



ASH WEDNESDAY This year we accepted an invitation to join with Asbury United Methodist Church (across from Morgan's Grove Park) and other churches on March 6. There will be a light dinner at 6:00 p.m., with worship, including communion and imposition of ashes, at 7:00 p.m. Let the office know if you plan on attending the dinner, office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.



SUNDAY, MARCH 10
Daylight Saving Time begins.
Set clocks forward (before church!) one hour.

LENTEN SUNDAY EVENINGS March 10, 17 and 24

5:30 p.m. Soup and Bread Supper in Fellowship Hall

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or Narthex,
or contact the office to bring soup and bread.

(Our dishwasher is gone, so please bring your own bowl, spoon and cup.)

6:15 p.m. Program in Sanctuary: "Notes from My Spiritual Journey"

March 10: George Jordon and Morgan Sell

March 17: Jeff Groff and Betty Snyder

March 24: Season Jones and Bob Tucker

Childcare is available. Contact: office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.

COLD WEATHER SHELTER March 16–23

Guests will arrive around 7 p.m. Volunteers needed for morning meals and overnight stays. At least one man and one woman are needed each night. If you can help in any way, please contact: phodder@frontiernet.net.

To the Editor [of the *Shepherdstown Chronicle*],

I was disturbed by the headline of the article on providing shelter for the homeless printed in the January 25, 2019 *Chronicle*, "Helping the Helpless." The people who need shelter are NOT helpless! They are people who currently do not have places to live. Many of them have jobs that pay poorly—could you live on a minimum wage job? Or they may not have the skills to get a job. They should be treated with respect.

As a person who volunteers at JCCM [Jefferson County Community Ministries] two days a week, I like to think that my work will assist people to become more independent and need fewer services. The people we serve should be seen as people who need help, not as people who are helpless.

—Stephanie Jamieson



WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATIONS Check www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org or 304.876.6466 for notices after 7:30 a.m. If the official leadership cannot make it to a service, anyone who can make it safely is welcome to organize an informal service of lessons, songs and prayer, using the bulletin for the day.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

Your PNC continues to make steady progress toward calling a new pastor. We have received and reviewed over 100 Pastoral Information Forms and conducted initial and follow-up interviews with very promising candidates.

The next steps in the process are to meet our top choice in person, complete reference checks, negotiate terms of call, arrange for Shenandoah Presbytery examination and approval, and prepare a report for the congregation. Once all of these steps are successfully completed, a congregational meeting will be called to elect the new pastor.

Feel free to direct your questions to Christa Joyce at Shepherdstownsearch@gmail.com. As we continue on this joyful task and journey, we welcome and appreciate your prayers and support.

STRATEGIC VISIONING

On January 27, the Strategic Visioning Team (SVT) convened a meeting of all the SPC committee chairs. It was a wonderful chance to hear the varied ways in which our Committees support and enrich this church's life. We also started exploring opportunities for cross-committee collaboration, communication and support. We hope this will be the first gathering in a series. The chairs recognized that, as a group, we could do more to inform the whole congregation about the committees, what they do, and how people can get involved. Stay tuned!

Coming to a pew pocket near you: SPC bookmarks! In the congregational focus groups we conducted in early 2018, many of you said that SPC could be more explicit about who we are as a spiritual community. Crafting the new SPC Identity Statement was our first step to address that suggestion. Now we're designing a bookmark, which we hope will be an attractive and practical way to communicate who we are and what we offer.

—Leslie Williams, Chair

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

Adult Education...

SUNDAY SEMINARS continue exploring anger, using the Richard Rohr periodical *Oneing: An Alternative Orthodoxy* devoted to the topic. It includes a dozen essays from a wide variety of writers and perspectives. "Anger can actually be an expression of compassion, a willingness to uphold boundaries that are sacred or stand up for someone who is being oppressed." Fellowship Hall, 9:45 a.m. Books are in the office: \$10 (or pay what you can). All are welcome. Childcare provided.

- 3/3 "Learning of Fire" and "Saluting the Divinity in You"
3/10 Break
3/17 "Moral Outrage" and "In Defense of Anger"
3/24 "Arthritis of the Spirit" and "The Role of Anger in Spiritual Work"

3/31 "The Second Sacred Gate" and "Anger, Contemplation, and Action"

THE GOSPEL OF MARY

4/28 Part 1

5/5 Part 2

SPC Monthly Activities...

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for relief of hunger. Next: March 3

TAIZÉ SERVICE First Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Sanctuary. A Service of Prayer in song, silence, candlelight. (NOTE: Not meeting this month in order to attend Ash Wednesday Service. See notice on Page 1.)

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 "Song of Songs." All women of the church are welcome. Next: March 7

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: March 16

SUPPER GROUP

- Moveable Feast, Saturday, March 9, 6:30 p.m., hosted by Esther and Tim Murphy
- TGIF, Friday, March 15, 6:30 p.m., hosted by Rie Wilson

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: March 20

- Third Thursdays, 10–11 a.m., in Classroom #1. Next: March 21

CANTERBURY SERVICE Fourth Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. Contact Debbie Romano via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. Next: March 30

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: March 31

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: March 31



NEW MEMBERS Interested in learning more about what it means to be a member of Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church? There will be a class forming next month for those who are curious. Please let Rev. Sitterley know if you are interested in being a part of this.

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: March 3**

WILL YOU HELP PROTECT GIRLS FROM BOKO HARAM?

St. Agnes Catholic Church, on behalf of a consortium of individuals, is trying to raise money to send girls from Kolofata, Cameroon (on the border of eastern Nigeria) to a boarding school 400 miles south of Kolofata. Two thirds of the schools in the Kolofata region have been closed due to bombing and weapons fire. We are offering hope to people living in fear.

We're trying to raise \$4,000 to send another girl this year. For every \$3,000 we raise, we have a promise of a \$1,000 match. Your support (\$25, \$50, \$100 or more) can make the difference for these girls and their families. Send checks to St. Agnes Church, PO Box 175, Shepherdstown, WV 25443; Attn: E. Dooley; memo Kolofata Scholarship Fund. For more information, contact Eileen Dooley, 304.876.3320, dooleywoods@comcast.net.

SPRING BREAK Shepherd University students are dedicating their Spring Break (March 9–15) to a full week of community service in partnership with Coalfield Development Corporation. Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is a week of opportunities—students immerse themselves in the culture of Appalachia and work to rebuild communities affected by the opioid crisis and layoffs from mining work. ASB has partnered with Brandon Dennison's non-profit for three years and always enjoys the experience above any other service-focused experience.

Our group needs to raise a \$6,000 in order for our trip to happen and my passionate students are fundraising as quickly and efficiently as they can. If you are interested in making a donation toward our trip follow the link below to our ASB page on the Shepherd Website—any donation helps!
www.shepherd.edu/communityservice/alternative-spring-break

—Hannah Brumbaugh,
Graduate Assistant for Community Service

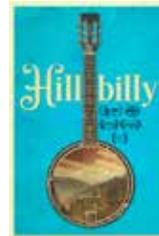
ROLLING RIDGE STUDY RETREAT COMMUNITY

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

Spring Work Day, **March 16**

HILLBILLY REVIEW

"I have a dream, that I will walk into my classroom someday, and say, 'Raise your hand if you are from Appalachia' and someone will actually raise a hand. So far, no one has." Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt, Chair of the Shepherd University (SU) Appalachian Studies program, made this statement in her introduction to a showing of the new documentary, *Hillbilly*, at Reynolds Hall on the SU campus on Thursday, February 21.



The documentary is an exploration of the stereotyping of people who live in the Blue Ridge Mountains, or Appalachian region, which includes southeastern Ohio and southern Pennsylvania, the state of West Virginia and part of Virginia, western portions of North and South Carolina, and east Tennessee. The film also focuses on the lack of employment opportunities in Appalachia, which in recent years has been worsened by the exodus of coal with nothing to take its place except Walmart stores.

Clips of news stories, cartoons, and television programs are shown from years of reporting on Appalachia and its people, wherein they are described as impoverished, uneducated, and occupy substandard housing, adding to the stereotyping. The connection between unemployment and the region's support of President Trump is also explored.

Silas House, critically acclaimed author of novels set in Appalachia, talks about the Appalachian accent and the shaming that goes with it. Through the accent, Appalachians are set apart, becoming "the other," when in truth, House states, "Appalachia" is nothing more than a social construct. Others from Appalachia who share the screen with House include bell hooks, Barbara Ellen Smith, and Frank X. Walker.

In the follow-up Q and A session, one of the filmmakers, Sally Rubin, said that *Hillbilly* is a movie that she had always wanted to make, having grown up in east Tennessee herself. Work began on it in 2013, it was released in 2018, and it has already won numerous awards. If you missed *Hillbilly*, it is available on Amazon Prime Video and VUDU.

—Becky Phipps

THANK YOU In partnership with Shepherd University, SPC screened *Hillbilly* to a packed, standing-room only crowd at Reynolds Hall. The film portrays a more authentic depiction of Appalachians of all races, sexual orientation and gender identification than the tired stereotypes we typically see. Co-sponsoring this film is a part of SPC's social justice mission to educate on key social justice issues leading to deeper engagement with the community and resulting in a world of increasing justice and peace. Extra special thanks to Lois Butcher for her fabulous flyer and poster artwork, Becky, Cookie and Harvey for papering the town with flyers, and Pete Spreen and Rie Wilson for their support. And a huge thank you to all the members of SPC who attended the screening!
—Lynn Coddington, Social Justice Committee

YOUTH TRIP TO BALTIMORE, FEBRUARY 15-17



This was my first experience going on a mission trip to Baltimore. I had the opportunity to learn more about different passages in the Bible, connect with lots of people in Baltimore, and make new friends from Shepherdstown.

My group went to the Woodburn McCabe area of Baltimore to a drug recovery center, called a methadone clinic. We turned over the soil in the garden and weeded the area to prepare it for spring planting. We also cleaned up trash in a lot behind it and in the playground next to the garden. The garden is important because it helps people eat healthier. They were mostly eating from the corner store and not getting proper nutrition. The garden is especially important to a woman named Precious who works at the methadone clinic. Precious was very nice and cares a lot about her community, so she started the garden after she noticed people weren't getting any vegetables to eat. Precious first came to the clinic to stop doing drugs, and she's been recovered now for seven years. She gave me a hat to wear because it was cold and also gave me lots of hugs.

After working in the garden, we went to a different park to play kickball. We went around the neighborhood and knocked on doors to get the kids to come play with us. The local pastors had games, crafts, and food for the kids. The kids there were very affectionate and funny, and they loved playing with us. I loved playing with them, too. One of the children named Gabe, who is maybe five, gave me a lot of hugs. I remember his big smile he had the whole time.

That night, our whole group acted out the Exodus story of Moses, when he was a baby and was hidden in the river. I had a lot of fun with my friends doing this, and it was a chance to work together as a group.

The best parts of the weekend were playing kickball, walking to a local bakery for delicious cookies, getting to hang out with new friends, and going to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday. My favorite part was during the sign of peace. The whole church got up to hug and shake hands with every single person. The service was different from what I usually experience here, because there were people who are homeless alongside those of us who aren't homeless. The way we did communion was different and so were the songs.

I will definitely participate in the mission trip again and will encourage others to go. I was inspired by all of the people there, and it felt good to go and connect with them.

—Ava Joyce

SALLY FITZGERALD and ALLEGRA WRIGHT are moving!

Contact info:
106 Congress Street
Bethlehem, NH 03574
Allegra's cell is 301-335-9913.

Financial Corner..

STOCK AND MUTUAL FUNDS Did you know that you can donate stock or mutual funds to the church? If you itemize deductions and are selling appreciated stock or mutual



funds, you can receive a tax donation for the full market value of the stock without paying tax on the capital gains. You may use such a donation to pay your pledge. If you would like additional information, please contact me, jfitzburns@gmail.com, or 304.876.9146.

—John Burns, Stewardship Committee

THANKYOU Each year we ask member households to pledge what they believe will be their total monetary gifts so Session can make sound budget decisions. Those of us entrusted with managing our pledge solicitation campaign are overwhelmed with gratitude at how so many give cheerfully and faithfully to the work of our beloved SPC. Heartfelt thanks again for your strong responses for 2019.

—Phil Baker-Shenk, Pledge Chair

—John Burns, Stewardship Chair

GENERAL FUND through February 24. Expected to date: \$44,615. Received to date: \$43,944. Building Fund pledged for 2019: \$28,570. Received to date: \$3510.

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

Deadline: March 20

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