



GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

SEPTEMBER 6, 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	Sunday Worship
		Labor Day Communion
Fri:	7:00 pm	AA Back to Basics
Sun:	10:00 am	Sunday Worship
		Mortgage Special Offering
		Scrip Orders Due
		12:00 pm Bear Rock Junction Mini-Golf

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	Dr. Yezi Chen
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 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.

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)

Aug 02-\$1,532.40 E-Giving \$201.05 (93)
Aug 09-\$1,750.00 E-Giving \$757.68 (100)
Aug 16-\$2,940.00 E-Giving \$347.34 (60)
Aug 23-\$1,883.70 E-Giving \$99.25 (52)

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

- There will be a Fundraising Meeting, Sunday, September 13 following the church service to discuss upcoming events.
- 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.
- Mini Golf at Bear Rock Junction has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 13 at noon. There will be pizza after church in Fellowship Hall before heading out to the golf course.
- We are collecting individual cereal boxes for Backpack Buddies through October 31. We collected 413 individual packages of goldfish in May & June. Thank you all for your donations.
- Clean up day at the Pavilion, Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 9 am in preparation of Outdoor Worship Service.
- 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.
- 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 20, September 27, and the month of October. Mowers and gas are provided by the church. Sign up in the Narthex.
- Altar Guild is asking for empty plastic Blue Bunny ice cream containers for taking home Altar Flowers.
- Looking for office volunteers who would be able and willing to scan a large number of photos and put them on a flash drive (provided) to preserve our congregation’s history. Please contact Pastor James or Eileen Andrews if you would like to help.

Good Shepherd Prayer Care List

In Hospice...Barbara Cannon

Family and Friends needing prayer: Deb Derhammer, Jean Fatzinger, Jennifer Frohnheiser, Lee Haas, Diane Hardey, Dwayne Henritz, Tania Hewitt, Brett Hunsicker, 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 Worship Leaders Today.

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

Jaxon Kline
Evan Shoemaker
Dennis Silfies
TBD
Mary Storm
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 by Pastor James.
Bulletins are to the Honor and Glory of God.



Birthdays

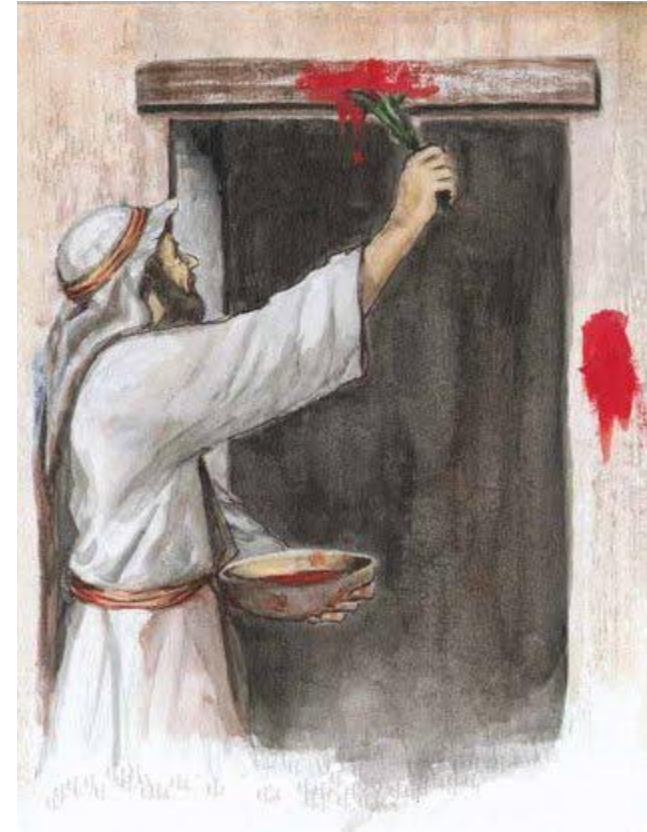
Sept 08-Addyson Alcaro
Sept 08-Kevin Minnich
Sept 09-Terry Shelly
Sept 10-Patrick Conway
Sept 11-Michael Block
Sept 11-Michele Hunsicker
Sept 12-Toby Frantz



Anniversaries

Sept 06-Chris & Barbara (Hewitt) Lorah
Sept 06-Jesse & Tammy (Kunkle) White
Sept 07-Karl & Joan (Skutches) Heffelfinger
Sept 07-Erv & Roxane (Shupp) Prutzman
Sept 09-Pete & Kelly (Ruddick) Beblavy
Sept 09-Joe & Sharon (Mack) Conway
Sept 10-Ryan & Jennifer (Chilcoat) Fister
Sept 12-Kevin & Tina (Roth) Minnich
Sept 12-Shane & Maggie (Levan) White

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 - FIRST SUNDAY OF CREATION
LABOR DAY COMMUNION

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.”
~ Maya Angelou

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

Gathering for God's WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ~ *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

*** SOLEMN DECLARATION**

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

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

God meets us in moments of change and uncertainty.

God prepares us for journeys we have not yet imagined.

God calls us to remember where we have been.

And to trust where love will lead us next.

Around tables, in community, and through shared stories, we remember God's faithfulness.

We gather as one people, nourished by grace and strengthened for the journey.

Come, remember. Come, give thanks. Come, prepare for what is ahead.

Let us worship God together! Amen.

*** OPENING PRAYER**

God of liberation and new beginnings, You gathered Your people around a meal and prepared them for a journey toward freedom. Gather us now. Quiet our fears, awaken our hope, and remind us that we belong to one another. As we worship and later gather around Christ's table, nourish us with Your grace and prepare us to follow wherever love may lead. Amen.

*** HYMN** ~ *God of Grace and God of Glory*

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Preparing Our Hearts for God's WORD

*** PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Liberating God, You call us to leave behind whatever keeps us from living fully and loving boldly. **Yet we confess that we often cling to what is familiar, even when it no longer gives life. We allow fear to keep us from change. We forget the lessons of the past. We overlook those who still hunger for freedom, dignity, and belonging. Forgive us. Free us from whatever holds our hearts captive. Give us courage to release what must be left behind and faith to step toward the new life**

You place before us. Prepare us again to become people of compassion and justice. Amen.

*** WORDS OF GRACE**

God hears the cries of God's people. God remembers. God liberates. God makes new beginnings possible. **Through the grace revealed in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and invited to begin again. Amen!**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR YOUNGSTERS

BLESSINGS FOR JOYS AND/OR CONCERNS

BAPTISMS OF ARI JAI KEEN AND PRESTON MICHAEL ALBERTI

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

God of memory and promise, **as we hear the ancient story of Passover, open our hearts to its living message. Help us remember the faith of those who came before us, recognize the places where people still long for liberation, and hear Your invitation to become part of Your work of freedom and hope. Through these words, prepare us for the journey ahead. Amen.**

A READING from the Hebrew Text of Exodus 12:1-14 [NRSVUE]

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it

until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

“This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

RESPONSE

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

Reflecting on God's WORD

HOMILY ~ Remember, Restore, Renew

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

Before Israel began the journey toward freedom, the people gathered, prepared, and shared what they had. Their story reminds us that God's people do not journey alone.

Our generosity is one way we care for one another and participate in God's work of liberation. Through what we share, ministries are strengthened, neighbors are served, and God's welcome is extended.

Let us give generously and gratefully. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY ~ *I Gave You My Heart*

*** DOXOLOGY**

**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, You have given us more than possessions ~ You have given us life, community, memory, hope, and the promise of new beginnings. Receive these gifts and use them to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, comfort those who struggle, challenge injustice, and build communities where all people may know dignity and belonging. May our giving become part of Your continuing work of liberation and love. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (See Insert)

*** HYMN ~ *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending***

#606

Living God's WORD

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

POSTLUDE ~ *Lead On, O King Eternal*

Liturgy by Pastor James based on ChatGPT 3.5

CCLI#1783708



Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Ari Jai Keen** born on May 19, 2024. She is the daughter of Anthony Richard Keen and Becca Jai Alberti. Her grandparents are Susan Alberti, Richard & Penny (Bowers) Keen and Thomas & Jeanna (Mlasgar) Tacker. Her great grandparents are Richard & Donna (Ziegenfuss) Tully and the late Michael & Anna (Eisenbach) Alberti. Her godparents are Gage Keen & Destiny Phillips.

Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Preston Michael Alberti** born on December 31, 2025. He is the son of Anthony Richard Keen and Becca Jai Alberti. His grandparents are Susan Alberti, Richard & Penny (Bowers) Keen and Thomas & Jeanna (Mlasgar) Tacker. His great grandparents are Richard & Donna (Ziegenfuss) Tully and the late Michael & Anna (Eisenbach) Alberti. He joins a sister, Ari Jai Keen. His godparents are Gage Keen and Destiny Phillips.

The animals placed on the Baptismal Banner mark Preston & Ari's entrance on our cradle roll as the beginning of their faith formation process.

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.

