

God sent me before you to  
preserve life. **Genesis 45:5**

Do not fret because of the  
wicked. **Psalms 37:1**

If there is a physical body,  
there is also a spiritual body.  
**1 Corinthians 15:44**

Love your enemies.  
**Luke 6:27**

**Guest Preacher**  
Rev. Dwight McCormick

**Assistant**  
Mica Martin

**Choir Director**  
Sheila Melendez

**Guest Accompanist**  
Terry Tucker

**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

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### Introit 411 (6x)

*God is here today; as certain as the air I breathe,  
as certain as the morning sun that rises,  
as certain when I sing you'll hear my song*

### 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 Refuge

### Hymn 814 (6x)

*In God alone my soul can find rest and peace  
In God my peace and joy.  
Only in God my soul can find its rest.  
Find its rest and peace.*

### Prayer for Refuge

When I open my eyes, there I find you  
When I speak, does your love flow out  
When I touch one in pain, do you heal them  
When I am silent do you bathe me in joy.

### +Kyrie (6x)

*Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy on us. Lord,  
have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy on us.*

### Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

### +\*Hallelujah 590 (6x)

*Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.*

### Blessing the World China

### Response 487, v. 1

*These treasured children present now are bound to us by sacred vow:  
with love, we make a heartfelt claim to welcome them in Jesus' name.*

## First Pew

### Response 487, v. 4

*Come, Holy Spirit, help us be a nurturing community;  
empower us to realize God's kingdom through our children's eyes.*

## Welcome and Parish Life

## THE WORD OF HOPE

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### Reading

### Interlude

### Lesson

Psalms 37:1-13 and Luke 6:27-38

### Sermon

*"Love Relentlessly"*

### Hymn 71, refrain (6x)

*Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my Savior.*

## THE BREAD OF LIFE

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### Prayer for Others

### Offering Our Gifts

### Offertory

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### \*Credo

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 (2x)

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

### \*Postlude

Our refuge is not outside  
ourselves, not somewhere  
in the future - it is always  
and already here.

**Tara Brach**

Where was my heart to  
flee for refuge from my  
heart? **St. Augustine**

I learned to take refuge in  
wherever the light is.  
**Helen Klein**

There are two means of  
refuge from the miseries  
of life: music and cats.  
**Albert Schweitzer**

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

**Prayer for Refuge**  
Jan Phillips

**Lesson Translation**  
New Revised  
Standard Version

Sanctuary flowers  
provided by  
many generous donations  
from the congregation

**Sermons & Information**  
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

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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, February 23**

*Genesis 45:3–11, 15, Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40, 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50, Luke 6:27–38*

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship – Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall/Hybrid
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!  
Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom
- 12:15 p.m. Youth Group Gathering – Downstairs

**Wednesday, February 26**

- 3:00 p.m. Quaker Mid-Week Service – Sanctuary/Hybrid
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

**Friday, February 28**

- 11:00 a.m. Handbell Rehearsal – Upstairs hallway outside choir room

**Saturday, March 1**

- TBA Celebration of Life Service: Cari Simon – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!  
Reception to follow at the War Memorial Building

**Sunday, March 2 • Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday**

*Exodus 34:29–35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2, Luke 9:28–36*

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall/Hybrid
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary and Facebook Live!  
Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom
- 12:15 p.m. Youth Group Gathering – Downstairs
- 4:00 p.m. Monthly Hymn Sing – Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Community Meal – Zion Episcopal Church Social Center,  
215 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV 25414

**SERVICE MUSIC IN FEBRUARY:** The Introit and Sending are from the Taizé Community in France. The Kyrie is a beloved SPC version from Stefan Waliger. The Hallelujah is a traditional liturgical text. The 21st Century Introduction and Response to First Pew emphasizes the covenantal dimensions of baptism; originally written in French and paired with a 15th Century French tune.

**TODAY'S HYMNS:** The Opening Hymn and Sending Hymn are from the Taizé Community in France.

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**Ordinary Time**  
Seventh Sunday

**February 23, 2025**  
11:00 a.m.

**What Comes Next, excerpt**

*Love relentlessly.*  
—Diana Butler Bass

Love relentlessly, she said,  
and I want to slip these two words  
into every cell in my body, not the sound  
of the words, but the truth of them,  
until relentless love becomes  
a cytoplasmic imperative,  
the basic building block for every action.  
Because anger makes a body clench.  
Because fear invokes cowering, shrinking, shock.  
I know the impulse to run, to turn fist, to hurt back.  
I know, too, the warmth of cell-deep love—  
how it spreads through the body like ocean wave,  
how it doesn't erase anger and fear,  
rather seeds itself somehow inside it,  
so even as I contract love bids me to open  
wide as a leaf that unfurls in spring  
until fear is not all I feel. ...

**Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer**

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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