



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 18, 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 SERVICE, April 21. Gather at 6:15 a.m.
Informal service at Rumsey Monument Park.
Please bring a chair and gather on the grass area below the monument.
Also, bring a reading, poem, or song to share.
A light breakfast will follow at the nearby home of Becky Phipps.

EASTER SERVICES, April 21, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion.

INQUIRING INTO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

Please join us on April 14 at 9:45 AM to find out what this means and implies, and what is unique about Shepherdstown Presbyterian. We'll meet upstairs in Classroom #1. Please let Rev. Sitterley know of your interest if you have not done so already.



EASTER OFFERING OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing)

Turn in fish boxes by **April 28**.
Donations will be shared: 50%
to humanitarian ministries
of the PCUSA (hunger relief,

disaster assistance, self-development of people projects), 25%
to Jefferson County Community Ministries (JCCM), and 25% to
Good Shepherd (GSIVC). Make checks to SPC; memo: OGHS.

WELCOME ALAN OGDEN



who has joined the SPC staff as our new organist and pianist. He will play piano and organ at both the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services and provide accompaniment for the choir. Alan has served a variety of faith communities in the Washington Metropolitan Area over the years as both an organist and pianist. He has directed adult and youth choirs and is currently teaching organ. In addition to his skills on the organ and piano, Alan also plays the trombone and euphonium and is a trained bass singer. Alan is a graduate of the University of Virginia, with private studies in piano, organ, brass instruments and voice. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

The PNC continues to meet weekly. We have completed our on-line interviews and after checking references, have settled on a top candidate. We are eagerly looking forward to meeting the candidate in person as we continue to prayerfully discern that this is the person God is calling to SPC.

If our in-person meeting confirms this, the next steps will be to present the candidate with a proposal for terms of call and arrange for the candidate to be examined by the Presbytery Committee on Pastoral Transition (CPT). Both the candidate and proposed terms of call must be approved by the CPT. Upon approval, a congregational meeting will be called to elect the new pastor and approve the terms of call. We believe the Spirit has been present with us throughout this process and, as always, welcome your continued prayers and support.

STRATEGIC VISIONING

Our team continues to address SPC's four "growing edges:" areas for improvement that emerged from congregational focus groups in early 2018. One of those edges was to name and proclaim the church's identity. In March, the Strategic Visioning Team created a bookmark (below) that displays key information about the church, including our new "Identity Statement." *Pick up one in the church pew.* If you have questions about the identity statement, please contact any of the team members: Bill Ashforth, Lois Spreen, Anne Teresa, Leslie Williams (chair) or Carolee Youngblood.

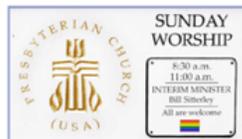


**Shepherdstown
Presbyterian Church**
100 W. Washington St.
PO Box 268
Shepherdstown,
West Virginia 25443
(304) 876-6466

Established 1743



*We are an inclusive
spiritual community,
welcoming all who
long for meaning,
hope, and belonging.
Our faith and practice
are rooted in the way
of Jesus and enriched
by wisdom from all
sources. We are
committed to being
and becoming people
of radical compassion,
working for justice
and wholeness in
ourselves and the
world.*



**Interim Minister:
Bill Sitterley**

**Director of Spiritual
Formation and Campus
Ministry:
Ethel Hornbeck**

office@
shepherdstownpresbyterian.
org

Children's Sunday
Studio
Adult Sunday Seminars
Music Programs
Retreats
Contemplative Groups
Women's Circle
Men's Breakfast
Young-er Adult Group
Connections (College)
More Light (LGBTQIA+)
Community Outreach

www.
shepherdstownpresbyterian.
org



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

Adult Education...

SUNDAY SEMINARS Fellowship Hall, 9:45 a.m. All are welcome. Childcare provided.

THE GOSPEL OF MARY is one of more than 160 known early Christian writings that are contemporaneous with the material in today's New Testament. These seminars will discuss this only gospel whose main character is a woman. And what a woman! She was the favored disciple of Jesus, who shared with her things he did not share with the other disciples.

We will also look briefly at the canonization history and at some New Testament books attributed to Paul, whose agenda was to "correct" some of Paul's doctrines that were too liberal for the increasingly institutionalized church. In this gospel, Jesus is "the human one" whose mission is to free us to be fully human. Also—surprising info about sin!

—Ed Zahmiser

4/28 Part 1

5/5 Part 2

SPC Monthly Activities...

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for relief of hunger. **Next: April 7**

TAIZÉ SERVICE First Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Sanctuary. A Service of Prayer in song, silence, candlelight. **Next: April 3**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S (PW) CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. We continue our discussion of the book *Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation*. The next chapter is "At the Well and on the Road: Women Back-talking God." All women of the church are welcome. **Next: April 4**

CONNECTIONS SPC's Shepherd University-based group for college students meets every other Friday at 4 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 20**

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

- Third Wednesdays, 7–8 p.m., in the Balcony

Next: April 17

- Third Thursdays, 10–11 a.m., in Classroom #1. **Next: April 18**

CANTERBURY SERVICE Fourth Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. Contact Debbie Romano via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: April 24**

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL PRACTICES (ESP) Third Wednesdays (note change from fourth Wednesdays), 10:30 a.m., SPC Library. Explore, experience, and practice various spiritual disciplines such as silence, meditative music, insight meditation, passage meditation, loving kindness, prayer, and others. Next theme is "The Path of Radical Acceptance." Contact Larry Neumark via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: April 17**

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 27**

COMMUNITY HYMN SING at SPC Last Sundays, 4:30 p.m., in the Choir Room. Join us for a solid hour of singing hymns with good tunes and inspiring lyrics: gospel, old-time and new. Contact Terry Tucker via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: April 28**



Elsewhere...

COMMUNITY DINNER sponsored by the Jefferson County Homeless Coalition. First Sundays, 5 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 **3:45 to 4:15 p.m.**, that Sunday. Leave other food in the SPC refrigerator anytime (marked Community Dinner). *Please use disposable containers, if possible.* **Next: April 7**

ROLLING RIDGE STUDY RETREAT COMMUNITY

For details, check *Events* at www.rollingridge.net.
"Foraging & Wild Plant ID Workshop," **April 20**
"Children of the Earth," **May 3-5**
"Restorying the Heroine's Journey," **May 31-June 2**

SOCIAL JUSTICE: CLAIMING AND PROCLAIMING

The work and witness of LGBTQIA+ inclusion has been underway at SPC for more than 20 years. Our use of rainbow symbols (on our website, in our Sanctuary, on our front sign) is not so much about our preference for rainbows as it is about using widely understood symbols to express unambiguously our intention to include and embrace LGBTQIA+ people. This impacts those around us in ways we can barely imagine.

After the rainbow decal was defaced late last year, a letter crafted by our committee circulated on Facebook and was published in local newspapers. A portion read: "At SPC, we see our rainbows as not just nice decorations, but as a visible expression of our commitment to welcome, love and

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SUPPORT COMMITTEE (IRSC)

Helping with College Applications

Undocumented students represent one of the most vulnerable groups served by U.S. schools. Estimates indicate that 80,000 undocumented youth turn 18 and approximately 65,000 graduate from high school every year. Just 54% of undocumented youth have at least a high school diploma, compared to 82% of their U.S.-born peers. Further, only 5 to 10% of undocumented high school graduates continue their education and enroll in an institution of higher education, and far fewer successfully graduate with a degree.



These statistics from 2016 reflect a time when undocumented young people were encouraged to seek entrance to institutions of higher learning. Admittedly, the landscape for immigrants in general to pursue application to a post-secondary education is daunting. More daunting, however, is the danger of exposing the intimate details of family finances, which is often required to apply for scholarships and financial aid.

The SPC Immigration and Refugee Support Committee (IRSC) is volunteering to help any student complete a college application and/or scholarship/financial aid application. Heidi Griffin, an English Language Educator at Jefferson High School (JHS), has identified students of all backgrounds who need help with the application process. To date, Georgiann Toole, Diana Eldridge, Tony Russo and Pat Hamilton have spent time during the JHS lunch hour to assist students. Volunteers do not have to know much about the college or financial application process to be of help. IRSC has resources available to read, but mostly the young people need a confident presence during this challenging time.

To volunteer or to get more information, please contact Pat Hamilton pathamilton55@gmail.com or Julie Tucker julieb621@msn.com.

celebrate all of God's beloved children. They serve as a symbol of our corporate identity as a diverse and diversity-seeking progressive spiritual community."

Among the many responses was this from a complete stranger in southern WV: "First, thank you for your commitment to the LGBTQ+ community! It means a lot to me as I grew up in a Presbyterian church. I would love to send a donation to your church to replace the stickers/flags...we have experienced the disheartening vandalism as well. But it seems there are always teachable moments and we see hope through the negativity." As a More Light LGBTQIA+ affiliate church, and in light of hurtful actions taken recently by the United Methodist General Conference, our public expression of affirmation and celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community is more important than ever.

—Lynn Coddington, Social Justice Committee

Mission...

PRESBYTERIAN PEACE FELLOWSHIP

Beginning on March 1, 2019, I will spend one month with the Presbyterian Church of Colombia under the auspices of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. My partner and I will serve as "acompañantes" or companions to the Presbytery of Urabá in Apartadó, one of the historical centers of internal violence in Colombia. We will participate in this "ministry of presence," which has been in place since 2005.

The Diaconate of the Presbytery of Urabá focuses its outreach on "accompanying displaced families who have little hope of restitution of their lands" for fear of violent backlash, a result of over half a century of multi-sided internal conflict. In fact, Colombia has one of the largest (7 million) populations of internally displaced people in the world. Rightist paramilitary groups, leftist guerrillas, the military and competing criminal bands have fought each other for decades, resulting in death and displacement of unarmed civilians. The ongoing drug trade continues to compound and complicate both the violence and efforts to bring peace to the region.



Jeff's mode of transportation

Despite recent efforts to curb the conflict with peace accords, recent outbreaks of extreme violence in January of this year remind us that the work in Colombia of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and the broader church is far from over. I urge you to support this ongoing effort of the PC(USA), and I count on your prayers and blessings as I embark on this call to support our Presbyterian family in Colombia.

— Gratefully and in peace,
Jeff Hornbeck

(Note: This article appeared in Shenandoah Press, the newsletter from our Presbytery.)



MASTERWORKS CHORALE and SHEPHERD WIND ENSEMBLE will perform the East Coast premiere of Johan de Meij's *Symphony No. 5 Return to Middle Earth*. This original, 6-movement composition, is sung in Ilkorin, one of the Elvish languages of Middle Earth. Frank Center Theater, **Saturday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.** with a pre-concert presentation at 6:45 p.m.



SPC elves and friends are performing.
Row 1: Suellen Myers, Elaine Hurd, Emily Gross.
Row 2: Diana Eldridge, Sharon Henderson, Georgiann Toole, Rie Wilson

LENTEN SPEAKERS SHARE SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS



GEORGE JORDON and MORGAN SELL,
March 10

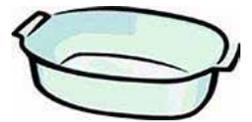


JEFF GROFF and BETTY SNYDER,
March 17



BOB TUCKER and SEASON JONES
March 24

MISSING A DISH? Please check in the church kitchen for your dishes and containers. If they are not picked up by **Sunday, April 7**, they will be given away.



Financial Corner...

GENERAL FUND through March 24. Expected to date: \$66,923. Received to date: \$74,299. Building Fund pledged for 2019: \$28,570. Received to date: \$5,945.

NEXT NEWSLETTER May 2019. Send announcements, articles, member news, and your favorite vacation pictures to office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Deadline: April 24

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Director of Spiritual Formation and Campus Ministry: Ethel Hornbeck
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Visit www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org for the latest news, podcasts, and calendar of events.