

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church is an open and inclusive spiritual community seeking to practice the radical hospitality of Jesus. We cultivate a holistic spirituality that, while rooted in the Christian faith, welcomes the wisdom of all faith traditions. We are a house of prayer and a school of love, seeking to serve the world in the way and in the spirit of Jesus.



Sun 9 • 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Annual Parish meeting. Sanctuary

Tue 11

7:30 p.m. Choir practice. Choir Room

Wed 12

7:00 p.m. Session. Fellowship Hall

Sat 15

7:30 a.m. Men's breakfast. Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Movable feast supper group.

Hosted by Joan Keith

Sun 16 • 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 1:20–33; Psalm 19; James 3:1–12;

Mark 8:27–38

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Seminar: Expanding our Welcome.

Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY SEMINAR: Expanding our Welcome: *Pastoral Care for LGBTQ Youth*. We will use a More Light teach-in video to help us review current language and terminology, explore the landscape facing LGBTQ persons, and discuss ways that we can expand our welcome, especially to youth. **Sept. 16 and 23, 9:45 a.m.** Fellowship Hall.

RETREAT: *Cultivating a Spiritual Heart*. We will explore together simple practices of gratitude and compassion; cultivate stillness and peace; and listen deeply for the Divine Presence. The day will include input, guided meditations, journaling, sharing and periods of silence. \$25, or pay what you can. Lunch provided. Register by September 15 at office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org (including special dietary needs.) Led by Patience Robbins.

Friday, Sept. 21, 9:45-3 p.m., Priestfield Retreat Center.

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL PRACTICES. We will explore and practice various spiritual disciplines including silence, meditative music, insight meditation, passage meditation, loving kindness, and prayer. No experience necessary. Questions? e-mail office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. Facilitated by Larry Neumark. First meeting **Wednesday, Sept. 26, 10:30 a.m.** SPC library.

SUNDAY SEMINAR. Have you ever wondered what it means to be deeply grateful? Join us as we study Diana Butler Bass' *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*. All adults are welcome. Books in the church office for \$23 (or pay what you can). **Sundays at 9:45. beginning Sept. 30,** Fellowship Hall.

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 W. Washington Street • PO Box 268, Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443

office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org • www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Interim Pastor: Bill Sitterley • BSitterley@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Director of Spiritual Formation: Ethel Hornbeck • ethel@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Ordinary Time

Twenty Third Sunday

September 9, 2018

11:00 a.m.

Primary Wonder

Days pass when I forget the mystery.
Problems insoluble and problems offering
their own ignored solutions
jostle for my attention, they crowd its antechamber
along with a host of diversions, my courtiers, wearing
their colored clothes; cap and bells.
And then
once more the quiet mystery
is present to me, the throng's clamor
recedes: the mystery
that there is anything, anything at all,
let alone cosmos, joy, memory, everything,
rather than void: and that, O Lord,
Creator, Hallowed One, You still,
hour by hour sustain it.

Denise Levertov

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebrating 275 Years

Claiming the Past • Engaging the Present • Imagining the Future

We Choose Welcome

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Proverbs 2:8-9

Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Mark 7:36-37

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. **James 2:17**

Those who put their trust in You are like giant trees standing firm and rooted deep. As the trees grow strong in fertile soil, so we mature in the garden of Love, nourished by the Word of Life.

Psalms 125: 1-2 (Merrill)

Preacher

Rev. Bill Sitterley

Piano

Kari Edge

Offertory

Bob Sykes

Assistants

William Baihly

Hazel Hitt

Chris Kaye

Sermons & Newsletters

shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Sunday flowers

sign up in office

To Our Guests

Glad you're 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.

Childcare Available

In the nursery at the 11:00 service
See ushers for assistance.

GATHERING OUR HEARTS

Introit (2x)

The kingdom of God is justice and peace
and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom

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.

Call to Prayer

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Prayer

† † †

***Hymn 32**

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

ENCOUNTERING GRACE

Prayer for Wholeness

O Holy One, your love is bigger, more powerful and more mysterious than we can ever imagine. Again and again you reach out to us, inviting us to life abundant, and compassion without boundary. But we fear what we don't understand. We make you too small, too tame, too personal. Free us. Expand our vision and enlarge our hearts, that we might grow in love and gratefulness, and follow boldly in the way and in the spirit of Jesus.

Silence

Kyrie eleison (2x)

Declaration of Grace & Gratitude

***Response**

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah.

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Halle-lu-jah, halle-lu-jah.

Welcome

Blessing the World

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

****Hymn 70**

"What Does the Lord Require of You?"

First Pew - Moving Up

Parish Life

***Hymn 39**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

HEARING THE WORD

Reading (cover)

Interlude

Lesson

Mark 7:24-30

Sermon

"How Circles Expand"

***Hymn 203**

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

SERVING THE WORLD

Prayer for Others

Beloved, hear our prayer

Presenting Offerings

Offertory

Affirmation

† † †

***Credo**

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.

***Blessing Song**

May the blessing of God go before you,
May Her grace and peace abound
May Her Spirit live within you
May Her love wrap you round.
May Her blessing remain with you always
May you walk on holy ground.

† † †

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

There is important wisdom to be gleaned from those on the margins. Vulnerable human beings put us more in touch with the truth of our limited and messy human condition, marked as it is by fragility, incompleteness and inevitable struggle. The experience of God from that place is one of absolutely gratuitous mercy and empowering love. People on the margins, who are less able to and less invested in keeping up appearances, often have an uncanny ability to name things as they are. Standing with them can help situate us in the truth and helps keep us honest.

Pat Farrell OSF

Christian communities fear difference sufficiently that they usually spend a considerable amount of time tending the margins or boundaries of their communities, not in order to connect with those outside but, rather, to protect themselves from strangers. Sometimes discussions of church membership are more concerned with who is in or out than about how to be an open and welcoming community.

Letty M. Russell

To offer hospitality to a stranger is to welcome something new, unfamiliar and unknown into our life-world.... Strangers have stories to tell which we have never heard before, stories which can redirect our seeing and stimulate our imaginations. The stories invite us to view the world from a novel perspective.

Thomas Ogletree

Flowers placed by

The Price family fund

* stand if you are able

** children grades 5 and younger to the first pew

Blessing Song. Words & Music by Miriam Theresa Winter.