

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church is an open and inclusive spiritual community seeking to practice the radical hospitality of Jesus. We cultivate a holistic spirituality that, while rooted in the Christian faith, welcomes the wisdom of all faith traditions. We are a house of prayer and a school of love, seeking to serve the world in the way and in the spirit of Jesus.



**Sun 26 • 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Worship: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

9:45 a.m. More Light committee meeting. Classroom No. 1

9:45 a.m. Stewardship committee meeting. Classroom No. 3

**Sun 2 • 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Song of Solomon 2:8–13; Psalm 45:1–2, 6–9; James 1:17–27; Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23*

Worship with communion: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

9:15 a.m. Blood pressure clinic. Narthex

5:30 p.m. Community dinner. Charles Town

**MOVING UP CEREMONY.** Sunday, Sept. 9 at the 11:00 service. Let the office know your child's grade level.

**CARING CUPBOARD.** September is SPC's turn to pack and deliver bags to our two local schools. Meet Thursdays, 9:15 a.m. at the Lutheran Parish House on King Street. Contact Suellen Myers, 304-876-6035 or willowsp@earthlink.net if you can help.

**COMMUNITY DINNER** The SPC youth are providing food and serving it to our friends for the Sept. 2 meal. Regular faithful cooks can take a break this month.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S (PW) CIRCLE** First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. We are continuing to use the book *Fierce: Women of the Bible and their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation* by Alice Connor. The September discussion is the chapter titled, "Eve: Mother of All Living." All women of the church are welcome. Contact Rie Wilson if you need a copy of the book. We are looking forward to joining again with everyone this fall. Invite a friend! **Next: Sept. 6 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.** Highlights of the past and coming year. Election of elders and deacons. Childcare will be available. **Sunday, Sept. 9, 9:45 a.m.**

**SUNDAY SEMINAR,** Expanding our Welcome. This summer, the PCUSA passed a series of resolutions calling all churches in the denomination to explore ways to celebrate and embrace the gifts of LGBTQ people, and commit to work for the full inclusion and dignity of transgender persons. Our fall seminars will begin with a series on gender and sexuality, using a More Light teach-in video that focuses on "Pastoral Care for LGBTQ Youth." This will help us review current language and terminology, explore the landscape facing LGBTQ persons, and discuss ways that we can expand our welcome, especially to youth. **Sept. 16 and 23, 9:45 a.m.** Fellowship Hall.

**RETREAT:** Cultivating a Spiritual Heart. This day of prayer with Patience Robbins will provide an opportunity to explore ways of nurturing the spiritual heart by using simple practices of gratitude and compassion; cultivate stillness and peace; and listen deeply for the Divine Presence. Cost is \$25, or pay what you can. Lunch provided. Let the office know if you prefer a vegetarian lunch. Sign up in office before Sept. 16. **Friday, Sept. 21, 10-3 p.m.,** Priestfield Retreat Center. (Arrive 9:30-9:45 so we can be ready to start at 10:00.)

Ordinary Time  
Twenty First Sunday

August 26, 2018  
11:00 a.m.

**Amen**

When will I ever learn to say Amen,  
Really assent at last to anything?  
For now my hesitations always bring  
Some reservation in their trail, and then  
Each reservation brings new hesitations;  
All my intended amens just collapse  
In an evasive mumble: well, perhaps,  
Let me consider all the implications . . .

But you can read my heart, I hear you say:  
For once be present to me, I am here,  
Breathe in the perfect love that casts out fear  
Open your heart and let your yea be yea.  
Oh bring me to that brink, that moment when  
I see your full-eyed love and say Amen.

**Malcolm Guite**

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Celebrating 275 Years*

*Claiming the Past • Engaging the Present • Imagining the Future*

*We Choose Welcome*

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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And Solomon said: "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built!" **1 Kings 8:27**

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!  
**Psalm 84:1**

So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."  
**John 6:67-68**

Draw your strength from Christ and from the strength of that mighty power. **Ephesians 6:10**

**Preacher**  
Rev. Bill Sitterley  
**Piano**  
Kari Edge  
**Offertory**  
Jeananne Stine  
**Assistants**  
Gino Santacrose  
Andrew Rolfe  
Carol Wood

**To Our Guests**  
Glad you're with us. Please sign the guest book by the front door and fill in a visitor's card from the pew pocket. After the service enjoy a cup of fair trade coffee with friends in the Fellowship Hall.

**Childcare Available**  
In the nursery at the 11:00 service  
See ushers for assistance.

**Sermons & Newsletters**  
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

**Sunday flowers**  
sign up in office

## GATHERING OUR HEARTS

### Introit (2x)

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet  
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

### Proclamation

In life and death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God,  
whom alone we worship and serve.

### Call to Prayer

Lift up your hearts  
*We lift them up to the Lord*

### Prayer

† † †

### \*Hymn 12

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

## ENCOUNTERING GRACE

### Prayer for Wholeness

Loving Creator, how lovely is your dwelling place! The sparrow is content in your loving care. You invite us to dwell as one with you in the heart of Love. But we succumb to fear. We dwell in anxiety and build walls between us and others. Forgive us. May our lives be a meeting place for you and others. Teach us to trust you in all times and circumstances.

### Silence

### Kyrie eleison (2x)

### Declaration of Grace & Gratitude

### \*Response

Love before us...

### Welcome

### Blessing the World

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal

### \*\*Hymn 48

"Rain Down"

### First Pew

### Parish Life

### \*Hymn 713

"Touch the Earth Lightly"

## HEARING THE WORD

### Reading (cover)

### Interlude

### Lesson

John 6:56-69

### Sermon

"Your Response is Normal"

### \*Hymn 721

"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

## SERVING THE WORLD

### Prayers for Others

### Presenting Offerings

### Offertory

"We"

Allen Sherman/Albert Hague

### Affirmation

† † †

### \*Credo

With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### \*Response

Light before us...

† † †

### Charge and Benediction

### Postlude

I am growing accustomed to the grace of gradual illumination, so it is a delight and no real surprise when I see God's messages to me in the scattered rainbows on my wall at sunrise. **Luci Shaw**

All men and women are hungry for God. The hunger is masked and misinterpreted in many ways, but it is always there. Everyone is on the verge of crying out "My Lord and my God!" but the cry is drowned out by doubts or defiance, muffled by the dull ache of their routines, masked by their cozy accommodations with mediocrity.

**Eugene Peterson**

I will always regard it as an example of God's great mercy and inexhaustible creativity that so unpromising a creature [as I] might begin to turn her life to the good. And not only that: the very things that had gotten me into such irredeemable messes were the instruments of my conversion. **Kathleen Norris**

O Christ, tirelessly you seek out those who are looking for you and who think you are far away; teach us, at every moment, to place our spirits in your hands. While we are still looking for you, already you have found us. However poor our prayer, you hear us far more than we can imagine or believe.

**Brother Roger of Taizé**

**Flowers placed by**  
The Price family fund

\* stand if you are able

\*\* children grades 5 and younger to the first pew