

*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 22 • First Sunday in Lent**

*Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Luke 10:25-37*

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Education Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall/Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary/Zoom
- 12:15 p.m. Youth Gathering – Downstairs

**Wednesday, February 25**

- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

**Saturday, February 28**

- 11:00 a.m. Celebration of Life: Martin Burke – Sanctuary/Zoom  
Reception following Service at the War Memorial Building
- 1:00 p.m. Yarns & Threads Gathering – Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, March 1 • Second Sunday in Lent**

*Genesis 12:1-4a; 3:1-7 Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Luke 10:38-42*

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Education Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall/Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary/Zoom
- 12:15 p.m. Youth Gathering – Downstairs
- 5:00 p.m. Communiy Meal – Zion Episcopal Church Social Center,  
215 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV 25414

**TODAY’S HYMNS:** “The Glory of These Forty Days” invites us into the season of Lent, connecting Jesus’ wilderness fast with the solitary testing of other prophetic souls: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and John the Baptist. “O God, You Give Us Neighbors”, written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, puts modern words inspired the parable of the Good Samaritan to a familiar tune.

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**Season of Lent**  
First Sunday

**February 22, 2026**  
11:00 a.m.

**Never Met a Stranger**

When we talk about God, we say  
she’s never met a stranger.  
She makes friends at the airport.  
She waves to babies in the checkout line.

When we talk about God, we say  
she’ll leave the porch light on.  
She’ll have warm bread in the oven.  
She’ll have all the time in the world.

When we talk about God, we say  
she’ll look you in the eye.  
She’ll love you as you are.  
She’ll call you by your name

When we talk about God,  
we never have to talk about  
which side of the road she might walk down.  
Wherever you are,  
that’s where she’ll be.

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

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go.      **Psalms 32:8**

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience.      **Colossians 1:11**

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mid and your neighbor as yourself.      **Luke 10:27**

**Preacher**  
Rev. Mary Jane Hitt

**Assistant**  
Lynne Wiseman

**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. After the service enjoy a cup of fair trade coffee with friends in the Fellowship Hall.

THE FONT OF IDENTITY

† † †

**Introit 399** (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.

Remembering our Baptism

**\*Hymn 165**  
“The Glory of These Forty Days”

**Prayer for Wholeness**  
Holy One,  
you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves,  
but we get tripped up on logistics.  
We want to know: who is our neighbor?  
Do we have to love the stranger?  
Must we have compassion for our enemy?  
Forgive our human tendency  
to create exceptions in the face of love.  
Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor  
in every stranger we pass.  
Make us whole in your love we pray, Amen.

**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.*

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

**\*Response 523, refrain** (2x)  
*You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;  
come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.*

**\*Passing the Peace**  
**Blessing the Nations**  
Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

**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. 5**  
*Then, tender God, each child embrace;  
God give them blessings, grant them grace  
Surprise them, God, with wonders still,  
and gently guide them to your will.*

Welcome and Parish Life  
THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †  
**Reading**  
**Interlude**  
**Lesson**  
Luke 10:25-37  
**Sermon**  
“Between Stranger and Neighbor”  
**\*Hymn** (see insert)  
“O God, You Give Us Neighbors”

THE BREAD OF LIFE  
† † †  
**Eucharistic Prayer**  
**Offering Our Gifts**  
**Offertory**  
“Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown”

† † †  
**\*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)  
*Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you.  
Salaam, salaam. Peace of God be with you.*

I admire the good Samaritan, but I don’t want to be one. I don’t want to spend my life picking up people by the side of the road after they have been beaten up and robbed. I want to change the Jericho road, so that everybody has an opportunity for a job, education, security, health.

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.  
**Desmond Tutu**

A Good Samaritan is not simply one whose heart is touched in an immediate act of care and charity, but one who provides a system of sustained care.  
**Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes**

**Lesson Translation**  
New Revised  
Standard Version

**Sermons & Information**  
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

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## Eucharistic Prayer

The God of unbounded love is with you.  
*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.  
*We lift them to the God of unbounded love.*

Let us give thanks for love that has no end:  
*The God of unbounded love that embraces us all.*

At this table we taste your never-ending Hope,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
*Christ has come.  
Christ is with us.  
Christ will be all in all.*

Holy One, Giver of Life, we praise you.  
Your realm of justice and delight come near;  
Your loving will be done in all lands.  
Give us today our Bread for the Journey,  
enough for all to feast and then rest.  
Free us from our striving and our hoarding,  
as we seek to free those wounded and wearied  
by an unforgiving system.

Save us from the tyranny of endless toil,  
and deliver us from tyrannical power.  
For yours is the rhythm,  
and the mercy,  
and the joy,  
now and forever. Amen.

## Communion Response

*Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup;  
trust in me and you will not thirst*

## O God, You Give Us Neighbors

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation")  
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*O God, you give us neighbors for whom your love abounds.  
They've come here seeking refuge; they work here in our towns.  
Their children go to school here; they come to church and pray.  
O Lord, we grieve when neighbors are being sent away.*

*O God, you give us neighbors in this world that divides.  
We see them at the border; they're struggling for their lives.  
They're hurting by the roadside, and by the river, too.  
You call us to show mercy to neighbors loved by you.*

*O God, you give us neighbors and call us all to see  
our common fears and longings, our shared humanity.  
You call us all to listen to burdens they have known,  
to hear the truth they tell us, to see the love they've shown.*

*O God, you give us neighbors; and now, what must we do?  
This question asked of Jesus is one we ask anew.  
May we not make excuses and choose to walk on by  
these neighbors fleeing violence — some sent back now to die.*

*God, may we work for justice for those who live in fear;  
may we show Christ's compassion, and pray and persevere —  
and by your Holy Spirit, in all we do and say,  
may we stand up for neighbors now being sent away.*

# 165 The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we  
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the  
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -  
 4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all  
 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's  
 sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Appropriate for singing at any time during Lent, this stately text connects Jesus' wilderness fast with the solitary testing of other prophetic souls: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and John the Baptist. This sturdy 16th-century chorale melody formed the basis of Bach's *Cantata 126*.

## **COMMUNITY MEAL HAS A VERY BIG NEED**

A meal is served in Jefferson County **EVERY DAY**.

SPC provides this meal on the first Sunday of every month,  
at Zion Episcopal Church in Charles Town.

This time in 2025 we were serving 40-50 meals. This month  
we served 70 people who needed a meal.

### **WE NEED HELP!**

Community Meal can be as easy as you want to make it.

The QR code below takes you right to Perfect Pot Luck  
signup: You can choose to buy a bag of oranges, or a box of  
cupcakes or make a casserole or cook a ham. The sign-up  
sheet lets you choose. After that, all you need to do is have  
your contribution at the SPC kitchen door by 4 pm on  
Sunday. You can leave it there early in the fridge or deliver  
in a frantic drive by.

It's really that easy. Email Connie Ross at  
rossjc316@gmail.com Or go to the links below to participate  
on March 1. <https://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals>.

