

“Now I will put my words in your mouth.”
Jeremiah 1:9

Be to me a rock of refuge.
Psalms 71:3

We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.
Hebrews 12:28

He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.
Luke 13:10

Guest Preacher
Rev. Dwight McCormick

Assistant
Mica Martin

Accompanist
Sam Jannotta

Tech Support
Mark Nutwell

To Our Guests
We are glad you are 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.

THE FONT OF IDENTITY

† † †

+Introit 281 (6x)

Holy Spirit, come to us.

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

***+Hymn 378**

“We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

Prayer for Wholeness (see insert)

Response 288 (2x)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

***+Response 293, v. 1 (2x)**

*Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.*

Blessing the World

Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Response 21, v. 1

Many and great, O God, are thy works, Maker of earth and sky.

Thy hands have set the heavens with stars;

thy fingers spread the mountains and plains.

Lo, at thy word the waters were formed. Deep seas obey thy voice.

First Pew

Response 21, v. 2

Grant unto us communion with thee, thou star-abiding One.

Come unto us and dwell with us.

With thee are found the gifts of life.

Bless us with life that has no end, eternal life with thee.

Welcome and Parish Life

THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

Reading

Interlude

Lesson

Luke 13:10-17

Sermon

“Growth in God’s Realm”

***Hymn 171**

“A Sower Came from Ancient Hills”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

Prayer for Others

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

† † †

***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.

† † †

***Sending 291, refrain (2x)**

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.

Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,

wind, wind on the sea.

***Postlude**

Whatever makes you uncomfortable is your biggest opportunity for growth.
Bryant H. McGill

Change is inevitable.
Growth is optional.
John C. Maxwell

Growth occurs when one goes beyond one’s limits.
Uchiha Itachi

The real growth happens with what you do after you’re at the wall.
Darren Hardy

*Please rise in body and spirit.

Call to Prayer
Prayer for Others

Nan Merrill, *adapted*

Lesson Translation
New Revised
Standard Version

Sermons & Information
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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.



Sunday, August 24

Jeremiah 1:4–10 Psalm 71:1–6 Hebrews 12:18–29 Luke 13:10–17

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship – Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!
Summer Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2
- 12:30 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting – Classroom 1
- 4:00 p.m. Annual Youth Pool Party – See Christa Joyce for details

Monday, August 25

- 5:30 p.m. Mission Collaboration Team Meeting – Hybrid

Thursday, August 28

- 6:00 p.m. Communication Team Meeting – Fellowship Hall/Hybrid

Saturday, August 30

- 1:00 p.m. Yarns & Threads Group Fellowship – Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Build Your Own BLT Fellowship at the home of Becky Phipps

Sunday, August 31

Jeremiah 2:4–13 Psalm 81:1, 10–16 Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16 Luke 14:1, 7–14

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship – Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!
Summer Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2

MUSIC IN WORSHIP: The Introit is from the Taizé Community. The Opening Hymn envisions the realm of God for which we both work and wait. The early 20th Century Response to the Prayer for Survival was inspired by the prophet Jeremiah. The late 20th Century Response to the Declaration is set to a folk melody. The mid 19th Century Introduction and Response to the First Pew was written in the Dakota language to fit the Dakota tune. The Sermon Hymn reframes the Parable of the Sower as the incarnation of Christ. The Sending Refrain describes the breadth of experiencing the Spirit of God.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Ordinary Time
Twenty-first Sunday

August 24, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Oh, human

There is no reason to laugh, other than to laugh.
And you laugh. Oh, human, I love you.
You pray to me and have no idea what you’re doing,
but I love it.
When things matter you turn to flowers and songs.
When you are sad, you weep oceans.
You express grief with beauty.
You tell stories that become people, eventually yourself.
You invent things that are silly and lovely and useless
and impossible not to like.
You struggle, and fail, and don’t give up,
as if there is something of the ocean in you.
You laugh at yourself, especially when it hurts.
When you are small, wonder carries you around,
and when you are older, you trade places.
Even when you do terrible things—
especially when you do terrible things—
you are a small precious child just trying to survive.
And you survive.
I lavish my delight on you.
Of course you object: “But I’m so messed up!”
Darling, you are more messed up than you know.
But you’re mine. And I’m so glad I have you.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743
Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion
We Choose Welcome