

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart,
Joel 2:12a

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. **Psalm 1a**

But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
Matthew 6:6

- Preacher**
Rev. Mary Jane Hitt
- Assistant**
Mica Martin
- Choir Director**
Sheila Melendez
- Accompanist**
Jayne O’Hara
- 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.

THE FONT OF IDENTITY

† † †

Introit (3x)
*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.*

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.

Baptismal Blessing

***Hymn 177**
“You are Mine”

First Lesson
Joel 2:12-13

Response 544 (2x)
*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

† † †

Second Lesson
Psalm 51:6-10, selected verses

Response 437 (2x)
*You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!*

Silence

Third Lesson
Matthew 6:5-6

+Response 471 (2x)
*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.*

Silence

† † †

Reading

Interlude
“Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown”

Fourth Lesson
Luke 9:51-62

Reflection
“Between Intention and Action”

Hymn 726
“The Summons”

Invitation to a Holy Lent

Imposition of Ashes

Response 433, refrain
*Sign us with ashes, merciful God,
children of dust, as to dust we return.
Sign us with ashes, merciful God.
Mark us and make us your own*

† † †

***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 Hymn 488 (2x)**
*Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you.
Salaam, salaam. Peace of God be with you.*

***Postlude**

The practice of peace and reconciliation is one of the most vital and artistic of human actions.
Thich Nhat Hanh

Living with intention means saying no to the things that aren’t important so we can say yes to what matters most.
Crystal Paine

The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention.
Kahlil Gibran

Reconciliation is more beautiful than victory.
Violeta Chamorro

**Please rise in body and spirit.*

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.



**“Everything in Between”
SPC Worship through the season of Lent 2026**

Our journey through the season of Lent this year invites us to explore the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each week we will explore two concepts that are often considered to be in opposition to one another. As we explore them through the lens of scripture, we find nuance and complexity. This Lent, we’re trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

First Sunday in Lent, February 22
“Between Stranger and Neighbor”

Second Sunday in Lent, March 1
“Between Faith and Works”

Third Sunday in Lent, March 8
“Between Rest and Growth”

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 15
“Between Lost and Found”

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 22
“Between Righteousness and Mercy”

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29
“Between Shouting and Silence”

Maundy Thursday, April 2
“Between Power and Humility”

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Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Both, Please

It’s one thing to speak of love. It’s another
to hold a newborn in your arms,
to sing someone to sleep,
to lean down and listen for their breathing.

It’s one thing to speak of faith. It’s another
to press your forehead to the floor,
to cry out in prayer,
to ask the hard questions and still
thank God for the meal.

It’s one thing to speak of the Divine. It’s another
to walk under a tunnel of wisteria,
to stand barefoot at the edge of the sea,
to hear the birds sing as the sun returns
and whisper, *Thank you, thank you, thank you.*

It’s one thing and another, so I pray,
Give me both, please. Show me both, please.

Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Established 1743
Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion
We Choose Welcome