

# SPC News

September 2023  
Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church  
Shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

## Pastor's Note: Getting to Know You, Part Two

Friends, we are on the upswing here at SPC as we head into September! With the worst of COVID behind us and our new staffing model (almost) in place, the foundation has been laid for what I hope will be a fruitful future for many years to come.

Part of that foundation includes this new monthly publication that needs a name! This will be our opportunity to share more in-depth discussion of churchwide happenings (the whys and not just the whats) than is possible in our weekly E-News or on the website. See page 5 for a chance to submit your suggestion for what that name might be.

September brings us "Back to Church Sunday," also known as "Kickoff Sunday" on September 10, followed by our annual church picnic that afternoon at Morgan's Grove Park (see page 7). A solemn, hope-filled remembrance of Antietam will follow on September 17. Weekly choir rehearsal, bi-weekly youth group and prayer gatherings, monthly hymn sing and Presbyterian Women also return for the program year.

My greatest hope for this next season of ministry together is to deepen our connections, build stronger relationships, and just generally get to know each other in all the ways that were cut off from us during COVID. To that end, I am offering some new opportunities for gathering (see page 3?) that move us beyond the "task" work that has been so essential for surviving the pandemic and into the "heart" work that will sustain us for the long haul. Please let the church office know of your interest in one or more of these gatherings, and I will get back to you for official scheduling.

***Pastor Gusti***

## Worship in September

### **September 3**

### **Sing Out My Soul**

### **Psalm 150**

*A service of singing, using YOUR hymn requests, including a "Sung Eucharistic Prayer"*

### **September 10**

### **Getting to Know You, Part Two**

### **Nehemiah 8**

*Inviting the congregation into a new phase of community building and story-sharing and responding to the request for a sermon on "What the Bible Says to Modern People"*

### **September 17**

### **O, Freedom**

### **Exodus 6:2-6**

*Remembering Antietam, including the erasure of Black witness accounts and the resulting Emancipation Proclamation*

### **September 24**

### **The Sun Goes Down**

### **Ephesians 4**

*Responding to the request for a sermon on the difference between "righteous anger" and unrighteous anger*

## September Calendar

- 4 Labor Day Holiday Church Closed
- 7 Presbyterian Women, 10am Fellowship Hall
- 10 Church Picnic, 3-6pm, Morgan's Grove
- 13 Exploring Spiritual Practices, 10:30am via Zoom
- 14 Session Meeting, 7pm, Fellowship Hall and Zoom
- 16 Men's Breakfast, 7:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 17 Guns to Gardens Reflections, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall and Zoom
- 20 Mission Committee, 4:30pm Fellowship Hall
- 23 Yarns & Threads, 1pm Fellowship Hall
- 24 Adult Ed Sunday Seminar Begins, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 25 Eastern Panhandle Youth Alliance, 6:30pm Classroom 1
- 27 Staff Meeting, 11am, Fellowship Hall

## Monthly Gathering Schedule

**Sunday Seminar**, Sunday, 9:30am; Fellowship Hall and Zoom. Led by the Adult Education Committee. Discussion on a book of topical interest for adults.

**Sunday Studio**, Sunday, during 11am service; Upstairs Classrooms. Led by various teachers coordinated by Christa Mastrangelo Joyce. Age-appropriate lessons and activities for K-2 and 3-5.

**Choir Rehearsal**, Tuesday, 7:30pm, Choir Room. Led by Dr. Steve Grives, Choir Director.

**Youth Group**, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 12:30pm – 2:30pm. Led by Christa Mastrangelo Joyce and other adult supervisors. Age appropriate lessons and activities for Grades 6 – 12.

**Prayer Gathering**, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, noon via Zoom. Led by Debbie Romano.

**Monthly Potluck**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, Fellowship Hall, following 11am service, October – May.

**Hymn Sing**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 4pm, Sanctuary. Led by Terry Tucker. Reading music is not necessary.

**Presbyterian Women**, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 10am, Fellowship Hall. Led by a rotating group of members on various books and topics of interest.

**Exploring Spiritual Practices**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, via Zoom. Led by Larry Neumark. Reflections on a monthly theme, followed by a meditation practice.

**Men's Breakfast**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 7:30am followed by program around 8am; Fellowship Hall.

**Yarns & Threads**, 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 1:30pm, Fellowship Hall. Knitters, crocheters, embroidery-ers, etc. invited to work on projects together.

## Gatherings Under Consideration

Please contact the church office to indicate your interest and availability in these potential gatherings so that we may determine which ones to offer. The *Aging Faithfully* gathering already has a date and time established. The other gatherings will establish dates and times dependent on the availability of those who are interested.

*Aging Faithfully: Tea & Discussion*, hosted by Diana Patterson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, October – May, 4-6pm, Classroom 1. Connections and contemplations for age 50 and older. Inspired by a book by Alice Fryling.

*Bible at the Bar*, hosted by Pastor Gusti and Adam Ware; monthly in October – May, in person at The Meck, drop in as you feel led. We will grab a table and dive into your questions about the Bible, theology, and anything else you want to discuss!

*Dream-Tending As Spiritual Practice*, hosted by Pastor Gusti; monthly October – May, in person, closed group of 8 people. Each person will be asked to present a dream as an invitation for group formation.

*Grief Meets Grace*, hosted by Pastor Gusti; monthly October – May, in person, drop in as you feel led. A light liturgy followed by shared conversation on where we might find grace through the many griefs we carry.

*Teach the Preacher*, hosted by Pastor Gusti; weekly in October – May, on Zoom, drop in as you feel led. Reflecting on your questions and comments around the Scripture lesson for the coming Sunday.

## Pastoral Care General Overview

Pastor Gusti and the Deacon Shepherds have spent a significant amount of time in the past couple of years assessing the pastoral care needs of the congregation and clarifying the shared roles and responsibilities for pastoral care among Deacon Shepherds and the Pastor. Current Deacon Shepherds are: Cathy Cross, Paul Denchy (Secretary), Jena Jones, Ellie Lloyd, Mica Martin, Patti McCarthy, Chris Morehouse, Debbie Romano (Moderator), Derek Smith, Jeananne Stine, Carol Wood.

To aid the congregation in knowing who to contact for specific pastoral care concerns, we offer this general overview. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Deacon Moderator Debbie Romano or Pastor Gusti if you have questions, concerns, or comments on our work to-date, or if you need a reminder as to who your Deacon Shepherd is.

**Role of Deacon Shepherd:** Each member of the congregation has been assigned a Deacon Shepherd, who is responsible for ensuring the spiritual, emotional, and physical care and nurture of their “flock.” For some members, this may entail regular “tending” in the form of phone calls, sending cards, general encouragement, ensuring physical needs are met, ensuring opportunities to engage and participate in church activities are clear. Some members may prefer to be “left alone” unless there is an emergency situation. You maintain full autonomy in determining how much, when, and if to share your needs with your assigned Deacon Shepherd. All conversations are kept confidential, unless you give explicit permission to share.

**Parish Care Committee:** The Parish Care Committee is responsible for coordinating care for physical needs (see below) and developing congregational education programs on various issues of care and concern. Contact **PAUL DENCHY, Moderator**, with ideas for educational programming.

**Physical Needs (Meals and Transportation):** One crucial role of Deacon Shepherds is to ensure their flock has access to meals and/or transportation when necessary. **JEANANNE STINE** is our coordinator for these services in 2023 – 2024.

**Prayer Coordinator:** Manages the online PrayerNet, the bimonthly Prayer Gathering, the Distribution of Prayer Shawls, and the Prayers for the Pastor to share in Sunday worship. She is also available for individual prayer with any member who wishes. To share your prayers with the PrayerNet, join the PrayerNet yourself, and/or request a Prayer Shawl, contact **DEBBIE ROMANO**

**Shepherd for Animals:** **CAROL WOOD** has been commissioned as the Deacon Shepherd for Animals to remind us of the holiness they add to our lives. This includes a card ministry for those who have lost a dear companion Animal as well as celebrating those who have brought a new Animal to their home. It also includes support when an Animal's time has come for that last journey to the vet for euthanasia, be it driving the family to the vet's office or meeting them there to accompany them into the room where the procedure is performed if so desired.

**Role of Pastor:** **PASTOR GUSTI** offers the congregation training and experience in a broad spectrum of crisis intervention, short-term counseling (up to 3 sessions), and long-term spiritual direction (monthly reflection). This includes both short-term relationship counseling as well as developing life event rituals of various kinds for those who might be helped by them. Congregants whose spiritual/emotional needs exceed the capacity of their Deacon Shepherd to offer care are encouraged to contact the church office to schedule an appointment.

## **Year to Date Budget at a Glance – as of July 31, 2023**

### Actual

\$205,021	Total Income (Pledges, Additional Giving, Special Offerings)
<u>\$185,972</u>	Total Expenses (Pastor, Personnel, Property, Mission, Administration, Worship, Social Justice, Education, Special Offerings)
*\$18,170	NET INCOME

### Budgeted

\$310,165	Total Income
<u>\$347,460</u>	Total Expenses
*-\$38,174	NET INCOME

\*The Session approved a 2023 budget with a sizable deficit, covered by reserves, due to increasing costs from inflation, a larger commitment to supporting external mission and advocacy, and investments in ministry with children and youth. The Session based these decisions on the information gathered during from the Congregational Assessment Tool and the Strategic Issues Team from 2016 – 2019. The 2024 Pledge Drive will invite the congregation to consider options for increasing congregational giving over the next 3 – 5 years in order to decrease reliance on reserves to fund these commitments.

## **Notifications**

### **Name the Newsletter!**

This publication needs a new, catchy, fun but appropriately descriptive name. What are your thoughts? Feel free to submit your suggestions to the church office by September 30.

### **The Directory is Ready!**

After literally years of transferring information into a new, more efficient database, correcting misinformation, and formatting it all into one clear, clean document, the new and improved SPC Churchwide Directory is ready for distribution! If you have not yet received your copy, please contact the church office.

### **Join the Choir!**

Under the direction of our new Choir Director, Dr. Steve Grives, the choir returns THIS MONTH, with rehearsals scheduled for Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. All voices are welcome and encouraged to participate.

### **Nominations Needed!**

The SPC Nominating Committee welcomes your recommendations for nominees to consider as Ruling Elders, Deacons, and Trustees. A confidential form will be available as a bulletin insert beginning September 10. You may also contact Carolee Youngblood directly to suggest potential nominees.

### **How Did Guns to Gardens Go?**

**Sunday, September 17, 9:30am.** Since SPC's Guns to Gardens event on June 11th, many of you have asked us how it went. On Sunday, September 17th between services, G2G organizers and volunteers will share their reflections on how it went, what the experience was like, what we learned, and what might be next. Please join us and bring your questions!

### **Looking Ahead to October:**

World Communion Sunday, October 1

Blessing of the Animals, Wednesday, October 4

Stewardship Season Begins

Gatherings Under Consideration Begin

**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.

### **Church Staff**

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

Christa Mastrangelo Joyce (she/her), Children and Youth Education Coordinator

Dr. Steve Grives (he/him), 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

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

[office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto: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. 618/283-5314; [gusti@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:gusti@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org)

# JOIN US!

# SPC

# PICNIC




Sunday September 10  
3-6 pm  
Morgan's Grove Park  
Pavilion

Potluck meal!  
Talent Show judged by our  
youth!  
Waterballoon toss sendoff!

Please bring:  
A-I: dessert  
J-R: side dish  
S-Z: veggie or fruit

Fried chicken, drinks, and  
tableware provided

Flowers from your garden  
to grace our tables are  
most encouraged!

 TALENT SHOW DETAILS  
Share your talent, hidden or  
otherwise. Music, poetry,  
comedy, magic, dancing,  
whatever talent you have, we  
would like to see it! Our  
fabulous youth will provide  
judging and prizes.

Sign up by contacting  
Christa Joyce  
(jalayoga.christa@gmail.com)  
or via the sign-up sheet in the  
Fellowship Hall.