead at Good Shepherd

Office Hours: T W 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
F 7:00 am – 9:00 am

Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation
	9:45 am	Blessing of the Animals
	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:15 am	Youth Ensemble
	12:00 pm	VALOR Dinner Delivered
Tues:		No Choir Practice
Wed:	6:00 pm	Personnel Committee Meeting
Fri:	7:00 pm	AA Back to Basics
Sun:	9:00 am	Faith Formation
	10:00 am	Worship Service

World Communion Sunday

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. It is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God and know the love and peace that comes from sharing God's Spirit. 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	Dr. Yezi Chen
Choir Director	Beth Kutzner
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 worshippers' 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.

Upcoming Events in the Life of Our Church.

- **Preschool Hoagie/Donut Sale, Delivery date-Friday, October 4 from 11 am to 1 pm.**
- **Walk-in Basket Social, Saturday, October 19.** Sign-up sheet in Narthex to **donate money or a basket.**
- **Trunk or Treat, Sunday, October 27, 12:30 – 2:00.** Decorate your trunks and join the fun. Pizza, Treats and more. Contact Pam @ 484-553-1827 for more information or to help.
- **Preschool registration** is open for the 2024-2025 school year for 3- and 4-year-olds. For more information or to register, contact Karen Weaver at karens2@hotmail.com or 610-657-5133.
- **Redner's Save-A-Tape** bucket in Narthex. The church gets 1% of your receipt if you have a Save-A-Tape card from Redner's.
- **Clothing drop-off box** at the rear of the property earns our church money per pound. If you are cleaning out your closets, this is a good fundraiser for the church. YTD earnings total \$465.
- There is a container in the Narthex for **aluminum can pull tabs.** These are recycled and the money earned goes to the Ronald McDonald House.



Anniversaries

Sep 29-Rick & Sandy (Teichert) Keller
Sep 29-Drew & Kara (Mathesz) Rice
Sep 30-Gary & Robin (Balliet) Bellesfield

Our Worship Leaders Today.

Head Deacon	Darlene Nothstein
Lay Reader	Darlene Nothstein
Greeters	Madeline Balliet & Donna Keener
Altar Guild	Mary Storm
Media Production Team	Marie Bachman, Deb Craig, Riley Fallon, Tracey Gursky, Eric Hantz, Bryan Hominger, Evan Hominger, and Beth Kutzner



Bulletins are to the Honor & Glory of God.
Altar Flowers are to the Honor & Glory of God.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

In Hospice... Louise Croll, Betty Humanick, Barbara Mathias

Family and Friends needing prayer: Sherry Bishop, Michael Bossons, Bonnie Brozey, Robert Eckhart, Doug Farber, Jeff Hewitt, Michelle Hewitt, Gary Johannes, Hayden Keller, Karen Papay, Alice Schnell, Kim Schock, Frank Hart, Tammy Henninger Filchner, Dennis Raver, Kylie Schneider, Frank Strohl, Jenn Wentz, Helen Zolnowsky.

*Purged at beginning of each month.
Renews are welcomed*

Homebound Members: Marge Bass, Mary Bilheimer, Shirley Blynn, Kay Costenbader, Dennis Derr, Donna Fox, Carol Schweitzer, and Susan 'Tillie' Waller.

All the young men and women serving our country: Colby Adams, Anthony Babb, Sean Bolza, Dalton Housenick, Kira (Kern) Kelsey, Michael Kelsey, Marcus Loch, Rebecca McMichael, Jacob Molchan, Adam Moyer, Jacqueline Moyer, Spencer Perkins, Nicholas Sander, Benjamin Schaffer, and Janel Tracy.

Prayers for Students in higher education: Dane Badman at LCCC. Megan Bankes at Glenville State WV, Tyla Block at Widener, Aricka Creyer at Cedar Crest, Carissa Fallon at Penn State, Riley Fallon at Penn State, Ben Griffith at Luzerne, Katy Griffith at Cedar Crest, Emma Hope at Kutztown, Sarah Hope at LCCC, Evan Hominger at DeSales Olivia Hominger at Cedar Crest, Cece Pyfer at LCCC, Jade Rice at DeSales, Brody Ritter at the University of Delaware, Caden Shields at Muhlenberg, Cameron Shields at LCCC, Colleen Shields at Strayer, Caleb Sommers at Kutztown, Calista Smoyer at West Virginia, Gabriella Smoyer at Cedar Crest, Luke Zook at Villanova

Offerings Mission Calendar

Mission Outreach for September is Allentown Rescue Mission

They are a non-denominational, Christian, Social services organization, which provides critically needed goods and services to homeless and impoverished men. For more than a century, the Mission has addressed the changing face of homelessness, tackling the root causes of homelessness, and helping to end homelessness throughout the Lehigh Valley. Their programs include Emergency Shelter, Christian Living Program, the Clean Team, and DeSales Free Clinic

Joyful Noise Offering

Joyful Noise Offering is an outreach mission of the church that goes to individuals or families in need. Please drop your contributions into the red bucket during the offering.

Financial Update Offering & Attendance

Sep 01-\$1,914.00 E-Giving \$233.24 (51)
Sep 08-\$2,456.00 E-Giving \$588.07 (74)
Sep 15-\$1,230.00 E-Giving \$374.76 (54)
Sep 22-\$1,780.00 E-Giving \$165.99 (52)

Online offering at **Tithe.ly**
or text **GIVE to 610-615-7657**



Birthdays

Sep 29-Nichole Miller
Sep 29-Travis Redline
Sep 30-Diane Fister
Oct 01-Ryan Fister
Oct 01-Brett Hunsicker
Oct 01-Bryan Puskas
Oct 02-Hayden Lilly
Oct 02-Jesse White
Oct 03-Samantha Weaver
Oct 04-Ava Geist
Oct 04-Adam Griffith
Oct 04-Holly Henderson
Oct 05-Barbara Lorah

ORDER OF WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF CREATION
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

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

Gathering for God's **WORD**

BLESSING OF PETS

St. Francis of Assisi was born in the 12th century, lived in Italy, and is remembered for his generosity to the poor, his willingness to minister to the lepers, and his love for animals and nature. He is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment. And so, in keeping with traditions, we offer the following prayer for our companions clothed in fur, scales, or feathers; four legged, two legged, and no legged: **Blessed are You, Lord God, Maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his siblings. We ask You to bless our pets. By the power of Your love, enable them to live according to Your plan. May we always praise You for all Your beauty in creation and in our relationship with it. Blessed are You, Lord our God, in all Your creatures! Amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *Thine Is the Glory*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** HYMN** ~ *Come Sing a Song of Harvest*

#719

Preparing Our Hearts for God's **WORD**

*** CALL TO CONFESSION**

Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

*** CONFESSION**

God of unity, we live in a world where our lives move between inclusivity and exclusivity. We often move toward the latter, trying to oust from our circles those who do not think like us, act like us, or look like us. Forgive our need to reject and to always be on the lookout for those things that make us different. Give us the eyes of our Teacher, who knows unconditional love and compassion and sees us all as one, for it is in this name that we pray. Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In his resurrection, Jesus forgives our sins. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

*PRAISE VERSICLE ~ *Gloria Patri*

#35

CHILDREN'S CHAT

BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS

Hearing God's WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, make known to us the power of Your WORD revealed to us in Christ. Amen!

A READING from Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 [NRSV]

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.' Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.' Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Courage for Community

SPECIAL MUSIC ~ *Simple Gifts*

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 SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Today and every day, we see signs of God's grace and abundance. But we also know that there is suffering and need in the world. Give freely of what You have been given, as a witness to God's actions in the world. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*** *Accept, O God, the Gifts We Bring***

#379

**Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay,
Transform them into blessings on those we serve today.
Rekindle deep within us all a passion to fulfill
The ministry disciples have, empower' d to do your will.**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Blessed be the Lord, for God is good, and God's love endures forever. Our Creator, help us to mirror Your goodness through this offering in the world. Amen!

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

#714

Living God's WORD

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

#312

POSTLUDE ~ *God Be with You till We Meet Again*

Liturgy from *Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion, Year B, Volume 2*

CCLI#1783708

"WALK-IN" - ONE DAY - BASKET SOCIAL

Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Tickets will be drawn at 2:00 PM

Tickets Available at Door

(1) 26 Chance Ticket for \$6.00

(3) 26 Chance Tickets for \$15.00

Winners Will Be Notified

Kitchen Open

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

Lic. #: 0121R24