

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Newsletter

November 2019

Editor's Note on Special Issue: *This format is being used until we transition to an updated design program. Plus, it is just a very special time for SPC. (That's my excuse!)*

—Rie Wilson, Newsletter Editor

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS Sunday, November 3. Set clocks back one hour.

WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR The Reverend Gusti Linnea Newquist



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, Sunday, November 10, 9:45 a.m., Sanctuary
Highlights of the past and coming year. Election of elders, deacons, nominating committee, and trustee. Bios of nominees are included with this newsletter. All members are encouraged to attend. Childcare provided.

PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY, November 10. Please return your pledge form on or before then. If you didn't receive one in the mail, let the office know. There are also extra forms in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

MISSION FORUM, Sunday, November 3, 9:45 a.m. Fellowship Hall. Dr. Serge Makolo, Director of the Kasai Christian Medical Institute, a Presbyterian hospital and medical teaching center in the Democratic Republic of Congo, will bring us up to date on the health center and other things going on at the hospital, as well as current events in the Congo in general. SPC has contributed over \$4,000 in the past several years to this institute for construction of the PAX women's health center in the city of Kananga. Dr. Makolo will be able to take questions in English. For more information, contact Bill Rule, via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.



YOUTH LEAF RAKING and YARD WORK, Sunday, November 10. Youth outreach is continuing the fall tradition of raking leaves for members and friends of SPC. Meet at SPC at noon, finish around 3:30 p.m. Bring a rake and gloves if you can. **Let the office know by November 8**, if you would like to help or want help with your leaves.

Adult Education...

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

The focus is on Richard Rohr's 2019 book *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe*. We are exploring the roots of the universal Christ in the rich history of the Christian tradition. Join us for this important and illuminating series.

—Anne Teresa, Adult Education

November 17	Chapters 11-12
November 24	Chapters 13-15
December 1	Thanksgiving Break
December 8	Chapters 16–Afterword
December 15	Appendices

SPC Monthly Activities...

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES

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

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 at 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: November 3**

TAIZÉ PRAYER First Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Sanctuary. A contemplative prayer service, grounded in silence and simple chant, dedicated to creating spaces of peace in ourselves and in our world. **Next: November 6**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S (PW) CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Our discussion of Marcus Borg's book *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most* continues with Chapter 3, "God is Real and is a Mystery." **Next: November 7**

SUPPER GROUP TGIF, Friday, November 8, 6 p.m., SPC Fellowship Hall, hosted by Chris Duewel and Ed Zahniser.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays, Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.; discussion 8–9 a.m. **Next: November 16**

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL PRACTICES (ESP) Third Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m., SPC Library. This is an open group and no experience is necessary. All are welcome. The theme for November is "Awakening Compassion for Ourselves." If there are questions or concerns, feel free to contact Larry Neumark via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: November 20**

LISTENING GROUPS Third Thursdays, 10–11 a.m., in Classroom #1 and 7–8 p.m., in the Balcony. Prayerful listening and conversation using poetry and other selected texts. **Next: November 21**

COMMUNITY HYMN SING Last Sundays, 4:30–5:30 p.m., upstairs in the Choir Room. We sing tunes in the hymnal, take requests, and sometimes add song sheets to the mix for goodies that have escaped our hymnal. There's no need to read music; you just need to breathe and be there. All are welcome. This is open to the community. Contact Terry Tucker via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: November 24**

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: November 30**

Notices...

COALFIELD DEVELOPMENT CORP is coming to town **Saturday, November 2, 10–11 a.m.!** Stop by the Shepherdstown Train Station for some coffee and conversation about all the exciting new things happening. Live music and presentation by Brandon Denison.

MORE LIGHT THANKSGIVING DINNER Sunday, November 17, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall SPC's More Light Group is hosting a Thanksgiving dinner to celebrate and welcome our LGBTQIA family, and their Allies. Along with the entire congregation, we are inviting our Eastern Panhandle Youth Alliance, their parents, and leaders, plus, members of the churches that participated in the service at SPC during Pride Week last June, Shepherd University's Connections students, and our LGBTQIA immigrant friends from Morgantown.

It is more important than ever for Allies to show support of LGBTQIA persons who are experiencing daily violence and violation of their human and civil rights. It should be great fun and good community spirit. Turkey will be provided, so please bring a side dish to share. If you have questions, email: office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.

COLD WEATHER SHELTER DATES have been set: **December 14–20, 2019** and **March 7–14, 2020**. Stay tuned for more information.

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, started in 1999, is an annual observance on November 20, honoring the memory of transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of violence. It was the beginning of an important tradition.

In 2018, advocates tracked at least 26 violent deaths of transgender people in the U.S., the majority of whom were Black women. These victims were killed by acquaintances, partners and strangers, most involving clear anti-transgender bias. Fatal violence disproportionately affects transgender women of color, and the intersections of racism, sexism, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia conspire to deprive them of employment, housing, healthcare and other necessities.

In 2019 alone, 19 transgender people have been fatally shot or killed by violence. There is heightened concern for those transgender women who have experienced further trauma in ICE detention centers or in prison.

More Light Presbyterians seek to make the church a true community of hospitality, and to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

A NOTE FROM ETHEL

CoInspire: Liberating Imagination and Eviscerating Racism was held recently at the Presbyterian conference center in Montreat, N.C. Through a series of presentations, workshops, sermons and conversations, participants were challenged to find the *courage and imagination to eviscerate* racist structures and behaviors that are at the root of the "malignant mess" we are currently experiencing, "in the world, in the church and in us." I returned home with a wealth of new ideas and resources to share. Among the many stand-out gems I continue to ponder:

We must seek ways to move our churches more toward the margins (where Christian community was born) and away from the structures of empire, according to Dr. Raj Nadella, Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. The church may need a good resurrection, he said. "Being dead is bad, but what is worse is being comfortable being dead. What is worse than being comfortable being dead is resisting being brought back to life."

Jennifer Harvey, Professor of Christian Ethics and anti-racism teacher, said that the church must be persistent and consistent in addressing racism because "antiracism education *IS* Christian education," and should be included in our programming at all levels and ages. We must also take care, she said, to ensure that "our conversations (around race) become a catalyst for change, not a substitute for change."

Conference organizer Jessica Vasquez Torres reminded us that White people need liberation from racist structures as much as anyone; young white males, she pointed out, are most at risk of being radicalized in our world today.

Rev. Traci Blackmon, preaching on the Good Samaritan proclaimed, "Until we can see Jesus in black and brown bodies, in LGBTQ bodies...we have not seen Jesus at all." To this, and to all of the wisdom offered, I can only reply: Amen.

—Ethel Hornbeck, Director of Spiritual Formation and Campus Ministry

Members and Friends...



Dinner with migrant workers at Applecrest Orchard, September 29

WINCHESTER MUSICA VIVA CHAMBER CHOIR will present:

“(Mostly) A Cappella Music for the Season’s Traditions” to honor seasonal traditions from throughout the world, including Georgiann Toole’s arrangement of the Irish tune *Parting Glass*.

- **Friday, December 13**, 7:30 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, Upperville, VA
- **Saturday, December 14**, 7:30 p.m., and **Sunday, December 15**, 3:00 p.m., Grace Lutheran Evangelical Church, Winchester, VA



Ten members of SPC’s choir will perform **Handel’s Messiah** with Shepherd’s Masterworks Chorale on **Saturday, November 16**, 7:30 p.m., at the Frank Center.

NAME TAGS THOUGHTS What a treat to have name tags today. We have been members at SPC for 10 years and there are still people whose names I don’t know. Permanent name tags would be a useful way to reach out to visitors and new members and to the community when we sponsor the shelter and community events—and to those of us whose memories aren’t what they used to be. —Stephanie Jamieson

Financial Corner...

GENERAL FUND through **October 27**. Expected to date: **\$239,908**. Received to date: **\$226,790**. Building Fund pledged for 2019: **\$28,570**. Received to date: **\$17,035**.

NEXT NEWSLETTER December 2019. Send announcements, articles, member news, and your favorite vacation pictures to office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Deadline: November 27**

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