



THE MESSENGER

May 2025

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church
Shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

INDIAN SINGING IN 20TH CENTURY AMERICA

We wake; we wake the day, the light rising in us like sun—
our breath a prayer brushing against the feathers in our hands.
We stumble out into streets; patterns of wires invented by strangers
are strung between eye and sky, and we dance in two worlds,
inevitable as seasons in one, exotic curiosities in the other
which rushes headlong down highways, watches us from car windows,
explains us to its children in words that no one could ever make sense of.
The image obscures the vision, and we wonder whether anyone will ever hear
our own names for the things we do.

Light dances in the body, surrounds all living things—
even the stones sing although their songs are infinitely
slower than the ones we learn from trees.
No human voice lasts long enough to make such music sound.
Earth breath eddies between factories and office buildings,
caresses the surface of our skin; we go to jobs,
the boss always watching the clock to see that we're on time.
He tries to shut out magic and hopes we'll make
mistakes or disappear.

We work fast and steady and remember
each breath alters the composition of the air.
Change moves relentless, the pattern unfolding despite their planning—
we're always there—singing round dance songs,
remembering what supports our life—impossible to ignore.

Gail Tremblay (Onondaga and Mi'Kmaq)

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 in the world.

The "core commitments" that guide us, and the underlying beliefs that support them are:

Radical Hospitality: We Choose Welcome

- Everyone and everything, and every part of ourselves, is included in the circle of God's love.
- Imperfections and suffering are integral to the spiritual path.

Holistic Spirituality: Everything Belongs

- The Way of Jesus is a path of transformation.
- Doubt and questions are essential to faith.
- We are connected in Love with all, including those who have gone before us, and all those yet to come.
- We value all sources of Wisdom.

Engaged Compassion: God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God

- The Way of Jesus is a way of being in this world, loving, serving and making things whole.
- Loving God means loving all of creation.

Church Staff

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist (she/her), Pastor

Christa Mastrangelo Joyce (she/her), Director of Children and Youth Formation

Sheila Melendez (she/her), Choir Director

Sam Jannotta (he/him), Accompanist

Mark Nutwell (he/him), Tech Support (Contract)

Olivia Gill (she/her), Nursery Lead

Lynn Dampman (she/her), Administrative Assistant

100 W. Washington Street

P.O. Box 268

Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Church Office Hours: 8am – 2pm, Monday through Friday; 304-876-6466

office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Contacting Pastor Gusti: Pastor Gusti makes every effort to respond to communications as soon as possible between the hours of 9am and 9pm Saturday through Thursday. Fridays are her Sabbath. If you are having a pastoral emergency, please call any time, day or night. 681-283-5314;

gusti@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

“The Living Looks for Us!”

Worship in Eastertide 2025

Building on the Easter Sunday theme of
“Looking for the Living,”
our worship throughout the Season of Easter
turns our attention toward the ways
“The Living” is already looking for US!

Sunday, May 4

This Morning Joy

Psalm 30

Third Sunday of Easter

Communion

Memorial Moment

Reception of New Members

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Sunday, May 11

Guest Reflection from Christa Mastrangelo Joyce

TBA

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mother’s Day

Sunday, May 18

Vision Casting

Revelation 21:1-6

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Graduate Recognition Sunday

“Mourning and crying and pain will be no more.”

Sunday, May 25

The Healing of the Nations

Revelation 22:1-5

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Memorial Day Weekend

And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Saturday, June 7, 2025 | 10am–5:30pm



RSVP by
May 23rd

Pentecost on Purpose

Renewing the Collective Mind
of the Church

Join us for a day of worship,
learning, and community
building as we explore how the
church can engage in spiritual
and social transformation.

Through interactive workshops and
meaningful dialogue, we'll dive into
topics like:

- Excavating the roots of white Christian nationalism
- Reparations and the work of the Holy Spirit
- Beloved community and collective visioning

This event is free to attend.
Lunch & Dinner will be
provided for all participants.



LEADERS / ORGANIZERS / FACILITATORS

- **Laurie Lyter Bright**, Executive Director of Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
- **Tamice Spencer-Helms**, Executive Director, Sub:Culture Incorporated, author of *Faith Unleavened: The Wilderness Between Trayvon Martin and George Floyd*
- **David Evans**, professor of history and intercultural studies at Eastern Mennonite University, author of forthcoming book, *Damned Whiteness: How White Christian Allies Failed the Black Freedom Movement*
- **Jacob Cook**, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics, Eastern Mennonite University
- **Mike Ramer**, Faith Organizing Manager with Showing Up for Racial Justice
- **Jermaine Ross-Allam**, Director of the Center for the Repair of Historical Harms for the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
- **Vipin Thekk**, Founder, *Togetherneess Practice*
- **Daniel J. Ott**, dean and professor of theology and religion, Eastern Mennonite University
- **Teri McDowell Ott**, Editor / Publisher of the *Presbyterian Outlook*, author of *Necessary Risks: Challenges Privileged People Need to Face*

| Massanutten Presbyterian Church |
50 Indian Trail, Penn Laird, VA 22846



APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the session's April meeting: In April, the session prayerfully discerned God's calling for SPC at this moment of shifting public policies, heard spirit-full reports on the church's financial future, options for a website upgrade, Oxfam Hunger Banquet results, new members, the Deacon's activities, worship, social justice, and property.

At this moment, SPC is called to be true to our work supporting the vulnerable and providing our church as a place of strength and safety in a loving community—by peacefully, yet deliberately, making our voices heard in support of those impacted, welcoming the stranger, and loving our neighbors and enemies.

The Budget and Finance Committee continues to discuss ways to ensure SPC's long-term financial health. The focus is on combining stewardship with a major gift campaign, engaging the congregation on church finances, and supporting restructuring administrative roles and responsibilities. Beginning on May 18, the committee will offer quarterly financial health reports to the congregation during the services.

The Communications Committee presented results from the survey on the *Messenger*. Respondents appreciated the information and writing presented in SPC's monthly newsletter. They suggested congregational and youth submissions; many offered to write for the Messenger. Also, a website team comprising Leslie Williams, Sarah Wagner, and Pat Hamilton presented proposals from two highly qualified companies for upgrading the church website. The team continues to evaluate the proposals with advice from Pete Spreen, Bill Howard, Lynn Dampman, and the entire committee to present final recommendations at the session's May meeting.

The SPC Oxfam Hunger Banquet went very well, with positive feedback on the learning experience, solid MC-ing by Lonce Bailey and delicious brownies. In addition to raising awareness, the banquet raised funds so that after expenses, a \$300 check was sent to Oxfam, and 47 pounds of non-perishable foods were donated to Shepherdstown Shares.

Twelve people attended the New Member Class on April 6. Adam Ware represented the session at the meeting. An additional potential new member met individually with Pastor Gusti. New members will reaffirm or profess their faith **on May 4**.

The Deacons met with representatives from the Alcoholics Anonymous "Cooperation with the Professional Community" (CPC) group for a presentation on the history and methods of AA and ways to share this valuable resource through our deacon ministry. The Deacon team is being highlighted in a series of 'Meet Our SPC Deacons' introduction paragraphs in the April and May newsletters. SPC supports those impacted by government actions through weekly support group meetings via Zoom on Tuesdays from 5 to 6 pm, sharing resources and information, and offering meeting space for professional pro bono coaching.

Worship services in March focused on Lent, with all five services serving communion. Pastor Gusti's lessons centered around the sermon on the mount and Jesus' instructions to his followers, including one Sunday dedicated to prayer.

Social Justice highlighted that plans for a June 1 pride service are well underway with Chris Morehouse coordinating the effort. SPC SJ/EPYA will march in the June 1 pride parade at 6 p.m. in Shepherdstown. An updated rainbow brochure has been printed and distributed around the church, and the 'Know Your Rights' red cards are available.

The Property Committee is seeking additional members who love our old church building and want to help sustain it for future generations. The committee reinstituted the use of a building checklist to facilitate weekly building inspections. And they are working on a general report/comprehensive list of key items that need attention, and estimates for cost to repair or maintain. It is costly to maintain our nearly 200-year-old building. Some items we know will need maintenance in the coming months/years include masonry work on the front steps, window repair/repaint, repair/replacement of the columns on the portico.

The session approved Rev. Dwight McCormick as guest preacher on April 27, new members, and Pastor Gusti officiating the wedding ceremony for Keith Hasnoui and Tim Schaumburg on Friday, August 29, 2025.

The SPC Session meets the 2nd Thursday of the month from 7-9 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom to oversee the church’s finances, policies, and records, ensuring the church faithfully lives into its core values in a way that represents the congregation and discerns the will of Christ. Meetings are open to any member of the congregation who wishes to attend. Contact Suellen Myers, Clerk of Session, to learn more.

GIVING

The congregation has been asked to increase pledged giving for the next 5 years by 5%. There are many ways to satisfy your pledges, special offerings and individual contributions for a project or program dear to you:

- By check: Made out to SPC, PO Box 268, Shepherdstown, WV 25443
- Online: www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org, use the GIVE icon on the home page. You may use PayPal or a credit card
- In Church: In the offering plate on Sundays

BUDGET AT A GLANCE THROUGH March 31, 2025

<u>2025 at a Glance</u>	<u>2025 Budget (12 Months)</u>	<u>Actuals (through March 31)</u>	<u>Actuals as % 12-Month Budget</u>
Operating Income	\$385,104	\$178,150	46%
Operating Expenses	\$390,589	\$100,752	26%

We are three months, or 25% of the way into the new year. We’ve already received 46% of our anticipated annual operating income, largely in part to one-time special gifts from the congregation. Expenses are tracking mostly as expected for this time of the year.

READERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS
Larry and Joyce Neumark



Thank you to those who participated in the recent Readership Survey which asked about The Messenger and the weekly E-News. Approximately 15% of the SPC membership completed the survey. In it, we learned that people like personal articles, especially interviews and other pieces in which they feel more in touch with SPC’s people and activities. Some of the words used to describe The Messenger were “informative,” “keeps us connected to the church,” as well as “staying current.” In particular, some would like more news regarding human interest stories, travel adventures, and social justice activities, including denominational-related ones. We also learned that some of you are willing to write articles—and your editors are pleased to know that! And finally, we are delighted with the expressions of appreciation and support for The Messenger. Thank you again for your responses.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

If you or your loved ones have been personally affected by, or are anxious about, the recent executive orders related to federal workers, DEI initiatives, immigration, transgender identity and care, and more, or if you are grieving the overall state of the nation, **your church is here for you!**

We began a support group on February 11, and continue to meet weekly on Tuesdays, at 5 pm on Zoom. You are welcome to drop in when you would like; there is no commitment to coming each week. **Come for spiritual grounding, support and sharing, and an opportunity to discuss possible actions that could be taken.**

We have a group of five certified, professional coaches, who are offering pro bono coaching sessions to those facing possible job loss or early retirement, and a local counselor, offering a therapeutic counseling support group. Information on the coaches is available in the narthex and the fellowship hall.

We received the results of the **SPC 'How Should the Church Respond' survey**, and will be looking at the suggested ways to support our community. More information to follow!

If you would like **more information on any of the offerings mentioned above**, please contact the church office or Donna Dettling, donna.dettling@gmail.com. We will send you the Zoom link to the meeting or any other details you need.

In addition, you are always encouraged to contact your Deacon directly and/or make an appointment through the church office to meet with Pastor Gusti.



**WE ALL BELONG—
JUNE 1 IS PRIDE SUNDAY AT SPC**
Chris Morehouse

Our Pride team is bringing SPC a spirited Pride Sunday, June 1, during both services. This year, the theme of hope, love and unity is meant as a bulwark against these trying times for LGBTQIA+ people. And, that evening in downtown Shepherdstown at 6 p.m., there will be a Pride March on German St. and SPC will be marching!

The SPC service is likely to include readings by queer pioneers such as Pauli Murray and Harvey Milk as well as reflections by some of our own. And, it would not be SPC if there were not the requisite musical accompaniment for the morning and a contribution by our youth.

Beginning May 30, you will begin to notice Pride flags raised all over Shepherdstown. Gay Pride Shepherdstown is planning the town's first Pride March replete with banners, rolling exhibits and more. Other events are in the works for that evening, so watch SPC Facebook, E-News and tell other friends and allies to stay tuned! If you would like to help with the Pride service and/or are interested in marching with SPC, email me at: christophermorehou@gmail.com.

DEACON TEAM UPDATE

Donna Dettling, Deacon Moderator

At our **monthly deacon meeting on April 5, we addressed the difficult topic of addiction.** Pastor Gusti tied our deacon development to that theme with a powerful discussion on the Luke 8:26-39 passage about Jesus healing the Gerasene Demoniac. **We reflected on the addiction dynamic, and the need to separate the person from the ‘demons’ within them,** whether that is addiction or another form of social, psychological, intellectual, physical or spiritual oppression.

We then **welcomed two representatives from the Alcoholics Anonymous ‘Cooperation with the Professional Community’ (CPC) group, for a presentation on the history and methods of AA,** and the different types of meetings that are available. They offered ways to share this valuable resource through our deacon ministry, and shared brochures and other information. Both parts of the meeting left us with much to think about, but also with more knowledge about addiction and recovery.

We hope you saw the first group of **deacon introductions** in the April newsletter, and that you will look for the remaining intros in this May newsletter. I’m so proud of our awesome team, and hope you will take time to learn more about each of them and make a personal connection with them.

PrayerNet

Please send your prayer requests to prayernet@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. You may also call the church office at 304-876-6466 during office hours (Monday - Friday, 8am - 2pm). A couple of practical reminders as you make your requests:

- Please make sure the person for whom you are requesting prayer has given you permission. Due to privacy considerations, we are unable to share requests without that permission.
- Please indicate whether or not you would like this request to be shared in worship on Sunday morning.
- You may also indicate that you prefer to keep this request confidential among the PrayerNet Team (currently Pastor Gusti, Lynn Dampman, Jen Jones, and Mica Martin.)

If you are having a pastoral emergency (death of a spouse or child, life-threatening medical emergency, etc.), please contact Pastor Gusti directly at 681-283-5314. If you would like to participate in our larger PrayerNet community (as one of the 90+ who have agreed to pray), contact Lynn at the church office: lynn@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Deacon Shepherd for Animals

Carol Wood was commissioned to remind us of the holiness pets add to our lives. This includes care to those who have lost a dear companion, assistance during final days with a pet, and support when bringing a new pet into the home. Contact Carol at cwood453@aol.com.

MEET OUR SPC DEACONS

Last month we introduced you to ten of our 17 Deacons. This issue includes the remaining seven. Please get to know our deacons. They are all interesting and unique. And a special shout out to Keri Mahoney who took such wonderful pictures!



Diane Kradel

Diane is a lifelong West Virginian, having lived here her entire life except for two years in Texas while Paul was finishing seminary at TCU. She earned a BA from Bethany College, an MSW (Social Work) at WVU, and an MA in Special Education (Learning Disabilities) also at WVU. She is now retired, but spent the majority of her time as a Learning Disabilities teacher in Berkeley County. Diane has been a member of SPC for more than 25 years. She describes herself as creative and loves people and animals (especially dogs). For her deacon ministry, she wants to include the disenfranchised (older members who no longer come to church or live in different areas of the country) as well as the regular members. She looks forward to having personal contact with her “flock.”



Lynne Wiseman

Lynne was born in Troy, NY, then shortly moved to Westchester County, NY. Then the family moved to Mountainside, NJ where Lynne attended grade school and high school. Upon completion of high school, she worked for the local telephone company for a year and a half before moving to Washington, DC to pursue a career as a dental assistant. Lynne lived and worked in DC and Montgomery County, MD before moving to WV in 1979. She worked in the DC area as a dental assistant in private practices, then began work and school as a civil servant at Ft. Belvoir, VA; Walter Reed; and Ft. Detrick, MD before retiring from civil service after 30 years. During the last 20 years at Ft. Detrick, she began working in real estate. She still holds a license, but specializes in referrals. Lynne has been attending SPC for a number of years, and became a member during Covid. She describes herself as supportive, caring and a nature lover (especially birds—a longtime member of Potomac Valley Audubon). She hopes to care for her flock by staying in touch and supporting them in any way they need. Finally, she has really enjoyed participating on mission trips with Habitat for Humanity in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and North Carolina helping to build homes. She feels blessed to have found SPC, Pastor Gusti, and the friendly congregation.



Carol Wood

Carol grew up in Plainfield, Illinois, a small town southwest of Chicago. Her career as a Flight Attendant with United Airlines for 35 years also found her living in Bridgewater, NJ; Fremont, CA; Ashburn, VA; and finally moving to Harpers Ferry, WV where she has lived for 33 years. She is now happily retired! Carol walked through the doors of SPC in 1998. She describes her characteristics as having a wandering spirit and being a good friend and listener. She is inquisitive and loves to learn. She considers herself to be open-minded, and a free spirit who loves to think

outside the box. Carol started the Ministry of Deacon for the Animals as she believes animals are intelligent beings and contribute so much to our lives. She feels strongly that when a companion animal dies, they deserve to be recognized and honored as they, too, are a member of the family.



Jeananne Stine

Jeananne grew up in Manhattan, but as an adult she has lived in Virginia, Maryland and now, West Virginia. She has attended SPC since the 1980s and has been a member since the 90s. Randy Tremba baptized all three of her children. She considers herself to be a generally happy and helpful person and adds that she is also funny and loves to sing. For her deacon ministry, she is grateful to be helping to create a strong sense of community within the church. Jeananne worked for the LGBTQ Equality in the PCUSA for several decades and has served on the Executive Board of More Light Presbyterians for six years.



Siri McDonald

With the exception of ten years living in Boone, NC for school and life, Siri has lived most of her life in Jefferson County, along with several generations of family. She has been a licensed professional counselor since 2013 and in the field for 20+ years. For the past five years she has been an elementary school counselor for Jefferson County Schools. She and her family have been at SPC since 2019. She describes herself as a mom and wife most of all right now. She is also a lover of nature, someone who likes to be active, cares about community, and prioritizes being of active service to youth and families as well as for the environment. For her deacon ministry she brings a commitment to cultivating a spiritually healthy community, a guide to resources for community support for those experiencing stress or need. Most of all she hopes to be a listening ear and a tangible connection to the church. Finally, gardening is a major passion and she loves to spend time in the natural world and with animals. Her family is a blend of Latino and Appalachian/American cultures and she speaks basic conversational Spanish and some Portuguese.



Jen Jones

Jen grew up in Huntington, WV and her family were active members of Otterbein United Methodist Church. She attended Shepherd College in the late 70s, but graduated from Marshall University in Huntington with a B.S. in Social Work in 1982. She has lived in WV, VA, RI, IN, AZ, PA, MD, and CA, and has visited all states except AK. She returned to Shepherdstown in 2001 and joined SPC in 2021. She has worked as a facilitator and leadership development consultant most of her career, currently consulting with clients including Franklin Covey and the US Geological Survey. She first became a deacon in 2022 and was deacon moderator when Debbie Romano stepped down to pursue her own ministry. She brings compassion, witness and service to her role as deacon. Jen has a farmette just south of town and has nieces and nephews and extended family in the area. While young, she accompanied her father on mission trips around the world and says her worldview changed and grew.



Sherry Sykes

Sherry was born in Niagara Falls, NY and spent her youth and college years in upstate New York. After attending graduate school in Indiana, she moved to Washington, DC for a job at Levine School of Music, where she met her future husband, Bob, a jazz musician and educator. Sherry and Bob were married in 1998 and raised two children, Donald and Emily. She first lived in Bethesda, MD and then moved to Sharpsburg and then Rohrsersville. They began attending SPC in 2010 and joined soon after. Sherry loves music, nature and art, and spending time with friends and family. She works with Friends of Music and the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra in Shepherdstown, and has also worked at Shepherd University Music program as their coordinator for Community Music. She describes herself as a good listener and is happy to offer encouragement as she walks in faith. Her favorite Psalm is 69:30 "I will praise the Lord God with a song and a thankful heart," and her favorite hymn is "Here I am, Lord." It is with that message that she serves humbly as a Deacon at SPC. Sherry adds that one of her many role models at SPC was our beloved Cari Simon, who passed away suddenly in February. She thinks of her everyday and hopes everyone can carry on Cari's spirit within our church community and beyond.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Donna Dettling, Co-Moderator

Sixteen women attended our **April 3 Presbyterian Women meeting** in person or online. Diane Kradel led a thought-provoking discussion on Chapter 7 and 8 in our book ***Poverty, By America***, by Matthew Desmond, which addressed 'Invest in Ending Poverty' and 'Empower the Poor.' We talked about how some local agencies that serve the poor help them get the aid they need, including help with forms and tax returns.

We **celebrated Elise Woods' birthday** with a delicious cake provided by Suellen Myers, a gift card to Four Seasons Books, and a few other small items. **We did a collection for the prayer shawl and baby blanket ministry, to use for yarn.** We also **collected non-perishable food for Shepherdstown Shares Food Pantry** which Suellen took over after the meeting.



Diana Eldridge did a nice summary of the **SPC Oxfam Hunger Banquet** which was well attended, and provided the experience of living with food insecurity. Donations to the banquet provided enough after expenses to send \$300 to Oxfam, and 47 pounds of food was collected for Shepherdstown Shares. The event was done with a goal of zero waste, and a great time was had by all.

We decided on **Tuesday, April 22, at 10:00 a.m.** to have an **informal meetup for coffee or lunch at The Community Cup** in Martinsburg, for whoever is available to join us. We discussed possibilities for our next season book study, and our June 5 picnic.

It was a good meeting, as we start to wind down our 2024 – 2025 year. We would love for you to join us at **our May 1 meeting at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall or on Zoom, to discuss Chapter 9 & the Epilogue of our book. We always have a fun time!**



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2ND ANNUAL BASEBALL OUTING

Baseball is back! Join your SPC friends and neighbors for our 2nd Annual Baseball Outing at Meritus Park in Hagerstown. We have selected Friday, August 8, at 6:30 p.m. for a game against the Long Island Ducks. This is also “Firework Friday.” Enjoy the fireworks that follow the game. We are planning to purchase group tickets at a cost of \$10 each. More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters and the Wednesday E-News.



GRADUATE REQUEST

Do you have a graduate in your family this year? If so, we would like to recognize graduates from high school, college, or post-college in the June newsletter. They don't have to be a member of SPC; if you have a grandchild who is graduating, even if they live in another state, we would like to honor them (and you) as well. We would like to know from where they are graduating, any activities they were in, and what their future holds. For high school graduates, we would like to know what their plans are—working, military, college, etc. If going to college, please tell us where they will be going. For college graduates, we would like to know what degree they earned and what they are planning in the future. Information (and a picture if possible) should be submitted to Joyce Neumark at neumark@myactv.net by May 16.



OUR EDUCATORS CONTINUE TO HOLD US UP— HONORS FOR KERI MAHONEY

Pat Hamilton

Over 28 years ago, Keri Mahoney began her career as a student teacher in South Jefferson Elementary school and, just this year, was named Jefferson County Administrator of the Year for her leadership at South Jefferson Elementary. From teaching 3rd and 5th grade, to Assistant Principal to Principal, Keri reflects on that evolution with some surprise:

“It is indeed a full circle moment for me, to work with many of my current students, having taught THEIR parents years ago. It is rare that someone can say that they began their student teaching at a school, taught in that school for over a decade and then moved up to Principal in the same school.”

Accolades from Jefferson County Schools report that Keri Mahoney leads South Jefferson Elementary with a hands-on approach, focusing on building strong relationships with students, staff, and families. Under her leadership, the school has become a vibrant community hub, hosting events like fun runs and movie nights. Ms. Mahoney's focus on both academic achievement and student well-being has made South Jefferson Elementary a place where everyone thrives.

"Ms. Mahoney's leadership truly stands out for her integrity, compassion, and ability to build strong relationships," said Ron Stephens, JCS Deputy Superintendent of Instruction. "Her contributions have made a lasting impact on both the professionalism and community spirit within our organization."

Keri says that while her school is the second largest in the county, it still has that small, close-knit feeling when you enter the doors. “Our culture is my number one priority and focus because I know when children (and adults, too!) have a sense of belonging and safety, the learning and success will come.”

SPC congratulates Keri and we're proud to have her as part of our own leadership as a member of Session.

CRUISING ON THE *SAVOIR VIVRE*

Sharon Henderson

Six SPC friends recently spent a wonderful, relaxing week in Burgundy, France, cruising on an eight-passenger canal boat through the beautiful, centuries-old Valley of the Ouche. We floated past meadows, farms, woods and leisurely walked along the canal towpath. We enjoyed dinners in village cafes, exquisitely prepared and served, using local ingredients and classic recipes. We had a chance to interact with the local people through lovely off-the-boat excursions to a winery, 12th century abbey, the city of Dijon – even a goat farm with cheese processing.

Some reflections from the travelers:

Sharon Henderson—So thankful for our gracious onboard crew of three—great people!

Elaine Hurd - Best traveling buddies ever making wonderful new memories.

Chris Madeo - Awesome trip with awesome friends but if you consider it, ask us - you
have to ask for our boat staff - they were wonderful!

Suellen Myers - Time with friends in a beautiful place. Nothing better.

Becky Phipps - Civilization...it's out there!

Rie Wilson—What a way to celebrate my birthday! We traveled through 42 locks!



Front row: Becky Phipps and Chris Madeo



Becky and friend

Back row: Sharon Henderson, Rie Wilson, Elaine Hurd and Suellen Myers

from the Church Office ...

IT'S TIME FOR THE 2025 DIRECTORY

A new SPC Directory will be available in early June. If you have any changes to your personal information, please email Lynn Dampman (below) by the end of May. If you are unsure if your current information is correct, there are hard copies of the 2024 Directory in the Fellowship Hall where you can check. If you are a new member, Lynn should have your information entered in the system. Please be sure to email Lynn if you have any changes so she can enter them correctly. If you need to call for help: 304-876-6466.

SEND TO: lynn@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

WITH: New Information (Please include your date of birth with year.)

CONFIRM: You will receive a reply when your information has been updated.

ALSO, REMINDER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Please remember to contact Lynn Dampman to reserve a room in the building for your meetings. You can also reserve a conference room if needed; however, Zoom is only available in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to learn to set up the Zoom, please let us know. We will hold training sessions.

May 2025

April 2025							May 2025							June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12				4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19				11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26				18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		27	28	29	30							25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	-		- - - -	10 am Presbyterian Women - FH/zoom 6 pm Bible at the Bar - The Meek		10 am Deacon's Meeting - FH
4 8:30 am Early Worship Service with Communion 11 am Worship Service with Communion and Hybrid 11 am Sunday Studio - Classroom 2 5 pm Community Meal in Charles Town, WV	5 Office Hours 8 am - 12 pm	6 Office Hours 10 am - 2 pm 5 pm SPC Support Group via Zoom	7 3 pm Quaker Mid-Week Worship – Sanctuary/Hybrid 7 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	8 7 pm Stated Session Meeting Fellowship Hall/Hybrid	9	10
11 8:30 am Early Worship Service 11 am Worship Service Hybrid 11 am Sunday Studio - Classroom 2	12 3 pm Mission Collaboration Meeting - FH	13 5 pm SPC Support Group via Zoom 6:15 pm Speak Story Series, Adam Booth - Sanctuary/zoom	14 3 pm Quaker Mid-Week Worship – Sanctuary/Hybrid 7 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	15 6 pm Communications Team Meeting - FH	16	17
18 8:30 am Early Worship Service 11 am Worship Service Hybrid 11 am Sunday Studio - Classroom 2	19	20 5 pm SPC Support Group via Zoom	21 3 pm Quaker Mid-Week Worship – Sanctuary/Hybrid 7 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room			24
25 8:30 am Early Worship Service 11 am Worship Service Hybrid 11 am Sunday Studio - Classroom 2	26 SPC Holiday Church Office Closed	27 5 pm SPC Support Group via Zoom	28 3 pm Quaker Mid-Week Worship – Sanctuary/Hybrid 4 pm FOM Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7 pm FOM Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	29	30 4 pm FOM Rehearsal - Sanctuary & FH	31 1 pm Yarns & Threads Group - Library 1 pm FOM lunch for Musicians - FH 3 pm FOM Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30 pm FOM Concert