

A child has been born for us. **Isaiah 9:6**

Let the sea roar and all that fills it. **Psalms 96:11**

The grace of God has appeared! **Titus 2:11**

She gave birth. **Luke 2:7**

Assistants

The Gonano Family
Eli Dillow
Michael Joyce
Isabella Tuzzio
Donald Sykes
Brian Dettling
Frances Marshall
Brad Toole

Special Music

Terry Tucker
Sheila Melendez

Choir Director

Sheila Melendez

Accompanist

Sam Jannotta

Organist

Jayne O'Hara

Autoharp/Recorder

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.

Gathering Music

WE GATHER for the BIRTH

† † †

Welcome

Choral Processional 91, (7x)

*Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

The Christ Candle

Isaiah 9:2

***Response 133, v. 1, 3**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Proclaiming Sabbath With Us

Isaiah 9:6

***Carol 158, v. 1-2**

"Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

First Pew

Friendly Beast (see insert)

***Carol 158, v. 3-4**

"Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

WE PROCLAIM THE BIRTH

† † †

Seeking Sabbath With Us

Luke 2:1-5

***Carol 121, v. 1, 3**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Cradling Sabbath With Us

Luke 2:6-7

***Carol 115, v. 1, 2**

"Away in a Manger"

Announcing Sabbath With Us

Luke 2:8-11

***Carol 147, v. 1, 2**

"The First Nowell"

Singing Sabbath With Us

Luke 2:12-14

***Carol 113, v. 1, 3**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Finding Sabbath With Us

Luke 2:15-16

Carol 134, v. 1, 2

"Joy to the World"

Pondering Sabbath With Us

Luke 2:17-20

***Carol 136, v. 1, 3**

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

WE CONTEMPLATE THE BIRTH

† † †

Reading

Interlude

"Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"

Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

Meditation

"Birthing Sabbath With Us"

***Carol 145, v. 1, 3**

"What Child Is This"

† † †

WE RESPOND TO THE BIRTH

Prayer for Birthing Sabbath

Offering

Offertory

"What Star Is This?"

Birthing The World!

John 1:1-6, 14

***Carol 122, v. 1-3** (see insert)

"Silent Night, Holy Night!"

***Blessing**

† † †

***Postlude**

All forms of birth — physical, intellectual, spiritual or emotional — bring one to the depths. The power to give birth originates in the creative life spirit birthing all, the seen and the unseen.

Amy Wright

**Please rise in body and spirit.*

Isaiah and Luke Translations

New Revised Standard
Version Updated Edition

Titus Translation

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Gospel of John Translation

King James Version

Prayer for Others

Marjorie Burke

Blessing

Hildegard of Bingen

Sermons & Information
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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.



• **Christmas Day**
Church Office Closed

Dawn: *Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20*

Day: *Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]; John 1:1-14*

Friday, December 26
Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 27
1:00 p.m. Yarns & Threads Group Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 28 • First Sunday of Christmastide
Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23
11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary and Zoom

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING. SPC will collect our Christmas Eve offering during both Christmas Eve services. This year's offering will benefit Mountain State Justice.

MOUNTAIN STATE JUSTICE (MSJ) is a West Virginia-based non-profit which provides free legal services to all marginalized West Virginians fighting for their homes, their health and safety, and their jobs. Our SPC immigrant support team specifically works with MSJ's immigration attorneys to connect legal resources locally to our immigrant neighbors and friends. For more information about MSJ, go to <https://mountainstatejustice.org/>.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sheila Melendez (she/her) Choir Director • sheilamelendez@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

The Nativity of Jesus

December 24, 2025

8:00 p.m.

Travail

Out of the depth and quiet
of this chill, stark night,
a gnawing ache, a yearning
deepens, rising
like a threatening wave.

The young woman trembles.
Every inmost part of her is
shaken, all comfort broken.
Her hand gropes for something firm to grasp,
but all that was certain has become
obscure, all encompassing,
racked with pain.
Scarcely able to catch her breath,
she feels each wave larger, more
frightening than the last.
And as the great wave breaks over her,
she is broken,
momentarily forgetting what she accepted,
what love she bears,
yet choosing to believe when all seems lost.

Suddenly and completely
she, still bathed in sweat,
enfolds love in her arms,
knows joy as one victorious,
sees clearly as one who has been
stretched and changed,
that peace is always
born of travail.

Jane M. Schultze

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion

We Choose Welcome