



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 29, 7:30 p.m. Prayer in song and silence. Communion around the table.
PRAYER VIGIL to follow at 9:00 p.m. until 12 noon, Good Friday. Sign up in Narthex & Fellowship Hall.
EASTER SUNRISE, April 1, Informal service at Rumsey Monument. Gather at 6:45 a.m. Bring a reading, poem or song to share. (Dress warmly and bring something to sit on). A light breakfast will follow at the nearby home of Becky Phipps.
EASTER SERVICES, April 1, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Liturgy of Word & Table.

EASTER OFFERING (One Great Hour of Sharing)



Turn in fish boxes and checks by **Sunday, April 15.** Donations will be split between humanitarian

ministries of the PCUSA (hunger relief, disaster assistance, self-development of people projects) and Jefferson County Community Ministries. (JCCM)
Checks: memo: OGHS.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

For those who would like to explore what it means to be a member of Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, there will be a class for a couple of hours following the second service on **Sunday, April 29.** A light lunch will be provided. If you have not already done so, please let Rev. Sitterley, bsitterley@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org, know if you would like to be a part of this.

HOW ARE COMMITTEES BORN?

Believe me. I am not a natural born fan of committee meetings. I do, however, love meeting with people sharing a common passion. So how did these new committees come to be? I guess it had something to do with my asking questions.

Strategic Planning

After meeting with Session for a couple of months I asked, "So who thinks about the overall vision of the church? Who develops a strategy for steering the church into the future?" Session is truly concerned with these issues, yet practically speaking, Session is often so preoccupied with the issues at hand, that they aren't able to take the time to think long term. This is critical if the intention is to grow beyond being a pastor-centered church.

As fate would have it, the CAT team was in the process of winding up their work. This team was already asking big picture questions, was already taking a longer view into the future, and was already functioning well as a team. So, it made good sense to ask them to stay on and morph into a Strategic Planning Committee. In this regard they are essentially a servant of Session. While not crafting a vision by themselves, they are tasked with thinking big picture, and challenging Session to always refine and clarify its vision. Their job is to always help Session be looking 3-5 years down the road.

Social Justice

From the beginning, I was impressed with the heart that Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church had for Social Justice issues. There was clear interest in issues relating to racial concerns, to LGBTQ inclusion, to the plaque at the County Courthouse showing support for the Confederacy, to

justice for Wayne Jones, to gun control issues...to name just a few. Yet when I asked, "Is there any coordinating group that provides focus to these issues? Is there a group that is quickly able to draft a response to social issues as they arise?" It was clear that there was no such established body.

Since Social Justice seems to be right in the DNA of SPC, it seemed increasingly clear that there was a need to form such a group with a clear focus, to guide the church both in terms of education and response. We don't see this as a group where our energy can be diluted with 1,001 issues, but as a group that can collectively discern which issues we are called and equipped to address. This group is in the earliest stages of forming now, and Session has asked Lynn Coddington to oversee this launch. Once the groundwork is laid, more partners and input will eagerly be sought out. Stay tuned!

Stewardship

The congregation is used to hearing an annual appeal for funds. Outgoing Session member John Burns has a passion for building on this, and so he, and two others, will be broadening the scope of what Stewardship can mean, and will guide us making this a year-round value. More than funds alone, we recognize that good stewardship includes the involvement of our time and talents.

In conclusion, it is hardly the case that all things are being redesigned, but surely some key areas have been identified where we can fill in some missing gaps, and be positioned for an increasingly robust future. How wonderful to be a part of a church with such talent and energy!

—Rev. Bill Sitterley

Transition News...

PRAYER REQUESTS Send to Kathy Reid at kathy@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.

TRANSITION QUESTIONS Direct all questions and/or concerns to the Stated Clerk of Session, Suellen Myers via transition-questions@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org or Rev. Bill Sitterley, bsitterley@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.

PASTOR NOTES

By way of reminder, I continue to be your *Interim* Pastor. My desire is to love and support you during this season as a *non-anxious presence*, so that the process of seeking a permanent installed pastor can be conducted without unnecessary haste, and your enthusiasm about the future may build and be refined.

The Presbytery of Shenandoah is involved in our *next steps*, and we are hoping that after a Session Retreat in April, we might get approval to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). An intentionally representative slate of names will be prepared by the Nominating Committee, but ultimately we will need a Congregational Meeting where *you* will approve this slate of names. It is *hoped* that such a meeting can take place in May so that the PNC may be formed before summer. We will do our best to keep you informed of this process. —Rev. Bill Sitterley

SMALL GROUP FEEDBACK

We are grateful for all those who took part in our recent small group discussions regarding our core commitments: Radical Hospitality, Holistic Spirituality, and Engaged Compassion (also known as *the trees*). Specifically, we reflected on areas where we are bearing fruit, areas where pruning may be in order, and also explored where the Spirit might be calling us to something new.

Over 100 people took part in these conversations. This feedback will be important input for the upcoming Session retreat in early April. More details on the feedback will be shared following the retreat. —Strategic Planning Committee

Adult Education...

Faithful Resistance:

Gospel Visions for the Church in a Time of Empire

by Rick Ufford-Chase

9:45 in Fellowship Hall

April 1	No Seminar — Easter
April 8	Theological Education as an Act of Subversion (Chapter 7)
April 15	Dismantling Corporate Church as a Step to Liberation (Chapter 10)
April 22	Conclusion

SPC Monthly Activities...

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC First Sundays, 9:30–10:30 a.m. in the narthex. (Note: *schedule changes*.) **Next: April 8.**

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for Presbyterian Hunger Program. Place in bucket in the narthex. **Next: April 1.**

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE in the way of

Taizé: song, silence and readings. First Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Sanctuary. **Next: April 4.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S (PW) CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. We will be guided in our discussions by the book *Fierce: Women of the Bible and their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation*. April chapter is "Deborah and Jael: Women on Top." All women are welcome. **Next: April 5.**

CONNECTIONS SPC's Shepherd University-based group for college students meets every other Thursday at 3:45 p.m., at the Blue Moon. For more information contact Ethel Hornbeck, ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Discussion, 8:00–9:00 a.m. **Next: April 21.**

LISTENING GROUPS Prayerful listening and conversation around scripture, poetry and other selected texts, led by Ethel Hornbeck.

- Third Wednesdays, 7–8:00 p.m. in the balcony.

Next: April 18.

- Third Thursdays, 10:00–11:00 a.m. in Classroom #1. **Next: April 19.**

SUPPER GROUP

- Moveable Feast, **Saturday, April 14**, 6:30 p.m., hosted by Sharon Henderson.

CANTERBURY SERVICE Fourth Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. Contact: Debbie Romano via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: April 25.**

COMMUNITY HYMN SING Last Sundays, 4:30 p.m., Choir Room. Join us for a solid hour of singing hymns with good tunes and inspiring lyrics. Hymnals and song sheets are provided. Contact Terry Tucker via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: April 29.**



SPC YARNS AND THREADS GROUP Last Saturdays, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Bring your own project or join us making prayer shawls and baby blankets. Contact Melinda Landolt or Elaine Hurd via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: April 28.**

MASTERWORKS CHORALE performs the East Coast premiere of the *Barbara Allen* oratorio on **Saturday, April 21**, 8 p.m., at the Frank Center, Shepherd University. The oratorio is based on the folk song "Barbara Allen" that traces its roots to the 1600s in Scotland and was brought to the Appalachian mountains by Scotch-Irish settlers.



SPC folks in the Choral

This song, about a tragic love story, is known as "the most widely collected song in the English language." The captivating *Barbara Allen* music tells the sad tale behind the death of two young people who are buried side by side. A rose springs from the chest of one, and a briar from the other. These two vines climb the nearby church tower and become entwined, symbolizing their union in death.

Elsewhere...

COMMUNITY DINNER sponsored by the Jefferson County Homeless Coalition. First Sundays, 6 p.m., at Zion Episcopal Church, 301 East Congress St., Charles Town. We need: main dishes, veggies, salad, fresh fruit, bread, butter, and desserts. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or go to PerfectPotluck.com; coordinator Wright, password 5777. Questions? Contact Bert Wright via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.



Drop off hot food from 4:45-5:15 p.m. on designated Sunday. Leave other food in the SPC refrigerator anytime (marked Community Dinner). *Please use disposable containers, if possible.* **Next: April 1.**

ROLLING RIDGE STUDY RETREAT COMMUNITY

For details, check *Events* at www.rollingridge.net.

"Singing the Trees: Chant, Nature and Soul," **April 20-22.**

"Children of the Earth," Overnight for children ages 6-10, and their parent, grandparent, or other adult mentor, **May 5-6.**

Members and Friends...



**JOHN GONANO
KAREN KINNETT**



**ESTHER MURPHY
LONCA BAILEY**



**ANNE TERESA
BILL RULE**

The Worship Committee thanks our incredibly thoughtful and interesting storytellers for our Lenten programs, February 25, March 4 & 11. Also, we are grateful to Pat Dick, who accompanied our speakers' favorite hymns; the set-up/clean-up crews; and to the soup and bread providers. Yum! Yum!

—Rie Wilson

VIVIAN ALEXANDER was the Jefferson County winner in the Grades 1-2 category for the WV Young Writers Contest. She goes to Charleston on May 11 for WV Young Writers Day where she will be recognized for her achievement and also compete at the state level.



ELI DILLOW is participating in the regional Science Fair and was on the winning 7th grade team in the county Math Field Day competition.

MARY BELL (L) presented awards for the DAR American History Essay Awards to 5th-8th grade students on March 10; **JULIA SANDY (R)**, history professor at Shepherd, was a guest speaker.



IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

On January 31, 9 members of the Immigrant and Refugee Support Committee attended a Los Amigos (The Friends) training at SPC given by Catholic Charities. In an ongoing effort by SPC to partner with organizations already engaged in supporting the immigrant community, Los Amigos was identified as an activity in which committee members, as well as potentially other members of SPC, could participate.

Los Amigos provides support to immigrant families in need. Intake into the program can involve visits to a prospective client's house, as well as ongoing assessment of needs such as transportation, language, budgeting, food, or childcare assistance. The training included an overview of activities that might take place, as well as a requirement to complete on-line training, "Protecting God's Children."

Currently, the most urgent need for family support is due to the high incidence of ICE arrests of the primary breadwinner in the household, frequently leaving children and mothers without resources during the incarceration process.

Notices...

YOU AND SPC CAN BOTH BENEFIT FROM THIS NEW TAX REGULATION

If you are over 70-1/2, and are taking an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from an IRA or 401(k), you normally must pay income tax on the amount of the RMD. But, you may avoid some of that tax if you have a part (or all) of the RMD sent directly to the church to satisfy your pledge.



Briefly stated:

- The church gets the donation.
- **You pay no income tax on that portion of the RMD that you donate.**

This is *not* a tax loophole or gimmick. Congress enacted this rule to encourage philanthropy. **With the new tax regulations, this is a way to get a tax benefit for your donation, even if you take the standard deduction on your tax return.** Your tax adviser can discuss the tax benefits; your IRA custodian can provide instructions on how to do this.

—John Burns, Stewardship Committee

SAVVY CAREGIVER TRAINING for people who care for family or friends with dementia. This 6-week training is **May 9, 16, 23, 30 & June 6**, from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Berkeley Senior Services, 217 N. High St., Martinsburg. Sponsored by Good Shepherd Caregivers, RSVP 304.876.3325.

PC(USA) COMPASSION PEACE AND JUSTICE

TRAINING DAY: "A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants, Refugees and Displaced People." April 20, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., New York Ave. Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC. To register: pcusa.org/advocacytraining. Registration cost increases after March 16



NEW WEST VIRGINIA VOTER ID LAW Voters are now required to present an acceptable ID form to vote in person. See the details on the SPC Bulletin Board or go to the WV Secretary of State site at www.wvsos.gov, click on Elections, then under 2018 Election, select Voter ID Rack Card. **NOTE: WV primary is May 8.**

Mission...

NOTE: Below are reflections from two of our youth who went on the DC Mission Trip. There were 11 youth and adults from St. Agnes Catholic Church and 18 from SPC.

I went on the D.C. mission trip with the youth group last weekend [February 23–25]. Overall, I thought it was a great experience. Not only was I given the opportunity to help out elderly and homeless people in need, but I was able to learn a lot about how people become homeless. My most memorable part was actually the last day when there was a speaker who came in and explained different ways people become homeless and how housing is changing in D.C.

—Ryan Walker



Last weekend, 29 of us went to D.C. on a mission trip to help homeless people. It was a fun first night, filled with games and getting to know each other. I was very anxious, having a dislike of cities and just in general being a very introverted person. Despite that, I still enjoyed myself with all the silly little introductory games, then exhausted, we all went to bed.

I think my favorite thing during the whole trip was at Charlie's Place. We met a man named Kevin, who had recently gotten off the streets and got an apartment. He mentioned that he was close to sixty years old, but the way he spoke, with so much passion, energy, and animation, it made him seem so much younger. He spoke about his love of music, how his parents were both music teachers, and how he would come home every day to his father's playing.

He shared his desire to make his way to West Virginia or North Carolina, somewhere beautiful with mountains and rivers where he could live off the land. He told us about this one river in North Carolina where you could dip your hand in and come up with a handful of rubies, sapphires, and river quartz. He asked about us, how we liked the city (he was very enthusiastic when I shook my head, No), what we wanted to do, our hobbies, and our interests. He gave us advice, to just follow our dreams and let no one stop us.

Kevin was so interesting, so empowering, and so full of knowledge that he shared with us. I know it is extremely unlikely, but I'd like to run into him again someday. He was an incredibly inspiring person, and I left with so many ideas and so much creativity just flooding my brain. That interaction with Kevin, listening to him talk with a non-stop passion for what he was saying, was definitely an experience to remember.

—Written by Mabel Patchell; read in church by Gigi Brown

Nurse's Notes...

TIS THE SEASON—ALLERGY PROOF YOUR DAY

One of the best things you can do is pop an antihistamine early on before symptoms get out of hand. It is also crucial to tweak some things to your daily routine:

1. Wipe down your washing machine with diluted bleach once a month and leave the lid open between loads.
2. Dust every week, but do not use a feather duster or dust rag; use wet cloth or paper towel.
3. Use allergy proof pillow cover.
4. Those who are allergy prone should postpone sweat sessions until later in the day. During high pollen season try to exercise inside.
5. People prone to allergy symptoms are 30% more likely to get migraines. Allergy shots can reduce the frequency and severity by 50%.
6. Buy the right vacuum; a HEPA filter is mandatory. It is a mistake to go bagless, but if you have a bagless vacuum, empty it outside. Always scrub down the canister with damp cloth.
7. Wash everything once a month if you can! Curtains, area rugs, throw pillows and shower curtains should be washed with the hottest water possible for removing pollen.
8. Spring clean your closets and hampers.
9. There is no such thing as a completely hypo allergenic animal for a house pet!

So, wishing all a happy and allergy free spring!

REMINDER: Blood Pressure clinic will be April 8 due to Easter being on the first Sunday.

—Merry Morgan, RN, Parish Nurse

Financial Corner...

GENERAL FUND through March 25. Pledged for 2018: \$291,058. Expected to date: \$67,167. Actual giving: \$73,306. Building Fund pledged for 2018: \$28,910. Received to date: \$6,730.

NEXT NEWSLETTER May 2018. Send announcements, articles, member news, and your favorite travel pictures to office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.

Deadline: **April 25**.

VISIT www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org for the latest news, podcasts, and calendar events.

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church

100 West Washington Street

P.O. Box 268

Shepherdstown, WV 25443

304.876.6466

304.876.2033 (fax)

office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Interim Pastor: Bill Sitterley

BSitterley@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Director of Spiritual Formation and

Campus Ministry: Ethel Hornbeck

ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Visit www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

for the latest news, podcasts, and calendar of events.