

Strike the rock, and water
will come out of it, so that
the people may drink.
Exodus 17:6

God made streams come
out of the rock and caused
waters to flow down like
rivers.
Psalms 78:16

God is at work in you,
enabling you both to will
and to work for God’s good
pleasure.
Philippians 2:13

Jesus said to them, “Truly
I tell you, the tax collectors
and the prostitutes are going
into the kingdom of God
ahead of you.
Matthew 21:31

Preacher
Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist
Assistant
Keri Mahoney
Percussion
Terry Tucker
Accompanist/Choir Director
Sheila Melendez
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

† † †

Introit (2x)
*God welcomes all, strangers and friends.
God’s love is strong and it never ends.*

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 62** (7x)
*Love the Lord your God with all your heart.
Love the Lord your God with all your soul.
Love the Lord your God with all your mind.
Love the the Lord God with all that you are.*

Prayer for Wholeness (see insert)

***Response 577** (2x)
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

***Response 587** (2x)
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Passing the Peace**

Blessing the World
India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Response 487, v. 1
*These treasured children present now are bound to us by sacred vow:
with love we make a heartfelt claim to welcome them in Jesus’ name.*

First Pew

Response 487, v. 4
*Come, Holy Spirit, help us be a nurturing community;
empower us to realize God’s kin-dom through our children’s eyes.*

Welcome and Parish Life

THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

Reading

Interlude

Lesson
1 John 4:16-21

Sermon
“ENGAGED COMPASSION — God Is Love”

***Affirmation** (see insert)

***Hymn 300**
“We Are One in the Spirit”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

Prayer for Others

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory (see insert)
“Amor, amor, amor, amor”

† † †

***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.

***Recessional** (see insert)
“September,” *Earth, Wind, and Fire*

Compassion is not a
relationship between the
healer and the wounded.
It’s a relationship between
equals. Only when we
know our own darkness
well can we be present
with the darkness of
others. Compassion
becomes real when we
recognize our shared
humanity.

Pema Chödrön

**Prayer for Wholeness,
Affirmation**
Based on the
SPC Session Statement

Lesson Translation
New Revised
Standard Version, *adapted*

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-sixth Sunday
Ordinary Time

September 27, 2026
11:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 27

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-9 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship – Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall/Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship – Sanctuary/Zoom
- Sunday Studio Program – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Group – Downstairs
- Personnel Committee Meeting – Classroom 1

Tuesday, September 29

- 6:00 p.m. Property Committee Meeting – Classroom 2
- 7:00 p.m. The Liberating Word: A Biblical Overview for Progressives – FH/Zoom

Wednesday, September 30

- 4:00 p.m. Friends of Music Set-up – Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Choir room

Thursday, October 1

- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women – Fellowship Hall/Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Bible at the Bar – The Meck, 128 E. German St.

Friday, October 2

- 7:00 p.m. Friends of Music Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary
- Meditation Circle – Downstairs

Saturday, October 3

- 10:00 a.m. Deacons Meeting – Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. All day Retreat led by Christa at Priest Field until 6:30 p.m.
- 1:00 p.m. PRIDE in the Park Festival – War Memorial Park
- 4:00 p.m. Friends of Music Set-up & Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Friends of Music Concert – Sanctuary

Peacemaking/World Communion Sunday, October 4

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9 12-20 Isaiah 5:1-7 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46

- 8:30 a.m. Early Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Seminar – Fellowship Hall/Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Communion – Sanctuary/Zoom
- Sunday Studio Program – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Group – Downstairs
- 1:00 p.m. Friends of Music Set-up & Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary
- 2:30 p.m. Blessing of the Animals – Cairn, King Street Entrance side
- 3:00 p.m. Friends of Music Concert – Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Community Meal – Zion Episcopal Church, 215 E. Washington St., Charles Town

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1743
Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion
We Choose Welcome

empty heart

my heart is like a
clay pot
that has been
shattered
then pieced back together

scars cover me
i wonder
if my heart
is capable of holding
love
without it slipping through the
flaws

it is very fragile
but it holds good soil

i wish
for a beautiful flower
blooming

Xavier Hersom