

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, 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 Mastangelo Joyce at Christa@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org or 401-440-0279 with your teaching idea and some available dates.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org • www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist (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

Twenty-first Sunday
Ordinary Time

August 23, 2026
11:00 a.m.

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*

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 true 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 Psalm 42 and 43

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

Lesson Translation

Gregorian Chant

Sermons & Information
shepherdstowpresbyterian.org

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For more information,
including a more extensive syllabus,
contact Pastor Gusti or the church office.

FALL SCHEDULE

September 22: How We Read the Bible

Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture

September 29: Beginnings; Erlander, Chapter One
Genesis 1-9

October 20: God Births a People; Erlander, Chapter Two
Exodus 1-15

October 27: The Wilderness School; Erlander, Chapter Three
Exodus 16 and other selections from Exodus and Numbers

November 10: Covenant and Gift; Erlander, Chapter Four
Exodus 19-20 and selections from Leviticus and Deuteronomy

December 8: Graduation; Erlander, Chapter Five
Deuteronomy 30-34 and selections from Joshua

December 15: We Want a King; Erlander, Chapter Six
Selections from 1/2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles, and 1 Kings

Feed Your Soul with SPC!

Adult Education and Spiritual Formation

Fall 2026

Sunday Seminars – 9:30 AM Sunday, Fellowship Hall or via Zoom

September 20 and 27:

Sabbatical Integration with Pastor Gusti

October 4 – December 6:

Living into the Seasons:

A Time for Hope, Peace and Joy

Adult Retreat – Priest Field Retreat Center, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV

October 3 – led by Christa Mastrangelo
Joyce

*Making Room for Advent:
Discovering the Sacred Rhythm of the Church*

Bible at the Bar – first Thursday of the month, 6 PM Mecklenburg Inn, Shepherdstown. Led by Pastor Gusti, topical discussion emerging from interests of the gathered community.

Meditation Circle – First Fridays at 5:30 PM, location TBA, beginning October 2.

Community sharing and inspirational wisdom followed by a 20 - 30 minute silent meditation.

The Liberating Word: A Biblical Overview for Progressives, twice monthly on selected Tuesdays, 7 PM, location TBA. Led by Pastor Gusti. Consistent attendance will offer greatest impact but drop-ins are also welcome.

Listening Sessions: If you are interested in leading or hosting a session, or would like more information, please let Keith Loudermill or the church office know by September 30.

The Liberating Word:
A Biblical Overview for Progressives
Led by Pastor Gusti, location TBA

Learn why Archbishop Desmond Tutu, pastor of the anti-apartheid struggle, says,
The most dangerous thing people in power can do – if they want to keep their power – is put the Bible in the hands of people they are oppressing. The oppressed will find a God who seeks their liberation!

This course offers an overview of the Bible through the lens of collective liberation. There is no requirement to attend all of the sessions or do any “pre-work,” but those who do so will receive the most benefit.

Likewise, there is no required textbook. However, those who wish to engage the texts will receive the most benefit:

Erlander, Daniel. *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Plan to Mend the Entire Universe*
The Bible. *The HarperCollins Study Bible* NRSV or the translation of your choice

ADORATION

626

As the Deer

D A Bm Dsus D

As the deer pants for the wa - ter, so my

G A7sus A7 D G A7 D A

soul longs af - ter you. You a - lone are my

Bm Dsus D G Asus A7 D

heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

Bm Bm/A G D/F# G Bm

You a - lone are my strength, my shield; to you a - lone

Em F#sus F# D A

may my spir - it yield. You a - lone are my

Bm Dsus D G A7sus A7 D

heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

This praise chorus begins as a paraphrase of Psalm 42:1 and later incorporates parts of Psalm 28:7. In some early Christian communities, people chanted or sang Psalm 42 on their way to be baptized, and many early Christian baptisteries were decorated with deer drinking water.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 775

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

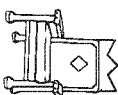
The two equal phrases in each line suggest that this African American spiritual shares some characteristics of work or field songs that were used to coordinate the efforts of slaves involved in tasks (road clearing, ditch digging, etc.) that needed combined rhythmic strokes.



Jesus said He would give Peter "keys." What were these keys to?

Write the name for each picture.

Then place the letters in boxes on the lines below.





Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

August 23, 2026 • Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus Is the Son of God

Jesus asked the disciples,

"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

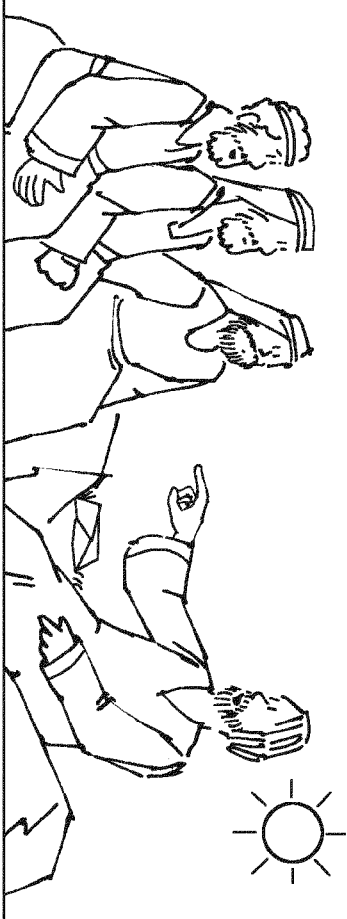
Cross out every word that starts with "d" or "k."
Write the remaining words on the lines below.

Some	day	say	drink
drum	John	dip	King
the			
kit	Baptist	doing	others
dent			
say	dimple	Elijah	still
dog			
dump	others	kite	Jeremiah
doubt			
or	damage	one	kitten
of	kitchen	the	
prophets	kind		
dark			

" _____ ;

_____ ;

What else happened?



Fill in the missing vowels.

u a a o u o u e u a e o o o u a l a i o e e a e e o u a e e i e o o e i i o

“B _ t wh _ t _ b _ _ t y _ _ _ ?”

J _ s _ s _ sk _ d. “Wh _ _ d _

y _ _ _ s _ y _ _ _ m?”

S _ m _ n P _ t _ r _ nsw _ r _ d,

“y _ _ _ _ r _ th _ Chr _ st,

th _ S _ n _ f th _

l _ v _ ng G _ d.”

How did Jesus respond to Peter?

Going from left to right, write all the 1-words in order.
Then return to the top and write all the 2-words in order.
Then return to the top and write all the 3-words in order.

¹ Blessed	² but	³ Peter	¹ are	² by
³ and	¹ you	² My	³ on	¹ for
² Father	³ this	¹ this	² in	³ rock
¹ was	² heaven	³ I	¹ not	² I
³ will	¹ revealed	² tell	³ build	¹ to
² you	³ My	¹ you	² that	³ church
¹ by	² you		¹ people	² are

“

_____ , _____

_____ , _____

_____ . _____

_____ , _____

_____ . _____”