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Interim Pastor

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Liturgist

**Director of Spiritual Formation
& Campus Ministry**
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Head Usher

John Burns

Session

Suellen Myers, Clerk

Gene Bayer

John Burns

Emily Gross

Ethel Hornbeck

Jeff Hornbeck

Mary Ellen Lloyd

Joshua Nolen

Richard Womeldorf

Judy York

Ministers-at-large

All our members

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Office hours

Sunday through Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

304-876-6466

Sun 17 • Third Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. Liturgy of the Word & Table

10:45 a.m. Liturgy of the Word & Table

Tue 19

10:45 a.m. Service of song & prayer at Canterbury

7:30 p.m. Choir practice. Choir Room

Wed 20

7:00 p.m. Listening group. Balcony

Thu 21

10:00 a.m. Listening group. Classroom No. 1

Sun 24 • Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

10:45 a.m. Liturgy of the Word

5:00 p.m. Especially for children

8:00 p.m. Choirs & homily

11:00 p.m. Lessons, carols, and communion

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the office. If yours is missing, or you don't want them, see Kathy.

COMMUNION TODAY: All are welcome to participate. The bread is gluten free; the "wine" is alcohol free.

ONE SERVICE ONLY (10:45 a.m.) Sunday, Dec. 24 (lessons & carols. Sharing moments of light & grace) and Dec. 31 (children's Christmas/Epiphany pageant). No 8:15 service on those two Sundays.

COMMUNITY CAROLING, Saturday, Dec. 17, 7:00 p.m. led by Terry Tucker. This will replace our usual last-Sunday-of-the-month hymn sing. Meet at the Devonshire Arms, then carol in the streets for one hour, and return to the Devonshire for mulled wine or cider and mince pies. If the weather is too cold or icy, we will carol in the Devonshire.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 5:00 p.m. especially for children; 8:00 p.m. choirs & homily; 11:00 p.m. carol sing & communion.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT will be performed on Sunday, Dec 31, at 10:45 a.m. All children from Sunday Studio or other aspiring thespians are welcome to participate. There are parts for everyone. Please sign up as soon as possible in the Fellowship Hall, or during Sunday Studio, or email the office.

There will be two rehearsals: **Friday, 5:30 p.m.** (dinner provided) and dress rehearsal **Sunday, Dec 31, at 9:00 a.m.,** before the 10:45 a.m. service. Don't miss this chance for your budding actress or actor to shine on the stage!

COMMUNITY DINNER. Sunday, Jan. 7, 6:00 p.m., Zion Episcopal Church, Charles Town. Go to PerfectPotluck.com; coordinator Wright, password 5777. Drop off hot food 4:45-5:15 p.m. that Sunday. Leave other food in the SPC refrigerator anytime (marked Community Dinner). Please use disposable containers.

SUNDAY SEMINAR begins January 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. *Faithful Resistance: Gospel Visions for the Church in a Time of Empire* by Rick Ufford-Chase. Jesus taught under the shadow of the Roman Empire. Yet even as the Empire exalted the rich and powerful, Jesus preached that the truly blessed are the poor, the hungry, and the weeping. How might we respond if we discover that our churches have more in common with the Empire than with the truly blessed? This series continues our ongoing conversations on race privilege and faith. Books are in the office, \$10 or pay what you can.

The Season of Advent

Third Sunday

December 17, 2017

10:45 a.m.

Magnificat

My soul sings in gratitude.
I'm dancing in the mystery of God.
The light of the Holy One is within me
and I am blessed, so truly blessed.
This goes deeper than human thinking.
I am filled with awe at Love
whose only condition is to be received.
The gift is not for the proud
for they have no room for it
The strong and self-sufficient ones
don't have this awareness.
But those who know their emptiness
can rejoice in Love's fullness.
It's the Love that we are made for
the reason for our being.
It fills our inmost heart space
and brings to birth in us, the Holy One.

Joy Cowley

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 W. Washington Street • PO Box 268

Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Established 1743

www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Isaiah 61:4

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Psalms 126:5-6

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

John 1:6-8

Preacher

Ethel Hornbeck

Piano

Kari Edge

Assistants

Evelyn Groff

Kate Rolfe

Frances Marshall

Sermons & Newsletters

shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Sunday flowers

sign up in office

To Our Guests

Glad you're with us. Please sign the guest book in the Narthex and fill in a visitor's card from the pew pocket. After the service enjoy a cup of "fairly traded" coffee or tea with friends in the Fellowship Hall.

Childcare Available

In the nursery at the 10:45 service
See ushers for assistance.

BEHOLD! IT IS GOOD

Introit (3x)

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation.

In God I trust, in God I trust.

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 Candles

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***Hymn 87**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

GRACE ABOUNDS

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, you have given us a world of such goodness and abundance. You show us the great power of love, and invite us to create with you. But we are too afraid. We fill our lives with diversions, and turn away from suffering and darkness. Teach us to trust you, and inspire us to be messengers of hope, peace and joy.

Kyrie (2x)

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,

Lord have mercy on us.

Declaration of Grace & Gratitude

***Response**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Welcome

Blessing the World

Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

Hymn 7

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"

First Pew

Parish Life

Song (insert)

"Prepare Your Way in Me Lord"

HEARING THE WORD

Reading

Interlude

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Music: Gustav Holst/Lyrics Christina Rossetti

Lesson

Luke 1:47-55

Sermon

"Magnifying God"

***Hymn 230**

"Joyful Is the Dark"

SHARING THE GIFTS OF LIFE

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord,
broken and shared, life for the world.

Let us be wine, love freely poured

Let us be one in the Lord

SERVING THE WORLD

Presenting Offerings

Offertory

"Canticle of the Turning"

arr. Anne K. Organ

Affirmation

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Acclamation

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.

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Prepare the Way

Someone I loved once gave me/a
box full of darkness/It took me
years to understand/that this, too,
was a gift. **Mary Oliver**

The gloom of the world is but a
shadow. Behind it, yet within our
reach, is joy. There is radiance
and glory in darkness, could we
but see. And to see, we have only
to look. I beseech you to look!

Fra Giovanni, 1513

We are all meant to be mothers
of God. What good is it to me
if this eternal birth of the divine
Son takes place unceasingly,
but does not take place within
myself? **Meister Eckhart**

Do not be dismayed by the
brokenness of the world. All
things break. And all things can
be mended. Not with time, as
they say, but with intention. So go.
Love intentionally, extravagantly,
unconditionally. The broken
world waits in darkness for the
light that is you. **L.R.Knost**

This is the irrational season

When love blooms
bright and wild.

Had Mary
been filled with reason
There'd have been no room
for the child.

Madeleine l'Engle

Flowers placed with love to

Georgiann & Kari
from your choir

*stand if you are able

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