

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.



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING will be split between our sister church VERBO in Bluefields, Nicaragua and the non-profit Coalfield Development Corp. founded by Brandon Dennison. Quality homes, quality jobs, quality lives for Wayne, Lincoln and Mingo counties.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Sunday, Dec 31, at 10:45 a.m. 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S (PW) CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. **Next: Jan. 4**

COMMUNITY DINNER. First Sundays. Sharing food and fellowship with our homeless neighbors. **Next: Jan. 7**

TAIZÉ SERVICE First Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Sanctuary. *A Service of Prayer* in song, silence, candlelight. **Next: Jan. 10**

LISTENING GROUPS Prayerful listening & conversation around poetry & other selected texts. All are welcome. Third Wed. 7-8 p.m., in the balcony. **Next: Jan. 17.** Third Thur. 10-11 a.m., in Classroom #1. **Next: Jan. 18**

CONNECTIONS SPC's Shepherd University-based group for college students meets every other Thursdays at 4 p.m. at the Blue Moon. **Next: Jan. 18**

MEN'S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Discussion, 8:00-9:00 a.m. **Next: Jan. 20**

SUNDAY SEMINAR *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. **Begins Jan. 21** at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

CANTERBURY SERVICE Fourth Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. **Next: Jan. 24**

SPC KNITTING GROUP Last Saturdays, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Bring your own project or join us making prayer shawls and baby blankets. **Next: Jan. 27**

COMMUNITY HYMN SING Last Sundays, 4:30 p.m., Choir Room. Join us for a solid hour of singing hymns with good tunes and inspiring lyrics. Hymnals and song sheets are provided. **Next: Jan. 28.**

WEEKEND FORUM with Jessica Vasquez Torres and Crossroads Anti Racism Organizing and Training. This weekend will offer multiple opportunities to gather together and explore ways that systemic racism creates barriers to true multicultural diversity and racial justice, in our lives, and in institutions, especially the church. Clear your calendars, and stay tuned for more information. **February 16-18, 2018.**

WE ARE GRATEFUL to Jefferson Security Bank for the use of its parking lots Sunday mornings and special evening programs.

The Nativity of Our Lord
Festival of the Incarnation

Christmas Eve 2017
5:00 P.M.

The Friendly Beasts English, 12th Century

Jesus our brother, kind and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus our brother kind and good.

I, said the donkey shaggy and brown,
I carried his mother up hill and down,
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town.
I, said the donkey shaggy and brown.

I, said the cow, all white and red,
I gave him my manger for a bed,
I gave him my hay to pillow his head.
I, said the cow, all white and red.

I, said the sheep with curly horn,
I gave him my wool for his blanket warm;
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.
I, said the sheep with curly horn.

I, said the dove from the rafters high,
I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry;
We cooed him to sleep my mate and I.
I, said the dove from the rafters high.

Thus every beast by some good spell,
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel,
The gift she gave Emmanuel.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Shepherdstown, West Virginia
Established 1743

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SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We Choose Welcome

ORDER OF SERVICE

A primer for children

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Prelude

Welcome

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Lighting Advent Candles

Lesson

John 1:1, 14

Lighting the Christ candle

Carol

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Interlude

Lesson

Genesis 1:1-3

Carol

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!

Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6

Carol

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

The Nativity Story

Completing the Spirit House

Carol

“Away in the Manger”

Photo

Carol

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

Prayer

Carol

“The Friendly Beasts”

Benediction

Postlude

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Interim Pastor Rev. Bill Sitterley

Piano Kari Edge

Autoharp Terry Tucker

Nativity Story Rosemarie Coy

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Christmas wreathing

Sanctuary guild

Arch Angels by Larry Drechsler

Given by Jim and Sallye Price
in memory of James Carter Price, III

Offering baskets at exits