

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, 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

100 W. Washington Street • PO Box 268, Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443 • 304-876-6466
 office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org • www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org
 Rev. Gusti Imnea 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-sixth Sunday
 Ordinary Time

September 27, 2026
 11:00 a.m.

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 Hersonm

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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) <i>God welcomes all, strangers and friends. God's love is strong and it never ends.</i>	
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) <i>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 Lord God with all that you are.</i>	
Prayer for Wholeness (see insert)	
*Response 577 (2x) <i>Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.</i>	
Declaration of Grace and Gratitude *Response 587 (2x) <i>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</i>	
*Passing the Peace Blessing the World India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	
Response 487, v. 1 <i>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.</i>	
First Pew Response 487, v. 4 <i>Come, Holy Spirit, help us be a nurturing community; empower us to realize God's kin-dom through our children's eyes.</i>	
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," <i>Earth, Wind, and Fire</i>	

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*

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"Then and Now"

October - November Worship with SPC

Our Worship through Autumn
re-visits the SPC Timeline Project
to carry the tradition into the future

October 4 (Peaceanking/ World Communion)

"The Swordsman Strikes Back"

Micah 4:1-4

October 11 (Indigenous Peoples' Sunday)

"Deconstructing Manifest Destiny"

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

October 18 (Guest Preacher Harry Daniel)

"Stewardship"

TBA

October 25 (Reformation Sunday)

"Always Being Re-Formed"

Genesis 2:18-23

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.

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 the Way of Jesus is a way of
being in this world,

loving, serving, and making things whole.

Loving God means loving all of creation in
demonstrable ways.

We believe that we each play a part
in restoring God's good creation
through loving action.

We take care of the planet God has designed,
we speak up for others,
and we care for those who are most vulnerable.

This value is under attack
in our current national environment,
where social safety nets are being weakened
as funding is removed from programs
that support the poor and marginalized,
where protections for the earth
are steadily stripped away.

Rather than addressing the systemic
social and economic challenges of our time,
those in authority too often blame
vulnerable individuals and groups,
further dividing us from one another.

As people who walk
in the Way and in the Spirit of Jesus,
we at Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church
are committed to being at work in the world.

Acting humbly but without hesitation,
we advocate for clean water and wise land use.
We serve food to those who often go without,
offer shelter to the unhoused,

and provide a safe place or a compassionate word
if that is all that is required.
We turn swords into plowshares.
We invite alliances with others
who share our values
in order to maximize the support we will provide.

This we declare to the world we live in.

Offertory

"Amor, Amor"

Himnos y Coritos Iglesia Adventista del Septimo Dia

Amor, amor, amor, amor,
es el evangelio en una palabra.
Ama a tu prójimo como a ti mismo.
Dios es amor.

Translation:

*Love, love, love, love,
Is the Gospel in one word.
Love your neighbor as yourself.
God is love.*

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*Recessional

"September," *Earth, Wind, and Fire*

Do you remember The 21st night of September? Love was
changin' the minds of pretenders While chasin' the clouds away
Our hearts were ringin' In the key that our souls were singin' As
we danced in the night, remember How the stars stole the night
away, oh, yeah

Hey, hey, hey Ba-dee-ya, say, do you remember? Ba-dee-ya,
dancin' in September

*Recessional

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Do you remember The 21st night of September? Love was
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We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



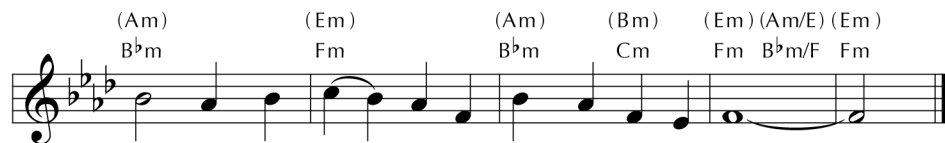
we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

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:

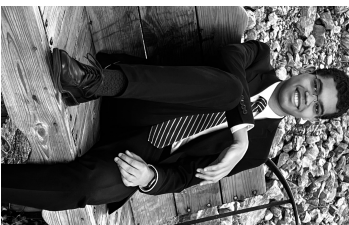
Topic/ Lesson: _____

Topic/ Lesson: _____

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Note to Shepherdstown Area Congregations: A rare musical opportunity!

Biblical texts have inspired classical compositions from Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* to Leonard Bernstein's *Jeremiah*, but we seldom associate Judeo-Christian scriptural sources with the work of currently active composers. But on Saturday and Sunday October 3rd and 4th, a new voice on the American music scene will premiere a work called *Chariot of the Clouds* with Jed Gaylin and Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra.



Matthew Kimbley, a gifted composition student at the University of Michigan's Graduate School of Music, was selected to create a new piece for the orchestra through the J. Kimo Williams 2026 Music Commissioning Initiative.

Kimbley responded with a work based on **Psalms 104**.

It's a text that the English preacher Charles Spurgeon once called "one of the loftiest flights of the inspired muse," a celebration of creation filled with impressions of "sea and land, cloud and sunlight." Music Director Jed Gaylin describes Kimbley's interpretation as "energetic and cheerful, evoking vivid images." The young composer will be present in Shepherdstown for the first performances of his new work.



Continuing the youthful focus of the orchestra's first concert of the 2026-27 season will be a much anticipated performance of Barber's Violin Concerto by another exceptional talent, 16-year old soloist and recitalist **Ava Pakiam**. Touted as "a rising star" by *San Francisco Classical Voice*, she will travel next to Washington for a featured appearance on NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts.

Rounding out the program is the much-loved *London* symphony of Franz Joseph Haydn. **Tickets** and season memberships can be obtained through the Friends of Music website: www.friendswv.org

TREASURES, CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY

A Concert by **Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra**, led by Jed Gaylin

Saturday, October 3, 2026 - 7:30pm
Sunday, October 4, 2026 - 3:00pm
Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, 100 W. Washington Street

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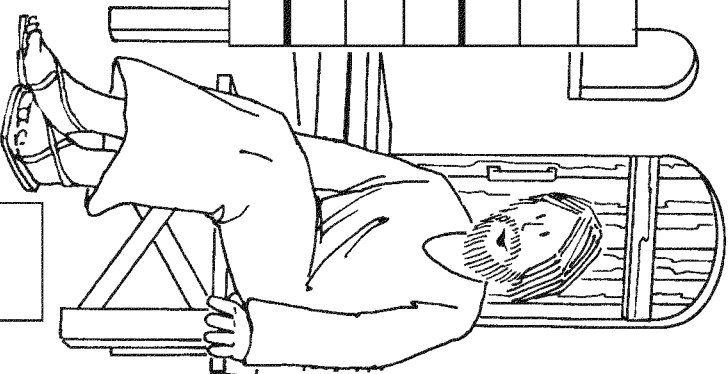
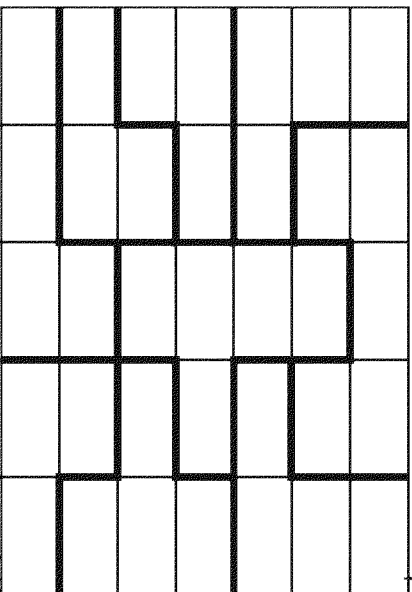
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Fit the pieces into the puzzle.
Find what Jesus said to the
priests and elders.



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Children's Worship Bulletin™

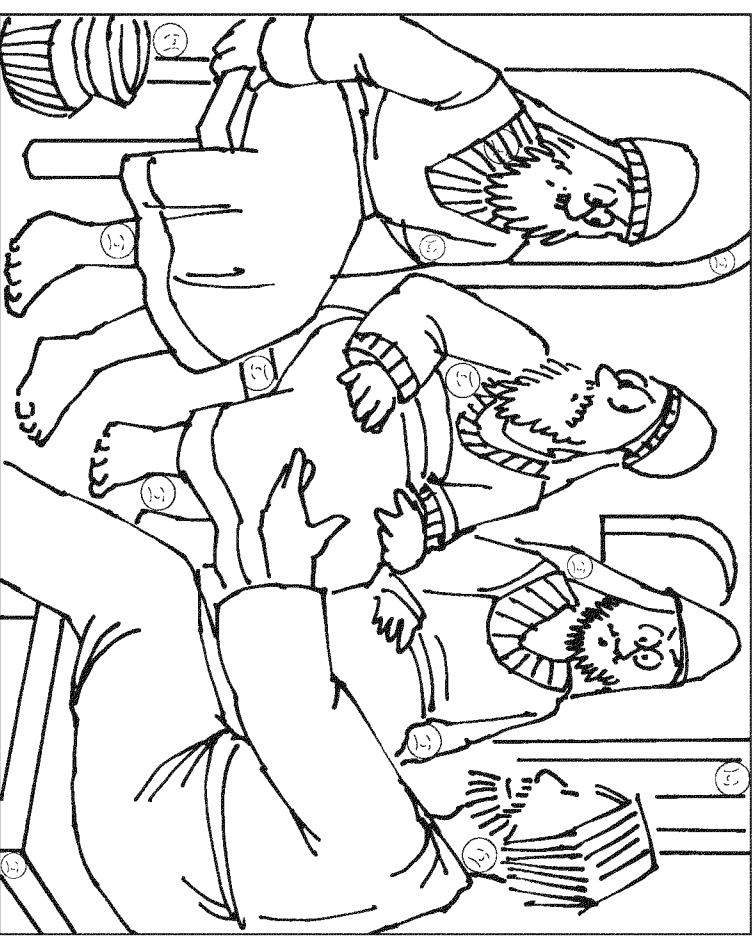
Ages 7+

September 27, 2026 • Matthew 21:23-32

Jesus' Authority, and a Parable

Jesus taught in the temple courts.
The chief priests and elders were not happy
with things Jesus was doing.

Find 12 5 hidden in the picture.



The chief priests and elders asked Jesus who gave Him the authority* to preach and perform miracles. What did Jesus say?

Find the word in each set that does not belong. Write them on the numbered lines.

1. tree
wood
asked

4. pages
books
answer

6. flame
people
candle

8. traveled
admitted
journeyed

9. Jesus
Lincoln
Washington

3. afraid
fire
warmth

10. astronaut
authority
rocket

5. river
lake
made

2. love
question
heart

7. sun
moon
mad

He _____ them a _____
 _____ they were _____ to _____!
 They would have _____ the _____ or
 _____ was the _____!

* Authority - the right to do something.

Jesus told a parable: A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, "Son, go and work today in the vineyard."

Use the code to finish the "Parable of the Two Sons."

A	1	B	E	F	I	J	M	N
D	C	H	G	L	K	P	O	Q
R	S	V	W	X	Y	Z		

The son said ...

" _____ 3 _____ 6 _____ 3 _____ 3 _____

_____ 4 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 1 _____ 5 _____ 5 _____

" _____ 4 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 3 _____ 1 _____ 5 _____ 2 _____ 5 _____

Then the father went to the other son, and said the same thing. The son said ...

" _____ 3 _____ 6 _____ 3 _____ 3 _____ 5 _____ 3 _____ 5 _____ , _____

_____ 1 _____ 5 _____ 5 _____ 2 _____ 2 _____ 1 _____ 3 _____ 1 _____

Jesus asked, "Which of the two did as the father wanted?"

Ba-dee-ya, never was a cloudy day Ba-du-da, ba-du-da, ba-du-da, ba-du Ba-du-da, ba-du, ba-du-da, ba-du Ba-du-da, ba-du, ba-du-da

My thoughts are with you Holdin' hands with your heart to see you
Only blue talk and love, remember How we knew love was here to stay

Now December Found the love that we shared in September
Only blue talk and love, remember The true love we share today

Hey, hey, hey Ba-dee-ya, say, do you remember? Ba-dee-ya, dancin' in September Ba-dee-ya, never was a cloudy day

Ba-dee-ya (dee-ya, dee-ya), say, do you remember? Ba-dee-ya (dee-ya, dee-ya), dancin' in September Ba-dee-ya (dee-ya, dee-ya), golden dreams were shiny days

The bell was ringin', oh, oh Our souls were singin' Do you remember never a cloudy day? Yow

There was a Ba-dee-ya (dee-ya, dee-ya), say, do you remember? Ba-dee-ya (dee-ya, dee-ya), dancin' in September Ba-dee-ya (dee-ya, dee-ya), never was a cloudy day

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Ba-dee-ya, never was a cloudy day Ba-du-da, ba-du-da, ba-du-da, ba-du Ba-du-da, ba-du, ba-du-da, ba-du Ba-du-da, ba-du, ba-du-da

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