



THE MESSENGER

October 2025

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church
Shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

PASTOR'S NOTE: Sabbath as Disruption of Violence and Hoarding

Dear friends,

This month, as we continue the journey through Our Sabbatical Year, the cries of Community and Economy come into focus. On Peacemaking Sunday, we hear once again the prophets' call for we who are human to turn our swords into ploughshares and our spears into pruning hooks (and, in contemporary terms, our guns into gardening tools). Other Sundays will lead us to reflect on the call to shared prosperity and a continued commitment to the cry of the land.

As in Octobers past, A Litany of Creation for three Sundays will accompany our worship. Please come each Sunday with a small container of the element of creation that is our focus for the day: October 12: earth; October 19: water; October 26: plants. Perhaps the element will come from land on which you dwell, perhaps from a park or along the river. Containers of elements will be provided for anyone who is not able to bring their own.

Autumn's Stewardship Season invites us to respond to the Cries of Community and Economy through the care and flourishing of this community. In early October each member household will receive a Stewardship Letter and Pledge Form for 2026, highlighting our theme: *Staying the Course*. Moments for Stewardship in worship throughout the month will highlight the impact of your pledges on SPC's commitments to our work in the world, maintaining church property, children and youth formation, worship technology, and equity in staff salaries and benefits. Please pledge as generously as you are able - up to a 5% increase if possible - to help SPC *Stay the Course* in the coming year.

Finally, I offer a Sabbath Rendering of the Prayer of Jesus, co-created with Aiden Cinnamon Tea (a meta-relational chatbot tuned to compost extractive tendencies and reductionist reasoning into relational possibilities): Our Abba, our Mother, our Source of Rest, holy is your name. Your realm of justice and delight come near; your Sabbath will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, enough for all to rest. Forgive us our striving and our hoarding, as we forgive the systems that wound and weary us. Save us from the tyranny of endless toil, and deliver us from empire's demands. For yours is the rhythm, and the mercy, and the joy, now and forever. Amen.

With you on the journey,

- **Pastor Gusti**

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)
Camryn Monroe (she/her), Nursery Manager
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 Great Sabbath:

Reflections for Our Seventh Year

Autumn: Sabbath As Disruption

Advent: Sabbath As Incarnation

Christmastide: Sabbath As Fulfillment

Epiphany and Beyond: Sabbath As Practice

Sabbath in Scripture is God's gift of freedom, justice, and healing —
a holy interruption of endless striving and its harmful consequences
Through Autumn, we listen to the cries that make Sabbath necessary.

Sabbath As Disruption:

Cries of Community and Economy

October 2025 Worship at SPC

Sunday, October 5

Sabbath and the Cry for Peace

Micah 4:1-4

Peacemaking/World Communion Sunday

Communion

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares ...

Sunday, October 12

Sabbath and the Cry for Help

Isaiah 58:6-12

Twenty-eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Indigenous Peoples' Sunday

Litany of Creation: Earth

You shall cry for help, and God will say, "Here I am."

Sunday, October 19

Sabbath and the Cry for Shared Prosperity

Deuteronomy 24:14-22

Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Litany of Creation: Water

*When you gather the grapes of your vineyard ...
what is left ... shall be for the immigrant, the orphan, and the widow.*

Sunday, October 26

Youth Sunday

Lesson TBD

Reformation Sunday

Litany of Creation: Plants/Air



SEPTEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Suellen Myers, Clerk of Session

Session's September meeting was held on the 11th; we opened with prayer, remembering 9/11 and events of the week.

Budget and Finance reported that pledged and general giving continue ahead of expectations and expenses are approximately on target with a few exceptions.

Lynn Coddington from Immigrant and Refugee Support showed the Micah 6:8 signs for designated private spaces and the location where they are posted.

Presbytery reviewed the proposed contract with the Rev. Mary Jane Hitt and changed her title to Parish Associate (from November 1, 2025 – to January 31, 2026) and Bridge Pastor (from February 1, 2026 until Rev. Gusti Newquist returns from sabbatical). Approved.

Session also approved a request from Mary Bell that she be able to ring the bell at 4:00 p.m. on September 17 in honor of Constitution Day. She has done this for several years and it was first sponsored by Senator Robert Byrd.

Rev. Gusti Newquist reported that she officiated the wedding of Keith Laudermill and Tim Schaumburg on August 29 (previously approved) and that she moderated the staff retreat that weekend. An "All Hands on Deck" retreat will be held on January 30 and 31, 2026 with the Rev. Mary Jane Hitt attending.

The Deacons are continuing to review current and planned 'sub-ministries' and how they will add another area of care. They also signed and sent cards to our youth who have completed high school and are either working or in college.

Property reported that the replacement part for the elevator has been ordered.

Matthew 25 provided a list of major events they have sponsored since 2023 and are meeting to determine priorities for 2026.

Adult Education will be focusing on a series of conversations on topics relevant to current events. Presenters will be from both inside and outside SPC.

Earth Care – our current Earth Care Congregation certificate will be posted in the narthex.

Children and Youth program kick-off was September 7. There had previously been a meeting/party at the home of the Hitts with more than 30 youth, children, and parents attending. Anyone interested in helping with the Committee for Children and Youth please contact Mary Anne Hitt.

The minutes for both the June and August meetings were approved. The meeting ended with a prayer of gratitude and adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The SPC Session meets the 2nd Thursday of the month from 7-9 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. Meetings are open to any member of the congregation who wishes to attend. Contact Suellen Myers, Clerk of Session, to learn more.

SPC'S FINANCIAL HEALTH REPORT

By Dave Smith, Budget and Finance

Stewardship season begins October 1! Pledge Forms will arrive in SPC homes during that week with the opportunity to pledge your support for SPC in 2026. In the meantime, all gifts are welcomed – donations large or small.

SPC manages donations with care and a deep sense of responsibility to support the church's outreach, staffing, and building. SPC's financial health is stable currently because of a base of pledges and general donations along with one-off or annual major gifts. This is why your pledges are so vital.

Currently, we are 67% of the way through the year. Combined pledged and general donations continue ahead of expectations. Overall, operating expenses are on track for this time of the year. However, expenses will increase in September as we fulfill mission and Presbytery commitments.

Please pledge what you can to support SPC's financial health.

BUDGET AT A GLANCE THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2025

Income and Expenses	2025 Budget (12 Months)	Actuals* (through August 31st)	Actuals as % of the 12-Month Budget
Operating Income	\$395,104	\$315,791	80%
Operating Expenses	\$392,873	\$258,079	66%

**** Including major gifts***

SABBATICAL TEAM UPDATE

Pastor Gusti's sabbatical (mid-February through mid-June 2026) is approaching quickly! Did you know that in preparation, the following things have been put in place or are underway:

- **A Sabbatical Team and other church leaders have been working with Pastor Gusti** for months to ensure a smooth and inspirational time for the congregation
- **A grant was applied for AND RECEIVED** to cover sabbatical expenses for the church and pastor
- **A Bridge Pastor known to many of you, Rev. Mary Jane Hitt, has accepted a contract** to be with us from November 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026
- **The Sabbatical Team and others attended a retreat** in July to envision ways SPC can thrive throughout Pastor Gusti's sabbatical, and on July 27 and September 21, participants spoke to the congregation during worship, to share highlights of their work and the next steps
- **On October 11, from 9:30 am – noon in the Fellowship Hall, another gathering of the original group AND OTHERS will take place, as we widen the circle and invite more participation to help turn the visions into reality – YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!**

While Pastor Gusti is on sabbatical, she will be visiting the places her ministry has taken her, and spending time in exploration and reflection of all that happened during those years which culminated in bringing her 'home' to SPC. And **we will not be simply biding our time until her return! We will be using these months on a sabbatical of our own, examining the past and present years of our church, and envisioning our future!**

At the July retreat, the group identified **three desired outcomes of the sabbatical time**, which would include activities or events the SPC community could put in place before, during and after the sabbatical to drive these outcomes. They are:

Greater Engagement and Deepened Community

- Renewed engagement throughout the congregation and lay leaders, with broadened support for spiritual growth (connection, closeness, and more play)
- An invitation to engage in our work in the world

Shared Empowerment

- Increased congregational capacity and independence
- Greater ownership of our church by all, with better understanding of roles and responsibilities

Mirror Pastor's Sabbatical – Reflect and Take Stock

- Examine, embrace, and respect SPC's past, present and future
- Create relaxed air and space to awaken spiritual growth and create magic

Some of the things imagined are a variety of fun gatherings, increased communications, involvement of new members and youth, and creating a timeline of SPC from our pre-history through the present and into the future, to include YOUR special memories and events.

WE NEED YOUR CREATIVE IDEAS AND ASSISTANCE!!! PLEASE JOIN US ON OCTOBER 11 TO HELP TURN THESE DESIRED OUTCOMES INTO REALITIES!



DEACON TEAM UPDATE

Donna Dettling, Deacon Moderator

At our September 6 Deacon meeting, Pastor Gusti led us in spiritual development work on confidentiality. We learned about the various levels of information: private, confidential, limited access, open, and public, and discussed case studies of each.

We understand that as we minister to our flock members, we need to apply this learning to information that may be shared with us.

In our deacon work, we talked about the multiple ways we can connect with our flock members and others in the congregation, such as being present, listening, respecting privacy, and reaching out in a variety of ways. **Our goal is to ensure that everyone feels cared for and included.** There are a number of deacon 'sub-ministries' in place or being started, which add another layer of care. The Young Adult Care Ministry, Meals and Rides Ministry, Support Group for those impacted by actions of the administration, and others, are there to support not only church members, but the deacons who are tending to their needs.

As a start to the new Young Adult Care Ministry, we signed cards for youth of the church who have completed high school and are in college or working. These will be sent in September, and in October we will ask the congregation to contribute items for care packages for each of these youth. We hope to let them know we care for them and think about them, even when they can't be with us in person.

Have you received our new Deacon Brochure? If you didn't get one yet, there are copies in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall, or you can ask the church office to email you a digital copy.

There are exciting things happening on the Deacon Team which are creating a positive change in the life of the congregation. We encourage you to get to know your deacon and how they can support you!

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 their 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.
- 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), or volunteer as one of the PrayerNet administrators, 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.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Donna Dettling, Co-Moderator

It's always a treat to start our new PW year after a brief summer pause! Eleven of us gathered on September 4 for the first Presbyterian Women's Group meeting of the new season. Donna led the discussion on the Introduction and Chapter 1 in our

new book ***See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, by Valarie Kaur**. We were introduced to the author, a renowned civil rights leader, lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, educator, innovator, and best-selling author. She gained notoriety after her powerful address at the New Year's Eve 2016 Watch Night Service, where **she shared with the world her declaration of revolutionary love as the call of our times. A practice that extends in three directions: to others, to our opponents and to ourselves, it asks us to "See No Stranger," but to look at others and say: "You are a part of me I do not yet know."** The book weaves stories of Kaur's life as a brown woman of the Sikh faith growing up on the farmlands of California, alongside the harsher realities of life in this turbulent time of uncertainties and fear. She presents new possibilities that will both exhilarate and challenge us, and we're excited to dive into her words.

At the SPC-sponsored Midweek Manna Free Community Meal at The Community Cup in Martinsburg on September 3, our Women's Group, the Eastern Panhandle Youth Alliance, and congregation members provided food and volunteers that fed over 40 people. The **taco and enchilada dinner** was a much-appreciated meal for people experiencing food insecurity in the Martinsburg area. The Community Cup has this dinner weekly, sponsored by a variety of churches and community groups. We hope you will consider joining us at the next SPC-sponsored meal in November.

PW planned a **special activity for Sunday, September 28**. Lunch and a movie after church, at Chris Madeo's "entertainment barn" in Boonsboro! After watching *Resurrection*, starring Ellen Burstyn, we had a discussion on spirituality and healing, along with a brief talk by Chris Duewel about the work of healer Edgar Cayce. Watch for details of how it went in the next newsletter!

On Communion Sunday, October 5, we will be collecting non-perishable food for the Jefferson County Community Ministries and Shepherdstown Shares food pantries. Please bring your donations to church to place in the baskets during the introit, so that as we are being fed, we can share what we have with others who have less. Contributions can also be left any time, and PW volunteers will get them to the food pantries.

We welcome you to join our wonderful group at the next meeting on October 2 at 10:00 a.m., for book study, prayer, food, and fellowship! All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please read Part 1 - Chapter 2 – 'Grieve' in the book *See No Stranger*.



Update on Guns to Gardens

"And they shall turn their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks."

~Isaiah 2:4

SPC's Guns to Gardens ("G2G") project might have seemed a bit quiet lately, but there's been plenty happening behind the scenes. Here's an update - but first a bit of background.

What's Guns to Gardens?

G2G is a nationwide project, formally endorsed by the Presbyterian Church (USA), in which gun owners can voluntarily and responsibly dispose of firearms they no longer want. But G2G isn't like other gun give-back or buy-back programs. At a G2G event, the guns are cut into pieces on site, so that, legally, they are no longer guns. The resulting materials are later transformed into garden tools. SPC launched its first G2G event in early 2023 and its second in 2024. So far, SPC has dismantled 72 guns. It's important to note that the program honors people's 2nd Amendment rights. It's a community service for those who are drawn to it, and participation is completely voluntary.



What's been happening at SPC?

- **Next community event.** The date for G2G #3 is tentatively set for Sunday, May 3, 2026, at the Shepherdstown Fire Department.
- **Private event.** This Spring, we did our first private G2G event for a grieving Shepherdstown mother whose son had recently taken his life with a gun. "Tool crew" members, Dave Smith and Sam Jannotta, set up chop saws in the SPC parking lot. Gusti provided pastoral support to the mother as she watched her son's guns be dismantled, never to do harm again. And on that day, a new form of SPC's G2G ministry was born.
- **Expanding the steering team.** We're excited to welcome Rie Wilson and Julie Bakner to the Steering Team, joining Dave Smith, Jeananne Stine, Terry Tucker, and Leslie Williams.
- **Learning and training.** At the end of September, Steering Team members Dave Smith and Leslie Williams attended PC(USA)'s annual gun violence prevention conference in Harrisonburg, VA. Leslie attended three days of sessions, while Dave got trained by [RAWTools](#) to become a Firearm Safety Officer, a role which is now required for all Guns to Gardens events.



Want to find out more or get involved? Contact any Steering Team member listed above or email us guns2gardens@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.

REIMAGINING SPC'S WORK IN THE WORLD

Envisioning a Greater Impact for What We Do

By Lynn Coddington

Earlier this year at an SPC "All Hands Retreat," members of SPC's Mission, Social Justice and Matthew 25 committees and others were asked to explore the challenges, opportunities and greater impact a different approach to spending our pledged dollars might create. Instead of working through committees, could we be more collaborative and less siloed?

Currently, roughly 10% of the money pledged annually by the congregation flows to these committees to support their work in addressing issues in our community and the world. Following the "All Hands Retreat," key members of each committee felt called to work together on a more collaborative approach.

Questions arose quickly: Would a new approach provide more focus for hands-on projects where people can commit their time and funds and be part of something tangible? Would a different approach engage more people without feeling obligated to a committee? Could we determine primary areas where the congregation has a sense of engagement, enthusiasm, and energy? Would such an approach result in more nimble responses to urgent needs in our community and the world around us?

With an eye towards becoming more transparent and having a greater impact, the team's work began in earnest.

The team began examining the years of work by the Mission Committee, and more recently the Earth Care team, Social Justice and Matthew 25 – what to keep and perhaps what to sunset. Taking a cue from how the Presbyterian Church (USA) defines its approach, this collaborative team envisioned four focus areas we're calling ***Our Work in the World:***

Justice and Peace includes immigrant and refugee support and Guns to Gardens

Inclusion and Equity addresses LGBTQIA+ advocacy and racial equity challenges

Systemic Poverty responds to food insecurity and the needs of unhoused people

Earth Care keeps our focus on local rivers and streams and maintains our solar footprint

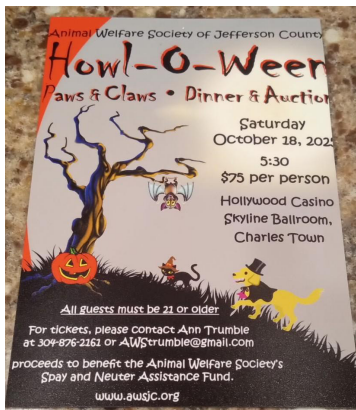
Our Work in the World Realized

Some ongoing activities that reflect ***Our Work in the World*** include our focus on Systemic Poverty with the October 5 Community Meal dinner prepared and served by SPC at Zion Episcopal Church in Charles Town. Additionally, at SPC's Oct 5 services, we continue to address Systemic Poverty by collecting food for Shepherdstown Shares and Jefferson County Community Ministries (JCCM) during both services. Volunteer to bring a meal and serve or maybe commit to doing one or the other.

Later this month, our Earth Care commitment will be in evidence with the Town Run stream cleanup that's planned for Saturday, October 11 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Morgan's Grove Park. SPC is collaborating with the Town Run Watershed group on this project. Volunteers of all ages are welcome!

The collaboration team is creating criteria to help guide what issues are of importance to SPC, where there is an urgent need to be addressed, with whom we can join forces, and assessing our expected impact. We also want to make sure our approach reflects our SPC core commitments to Radical Hospitality, Holistic Spirituality and Engaged Compassion.

As SPC embraces this year's stewardship campaign to support all the work of the church in 2026, consider what calls you to our **Work in the World** and how your financial and time commitments will make a difference.



ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY FUNDRAISER The annual Howl-O-Ween Paws and Claws Dinner and Auction is once again taking place at the Hollywood Casino Skyline Ballroom, October 18, at 5:30 p.m. It is a night filled with 50/50 drawings, raffles, silent and live auctions, costume contest, cash bar and a full buffet dinner. The cost is \$75 per person. See Carol Wood for tickets or email her at cwood453@aol.com.



NEW YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY SEEKING ITEMS FOR CARE PACKAGES

The deacons are coordinating care packages as a fall "treat" for the young adults we are supporting. Members of the congregation are asked to provide small items such as Halloween candy, trinkets, and school/desk supplies such as post-it notes, highlighters etc. Personal notes of encouragement and gift cards for gas or food and other ideas are welcome. Gift bags for each of the 21 young adults on our contact list will be in the Fellowship Hall on October 12 and 19 to collect your contributions. Care packages will be sent the week of October 20. If you have

any questions or suggestions, contact Susan Lovell at 304-261-8644 or slovell242@gmail.com. Thank you for helping us to remind these young adults, most of whom grew up in our church, that they are loved and missed when they can't be with us.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY: MONTHLY MEAL OUTREACH

By Jolene Jarrell

On the **first Sunday of each month, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**, SPC sponsors a communal dinner for individuals who may be experiencing homelessness, facing food insecurity and more. This meal is held at **Zion Episcopal Church Social Center in Charles Town**, in collaboration with Jefferson County Community Ministries. Multiple local congregations have participated in this ministry for years, and SPC remains committed to supporting the effort by providing a potluck-style meal.

The SPC Community Meal organizer, responsible for coordinating the monthly community meal and serving as the primary contact for planning and volunteer coordination, has recently changed from Lee Doty to Connie Ross due to Lee's relocation out of state.

Ways to Get Involved

- **Sign up:** Receive email notifications from SPC Perfect Potluck, an easy online tool that organizes group meals and lets you select specific food items to bring.
- **Choose “no cook” items:** Non-perishable options such as bags of oranges, water bottles, or other fresh fruits are especially appreciated.
- **Item drop-off:** Please bring your contributions to the SPC kitchen between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and use the “Community Meal” label found on the refrigerator.
- **Volunteer at the meal:** If you want to serve as well, serving usually takes about ninety minutes and gives you the opportunity to interact with our guests.
- **Leftovers:** Any remaining food is delivered by a volunteer to the Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission.



A Volunteer's Perspective

Speaking from my experience, serving is both humbling and rewarding. The gratitude expressed by guests over something as simple as a warm, home-cooked meal is deeply moving. On a recent Sunday, I was surprised to see how many people were lined up—men, women, and even a few children. I helped at the dessert table, where bananas were especially popular. Every banana was taken, with many saving them for later. On average, we serve about 50 people each month.

This number reflects the real and ongoing need in our community and shows how even small contributions can make a meaningful difference.

Join Us

If you are interested in learning more or want to be added to the volunteer email list, contact **Connie Ross at rossjc316@gmail.com** or reach out to **Lynn Dampman, Lynn@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org**. Together, we can continue offering nourishment, hope, and hospitality to our neighbors.



SPC'S ANNUAL PICNIC was held at Morgan's Grove Park in September 2025. Food, fun, and fellowship were enjoyed by all. Enjoy these pictures from the event.



Our Work in the World (see article on page 10) includes SPC's focus on Systemic Poverty. Join us in sharing this Prayer for World Food Day on October 17. As we consider the serious work ahead of us to feed our neighbors, let us remember to address the roots of poverty with our advocacy.

PRAYER FOR WORLD FOOD DAY

Good and gracious God,

You are gathering this community from across the earth,
asking us to pour out our lives on behalf of those who hunger.
For hope. For Justice. For daily bread.

You are asking us to see the earth as you do,
So very, very good.
Trees with fruit, bursting with seed.
Green plants for food, for humans and for every living creature.
As a holy place for everything that breathes and to whom you have given life.

Yet we see the realities before us and it takes our breath away:
Those whose bellies growl every day.
Those who consume more than their fair share.
Those who walk miles for clean water to drink.
Those whose gardens are demolished by corporations
who lease land quietly and displace lives to make a profit.
Those whose farms have crashed under the weight of cheaper foods
that undercut local prices by decisions made far away in trade agreements.
Those whose very lives are impoverished more by our globalizing economies.

Breathe new life into us...
As a global community.
As local congregations.
As networks of committed people.
As individual souls, all unafraid.
For we see anew our depth, breadth and life.

Gather us together so that we may remind each other of your intent for this earth.
Gather us so that we may pour out our lives in Christ's name, as Christ does on
behalf of those who hunger.
For hope. For justice. For daily bread.
So that it will be on earth as it is in heaven.
For now and for always.



EARTHCARE IS OUR WORK IN THE WORLD

Help Restore Town Run!

Town Run Cleanup @9 a.m. Saturday, October 11 in Town

Native Plantings @11 a.m. Saturday, October 18 at

Morgan's Grove Park



Help keep our Town Run in running order by removing invasive plants, picking up trash, and building community relationships. We will be meeting on Saturday, October 11, at the **Jefferson Security Bank**, 105 E Washington St, Shepherdstown, WV. Bring your waders, boots, tools & smiles to get IN and AROUND the Run & pull OUT what DOESN'T Belong!!

Also join us on Saturday, October 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to plant native seedlings along the stream banks at Morgan's Grove Park. These plantings will help strengthen the banks, improve water quality, and create better habitat for wildlife. We'll meet in the lower parking lot.

We'll wrap up the planting with pizza and time to celebrate the end of a great season together.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO FIND OTHER EARTHCARE ACTIVITIES:

[Join the Town Run "Stream Cleaners"](#)

[Help Restore Town Run with Native Plantings! - Town Run Watershed](#)

[Town Run Watershed Association Annual Meeting - Town Run Watershed](#)

October 2025

September 2025							October 2025							November 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	6			1	2	3	4	5							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 8:30 am Early Worship 9:30 am Sunday Seminar 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio 5:00 pm Community Meal	6 	7	1 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	2 10:00 am Presbyterian Women - FH/Zoom	3 	4 10:00 am Deacon's Meeting - FH
12 8:30 am Early Worship 9:30 am Sunday Seminar 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio 12:30 pm Youth Group	13	14 7:30 pm Speak Story Series Sanctuary	8 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	9 11:00 am G2G Steering Team Meeting - FH 7:00 pm Session Meeting FH/Zoom	10 2:00 pm The Collaboration Team - FH/Hybrid	11 9:00 am Sabbatical Team - FH
19 8:30 am Early Worship 9:30 am Sunday Seminar 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio 12:30 pm Youth Group	20	21	15 10:00 am Staff Meeting - Sanctuary 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	16 6:00 pm Communications Team Meeting- FH	17	18
26 8:30 am Early Worship 9:30 am Sunday Seminar 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio 12:30 pm Youth Group	27	28	22 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	30	31 Church Office Closed	25 1:00 pm Yarns & Threads Group - FH