

The Shepherd's Voice
The Weekly Church Newsletter of
Shepherdstown United Methodist Church
1934 South York Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-5102
Church Office Hours (Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m.)
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Timothy R. Baer
e-mail: pastor.sumc@comcast.net
Directors of Children's Ministries:
Janice Deveney & Charlene Kapp
e-mail: childrens.sumc@comcast.net
Director of Youth Ministries:
Shawn Gray
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Custodian: Jeffery Forester
e-mail: custodian.sumc@comcast.net
Church Office: 766-3076 or 766-3251
Fax – 766-1867
December 17, 2017

Good Morning Everyone!

I am incredibly blessed and so thankful!

As many of you know, the evening of December 4th, was an evening I will not soon forget as I ended up in the hospital. As it turns out, I had a tear in my esophagus (close to where it enters the stomach). As a result (and especially since I am on blood thinners), there was a lot of bleeding. After identifying the problem via a scope (EGD), a deftly placed "clip" to stop the bleeding, and a few days in the hospital, I am now home and getting back to normal (I can hear some of you chuckling over what is "normal"). Through all of this I am –

- So thankful for Ann. I cannot even begin to count the ways in which she blesses my life.
- So thankful for doctors who methodically used their wisdom and knowledge to identify the problem and then correct it.
- So thankful for nursing staff who cared for the details and monitored recovery and healing progress.
- So thankful for medical staff and hospital staff (most of whom I will never meet or know) who went about their responsibilities and because of that I am writing this now!
- So thankful for you – yes, YOU! There is just something incredibly wonderful about our Church family. There is such awesome power and love in knowing that each and every one of us is surrounded by sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, and because of that we are not alone – even in the midst of some pretty scary things in life!

So thankful.....

Pastor Tim

STAFFED TO SERVE

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Pastor | Rev. Dr . Timothy R. Baer |
| Directors of Children's Ministries | Mrs. Janice Deveney Mrs. Charlene Kapp |
| Director of Youth Ministries | Mr. Shawn Gray |
| Organists | Mrs. Cathy Fauber (8:15) Mrs. Mindy Martz (10:45) |
| Hand Bell Choir Director | Ms. Rita Spicher |
| Junior Choir Director | Mrs. Periann Smith |
| Chancel Choir Director | Mrs. Mindy Martz |
| Administrative Assistant | Mrs. Debra Buterbaugh |
| Custodian | Mr. Jeffery Forester |

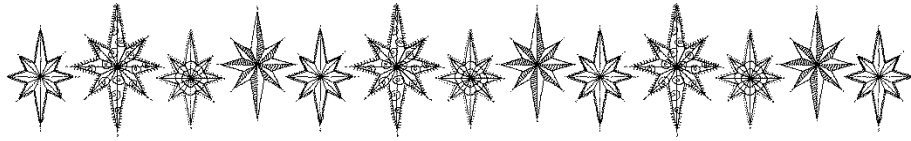
SICK OR RECUPERATING AT HOME THIS WEEK

Doris Hofsass, Millie Lerew, Beverly Wijas

PLEASE SIGN SHUT IN CHRISTMAS CARDS: Stop by at the Narthex table to sign Shut-in Christmas Cards! Cards will be mailed to them this week. Thanks to our Outreach Team for providing this ministry.

CUMBERLAND SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT TODAY AT SHEPHERDSTOWN UMC: Join us here today at 3:00 for the Cumberland Singers concert program entitled Radiant Light! This is a program of holiday carols, sacred and secular, familiar and lesser-known. Concerts are free to the public. A free-will offering is taken at intermission. Music lovers of all ages are welcome to attend, and we look forward to seeing you!





CHRISTMAS EVE. WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

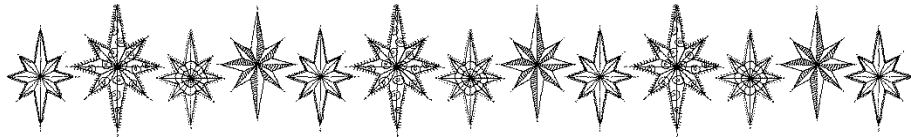
Sunday, December 24.....Fourth Sunday in Advent (Christmas Eve)

8:15 and 10:45 Worship in Sanctuary

5:00 Casual – Family Service in Life Center

7:00 Carols and Candlelight Service in Sanctuary

9:00 Candlelight and Communion Service in Sanctuary



FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING WEEK (Dec. 17-24) Please pray for those volunteering this week as we partner with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dillsburg hosting Family Promise. Shepherdstown UMC assists homeless families at Family Promise by providing hot meals, greeters, overnight hosts, van drivers and clean laundry. Monetary donations in the form of money or Giant gift cards can be donated and will be used to purchase breakfast food and other supplies that are needed during the week. Please contact the church office for more information. Also keep in your prayers, the families who are struggling and need a warm bed, food and a place to stay this holiday season.



Homeless Outreach

NOTE OF THANKS: Thank you for your faithful support of McCurdy Ministries through Tyson and Box Tops for Education programs. We are grateful for the 200 Box Tops for Education along with the Campbell labels you have collected and sent to us. **McCurdy Ministries, Espanola, New Mexico**



COOKING CLUB NEWS... Tomorrow, Monday, December 18th at 9:30 we will be making and baking cookies for the holidays. Please prepare your favorite cookie dough ahead of time (dough made for about 2 dozen or more cookies), and the group will work together to cut, decorate, bake, etc. what needs to be done to finish the cookies. After all the baking (or no-bake cookies are fine as well), we will exchange cookies with each other, and leave with a variety to share. All ladies (and men) of the congregation are welcome to come. If you plan on attending, please call Charlene Kapp at 766-9705 or email her at cnkapper@juno.com and let her know what cookie you'd like to make. (I just want to make sure we don't end up having too many of the same kind.) Hope to see many of you for the fun!

TODAY'S MISSION BASKET – BEACON CLINIC, Located at the back of St Paul's Episcopal Church, at 248 Seneca St., in Harrisburg, the mission of Beacon Clinic is to "Inspire hope, health and well-being by providing high quality, faith-based primary health care to uninsured and underserved adults in the Greater Harrisburg community." They work collaboratively with public and private partners in the greater Harrisburg communities to facilitate the development and provision of primary healthcare services which promote the wellness and wholeness, promoting personal and family health and self-care lifestyles.

The staff consists of volunteer health care providers from the surrounding community, including: Physicians, Nurse practitioners, Registered nurses, Volunteer receptionist and data entry.

They provide primary healthcare, including preventive services and, when appropriate, psychosocial and spiritual needs:

- Monitor the health status of clients
- Health education classes for persons with chronic illnesses
- Counseling (including depression, anxiety)
- Reduction in the severity of illness and disability
- Equip persons to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Improve healthcare quality, access, continuity and accountability
- Prescriptions are provided and assistance with medications is available.

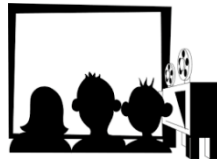
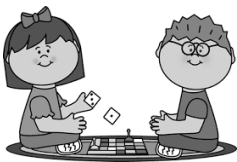
For more information about Beacon Clinic, please see their website at beaconclinicpa.org.

FOOD PANTRY FOR NEW HOPE MINISTRIES: This month's Food Pantry Collection is for New Hope Ministries. The following staple items are currently needed: **Stuffing mix, jars of gravy, canned cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes, vegetables, fruit or soup.** These items may be brought to the Food Pantry table in the Narthex. **Please keep in mind, any opened containers or expired items cannot be used.**

SAVE THE DATES! 2018 is right around the corner and the Cultivate and Nurture Team has already started planning events. The purpose of our team is to provide opportunities for church members to build relationships with one another. We hope you can join us for some of the events we have planned and we are always looking for new ideas.

- 01/20 5-8pm Game Night in the Fellowship Hall (Pizza for dinner)
- 02/10 5-8pm Movie Night (hot dogs and mac & cheese for dinner)
- 03/18 12:15 Birthday Dinner following worship
- 04/? Open – possible bowling
- 05/05 5-8 Cinco de Maya Fun
- 09/30 12:15 Church Picnic

Stay tuned for more details. We will also be looking for movie ideas/helpers to adopt and decorate birthday tables/church softball players/input for future events. If you have any questions or suggestions, please see one of our committee members: Cynthia Barletta, Janice Deveney, Bob Gray, Michele Kreitman, Brian Rainey, Nancy Stout, and Curran Trimmer.



CHURCH FAMILIES TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Monday | John and Carol Hackenberg |
| Tuesday | Don and Shirley Haines |
| Wednesday | Linda Haines |
| Thursday | Jason and Robin Hall and family |
| Friday | Henry and Becky Hedden |
| Saturday | Carl and Norma Jean Heintzelman |

INSTRUMENTALISTS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: We would like to have instrumental music between the 5:00, 7:00 and 9:00 Christmas Eve services. All instruments/skill levels are welcome. We will have at least one practice on a weekday evening. If you are interested in either playing a solo instrument; in a group of instrumentalists; or playing piano/organ music, please notify the church office.

POINSETTIAS PICK UP AND PAYMENT: If you ordered a poinsettia this year, it may be taken home after whichever Christmas Eve service you attend. Also – If you haven't already, don't forget to pick up your payment envelope located on the table in the church Narthex (red box marked "poinsettia"). Include your payment and simply drop off in the offering plate. Thank you!

JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM

There are always things to ponder, aren't there? I had a little incident today that has been eating away at me. I shop for kitchen needs for my office. I usually go maybe once every two weeks. While I love to cook, I admit to not always enjoying the requisite picking up of items. So, there I was looking at the yogurts in Aisle 1. I try to vary what I bring back to the office. While I was perusing the choices, I heard someone say "can you help me"? Thinking it was a short older person who needed height to get something off a top shelf, I turned. There stood a middle aged person with one of the most deformed noses I have ever seen. I waited for her to tell me what she needed. She didn't say anything for a minute which left me uncomfortable. I asked what she needed again and she motioned me to be quiet. I waited. She finally blurted out that she was having a really hard day and in fact her life was in shambles. She asked me for \$4.00. What a strange amount. I gently told her that I don't carry money with me and that I was shopping for my office and couldn't use those funds. She said okay and walked away. The guilt set in immediately. What could I have done? The battle raged in my head. I finally saw her again at the other end of the store - holding a specialized coffee or tea drink. She had no cart or basket as if she was shopping. So.....someone obviously gave her the \$4 and she was now wandering around the store drinking her latte. I started to feel less guilty. BUT, what if she was Jesus and I failed again - serving the lesser is the same as serving Him? I felt like those of long ago who had distanced themselves from the lepers. I had no answer. What I could do was pray. I prayed for the woman. I prayed for myself and a sense of discernment - I asked for forgiveness if I had made the wrong decision. I'm still troubled.....

Come and pray for a heart that knows no walls or boundaries but just gives. Prayer Team meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30P in the Parlor. **Deb Kenes**

MISSION BASKETS IN THE COMING WEEKS

TodayBeacon Clinic
December 24SUMC Emergency Needs Fund
December 31Jacob Buterbaugh Eagle Scout
Project/Cumberland Vista
January 7Domestic Violence Services, Cumb./Perry Co.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

TodayElective Class
December 24Bible Explorers
December 31LIFE Class
January 7Helping Hands

BREWERS AND BAKERS FOR GATHERING GROUND

Today.....Jason and Robin Hall
December 24Keith and Charlene Kapp
December 31Lori Weicht

GATHERING GROUND "Come Early – Stay Late": Don't forget to join us Sundays between the 8:15 service and Sunday School for a time of fellowship and light refreshment at Gathering Ground located in the Life Center.

GIANT CARD FUND RAISER UPDATE: Since October of 2001, we have sold \$1,045,870.00 worth of Giant cards with a profit to the church of \$52,293.50 Purchase your cards immediately following the worship service or on weekdays from 9 am – 12 noon in the church office.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Early Service – 78

Sunday School – 88

Late Worship – 148

Membership – 517

**Our Financial Support of Christ's Ministry
through Shepherdstown Church:
Beginning January 2017**

| Last Sunday | YTD Actual | YTD Budgeted | + or (-) |
|-------------|------------|--------------|----------|
| \$10,250 | \$469,666 | \$450,982 | \$18,684 |

Benevolent Homes Mission Offering- \$479.40

Capital/Special Projects & Related Expenses

Current Balance - \$38,191.40

END OF YEAR GIVING: Shepherdstown Church always appreciates the financial gifts that are given to support and grow our ministries of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ! God bless you for your faithfulness and generosity again this year. Please note that the Internal Revenue Service has rules on when taxable year donations can be counted. The IRS (Internal Revenue Service) says that charitable donations to the church must be received and/or postmarked by 12/31/2017 to count as a donation in 2017. Following these IRS regulations, donations received and/or postmarked after 12/31/2017 must be counted as donations in 2018 (no matter what date may be associated with the gift).

ELECTRONIC GIVING: We encourage you to give your tithes and offerings in support of God's work through automated giving. Your church, Shepherdstown UMC, relies on your consistent financial support for the many ministries for children, youth and adults. Electronic giving offers an easy and convenient way to give on a recurring or one time basis. Simply visit shepherdstownumc.org and click the red "Online Giving" link then follow the directions. Thank you for your continued support.

SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL: If you would like to be included in an email church sidewalk snow removal chain, please contact the church office.

SPECIAL DAYS IN OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH THIS WEEK

(*child; **youth; ***adult; A=Anniversary; SI=shut-in; CS=College Student; MI=Missionary)
[All Mechanicsburg 17055 addresses, unless otherwise noted.]

DECEMBER

- ** 17 Noah McAllister**
- *** 18 Lisa Kapp,**
- A 18 Darryl and Deb Kenes,**
- ** 19 Connor Crone,**
- A 20 Scott and Melissa Bruck,**
- *** 20 Ron Scott,**
- A 21 Bob & Jill Steps,**
- *** 24 Pat Finkenbinder,**
- *** 24 Pete Swartz,**

SENIORS OF SHEPHERDSTOWN: On Thursday, January 4, 2018 the SOS will meet in the church parking lot at 10:15 to travel to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank in Harrisburg for a tour. After the tour we will have lunch at a local restaurant. Please sign up in the upper rear hallway by December 31st.

PICTURES FOR THE CHURCH DIRECTORY: Are you taking any new family pictures during the holidays? Remember to send/copy one for the church directory! Pictures can be emailed to admin.sumc@comcast.net or dropped off at the church office. New directories will be printed in January!

WINTER WEATHER IS UPON US! SNOW CANCELLATION PROCEDURES

In the event of inclement weather, the Church Office will utilize the following options for notification of a cancellation. Sunday morning worship will not be cancelled. However, we ask you to use your own discretion in determining if the roads and sidewalks are safe for travel. When a team/committee/group meeting or group event (choir rehearsal, youth, egg making, etc.) needs to be cancelled, you will be contacted by the team/committee/group leader via a phone call, text or email. All group cancellations will be at the discretion of each group leader, and he/she will be responsible for contacting the members of that group. When a weekday Church activity needs to be cancelled, (Lenten meal, Game Night, etc.), please call the Church Office at 766-3076, and after five rings, you will be able to listen to an updated message concerning a cancellation, or go to the homepage on our Church Website at shepherdstownumc.org.



PARKING LOT SNOW REMOVAL THIS WINTER: All parking lots will be plowed when the snow depth reaches 2" or more. In addition, we will salt both side lots, the lot across the street and the first three parking rows of the rear lot. We will salt the remainder of the rear lot if there is snow on Christmas Eve. The Trustees hope this will not inconvenience anyone and that you will use your own good judgment about parking on the rear parking lot when it snows.

"THE FLOCK" Children's Ministries
Janice Deveney and Charlene Kapp
(Directors of Children's Ministries)
E-mail: childrens.sumc@comcast.net



LITTLE LAMBS NURSERY
9:30AM Sunday School
8:15 & 10:45AM Worship



LIFETIME(Sunday School) FOR KIDS
9:30-10:30AM for Age 3 – 5th Grade



Today(12/17/17) Jesus is Born
(Luke 1:26-38;2:1-20)

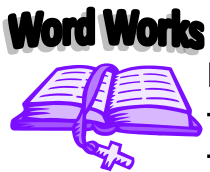


There will be Children's Church for AGES 3yrs-5th grade. Please make sure **ALL** kids have a **Children's Church Consent Form** found in the pew. They will be dismissed after the Children's sermon in the 10:45am service.



JR. CHOIR NEWS...

1. 12/17- Practice from 8:45am-9:25am
2. 12/17- Practice with Chancel Choir- 12pm
3. 12/24- Practice from 8:45am-9:25am
4. 12/24- Practice in Fellowship Hall- 6:15pm-6:45pm
5. 12/31- No practice
6. 1/7- Practice resumes-8:45am-9:25am



Word Works Just a Reminder... Please continue to work on your **Word Works** when you have a chance. Remember, for every completed **Word Works**, \$.50 will be donated to continue to help victims of floods, fires, and hurricanes that have occurred over the Fall.

FLOCK NEWS: Upcoming Events:

Being a Light! Love God, Love Others, Serve All!

1. 12/24- Flock Christmas party-9:30-10:30am
2. 12/24- Christmas Eve services- 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
3. 12/31- Making crafts for Messiah Village-9:30-10:30am



December 17, 2017
"Fusion" Youth Ministries
Shawn Gray - Director
youth@shepherdstownumc.org / 570-460-8132

We are throwing a Christmas Party tonight during Fusion. Please bring holiday treats such as cookies, gingerbread, fruit cake, etc. We are also doing a gift exchange game. It is optional to bring a gift of \$5 or less to be a part of this. I will have extras so no one is left out. This is happening from 6pm – 8pm. It should be a great festive time.

Christmas Party!!!

On January 7, 2018 Shepherdstown United Methodist Church is hosting a youth rally that is being programmed by our local conference. It will be a time of fun, worship, and getting closing with each other and with Jesus. All youth from 6th grade to 12th grade and encouraged to come and bring friends. This is a free event. If you are planning on attending please register on the website below.

To register contact Curt Knouse at cknouse@susumc.org with your name and contact info.

Upcoming Dates/Events:

December 17 -Christmas Party
December 24 – Christmas Eve Service (No Fusion)
December 31 – New Years Eve
January 7 - Youth Rally 3pm - 7pm
January 14 – Fusion Youth Group
January 21 – Fusion Youth Group
January 28- Fusion Youth Group