

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church: An Inclusive Spiritual Community. We welcome all who long for meaning, hope, and belonging. Our faith & 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.



Sun 2 • First Sunday of Advent

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:30 a.m. Blood pressure clinic. Narthex
10:45 a.m. Sunday Seminar. Fellowship Hall
12:15 p.m. Volunteer orientation. CR 3
1:00 p.m. Finance committee. CR 1
5:00 p.m. Community dinner. Zion Episcopal

Tue 4

10:00 a.m. Staff meeting. Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Adult Ed. CR 1
7:30 p.m. Choir practice. Choir Room

Wed 5

6:30 p.m. Pride committee meeting. CR 1
7:00 p.m. Evening prayer in song, silence and candlelight. Sanctuary

Thu 6

10:00 a.m. Women's Circle. Fellowship Hall

Sat 8 Cold weather shelter at SPC begins

3:00 p.m. Memorial service for
Bob Proudman. Sanctuary

Sun 9 • Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11;
Luke 3:1-6
8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
10:45 a.m. Confirmation. CR 1

2019 CHURCH DIRECTORY is now ready for proofing (copies in Narthex and Fellowship Hall.) Make sure your listing is included and correct. If so, check box.

PHOTOS for the directory. Get yours updated or taken for first time after services Dec. 2 & 9. The photographer will be at the choir loft after the 8:30 service and in Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 service.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR. Last Sunday. Projects sponsored this year are: Columbia Accompaniment Program to help pay for peacemakers; PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) to assist immigrants with needs at the border; and JCCM to help fund hotel rooms for the cold weather shelter overflow.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS TEEN is a volunteer group that collects and distributes gifts to needy teenagers, identified through schools and community agencies. Each gift bag, with three items each, is delivered by law enforcement

personnel. The list of teen-appropriate new gifts (unwrapped) and a collection box will be at SPC **through Dec. 16.** Also, give store gift cards/certificates to either Steve Warner or Chris Cubby. Questions? Contact Steve Warner: 304-676-4422.
COMMUNITY DINNER. Sunday, Dec. 2, 5:00 p.m., Zion Episcopal Church, Charles Town. Drop off hot food 3:45-4:15 p.m. that Sunday. Leave other food in the SPC refrigerator anytime (marked community dinner). Please use disposable containers.

COLDWEATHER SHELTER AT SPC Dec. 8-14. Overnight guests will arrive 7 p.m., leave 7 a.m. We still need one man and one woman to stay Friday, December 14. Contact Paul Hodder, phodder@frontiernet. If you can help ensure there are adequate breakfast supplies, contact Helen Burns, helenhibbardburns@gmail.com.

The Season of Advent

First Sunday

December 2, 2018

11:00 a.m.

An Advent Affirmation

When the cold white ice of winter grips me,
when the white shimmering heat of summer melts me,
and I doubt that anything can survive
the extreme of this world's harshness, I still believe.
Somewhere in the depths of my soul,
despite the evidence, I believe.
I believe that the ruins of life can be rebuilt.
I believe that the tears I shed will water seeds of joy deeply buried.
I believe that the green shoots of God's justice will bear fruit.
I believe that the light that enlightens the world
will pierce the winter's longest night
and eclipse the sun's brightest moments.
I believe that in all circumstances the Light
radiates hope and joy, peace and love,
so that even at my lowest points I can see.
Even in the palest light of faith,
I can find my way through the shadows.
And for that I give thanks.

Seasons of the Spirit

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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Interim Pastor: Bill Sitterley • BSitterley@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Director of Spiritual Formation: Ethel Hornbeck • ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

GATHERING OUR HEARTS

Introit (2x)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

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

Lighting of Advent Candle

† † †

*Hymn 82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

ENCOUNTERING GRACE

Prayer for Wholeness

Spirit of Christ, in your advent you come to form us into a people of hope, peace, joy, and love. But instead of peace, we allow fear to form us. Instead of hope, we allow cynicism to shape us. Instead of joy, we allow worry to rule us. Free us. Inspire us to welcome your spirit into our hearts and grant us courage to walk in the way of love. Amen

Silence

Kyrie (2x)

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy on us

Declaration of Grace & Gratitude

*Response

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.
Love the Lord your God with all your soul.
Love the Lord your God with all your mind.
Love the Lord your God with all that you are.

Welcome

Blessing the World

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria

**Hymn 19

“God of Great and God of Small”

To You, O Love, I lift up my soul;
O Heart within my heart, in You
I place my trust. Let me not feel
unworthy; let not fear rule over
me. Yes! let all who open their
hearts savor You and bless the
earth! **Psalm 25 (Merrill)**

The days are surely coming, says
the LORD, when I will fulfill the
promise I made to the house of
Israel and the house of Judah.
In those days and at that time I
will cause a righteous Branch to
spring up for David; and he shall
execute justice and righteous-
ness in the land.

Jeremiah 33:14-15

There will be signs in the sun,
the moon, and the stars, and on
the earth distress among nations
confused by the roaring of the
sea and the waves. People will
faint from fear and foreboding of
what is coming upon the world,
for the powers of the heavens
will be shaken. **Luke 21:25-26**

Preacher

Rev. Bill Sitterley

Organ

Dianne Holliman

Assistants

Gino Santacroce

Cora Wilkinson

Emily Gross

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.

First Pew

Parish Life

Memorial Prayer

Hymn 92

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

HEARING THE WORD

Reading

Interlude

Lesson

Luke 21:25-36

Sermon

“Give Advent a Chance”

*Hymn 314

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

SHARING THE GIFTS OF LIFE

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te adora!
Mi corazón te sabe decir: Santo eres, Señor.

SERVING THE WORLD

Presenting Offerings

Offertory

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
arr. Charles Callahan

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

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis deo.
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

† † †

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

This season beckons me to ask,
what am I preparing for? What
is the way that is being prepared
within the wilderness of my life?
What does it mean for my own
life to become a path, a way of
welcome for the Holy One?

Jan Richardson

I will light candles this Christ-
mas. Candles of joy, despite all
the sadness. Candles of hope
where despair keeps watch. Candles
of courage where fear is ever present.
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire all of
my living. Candles that will burn
all the year long.

Howard Thurman

One of the essential paradoxes
of Advent: that while we wait for
God, we are with God all along,
that while we need to be reas-
sured of God's arrival, or the ar-
rival of our homecoming, we are
already at home. While we wait,
we have to trust, to have faith,
but it is God's grace that gives us
that faith. **Michelle Blake**

Flowers placed by
the Price family fund

* stand if you are able

** children grades 5 and
younger to the first pew

Sermons & Newsletters
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Sunday flowers
sign up in office