

Gathering Music

Cari Simon
 Zoe and Daisy Levine
 Ryan Walker
 Eva DelGallo
 Eldred Hill
 David Price

Choir Accompanists

Bob Sykes
 Ryan Walker
 Eva DelGallo

Readers

Ethel Hornbeck
 Frances Marshall
 Morgan Sell
 Donald Sykes
 Isabella Tuzzio
 Jack Walker

Piano Interlude

Bob Sykes

* * *

Interim Pastor

Rev. Bill Sitterley

Piano

Georgiann Toole

Readings**Gathering**

Cheryl Lawrie

Hush

Lucinda Hynett

Magnificat

Joy Cowley

Gathering Music**Welcome****Call to Worship**

“Gathering”

Advent Wreath Lighting

† † †

***Hymn 133 (vs. 1, 3)**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Lesson

Genesis 1:1-3

Piano Interlude**Reading****Silence*****Hymn 134 (vs. 1, 4)**

“Joy to the World”

Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

Hymn 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Choir Anthem

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

arr. Shawn Kirchner

Lesson

Luke 2:8-15

***Hymn 113 (vs. 1, 3)**

“Angels We Have Heard”

Meditation

“Incarnation Revisited”

Hymn 110

“Love Has Come”

Prayer for Others**Offertory**

“Go Tell It Where I Send Thee”

arr. Pepper Choplin

Reading

“Hush”

Hymn 145

“What Child Is This”

Silence**Lesson**

John 1:1-5, 14

† † †

The Light of Christ***Silent night, holy night!**

All is calm, all is bright,

Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight,

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia;

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face,

with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Benediction

† † †

Postlude

**stand if you are able*

What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to their Son if I do not also give birth to him in my time and my culture? This, then, is the fulness of time: When the Son of God is begotten in me. **Meister Eckart**

Every creature is a glittering, glistening mirror of Divinity.

Hildegard of Bingen

Look steadily at the darkness. It won't be long before you see the light. Gaze at things. It won't be long before you see the Word. “The Word became flesh; he came to dwell among us...” And stop those frantic efforts to change flesh back into words. Words, words, words!

Anthony de Mello

Darkness is not evil. It's just a place where we can't see, that's all. And it's not a battle. It's a dance. They both surge in and out, back and forth, turning around each other. The darkness shines in the light, and the light cannot overcome it.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

I am not alone at all, I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses.

Taylor Caldwell

Christmas Wreathing

Sanctuary guild

Arch Angels

by Larry Drechsler

Given by Jim and Sallye Price

in memory of

James Carter Price, III

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.



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING will be split between Bluefields, Nicaragua, partner church, and Coalfield Development Corporation.

ONE SERVICE ONLY at 11:00 a.m. Dec. 30 (Children's Pageant); Jan. 6 (Epiphany and Ordination of Officers).

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT, Sunday, Dec. 30, at 11:00 a.m. service. Two rehearsals: Saturday, Dec. 29, 10-12 & Sunday, Dec 30, 9:45 a.m.

JOY GIFT DINNER. *The entire congregation together in one place at one time.* **Sunday, Jan. 6, 5:00–7:00 p.m.,** Asbury United Methodist Church. Ham, beverages and tableware provided. Bring a food dish to serve 12. Food assignments per last name: A–H dessert, I–P side dish, Q–Z vegetable or salad.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S (PW) CIRCLE First Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., We continue our discussion of the book *Fierce: Women of the Bible and their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation.* **Jan. 3** is "Widows: Those Left Behind" plus the annual soup and bread luncheon. All women of the church are welcome.

COMMUNITY DINNER. First Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Sharing food and fellowship with our homeless neighbors. Go to PerfectPotluck.com coordinator Wright, password 5777. Drop off hot food 3:45–4:15 p.m. that Sunday. Leave other food in the SPC refrigerator anytime (marked community dinner). Please use disposable containers. **Next: Jan. 6.**

LISTENING GROUPS Prayerful listening and conversation around scripture, poetry and other selected texts. All are welcome. Third Wed. 7:00 p.m., in the balcony. **Next: Jan. 16.** Third Thur. 10:00 a.m., in Classroom No. 1. **Next: Jan. 17**

CONNECTIONS SPC's Shepherd University-based group for college students meets every other Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. at the Blue Moon. **Next: Jan 17**

MEN'S BREAKFAST Third Saturdays. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Discussion, 8:00–9:00 a.m. **Next: Jan. 19**

SUNDAY SEMINARS will begin 2019 with continued conversation on gender and sexuality, as we seek to deepen our capacity to welcome and celebrate all people. Jan 20 and 27. Starting in February we will undertake an exploration of anger, using the Richard Rohr periodical *Oneing* devoted to the topic, which includes a dozen essays from a wide variety of writers and perspectives. Rohr writes, "Anger can actually be an expression of compassion, a willingness to uphold boundaries that are sacred or stand up for someone who is being oppressed." Fellowship Hall @ 9:45. All are welcome. Childcare provided.

CANTERBURY SERVICE Fourth Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. **Next: Jan. 23**

SPC KNITTING GROUP Last Saturdays, 1 p.m., Bring your own project or join us making prayer shawls and baby blankets. **Next: Jan. 26**

COMMUNITY HYMN SING Last Sundays, 4:30 p.m., Join us for a solid hour of singing hymns with good tunes and inspiring lyrics. **Next: Jan. 27**

TAIZÉ SERVICE First Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. *A Service of Prayer in song, silence, candlelight.* **Next: Feb. 6**

WE ARE GRATEFUL to Jefferson Security Bank for the use of its parking lots Sunday mornings and special evening programs.

The Nativity of Our Lord
Festival of the Incarnation

Christmas Eve 2018
8:00 P.M.



SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 W. Washington Street
PO Box 268

Shepherdstown, West Virginia
Established 1743

office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org
www.shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebrating 275 Years

Claiming the Past • Engaging the Present • Imagining the Future
We Choose Welcome