

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

5:00 p.m. Community Meal – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2
215 E. Washington St., Charles Town, WV 25414

Monday, September 7 • Labor Day Holiday

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

11:30 a.m. Work in the World Meeting – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 9

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

Thursday, September 10

7:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting – Fellowship Hall / Zoom

Saturday, September 12

9:00 a.m. SPC Beautification Project – Church Grounds

10:00 a.m. Deacons Meeting – Fellowship Hall / Zoom

11:00 a.m. Work in the World Suicide Prevention Walk
101 Martin Street, Martinsburg, WV

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

11:00 a.m. Service of Worship with Antietam Remembrance – Sanctuary / Zoom
Sunday Studio Program – Children K-5th Grade – Classroom 2

12:15 p.m. “Church Fair” – Fellowship Hall

3:00 p.m. Annual Church Picnic – Morgan’s Grove Park Pavilion

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-third Sunday Ordinary Time

September 6, 2026
11:00 a.m.

The River

Inspired by “The Real Work” by Wendell Berry

Out of the tangle of deadlines
and obligations, out of the mire
of self-doubt and fear, rises
the truest intention, a river
you’ve been called to follow.
But don’t just trace its course
from the safety of the bank —
leap into it, immersing yourself
in the irresistible current, let
your body be carried by clearing
water all the way to the source.
Stay devoted to this allowing,
and learn to swim with resistance.
Come to see each looming boulder
not as a blockage, but a momentary
impediment that invites
the river to sing.

James Crews

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.

Psalm 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

Chris Morehouse

Accompanist

Sam Jannotta

Special Music

Terry Tucker

Tech Support

Mark Nutwell

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.

Table Blessing

***Hymn 803**

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Prayer for Wholeness (see insert)

***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 175**

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

***Passing of the Peace**

Blessing the World

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

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

"Simple Gifts"

Lesson

Psalm 23

Communal Proclamation

"Our Labor of Rest"

***Hymn 183**

"Come to Me, O Weary Traveler"

THE BREAD OF LIFE

++ +

Memorial Moment

Eucharistic Prayer

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

++ +

***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 path rests and so do I with a heart full of gratitude and feeling extremely humbled.

Posted along the Camino de Santiago

*Please rise in body and spirit.

Prayer for Wholeness
Based on Exodus 20:8-11

Lesson Translation
King James Version

White Rose
In Memory of
Barbara Stenger

Sermons & Information
shepherdstowpresbyterian.org

*Hymns reprinted with permission
Oriel Kenne: com #A-07243. All rights reserved.

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.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

(Psalm 23)

1 My shep-herd will sup - ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.
 2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;

and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.
 no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

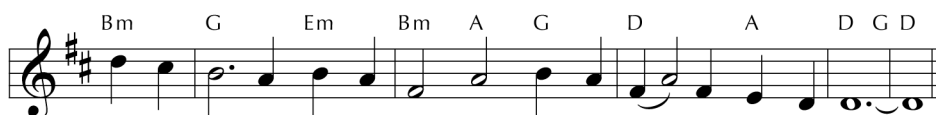
The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a "living stream" to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet's masterful use of single-syllable words.

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler 183



- 1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to me with your dis - tress;
- 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not fear, my bur - den's light;
- 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my yoke and come with me.
- 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in me and do not fear.



come to me, you heav - y bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
do not fear the path be - fore you; do not run from me in fright."
Take my yoke, I am be - side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
Rest in me, my heart is gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

This paraphrase and expansion of Matthew 11:28–30 by a Canadian minister is structured so that the first three syllables of each stanza provide the hymn's skeleton and summary. The immediacy of the text is enhanced by the folksong-like setting later composed for it.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991
MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 1992
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

AUSTIN
8.7.8.7

Eucharistic Prayer

The Great Sabbath is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Giver of Sabbath.

Let us give thanks for our Sabbath Rest:
Refuge, Resilience, Resistance, and Re-Imagining!

At this table we taste your Sabbath Rest,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Sabbath has died.

Sabbath is risen.

The Great Sabbath will be fulfilled.

Holy One, Giver of Life, Source of Rest,

we praise you.

Your realm of justice and delight come near;

Your Sabbath Will be done in all lands.

Give us today our Bread for the Journey,

enough for all to feast and then rest.

Free us from our striving and our hoarding,

as we seek to free those wounded and wearied

by an unforgiving system.

Save us from the tyranny of endless toil,

and deliver us from tyrannical power.

For yours is the rhythm, and the mercy,

and the joy, now and forever. Amen.

Sung Response

All shall be well.

All things shall be well.

“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

September 20

HOLISTIC SPIRITUALITY:

Everything Belongs

Micah 6:8

September 27

ENGAGED COMPASSION:

God Is Love

1 John 4:16

Prayer for Wholeness

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Six days we shall labor
and do all our work.

But the seventh day is a sabbath
to the Lord our God;

We shall not do any work, none of us.

Not ourselves,
not our children,
not the economically exploited,

not the animals,
not the immigrants.

For in six days,

God made heaven and earth, the sea,
and all that is in them,

but rested the seventh day;
therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day
and consecrated it.

Based on Exodus 20:8-11

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.

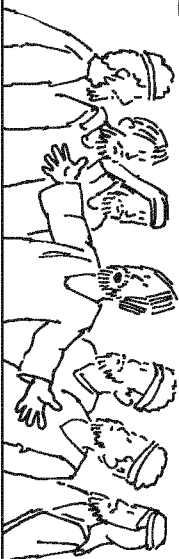
We will finish up the party with our annual balloon toss—fun for all ages.



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



What did Jesus say?



On each line, write the letter that is missing from the series below it.

“

D	N	P	U	G	C	Q	D	S	U	V	X	J	F	T	G	N	P	Q
E	P	Q	S	V	I	F	T	D	G	S	V	X	Y	N	P	Q		

N	P	R	G	Q	C	D	E	A	M	K	L	C
Q	S	S	I	T	F	G	B	N	P	L	N	F

S	M	F	C	R	F	D	P	H	M
U	N	H	D	S	I	E	S	J	O
V	P	I	F	U	G	G	K	P	

K	W	L	N	C	U	F	S	E	D	Q	C
L	X	M	O	B	N	D	V	G	T	F	

N	L	G	U	H	R	G
B	N	O	J	X	S	I

”

S	F	D	K
U	G	F	L
V	I	G	N



Children's Worship Bulletin™

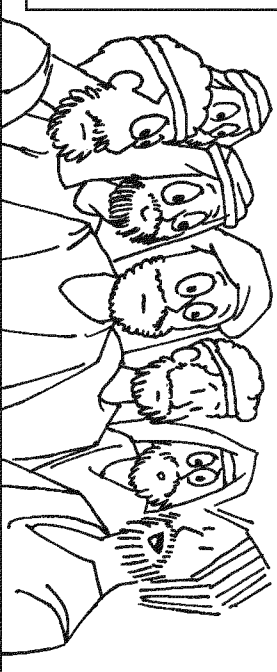
Ages 7+

September 6, 2026 • Matthew 18:15-20

Where Two or Three Come Together

Jesus taught His disciples a lesson about getting along with other people.

Fill in the missing portions of the letters to read a lesson Jesus told.



If another member of the church
sings against you,
talk with that
person privately.

Use the code to find out.

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

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

Where should you go if the person still does not listen?

This is a highly complex and dense abstract line drawing. The composition is filled with a variety of geometric shapes, including circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, and lines of varying thicknesses. These shapes are interconnected in a way that creates a sense of movement and depth, though no single figure or object is clearly identifiable. The overall effect is one of a highly textured, almost crystalline surface. The drawing is executed in black ink on a white background, with the lines being of uniform thickness. The arrangement of the shapes is non-representational and appears to be a result of a systematic or algorithmic process, possibly related to the 'Fractal' or 'Complexity' themes mentioned in the surrounding text.