

They set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. **Exodus 1:11**

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the hunters. **Psalms 124:7**

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. **Romans 12:6**

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. **Matthew 16:18**

Preacher
Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Assistant
Frances Marshall

Special Music
Sam Jannotta & Bob Sykes

Accompanist
Sam Jannotta

Tech Support
Adam Ware

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 48 (2x)

*Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your people.
Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life.*

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 626 (2x)**
“As the Deer”

Prayer for Wholeness

When shall I behold your face, O God?
My tears have been my food day and night.
I walk about mournfully because of my pain.
My adversaries taunt me.

These things I remember as I pour out my soul:
how I come to this place and join with your people.
with laughter and song and celebration
we praise your steadfast love,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause.
My hope is in you, my rock, my help, my God.

Response 437 (2x)

*You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!*

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

***Response 590 (2x)**

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Blessing the World
Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

Response 486, v. 1

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit’s sign,
with this water God has sealed you, unto love and grace divine.*

First Pew

Response 486, v. 2

*Child of love, our love’s expression, love’s creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; into joy and laughter lead.*

Welcome and Parish Life

THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

Reading

Interlude

“Morning Has Broken”

Lesson

Psalms 55

Sermon

“When Church Hurts”

***Hymn 775**

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

Prayers for Others

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

“What a Friend We have in Jesus”

† † †

***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 547, v. 1**

*Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.*

***Postlude**

It is said if you pick up a stone and put your sorrow into it, when you place the stone down you leave some of your sorrow behind.
Sue Kenney, My Camino

*Please rise in body and spirit.

Prayer for Wholeness

Based on Psalms 42 and 43

The Iron Cross on the Camino,
re-printed with permission,
<https://seandietrich.com>

Lesson Translation

Gregorian Chant

Sermons & Information
shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

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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.



Twenty-first Sunday
Ordinary Time

August 23, 2026
11:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 23

Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 Psalm 138 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20

8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship – Sanctuary

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

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

Tuesday, August 25

Church Office Closed

Saturday, August 29

1:00 p.m. Yarns & Threads Group – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 30

Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship – Sanctuary

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

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

1:40 p.m. Youth meet for River & Trail Outing – SPC Parking lot

SUNDAY STUDIO NEIGHBORS CONTINUE INTO FALL! Mr. Rogers co-created a neighborhood as “a place where friends help each other find within themselves the courage to grow.” Building this neighborhood with our Sunday Studio children, kindergarten-5th grade, has been a blessed time through the summer. Thanks be to God for each of you who’s shared your joy and love with these young SPC members! Let’s continue to live into our church mission of being engaged and compassionate neighbors through the fall. Share your particular love during our Sunday Studio time (upstairs during the 11:00 a.m. service.) Let the Spirit move you: teach the kids about art, animals, nature, food, travel–anything that fills you with joy, delight, or love. Sundays are available through the end of the year. Email or text Christa Mastrangelo Joyce at Christa@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org or 401-440-0279 with your teaching idea and some available dates.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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The Iron Cross on the Camino, excerpt

...We pilgrims had our rocks in our pockets,

intended for leaving at the cross. ...

The rocks represent your burdens.

You’re supposed to pick out a few rocks when you start the trail,

carry them for weeks on the Camino,

then leave them at the cross. ...

But it’s a funny thing about carrying rocks.

They sit in your pocket for so many weeks,

they become like old friends.

And even though they’re heavy, they’re YOUR rocks.

You don’t really want to let them go. ...

But you must. So I did. ...

I heaved and cried until I couldn’t see anymore.

Then, I staggered off the hill of stones.

Nearby pilgrims kept asking if I was okay.

I smiled, wiped my face, and said I was okay.

And this time, maybe for the first time in my whole life, I meant it.

Sean of the South

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion

We Choose Welcome