

*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, April 19 • Third Sunday of Eastertide**

*Iaisah 51:1-6 Psalm 34:1-10 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35*

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service – Sanctuary / Zoom

9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall / Zoom

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary / Zoom

Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2

**Monday, April 20**

Office Hours 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 21**

5:00 p.m. Immigration & Refugee Support Meeting via Zoom

**Wednesday, April 22**

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

**Friday, April 24 • Church Closed**

4:00 p.m. Private Event until 7 p.m.

**Saturday, April 25 • Church Closed**

2:00 p.m. Private Event until 5 p.m.

**Sunday, April 26 • Fourth Sunday of Eastertide**

*Ezekiel 34:7-15 Psalm 100 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10*

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service – Sanctuary / Zoom

9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall / Zoom

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary / Zoom

Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2

2:15 p.m. Youth Group at Shepherd Game Room until 4:15 p.m.

**Eastertide**  
Third Sunday

**April 19, 2026**  
11:00 a.m.

**Road to Emmaus**

When there is shattered glass in my heart,  
when the road is long and dull,  
when the past has bent, the future vanished,  
when I seem to walk from darkness toward darkness—  
I pray not that the story be changed  
but that my eyes be open  
to you,  
here beside us,  
opening our eyes.

**Steve Garnaas-Holmes**

**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Established 1743*

*Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion*

*We Choose Welcome*

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? **Psalm 116:12**

You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.

**Acts 2:28**

You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. **1 Peter 1:23**

When [Jesus] was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

**Luke 24:30-31**

**Preacher**

Rev. Mary Jane Hitt

**Assistants**

Maya Rebollo Snook  
Carol Wood

**Choir Director**

Sheila Melendez

**Accompanist**

Sam Jannotta

**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**

† † †

**Easter Proclamation**

Christ Is Risen!  
*Christ Is Risen, Indeed!*

**Introit (6x)**

*Christ is risen, alleluia. Love is risen, alleluia.*

**Proclamation**

Please join me in our 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 408**

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

**Prayer for Wholeness** (see insert)

**Response (2x)**

*Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

**Declaration of Grace and Gratitude**

**\*+Response 243 (3x)**

*Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!*  
*Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!*

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Blessing the World**

Kenya, Tanzania

**Response 250, v. 1**

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!*  
*In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

**First Pew**

**Response 250, v.3**

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

**Welcome and Parish Life**

**THE WORD OF HOPE**

† † †

**Reading**

**Interlude**

**Lesson**

Luke 24:13-35

**Sermon**

“On the Road Again”

**\*Hymn 835**

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

**THE BREAD OF LIFE**

† † †

**Prayer for Others**

**Offering Our Gifts**

**Offertory**

† † †

**\*Acclamation**

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 246, v. 1, 5**

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news  
to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy,  
with justice, love, and praise.*

The road is long, but the way is sure.

**George MacDonald**

To love another person is to see the face of God.

**Victor Hugo**

We only see what we are ready to see.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Not all those who wander are lost.

**J.R.R. Tolkien**

\*Please rise in body and spirit.

**Lesson Translation**

New Revised  
Standard Version,  
Updated Edition

**Sanctuary Flowers  
are in Memory of**

*Christopher Bahr,*  
son of Cathy and Don Cross

**Sermons & Information**

shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

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## Prayer for Wholeness

Risen Christ,  
You meet us on the road—  
in our wondering,  
in our weariness,  
in the places where our hope feels thin.

Walk with us now.  
Open our eyes to the grace we have missed,  
the love we have resisted,  
the neighbors we have overlooked.  
Open our hearts to the truth  
that we are still learning how to live  
as Easter people.  
Where our words have wounded,  
forgive us.  
Where our silence has harmed,  
forgive us.  
Where fear has kept us from generosity,  
courage, or compassion,  
forgive us and set us free.

Turn us toward Your light,  
and make us people of mercy, courage,  
and resurrection hope.

Amen.

GATHERING

# 408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I  
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are  
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I  
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.  
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

This gospel hymn grew out of this African American author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship. She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.

GATHERING

*Refrain*


Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings we


lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

## Just a Closer Walk with Thee 835



*Refrain* Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,  
 1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,  
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I  
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for




Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to  
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as  
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den  
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly




thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.  
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*  
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*  
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. *Ref.*



The chromatic musical style of this anonymous short hymn suggests that it probably dates from the early 20th century. It also seems to owe much of its popularity to radio broadcasts and recordings as well as to evangelistic meetings and singing conventions of that era.



PLEASE SUPPORT SPC'S UPCOMING  
EVENT TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

- **GIVE** to the Special Offering on April 12 and 19, to help meet our fundraising goal of \$2,000. These funds will be used to buy gift cards for people who turn in guns. The gift cards are a gesture of gratitude and a proven way to increase gun owner participation in the event. Donate in church, by mail, or online.
- **NOTE** 'Guns to Gardens' in the memo on your check to SPC, or if you give online. Envelopes for this special offering are in the pew pockets and in the narthex.
- **BRING** your unwanted firearms to be dismantled at the *Guns to Gardens* event on **May 2, 1-3:30 p.m. at the Shepherdstown Fire Department**. Please help us spread the word!

*Sponsored by Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church*

# **GUNS TO GARDENS**

## **A Safe Gun Disposal Event**

Unwanted Firearms Are Made into Garden Tools

**Please Bring Unwanted Firearms to  
Shepherdstown Fire Department  
8052 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown, WV  
Saturday, May 2, 2026, 1 - 3:30 pm**

*Guns are carefully  
dismantled on site*



**Guns must be:**

- Unloaded
- Stored in car trunk or back end of vehicle
- In working order

**You will receive thank you gift cards to local grocery stores:**

- \$50 per handgun
- \$100 per rifle/shotgun
- \$200 per semiautomatic



**For Further Information:**  
(571) 577-9211  
[guns2gardens@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org](mailto:guns2gardens@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org)

**SHEPHERDSTOWN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## SPC Autism Acceptance Workshop

The deacon's Workshops and Educational Events Ministry is hosting an Autism Acceptance Workshop on Sunday, April 26 from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom.

See Zoom link provided in the eNews.

A group of panelists will present segments on understanding, accepting, and accommodating the neurodiverse, followed by a period of Q and A. After this conversation, we will ask you to consider ways SPC might be more welcoming to those of all abilities.

A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to:  
[donna.dettling@gmail.com](mailto:donna.dettling@gmail.com)





**Draw** Draw a picture of you talking or listening.

**Draw** Draw a picture of you being close to God.

**Color** Color the things that help us be close to God

