

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, May 3 • Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14

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

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

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary / Zoom
Sunday Studio – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2

12:15 p.m. Youth Group – Fellowship Hall / Downstairs

5:00 p.m. Community Meal – Zion Episcopal Church Social Center,
215 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV 25414

Wednesday, May 6

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

Thursday, May 7

10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women – Fellowship Hall / Zoom

6:00 p.m. Bible at the Bar – The Mecklenburg Inn, Shepherdstown

Sunday, May 10 • Sixth Sunday of Eastertide • Graduate Recognition Sunday

Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21

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

12:15 p.m. Graduate Reception – Fellowship Hall

Eastertide
Fifth Sunday

May 3, 2026
11:00 a.m.

Undressing

Resurrection is not so much a change
as a revealing, an undressing,
the clothes of this world stripped away
from the pure light that was always there,
and is there now, in you, walking around
with the Big Bang hidden inside you.

Trusting now what you'll only see in the end,
you love wildly, forgive boldly,
stand courageously with the endangered,
and risk all for the sake of healing,
knowing even great suffering
is only a passing fashion.
Beneath, you are pure glory.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 W. Washington Street • PO Box 268, Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443 • 304-876-6466

office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org • www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Rev. Mary Jane Hitt (she/her) • gusti@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Christa Joyce (she/her) Director of Children and Youth Formation • christa@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

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

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion

We Choose Welcome

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

Psalm 31:1

“This is the way; walk in it.”

Isaiah 30:21

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation. **1 Peter 2:2**

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:8**

Preacher

Rev. Mary Jane Hitt

Assistants

Abigail Barnett
Mary Anne Hitt

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 (3x)

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 31**

“Let Us with a Gladsome Mind”

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

Botswana, Zimbabwe

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

John 14:1-14

Sermon

“The Way, the Truth, and the Life”

***Hymn 726**

“Will You come and Follow Me”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

+++

Memorial Moment

Eucharist Prayer

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

“At the Still Point of the Universe,” *Alfred V. Fedak*

+++

***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.*

Truth is powerful and it prevails. **Sojourner Truth**

To be loved is to be made capable of loving.
George MacDonald

To live is so startling, it leaves little time for anything else.
Emily Dickinson

As you start to walk on the way, the way appears.
Rumi

Lesson Translation

New Revised
Standard Version,
Updated Edition

Sermons & Information
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

+Hymns
reprinted with permission under
OneLicense.com
#A-007343. All rights reserved.

Prayer for Wholeness

Risen Christ,
you meet us in the middle places of life —
not at the finish line, but here,
where we are still learning how to walk in your way.

You call yourself the Way, the Truth, and the Life,
yet we confess how easily we wander from your path of love.
We choose what is comfortable instead of what is faithful.
We cling to old fears instead of trusting Your new life.
We turn inward when you invite us outward
toward neighbor, stranger, and creation.

Where our words have wounded, heal us.
Where our actions have harmed, forgive us.
Where our indifference has diminished life,
turn us again toward your light.

Risen One, teach us the way that leads to wholeness—
the way of courage, the way of mercy, the way of truth that frees,
the way of life that overflows.

Walk with us, so that our steps may grow steadier,
our hearts more open, and our lives more rooted
in your resurrection love.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...

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.*

...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Response

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

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

Let Us with a Gladsome Mind 31

(Psalm 136)

1 Let us with a glad - some mind praise the
 2 God, with all - com - mand - ing might, filled the
 3 All things liv - ing God does feed; with full
 4 Let us with a glad - some mind praise the

Lord who is so kind:
 new - made world with light:
 mea - sure, meets their need: for God's mer - cies
 Lord who is so kind:

shall en - dure, ev - er faith - ful, ev - er sure.

These few stanzas are among the least florid of the two dozen that make up the rather flamboyant paraphrase of Psalm 136 written by the fifteen-year-old who would become one of the greatest English poets. It is set here to a sprightly tune with Moravian connections.



My hope for you...

Draw

Draw a picture of you talking or listening.

Imagine

Imagine a time when you're supposed to be quiet but you need to say something important. Write or draw about what would happen.

Color

Color the things that help us speak up and listen.

