

# THE MESSENGER

July/August 2024

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church

Shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

## “Live Into Hope”

July worship begins with  
an overview of the Presbyterian General Assembly,  
followed by a series of Guest Reflections  
from the Parents of SPC

**Sunday, July 7**

**Live Into Hope**

Luke 4:16-20

**Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Communion**

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly wraps up on July 4.  
SPC Worship offers a recap of the major issues before the Assembly  
and a vision of wholeness based on the words of the prophet Isaiah, quoted by Jesus.

**Sunday, July 14**

**SPC Parents, Guest Reflections**

Lesson TBD

**Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

***(Pastor Gusti turns 50!!)***

Morgan Wisniewski and Ellie Lloyd share their reflections  
on one or more of the lectionary texts for the day.

**Sunday, July 21**

**SPC Parents, Guest Reflections**

Lesson TBD

**Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Christa Mastrangelo Joyce,  
Coordinator for Children and Youth Formation  
shares her reflections on one or more of the lectionary texts for the day.

**Sunday, July 28**

**SPC Parents, Guest Reflections**

Lesson TBD

**Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Than Hitt and Eva Barnett share their reflections  
on one or more of the lectionary texts for the day

## ***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), Children and Youth Education Coordinator

Position Vacant, 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](http://Shepherdstownpresbyterian.org)

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. 681/283-5314; [gusti@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:gusti@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org)

# “Bread of Life”

Worship in August leads us into the mystical nature of John's Gospel:  
trusting divine provision,  
sharing physical resources,  
expanding the table of communion and community.  
If possible, we will celebrate  
the Sacrament of Communion  
each Sunday in August

**Sunday, August 4**                                      **Bread of Life**                                      John 6:35  
**Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**Communion**

*Jesus said to them,  
“I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever trusts in me will never be thirsty. ...*

**Sunday, August 11**                                      **Bread for the World**                                      John 6:51  
**Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**Communion**

*... “The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. ...*

**Sunday, August 18**                                      **Bread Forever**                                      John 6:58  
**Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**Communion**

*... “The one who eats this bread will live forever. ...*

**Sunday, August 25**                                      **Spirit and Life**                                      John 6:63  
**Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**Communion**

*... “The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”*

## **THE SPIRIT OF MARIE CONDO IS COMING TO SPC!**

*(We call it Purge and Play: turning up the music, eating yummy food, sharing stories of what these items have meant over the years)*

Through the Summer and into September, we we will “tidy up at SPC: sorting through, disposing of, and organizing what remains of our “congregational clutter.” Contact the church office if you would like to participate. Tidying/Purge Areas include: Kitchen, Fellowship Hall, stairwells, portico, Sanctuary (closets), Narthex, handicap entrance closet, balcony, classroom 1, 2, upstairs Nursery, choir room, library, basement, youth area, previous nursery (basement), closet in basement (far corner).

## NOTIFICATIONS

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LYNN DAMPMAN will be combining the July 4th holiday with vacation on Friday, July 5.** Please make sure you communicate everything you need her to know for Sunday, July 7 by Tuesday, July 2 so she has sufficient time to complete her tasks on Wednesday, July 3.

**PASTOR GUSTI WILL BE TAKING A COMBINATION OF VACATION AND STUDY LEAVE from Wednesday, July 10 - Tuesday, July 30.** Guest Reflections on Sundays will come from the parents of SPC. Jen Jones will be available for pastoral care July 10 - 24 ([jenajones44@gmail.com](mailto:jenajones44@gmail.com), 681/247-0193). Mica Martin will be available for pastoral care July 25 - 30 ([shar6356@frontiernet.net](mailto:shar6356@frontiernet.net), 304/261-5874). Rev. Harry Daniel (retired) and Rev. Karen Greenawalt (Gerrardstown PC) will be on call for any issues that require a pastor.

**GAZA FOOD FUND:** SPC is taking up a special collection all summer for a food fund to send to World Central Kitchen for Gaza famine relief. The fund has been kick-started by a challenge donation of \$2,000, which it is hoped the congregation will match, or more than match, over the summer. As of July 1, 2024, this fund has reached the sum of \$4550.00. But, as donations continue to come in, you may check the "volcano chart" in the Fellowship Hall for even more current information. Any donations that you put into the "Special Offerings" envelopes in the sanctuary pew racks will go to this fund, or you can make checks out to SPC and put "Gaza" on the memo line. Please give generously and let's put this fund over the top for the people of Gaza!

**SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING DEBBIE ROMANO.** Those wishing to support Debbie financially as she continues her preparation for ministry of the Word and Sacrament may contribute to the SPC Seminarian Fund by noting #Seminarian Fund on the Memo line and mail a check to: SPC, PO Box 268, Shepherdstown, WV 25443 or online at [www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](http://www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org) using the GIVE icon on the upper right corner of the screen.



### A BALLPARK OUTING!

Hey, baseball fans—did you know there's a new baseball team in town? The Hagerstown Flying Boxcars, part of the North Division of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball Clubs, are now playing at the new Meritus Park in Hagerstown, MD. Larry and Joyce Neumark will be organizing a group outing to the park in July or August. All members and friends of SPC are invited to join the group. Tickets should be less than \$20 each. If you are interested in joining the fun and fellowship, please email the Neumarks soon at [neumark@myactv.net](mailto:neumark@myactv.net). When we have enough people, a date will be chosen and more details provided. Come on out and support a local team. PLAY BALL!

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S GROUP SUMMER UPDATE

By Donna Dettling

The Presbyterian Women's Group of SPC culminated their 2023 - 2024 year with a picnic at Morgan's Grove Park on June 6th. Those in attendance enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch and made plans for the upcoming year. If you were not able to be there, you were missed!

Leadership for the coming year will be provided by new co-moderators Donna Dettling and Diana Eldridge, with Lynne Wiseman and Cheryl Pullen continuing as Treasurer and Secretary. Many thanks to all of them, and to Carolee Youngblood and Suellen Myers who are rolling off as multi-year co-moderators. Thanks also to Rie Wilson for setting up our Zoom connection each meeting, Diana Eldridge for preparing and sending birthday cards to group members, Susan Lovell for taking over as Prayer Shawl coordinator, and to others who have volunteered throughout the year to lead the lessons, bring snacks, make coffee, coordinate mission projects, and offer prayers. Your leadership has helped us be a vibrant and meaningful group.

If you have not participated in the Presbyterian Women's Group previously, or have not attended a meeting for a while, we warmly invite you to check it out! The group meets at 10:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month from September through May in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a June picnic.

**We have decided to have an informal meet up at Community Cup Coffee and More (114 W. Burke St., Martinsburg), a community ministry sponsored by our Presbytery and supported by SPC. You are welcome to visit with us there on August 1st at 10:00 a.m. to learn more about this ministry, have coffee and a snack, and get better acquainted with members of the PW group.**

The group alternates between using the PW/Horizons Bible Study curriculum and doing a book study. For the upcoming year, we will be reading and discussing the book *Always With Us? - What Jesus Really Said About the Poor* by Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, who is a Presbyterian ministry and the National Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign. The words of Jesus "the poor you will always have with you" (Matthew 26:11) are regularly used to suggest that ending poverty is impossible. In this book, Theoharis critically examines both the biblical text and the lived reality of the poor, to show how this passage is taken out of context and distorted. We look forward to some lively discussion each month around a topic that impacts so many in our state and around the world. The book is available on Amazon.

Please consider joining the group in September! A Zoom connection is offered for anyone who cannot be with us in person, and drop-in participation is always welcome during the year, whether or not you have read that month's chapter. You will find coffee, snacks, thought-provoking conversation, connection with other women of the church, time for prayer, and a little group business at each meeting. We look forward to having you as part of SPC's Presbyterian Women's Group!

## **DEACON SHEPHERDS, Ministries of Care**

### **PRAYERNET**

Please send your prayer requests to [prayernet@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto: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:

1. 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.
2. Please indicate whether or not you would like this request to be shared in worship on Sunday morning.
3. 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), please contact Lynn at the church office: [lynn@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:lynn@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org)

Please also extend your gratitude to Debbie Romano ([romano.debbie@gmail.com](mailto:romano.debbie@gmail.com)) for her faithful ministry of prayer these many years!

**MONTHLY MEETING UPDATE.** At our June Deacon meeting, we received training from Pastor Gusti on “Rejection and Affirmation” based on Luke 17. We also discussed the opportunities and challenges in our priority objective of inviting face to face and/or Zoom connections with the individuals in our flocks by the end of July.

**DEACON SHEPHERD FOR ANIMALS,** Carol Wood has been commissioned 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 into 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. Contact Carol at [cwood453@aol.com](mailto:cwood453@aol.com)

**VOLUNTEERS AVAILABLE FOR MEALS AND RIDES.** There are people in our congregation who have volunteered to provide meals and rides when others are in need. Contact Jeananne Stine [jeanne27@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne27@gmail.com), 410-746-8605 if you need help or would like to volunteer.

# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

## Year-to-Date Budget at a Glance – as of May 31, 2024

The Session is pleased to report the congregation has stepped up generously in response to our request to increase pledges by 5% per year over the next five years. Total 2024 pledges as of January 20 are 2.5% above 2023 pledges. We will continue to encourage the congregation to give as generously as you are able. ***If you are able to increase your 2024 pledge even further, please do not hesitate to let the church office know.*** We are grateful for you!

Actual (five months)

\$147,257 Total Income (Pledges, Additional Giving, Special Offerings)

\$152,652 Total Expenses (Pastor, Personnel, Property, Mission, Administration, Worship, Social Justice, Education, Special Offerings)

\* - \$5395 NET INCOME

Budgeted (annual)

\$322,875 Total Income

\$360,948 Total Expenses

\* - \$38,073 NET INCOME

\* Based on the increase in 2024 Pledged Giving, the stability of our Reserves, and the frugality of congregational spending, the Session decided to continue its strategic investments, in spite of the sizable deficit, in external mission and advocacy, ministry and children and youth, and online worship tech support. This deficit will be covered by reserves, in the trust that congregational giving will continue to increase in the next four years.

## MAY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Approved participation in “Mutual Ministry Assessment” of the Teaching Elder, Session, and Committee Chairs facilitated by Associate General Presbyterian of Shenandoah Presbytery, Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao

Received updates on the Matthew 25 Initiative, Worship Committee transition, Deacon transition, and more

Celebrated the decades-long service of Debbie Romano across many areas of the church and prayed for her next steps of formation for pastoral ministry

*The SPC Session meets the 2nd Thursday of the month, 7pm, in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. Meetings are open to any member of the congregation who wishes to attend. Contact Dave Smith, Clerk of Session, to learn more.*

## JULY CALENDAR

### Sunday Schedule

- 8:30am Early Service of Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:00am Service of Worship, Sanctuary and Facebook Live  
Sunday Studio, Children K through Fifth Grade, Classroom 1

FACEBOOK LIVE ONLINE WORSHIP, 11 a.m. Sundays. The live stream will be posted to Pastor Gusti's Facebook page (Gusti Linnea Newquist). Pastor Gusti will then "share" the live stream to the SPC group page. Please look for this shared post from Pastor Gusti at approximately 10:50 a.m. YOU NO LONGER NEED TO BE logged into a Facebook account to attend live. We are working to offer a longer-term fix as soon as possible.

COVID PROTOCOL: Masking is recommended but not required for those who are vaccinated. Masking remains required for those who are not vaccinated. Masking remains required for everyone when entering the church office.

- 4 Church Office Closed, *Happy Independence Day!*
- 5 Lynn Dampman, Vacation Day – Church Office Closed
- 7 Food drop off for Community Meal, SPC kitchen, 3:45pm  
Community Meal, Zion Episcopal Church Social Center,  
215 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV 25414, 5pm
- 10 - 30 Pastor Gusti on Vacation/Study Leave
- 20 Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall, 7:30am
- 25 Communications Team Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 6pm
- 27 Yarns & Threads Group, Fellowship Hall, 1pm
- 31 Staff Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 11 am

## AUGUST CALENDAR

- 1 Bible at the Bar, The Meck, 6pm
- 3 Celebration of Life Service for Claire Stuart, Sanctuary, 2pm  
Reception to follow service, Fellowship Hall
- 4 Food drop off for Community Meal, kitchen, 3:45pm  
Community Meal, Zion Episcopal Church Social Center,  
215 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV 25414, 5pm
- 8 Session Meeting, Fellowship Hall/Hybrid, 7pm
- 17 Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall, 7:30am
- 22 Deacon's Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 6pm  
Communications Team Meeting (In person Only), Classroom 1, 6pm
- 28 Staff Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 11:00am
- 31 Yarns & Threads Group, Fellowship Hall, 1pm