

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 30

Exodus 3:1-15 Jeremiah 15:15-21 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

Thursday, September 3

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

6:00 p.m. Bible at the Bar – The Meck, 128 E. German Street, Shepherdstown

Sunday, September 6

Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 119:33-40 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20

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

5:00 p.m. Community Meal – Zion Episcopal Church Social Center,

215 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV 25414

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

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

office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org • www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Rev. Gasti 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-second Sunday
Ordinary Time

August 30, 2026
11:00 a.m.

Forgiveness

My heart was heavy, for its trust had been
Abused, its kindness answered with foul wrong;
So, turning gloomily from my fellow men,
One summer Sabbath day I strolled among
The green mounds of the village burial place;
Where, pondering how all human love and hate
Find one sad level; and how, soon or late,
Wronged and wrong-doer, each with meekened face,
And cold hands folded over a still heart,
Pass the green threshold of our common grave,
Whither all footsteps tend, whence none depart,
Awed for myself, and pitying my race,
Our common sorrow, like a mighty wave,
Swept all my pride away, and trembling I forgave.

John Greenleaf Whittier

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743

*Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion
We Choose Welcome*

The cry of the Israelites has now come to me. **Exodus 3:9**

Make known God's deeds among the peoples.
Psalms 105:1

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.
Romans 12:17

For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 16:25

Preacher
Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Assistant
Sarah Wagner

Special Music
Anita Thomas
Sam Jannotta

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 435**
"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Prayer for Wholeness
You have made us holy and beloved,
forgiving us,
and calling us into the Body of Christ.
Still, we struggle to clothe ourselves with love:
to bear with one another,
to forgive one another as you have forgiven us.
Clothe us once more with compassion and kindness,
that your peace might expand our hearts,
filling us with gratitude.

Hymn 445
"God, How Can We Forgive"
Declaration of Grace and Gratitude
***Response 175**
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

***Passing of the Peace**
Blessing the World
Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

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
"Deep River"

Lesson
Matthew 18:15-17, 21-22

Sermon
"Seventy Times Seven"

***Response 437 (7x)**
*You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!*

THE BREAD OF LIFE
+ + +
Prayer for Others
Offering Our Gifts
Offertory
"Light of a Clear Blue Morning"
+ + +

***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**

The Camino teaches you to forgive. Forgive yourself and forgive others.

Paulo Coelho

*Please rise in body and spirit.

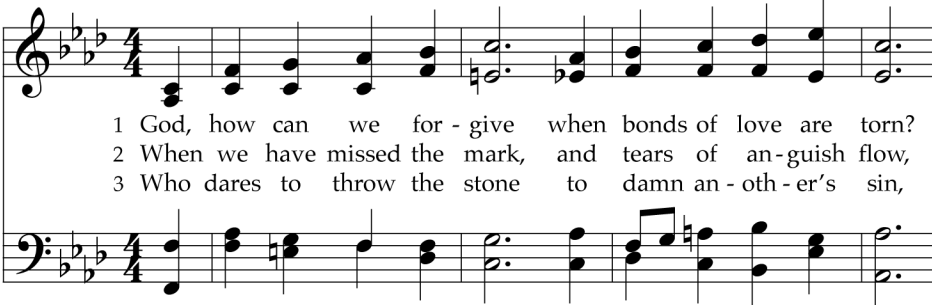
Prayer for Wholeness
Based on Colossians 3:12-15

Lesson Translation
New Revised
Standard Version,
Updated Edition

Sermons & Information
shepherdstowpreshyterian.org
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FORGIVENESS

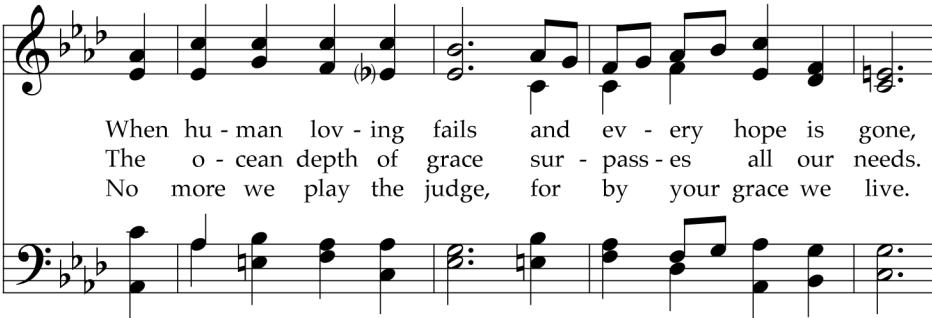
445 God, How Can We Forgive



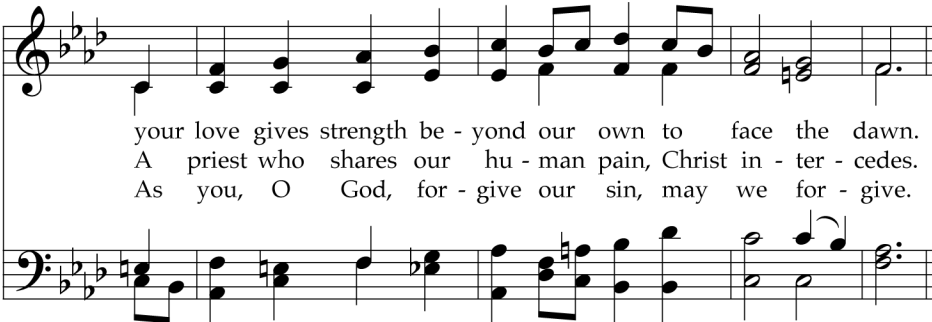
1 God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an - guish flow,
 3 Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,



How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?



When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.



your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

This text reflects both the struggle to deal with a deep personal hurt and a keen awareness of biblical language and content. The opening line of stanza two, for example, draws on the root meaning of the Greek word for sin, and the beginning of stanza three alludes to John 8:3–8.

FORGIVENESS

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

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

FALL SCHEDULE, 7-8:30pm, Fellowship Hall and Zoom
(Contact church office for link)

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, Sanctuary, 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, 7-8:30 PM, Fellowship Hall/Zoom.
Led by Pastor Gusti. Consistent attendance will offer greatest impact; drop-ins 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, Fellowship Hall and Zoom

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

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

Saturday, October 3, 2026, 11:30-6:30 @ Priest Field Retreat Center, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV: www.priestfield.org

What if Advent didn't have to arrive with a rush?

The Church Year offers us a different way of experiencing time—a sacred rhythm that invites us to remember, to prepare, to notice, and to participate. Through the seasons of the church, we tell and retell the story of Jesus, remembering our way back while simultaneously living our way forward into the life of faith.

During this day-long retreat, **Making Room for Advent**, we'll slow down and explore what it means to live intentionally within this sacred rhythm. Rather than simply *consuming* another Christmas season, we'll consider how we can become active participants in Advent—preparing our hearts, our homes, and our church community for what is coming.

Through Scripture, poetry, story, imaginative and contemplative practices, journaling, guided reflection, and shared food, we'll be invited to explore the relationship between sacred time and the seasons of our own lives.

Together, we'll reflect on our own seasons of life, make space for quiet and contemplation, and consider what it means to prepare for a season of **birth, along with the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love**. We'll explore how preparing *before* the season arrives can help us enter Christmas less distracted, less overwhelmed, and more attentive to the gifts that are already waiting for us.

And you won't leave empty-handed.

You'll receive a **journal and pen** to continue the practice of intentional reflection, share a **light meal and communion**, and enjoy a little **chocolate** along the way. Most importantly, you'll leave with practices and a renewed sense of how to **make room for sacred time**—not only for Advent, but for the seasons of faith and life that follow.

Come make room. Come slow down. Come prepare. Come discover the sacred rhythm already waiting for you.

Notes: Looking to offer not simply a class about the church year—also an invitation to *experience time differently*: to slow down, pay attention, prepare rather than react, and enter Advent with intention.

SPC 's Hospitality Team invites you to the annual PICNIC

Sunday September 13, 2026

3- 6 PM

Morgan's Grove Park Pavilion

- Please bring a veggie, fruit, or side dish to share.
- DO NOT bring a dessert!!!!
- Garden bouquets to adorn our tables are always appreciated.
- Paper goods, utensils, fried chicken, and drinks will be provided.

Did somebody say ICE CREAM?!?!?!!!!

DO NOT bring a dessert! Back by popular demand, we will have an ice cream sundae bar to top off our picnic.



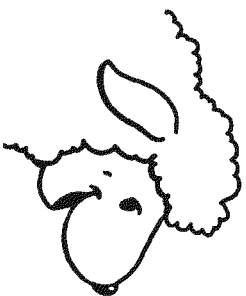
MEMORIES

Extending the SPC Timeline project, our entertainment will be YOU, sharing details of the memory tags you placed on our timeline. No need to sign up or prepare ahead of time, and no pressure to speak, we will guide you through the easy process at the picnic.

We will finish up the party with our annual balloon toss—fun for all ages.



Have questions or want to help? Reach out to Mary Ellen Lloyd at mewlloyd@gmail.com or 304-261-6771



The Son of Man is going to
come in His Father's glory
with His angels.

Solve the sudoku puzzle. All the numbers 1-9 must be used once
in each row, column and box. Then use the code to fill in the blanks.

- 1 He
- 2 according
- 3 reward
- 4 done
- 5 they
- 6 will
- 7 person
- 8 have
- 9 each

6		8		5	3	4	9	1
7	1		9	4	2	6	5	8
4	9	5	8	*	1	3		2
2		6	5	9	4	7		3
1	5	4	2		7	8	6	9
9	3	7	1	8	6	2		5
5	7	2	6	1	8		3	4
3	6			2	5	1	8	7
8	4	1	3	7			2	6

Then



to what



Children's Worship Bulletin

Ages 7+

August 30, 2026 • Matthew 16:21-28

Jesus Tells About His Future

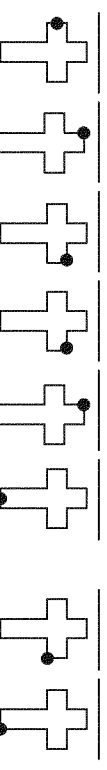
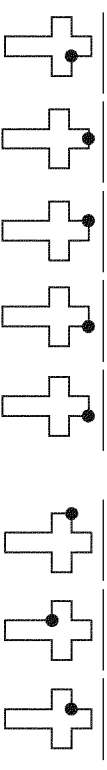
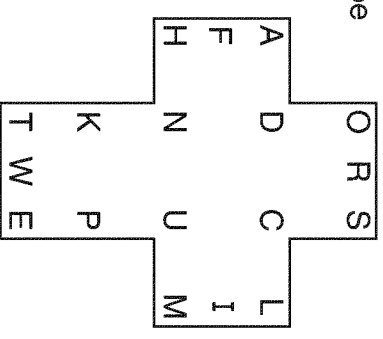
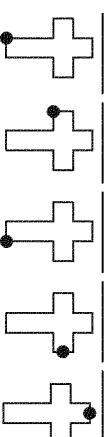
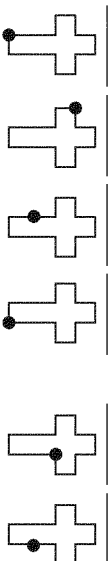
Jesus explained to His disciples that He
must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things,
be killed, and on the third day be raised to life.

Use the code to write the letters on the blanks.



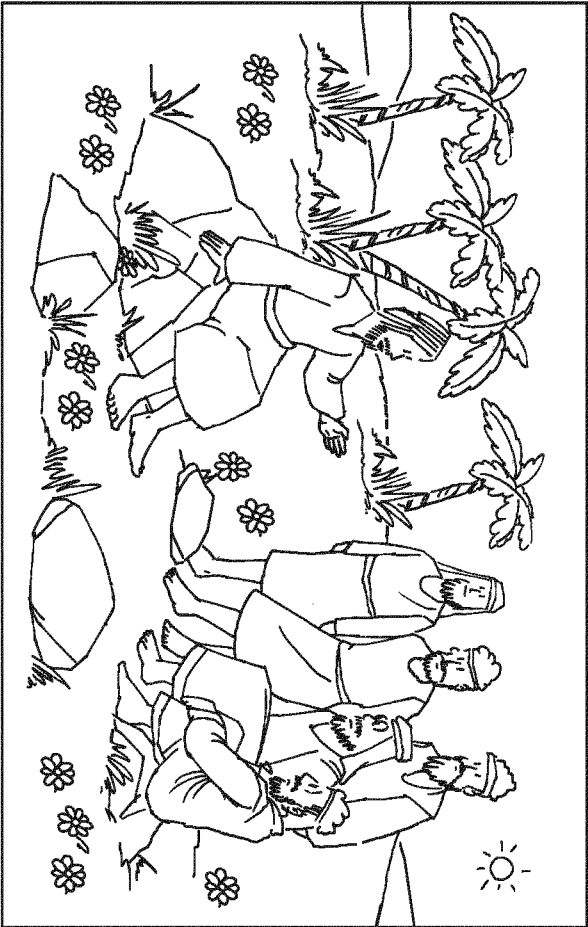
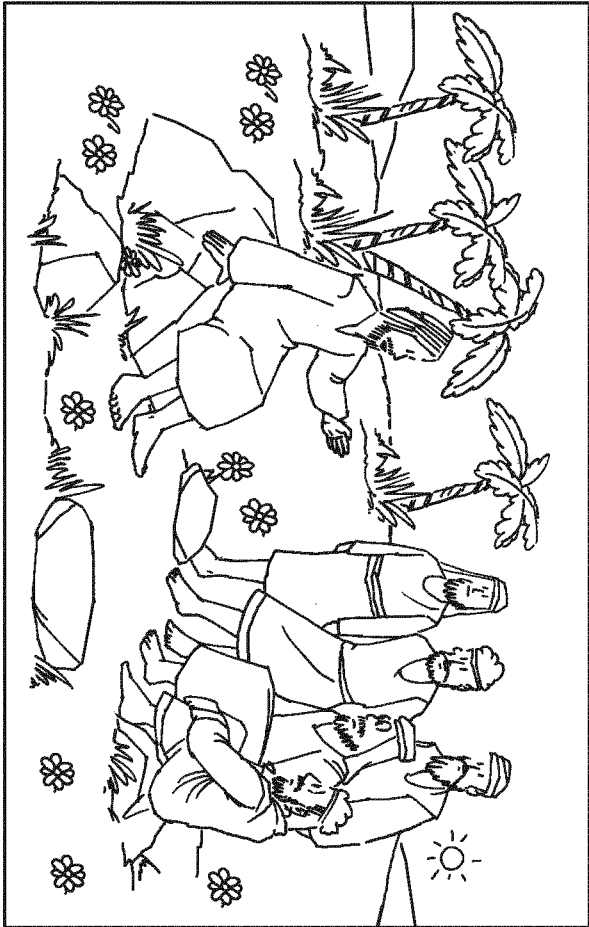
Jesus said to them, "Whoever wants to be
My disciple must deny themselves and

T



Jesus told His disciples,
“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it,
but whoever loses their life for Me will find it.”

Find 15 differences in the bottom picture.



Jesus asked two questions.

Find the 14 underlined words in the word search.



“What good will it be for someone to gain
the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?
Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

