



Guns to Gardens is a nationwide community service event that enables people to safely surrender unwanted firearms and have them transformed into garden tools or art.

Informed by scripture, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has formally endorsed the program, and Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church is a participating congregation.

*"They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks."*

*~ Isaiah 2:4*

### **Is This an Anti-Gun Program?**

No. Gun ownership is a Constitutional right and a deeply personal choice, both of which we honor. This program is a community service for gun owners who are making the equally personal choice to dispose of guns that they no longer want.

While Guns to Gardens does not challenge citizens' right to own firearms, it does encourage voluntary action to intervene in record levels of gun violence. Every gun dismantled protects someone from gun suicide or accidental or intentional shootings. In addition to this much-needed practical service, the transforming of guns into garden tools offers healing to persons and communities who have been traumatized by gun violence.

As a faith community, we at Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church feel called to offer this service for those who are drawn to and will benefit from it.

### **Why would someone surrender a gun?**

Thousands of people around the country have surrendered unwanted firearms in a Guns to Gardens event. Here are a few reasons why:

- A parent worried about having a gun in a home with children.
- A family in crisis (conflict, anger, mental illness, etc.) felt that a gun in the home now posed a safety threat.
- A gun collector died, leaving his widow with guns she did not want in the home.

- A long-time gun owner, sobered by the mass shooting epidemic, no longer felt comfortable owning semi-automatic firearms.

### **What is Required to Participate?**

- An unloaded firearm in working condition
- A sincere desire to surrender the firearm for this purpose

### **How Does a Guns to Gardens Event Work?**

- Bring your firearm by vehicle to a Guns to Gardens event in your community.
- Guns must be unloaded and stored in the trunk of the vehicle
- Volunteers check the firearm, carry it to the dismantling station, and collect the materials for distribution to the blacksmiths.
- Because the gun is dismantled in the owner's presence, there is no transfer of ownership. Once the leftover parts are no longer legally a gun, they can be donated to be transformed into useful tools.

### **When Is the Next Event in Our Area?**

Our next event is on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. at the Shepherdstown Fire Department: 8052 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

### **Want to Know More?**

For more information about Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church's Guns to Gardens program and upcoming events, email [guns2gardens@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:guns2gardens@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org) or call us at (571) 577-9211.