



SPC CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

The whole congregation together in one place at one time.
Sunday, September 8, 5:00 p.m., at Morgan's Grove Park

Bring a dish to serve 12. Assignments per last name:

A-H: vegetable or salad; I-P: dessert; Q-Z: side dish
Chicken, beverages, plates, cups, and flatware are provided.



Volunteers needed to set up at 4:30 p.m. and clean up after.

Contact office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org if you can help.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The Session is calling a congregational meeting for **Sunday, September 15, at 9:45 a.m.** At that time, the Pastor Nominating Committee will offer details about the candidate they are presenting to be our new pastor, and will tell us why they are so excited to do so. The congregation will then be invited to approve the "terms of call" for this candidate. Please make every effort to attend this meeting and hear about the nominee.

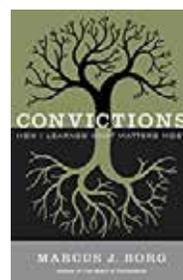
OUR SUNDAY STUDIO KIDS NEED TEACHERS!

Those wonderful, smart little people need you a few times a year to be their teacher. No need to create lesson plans; everything you need will be provided. Contact Amanda Groff via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

This fall the Presbyterian Women are discussing Marcus Borg's book *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*. The book is described as "A Manifesto for Progressive Christians."



If you need a copy of the book, contact Rie Wilson via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. In addition to a stimulating Bible study, we share joys and concerns with a group of caring and loving women. We laugh and cry together

in a safe environment.

We meet the first Thursday each month. Our first meeting this fall is **September 5, 10 a.m.**, in the Fellowship Hall. We will be exploring Chapter 1, "Context Matters." All women of the church are welcome.

Adult Education...

SUNDAY SEMINARS begin **September 22**, in the Fellowship Hall, 9:45 a.m. All are welcome. Childcare provided.

This fall will focus on Richard Rohr's 2019 book *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe*. We'll explore the roots of the universal Christ in the rich history of the Christian tradition. Rohr says, "I believe in Jesus Christ isn't one belief statement but two. Jesus is God individual and personal; Christ is God everywhere and universal." Join us for this important and illuminating series. Books are available in the office for \$20, or pay what you can.

—Anne Teresa, Adult Education

SPC Monthly Activities...

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES*

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: September 4**

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: September 19**

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 this fall kickoff is "Meditation through Sounds." A variety of meditations will be explored and practiced, including a "Mind Like Sky" meditation, which will feature the sound of bells. If there are questions or concerns, feel free to contact Larry Neumark via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: September 18**

**Contemplative prayer, remaining silently and openly in God's presence, "rewires" our brains to think non-dually with compassion, kindness, and a lack of attachment to the ego's preferences...(it) is a practice for a lifetime, never perfected yet always enough.*

—The Center for Action and Contemplation

FIRST THINGS FIRST SUNDAY Coins for relief of hunger. **Next: September 1**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S (PW) CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. See the front page of this newsletter for details. **Next: September 5**

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

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

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: September 28**

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 use 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; tell your friends. This is open to the community. Contact Terry Tucker via office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. **Next: September 29**



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

Notices...

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

SPC CHOIR rehearsals resume **Wednesday, September 4** at 7:30 p.m. All singers 16 years and older are welcome! If you need more information, please contact choir director Georgiann Toole at georgiann1@aol.com.

RISING 6TH GRADERS Interested in joining the youth group? Contact Morgan Sell at youth@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org to get on the mailing list for upcoming events.

ATTENTION SPC COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS AND PARENTS I will be the Deacon Shepherd this school year for our college students, especially those living away from home. Please send their name, college, and college address to office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. We at SPC want our students to have all the support they need at this special time in their lives. Let me know if you have any questions. —Cathy Cross, SPC Deacon

KITCHEN (and outside) UPDATE

The SPC kitchen is back in use with a new floor, dishwasher, stove and microwave! Thanks to all members of the SPC property committee for their help and input to selections and decisions in the process.

Outside work is continuing. The west wall foundation is being water-proofed against future seepage of water into the crawl space under the kitchen. A French drain is being installed along the portico for the same purpose. The last stage of this project will be replacement and/or correction of gutter problems along the west side of the building, which we hope will finally solve some of the water problems in both the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary.

Everyone's patience has been appreciated—especially with the difficulties in maintaining a good coffee supply and providing handicapped access during this renovation.

—Bill Rule

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 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: September 1**

ROLLING RIDGE STUDY RETREAT COMMUNITY

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

"Finding the Gold in the Darkness: The Way of Soul in Troubled Times," **September 13–15**

"Foraging and Wild Plant Identification," **September 28**

" Mandalas for Mindfulness Day Retreat," **October 5**

"Ribbed Egg Basket Workshop," **October 12**

CONGO MISSION NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"Claim a New Day: Partners in Creating a New Congo"

Healing the Wounds of War While Laying the Foundation of Peace and Empowering Youth and Women for Leadership

The Congo Mission Network (CMN) is holding its 2019 annual conference in Knoxville, TN, on **October 17–19**. Attendance is open to any church or individual with an interest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The fee is \$50. To register and get more details on the program, go to: <https://congopartners.org/conference/>.

The autumn colors should be at or near their peak in the Smoky Mountains, so consider combining this great conference with a drive along the Blue Ridge Parkway and a visit to Cades Cove, Clingmans Dome, Gatlinburg or even Dollywood!

For bios on the notable speakers at the conference, go to: <https://congopartners.org/conference-speaker-bios/>.

SPC members are encouraged to register soon and attend this extremely interesting conference.

SYSTEMIC RACISM IN THE CHURCH ADDRESSED AT MONTREAT, NC, OCTOBER 7–10

Montreat, in western North Carolina, is hosting *CoInspire*, a conference addressing systemic racism in the church. *CoInspire* will examine ways that members of Christ's body might *co-inspire* one another to liberate the imagination for new ways of being, and examine ways we can conspire to eviscerate the racism within our churches.

Our breath is our life-force, but the air we breathe can restore our life or kill us. We are living in a world where the sins of racism infect the very air we breathe. What happens when we pay attention to how much breath we give to scarcity, competition, and fear? What happens when we

Immigrant and Refugee Support Committee: Change in the Public Charge Rule

The Public Charge Rule for those with Green Cards and others seeking legal immigration will change on October 15. Cash assistance has traditionally been a disqualification, but that has now been expanded to include Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or food stamps, and housing assistance like Section 8 housing vouchers. The category, "likely to become a public charge," has been redefined to include anyone who gets these benefits.

The rule change is extremely complex, making it difficult to determine who will be affected. The result is that more poor immigrants and potential citizens are being frightened away from benefits that might lead them out of poverty. The pointed assault has been targeted toward poorer brown or black immigrants. The rules favor self-reliant immigrants who are most often wealthy and white: 26 million people could be affected.

Because the public comment on this rule change has passed, the best we can do is educate ourselves and take every opportunity to oppose what Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director, Office of Public Witness, described as "...one of the most un-Christian actions of any administration in decades."

—Pat Hamilton

LINKS FOR FURTHER READING:

- <https://cliniclegal.org/resources/dhs-finalizes-public-charge-rule>
- <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/chilling-effects-us-public-charge-rule-commentary>
- <https://www.vox.com/2019/8/12/20802613/trump-public-charge-immigration-rule-change-explained-marielena-hincapie>
- <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/opw/2019/08/14/opw-statement-on-new-public-charge-regulation/>

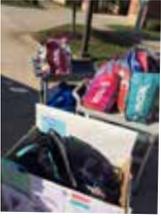
choose to focus our breath on giving oxygen to liberate our imaginations for a world where the air is full of abundance, hope, and equity?

Along with other notable leaders, the keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis who, along with the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, helped launch the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.

For conference details and registration go to <https://montreat.org/events/micl-2019>.

—SPC Social Justice Committee

Mission...



Hello generous SPC members and friends! My daughter Beatrice and I delivered around 30 backpacks and LOTS of school supplies to Jefferson High School this morning. The guidance office received the supplies with thanks!

—Best regards, Anne Barrat

Members and Friends...



SECOND ANNUAL DEACON VISIT with folks at Homewood in Williamsport, MD. Back row: Stephanie Jamieson, Carl Moore, Judy Moore, Tom Banks*. Left side: Chris Cubby, Homewood deacon, Nancy Wilson*, Diane Steece*. Right side: Rosemarie Coy*, Barbara Stenger, Perry Jamieson, deacon moderator. Residents not pictured: Carol and Del Martin and John Foxen

*Homewood residents

ROBERT SYKES will perform jazz at Big Cork Vineyards in Rohrerstown, MD, on **Sunday, September 1, 1–4 p.m.**

“LOVE NOT HATE” RALLY in Charles Town, Sunday, August 11.



SUELLEN MYERS, BECKY PHIPPS, RIE WILSON, LYNN CODDINGTON

LARRY AND JOYCE NEUMARK on their 50th anniversary cruise with their family.



PAT HAMILTON took a first-place honor at the West Virginia Press Association convention in the best news feature category for her article in the *Spirit of Jefferson* titled “Hard Times.” It is a story about hunger in the Panhandle of WV and the myriad reasons people suffer from food insecurity.

LYNCHINGS MEMORIAL

The SPC Social Justice Committee is collaborating with the Martinsburg-Berkeley County NAACP Chapter to locate historical memorial markers to victims of lynchings in Jefferson County: Joe Burns in 1886, and John Tolliver in 1874.

The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) identified the victims while creating the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. A significant portion of the museum is devoted to the Lynching Memorial that documents the 4,400 racial terror lynchings between 1877 and 1950 in the U.S. In pursuit of remembrance, EJI is inviting counties where lynchings occurred to join with it in marking those locations.

To locate a memorial marker with EJI’s help, a community submits an application and is required to develop community educational events designed to address systemic racism, and to build broad community support.

Currently collaborating with the NAACP chapter in addition to SPC are: the Greenhill Historical African American Cemetery, Ramer Memorial School and African American Museum, and WV Women’s March. The Byrd Center at Shepherd University and Shepherd students may also become partners.

To follow the committee’s work—which includes racial justice and LGBTQ and immigrant/asylee advocacy—join the socialjusticespc@gmail.com mailing list.

—Lynn Coddington, Social Justice Committee

Financial Corner...

GENERAL FUND through August 25. Expected to date: **\$189,615**. Received to date: **\$181,943**. Building Fund pledged for 2019: **\$28,570** Received to date: **\$12,344**.

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

Deadline: September 25

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church

100 West Washington Street

P.O. Box 268

Shepherdstown, WV 25443

304.876.6466

304.876.2033 (fax)

office@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.