

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-fourth Sunday
Ordinary Time

September 13, 2026
11:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 13

Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13 - Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

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

9:30 a.m. “Church Fair” – Fellowship Hall (see below)

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

12:15 p.m. “Church Fair” – Fellowship Hall (see below)
3:00 p.m. Annual Church Picnic – Morgan’s Grove Park Pavilion

Tuesday, September 15

5:00 p.m. Immigration & Refugee Support Committee via Zoom

Wednesday, September 16

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Choir room

7:00 p.m. Worship Planning Team – Sanctuary

Sunday, September 20

Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Psalm 145:1-8 Matthew 20:1-16

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

SPC “KICKOFF SUNDAY CHURCH FAIR” THIS WEEK, September 13, following both services. Ever wondered “how do I plug in” or “how does church happen behind the scenes” or just plain “who are these people with whom I worship”? Come find out in our First Annual Kickoff Sunday Church Fair following each service with people and information about Children and Youth Education, Work in the World, Presbyterian Women, Deacons, Communications Committee, Property Committee, Worship Planning Team, Personnel, and Adult Education.

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

alone

barren desert
thirsting
cracks divide colorless sand
chokes the air

I dream of rippling blue water
flourishing with life
perhaps it is only a
mirage

Xavier Hersom

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them. **Exodus 14:19**

[God] turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water. **Psalms 114:8**

Why do you pass judgment on your sibling? Or you, why do you despise your sibling? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. **Romans 14:10**

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

Matthew 18:21

Praecher

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Assistants

Lois Wilkinson
Rachel Wilkinson
Wanda Stewart

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

+ + +

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 489**

“Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed”

Prayer for Wholeness (see insert)

***Response 577 (2x)**

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Declaration of Grace and Gratitude

***Response 587**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Passing the Peace**

Blessing the World

Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia,
Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

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

John 6:35-38

Sermon

“RADICAL HOSPITALITY — We Choose Welcome”

***Affirmation** (see insert)

***Hymn 401**

“Gather Us In”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

+ + +

Prayer for Others

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

“Love Your Neighbor,” *Michael Helman*

+ + +

Celebration of Ministry

Yellow Ribbon Ritual

***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 583, (2x)**

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

***Postlude**

“September,” *Earth, Wind, and Fire*

Like a caring mother holding and guarding the life of her only child, so with a boundless heart of loving-kindness, hold yourself and all beings as your beloved children. **Buddha**

*Please rise in body and spirit.

Prayer for Wholeness

Based on the
SPC Session Statement

Lesson Translation

New Revised
Standard Version,
slightly modified

Sermons & Information

shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

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Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed 489

1 Won - der of won - ders, here re - vealed: God's cov - e -
 2 Here in this sac - ra - ment we see God's grace un -
 3 This child of God, though young or old, we wel - come
 4 Now we our vow of faith re - new, stretch wide our

nant with us is sealed, and long be - fore we
 bound, for all, for me! May we re - spond with
 now in - to Christ's fold, to know with us God's
 sights to glo - bal view, and claim with Chris - tians

know or pray, God's love en - folds us ev - ery day.
 joy - ful praise in lov - ing ser - vice all our days.
 lov - ing care, and all our joys and sor - rows share.
 far and near a larg - er fam - i - ly held dear.

In creating this text (for which she chose this existing tune as its setting), the author wished to emphasize two themes: that God loves us before we know how to love in return, and that through baptism we become part of a worldwide family unbounded by space or time.

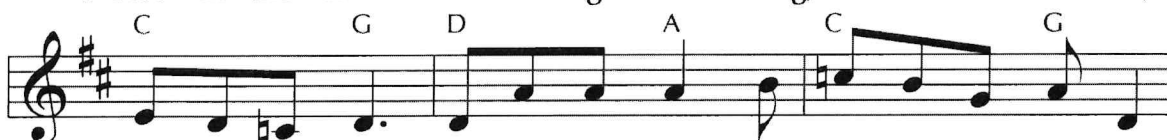
Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

“SPC Statement of Faith” September Worship with SPC

Pastor Gusti will reflect on the themes expressed
in the SPC Statement of Faith
drafted by the Session while she was on sabbatical

September 13 (Kickoff Sunday)

RADICAL HOSPITALITY:

We Choose Welcome

John 6:37

Prayer for Wholeness

In this time of national and international
division, distrust, and despair,
we affirm the core values —
Radical Hospitality,
Holistic Spirituality
and Engaged Compassion —
that drive this congregation
as we walk in the Way and the Spirit of Jesus.

September 20

HOLISTIC SPIRITUALITY:

Everything Belongs

Micah 6:8

September 27

ENGAGED COMPASSION:

God Is Love

1 John 4:16

As the world around us changes
and looks less like the beloved community,
we affirm that our values,
grounded in our faith,
will not change.

To paraphrase Martin Luther,
“Here we stand. We can do no other.”

SPC Statement of Faith

Affirmation

We believe that everyone and everything,
and every part of ourselves,
are included in the circle of God's love.

We believe that imperfection and suffering
are integral to the spiritual path.

We try, we fall short, we gain wisdom, and try again.
Because of these beliefs, we welcome everyone
to participate fully in the life of our congregation.

We embrace one another in good times and in bad —
in the joys of life
as well as when we encounter life's challenges.

This value is under attack
in our current national environment,
where hate speech, fear tactics, and violence
are being used daily
to divide people and communities.

False narratives paint the "other" as the enemy,
eroding trust among neighbors.

Attacks on vulnerable groups
create a climate of fear for all.

As people who walk
in the Way and in the Spirit of Jesus,
we at Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church
affirm that we continue to welcome all people
into the life and work of this congregation.

We stand and we sing in protest
against inequality and injustice,
we march in solidarity with those at the margins
who are rendered voiceless,
and we use the power of the ballot
to help guarantee the well-being of all people.

No matter who you are,
no matter where you have been,
you are welcome here.
We seek partnerships with others
who enable us to maximize our resources and impact.

This we declare to the world we live in.

The Liberating Word:

A Biblical Overview for Progressives

Led by Pastor Gusti, 7-8:30pm, selected Tuesdays

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

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE, 7-8:30pm, Fellowship Hall and Zoom

(Contact church office for link, Pre-Work Materials, and / or full syllabus)

Each session includes three options of Pre-Work, non of which is required.

1. Overview for those who don’t have much time.
2. Dipping In for those who have a little bit of time.
3. The Whole Enchilada for those who want a robust background to the theme of the week.

September 22: How We Read the Bible

1. Overview of Presbyterian Guidelines
2. *Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture*
3. “The Authority of Scripture,” *Faith Seeking Understanding* by Daniel Migliore

September 29: Beginnings

1. Erlander, Chapter One
2. Genesis 1-2:4a and / or Genesis 2:4b-25; Genesis 3:1-7 and / or Genesis 6:5-7; Genesis 9:8-17
3. Genesis 1-9 and reading on “Adam and Eve”

NOMINATIONS!

The Nominating Committee seeks your input for who to consider as upcoming Ruling Elders and Deacon Shepherds.

Ruling Elders are people of wisdom and maturity of faith chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. They exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment and discipline.

Deacon Shepherds care for and nurture a small group ("flock") of members/ participants, in collaboration with the Parish Care Committee and the Pastor; and collaborate with other committees and guilds to support the care and nurture of the congregation.

HYMN and SERMON TOPIC REQUESTS

Pastor Gusti welcomes your requests for Hymns, Introits, Special Music, etc. Peruse the hymnal for Titles and Hymn Numbers. Or you may submit requests from other musical sources (please include where to find songsheets, etc.)

Hymn Title/ #: _____

Hymn Title/ #: _____

Hymn Title/ #: _____

Hymn Title/ #: _____

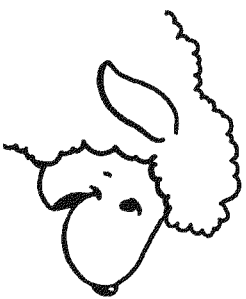
Hymn Title/ #: _____

In addition, Pastor Gusti welcomes your requests for future sermon topics and/ or biblical Lessons:

Topic/ Lesson: _____

Topic/ Lesson: _____

Topic/ Lesson: _____



What did Jesus say
the parable means?

Find the underlined words in the word search below.

They can be .

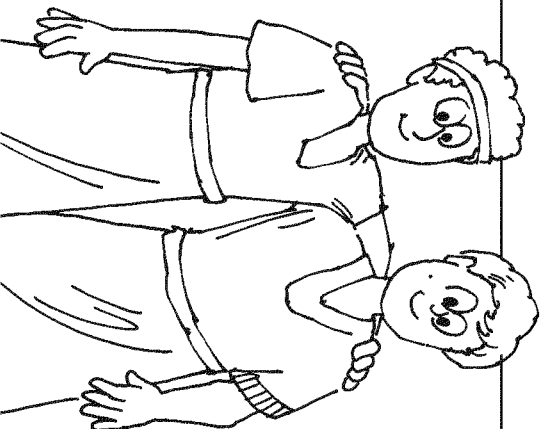
"This is how My heavenly

Father will treat each of

you unless you forgive

each other from

your heart."



I	D	M	B	K	H	H	K	O	I	G	F	N	R	E	H	T	O	Z	B	L	E	T	P
V	P	U	I	H	H	O	P	W	A	V	A	J	R	K	A	F	C	H	D	A	K	O	C
E	A	C	H	S	K	P	O	R	E	N	J	R	A	G	L	N	U	G	Q	A	P	K	O
A	W	E	I	C	A	M	O	V	E	R	E	L	S	R	B	I	C	L	E	E	K	M	C
M	E	J	M	H	I	N	C	A	V	A	P	G	T	S	F	D	S	F	I	S	L	O	A
V	O	S	B	O	I	V	E	R	U	T	J	Y	M	G	K	S	N	G	I	H	Q	A	F
I	L	A	E	K	T	W	D	W	R	I	O	J	H	O	C	I	H	C	U	T	N	D	B
G	L	I	V	A	O	N	K	A	I	G	R	A	M	J	P	D	G	A	B	H	J	N	B
R	O	L	K	I	F	O	R	E	C	K	R	A	L	E	E	T	E	C	U	H	N	T	F
F	E	E	N	C	F	Y	B	L	I	M	T	A	E	R	T	D	D	A	S	A	H	A	B



Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

September 13, 2026 • Matthew 18:21-35

The Servant Who Would Not Forgive

Peter came to Jesus and asked,
"Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother
or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"
How did Jesus answer?

Add and subtract letters to find out.

1.  - pencil = ____

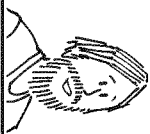
2.  - himbi +  - alligator +  - amp = ____

3.  - arn +  - frg +  - mg = ____

4.  - un +  - las +  - dou +  - arn +

 - un +  - las +  - kot =

5.  - ger +  - ous +  - nake = ____



Then Jesus told a story.

Use the bank of word parts to complete the story.

head _____ wants _____ set _____
own _____ ter _____ ught
pi _____ im _____ bt
ab _____ ted _____ dom

The king _____ of _____ ven is like a king who

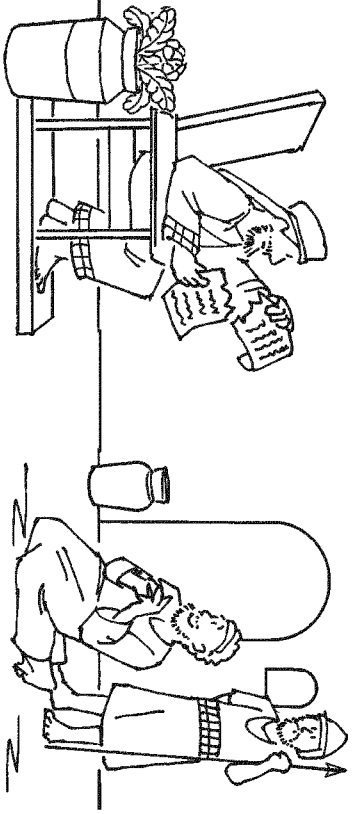
wan _____ to _____ tle accounts with his

ser _____ . A man who _____ ed him was

bro _____ to him. He was not _____ le to pay.

The mas _____ took _____ ty on him, canceled his

de _____ and let h _____ go.

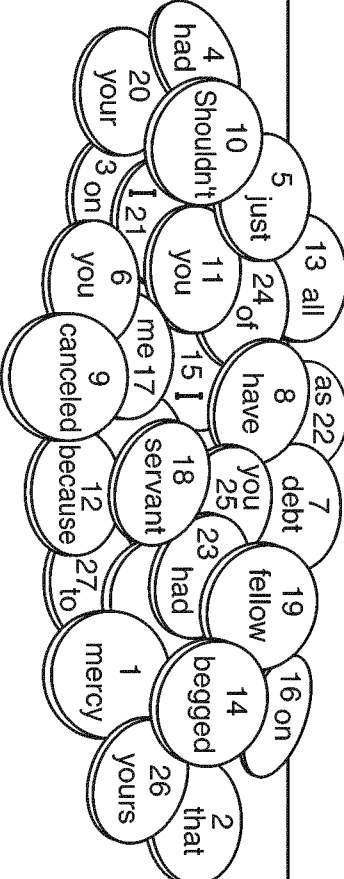


But the servant was not so kind to one of his debtors.

The master called the servant in again.

What did he say?

Use the numbers on the coins to find the correct words to write on the lines below.



"

21 _____ 9 _____ 13 _____ 2 _____ 7 _____

24 _____ 26 _____ 12 _____ 11 _____ 14 _____

17 _____ 27 _____ 10 _____ 6 _____ 8 _____

4 _____ 1 _____ 16 _____ 20 _____ 19 _____

18 _____ 5 _____ 22 _____ 15 _____ 23 _____

3 _____ 25 _____ ?"

