

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. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Dennis L. Otto
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December 9, 2018

If you are ever going to invite someone to church, this is the right time of year. Now I am not saying that is how most new people will first connect with Shepherdstown Church, but at this time of year people are more open to attending than any other time. In tracking guests at a former church we found that it was one of four times of year where first time visits to the church spiked. It was the highest.

Mid August to Mid September showed a surge. Even with the business of back to school some people were interested in connecting to a congregation. This likely includes new residents, especially those with children and youth. The beginning of the new year, the time for resolutions, always found more than average guests in worship. Easter was also a time with higher than average guests.

The highest number of guests by far was in December. Christmas Eve was always the highest in that month. It makes sense. People are more open to wonder and the story of the season. There is tenderness among many, a yearning among some, the desire to reclaim a family tradition or a faith that has atrophied at this time of year. So look around among family, friends, neighbors, co-workers. Is there someone who would deeply appreciate being invited to worship with you this Christmas?

In Christ's Service, Dennis L. Otto, pastor

STAFFED TO SERVE

Pastor	Rev. Dr . Dennis L. Otto
Directors of Children's Ministries	Janice Deveney Charlene Kapp
Director of Youth Ministries	Shawn Gray
Organists	Cathy Fauber (8:15) Mindy Martz (10:45)
Hand Bell Choir Director	Rita Spicher
Junior Choir Director	Periann Smith
Chancel Choir Director	Mindy Martz
Kitchen Coordinator	Jeanie Hershey
Administrative Assistant	Debra Buterbaugh
Custodian	Jeffery Forester

SICK OR RECUPERATING AT HOME THIS WEEK

Vivian Weakland, John Mowery, Janet Shoop, Betty Richards, Dennis Tewell, Barbara Protas, Bruce Smith

MEMORIAL SERVICE TODAY: There will be a memorial service for Stanford Kingsborough today, December 9, at 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary, followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to this brief time of remembrance and celebration of Stan's life.

CHURCH FAMILIES TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	Dick Eckman
Tuesday	Keith and Julie Eisenhower
Wednesday	Joel Eisenhower
Thursday	Sam Eisenhower
Friday	Ray and Penny Erney
Saturday	Bill and Jill Evans and family

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, contact the church office ASAP.

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

*** 10 Omar Shute,
*** 10 Stephanie Hepford
*** 10 Rebecca Schaefer,
A 10 Ken and Helen Love,
*** 11 Bruce Smith,
*** 11 Susan Bower,
*** 12 Wendy Callahan,
*** 12 Barbara Squire,
*** 12 Nicole Thurstin
* 12 Avery Vance,
*** 13 Laura Franklin
*** 15 Harriet Franklin
*** 16 Janice Deveney

SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL: If you would like to be included in an email church sidewalk snow removal chain, please email Dick Beaty at bbeaty1963@aol.com.

A NEW ALTAR FLOWER CHART FOR 2019 is posted in the Bulletin Board outside of the church office. There are two lines for each date. If you want to donate both vases please sign your name on both lines, for one vase just sign one line. Also, it is helpful to put a "y" or "n" for yes or no after your name, if you want to take your flowers home that day. The cost for each vase is \$16.50. You will receive a call or email before your date to get the information for the dedication which will be published in the bulletin.



CUMBERLAND SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT

SHEPHERDSTOWN UMC: Join us here at Shepherdstown UMC, next Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 for the Cumberland Singers concert program entitled Laughing All the Way! 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 our concerts, and we look forward to seeing you!

NOTES OF THANKS: Thank you to everyone for the cards, notes of appreciation, delicious cake, reception and recognition of my 30 years as Administrative Asst. at Shepherdstown UMC. I will forever treasure your friendship, love, understanding, patience, wonderful humor, and never-ending examples of unwavering faith.

May God bless you all, **Deb Buterbaugh**

I want to express my love and gratitude to all at Shepherdstown UMC as I will be moving to Georgia next week. I will miss you all and so appreciate your tender loving care over the years.

Love, **Susan P. Wagner**

Thank you for your cards, prayers, and concerns. I loved my dad, he was a very special person to me. But in the last decade he had continued to decline with Alzheimer's. And although it was very hard for me to reach this place in my relationship with him, I had to let go. I am happy the Lord has been able to restore his dignity again. Thank you. **Dale and Jan**

NOTE OF THANKS: Thank you very much for the card and package. I really appreciate all of the love and support that I have received from the church throughout my life. I am so thankful to have the support of Shepherdstown during my time in college. **Evan Callahan**

THE BEAUTIFUL SWAGS ADORNING OUR SANCTUARY WINDOWS ARE GIVEN BY THE FOLLOWING

Richard and Jean Crow

In memory of James and Alice Gibney by Randy Gibney and family

In honor of Violet and Louis Sanker by Darryl and Deb Kenes

In memory of David Kyper by JoAnn Kyper

In memory of our daughter, Karen J. Love (Hile) by Ken and Helen Love

In memory of our parents, Wayne & Bernice McFadden and Elmer & Florence Mulholland by Wayne and Sue McFadden

In memory of our parents by Richard and Margaret Reed

In memory of John E. Rowland by Mary Rowland

In memory of William J. Rase by Mary Rowland

In memory of Paul Schell by Ruth Schell and family

Larry and Marsha Shoop and family

CHRISTMAS IS COMING....Well, the Christmas program has come and gone but Christmas is still coming. Thanks to the 60+ performers who brought fun and laughter and perspective to the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons. Thanks to our pianist/choir director who fills in no matter how crazy the requests. Thanks to the parents who brought their children faithfully to practices. Thanks to the congregation for coming and supporting their efforts. Thanks to the behind the scenes folks who make everyone look good. Thanks to our kitchen helpers who made sure we were fed throughout practices and program. Thanks to those who helped clean up after it was all done. Thanks to all those people who just jumped in when something was needed. The program may have ended but the memories continue. May you all have a blessed holiday season.

How Do I Get in Contact with the Pastor?

Actually it is easier now to get in contact with the pastor than ever before!

If there is an emergency call 717 458-8874. It rings to my cell unless I am out of town at some distance or for an extended time.

If you need information, a question answered or need a quick check, an email is a very good way to reach me – pastor.sumc@comcast.net or dotto@susumc.org . I check my email probably 4 times a day. Even if you want a conversation you may reach me most quickly by sending a quick email asking me to call you. On days off I may not be in cell range and may not respond unless you state that it is urgent.

You may also call the church office when it is open currently 10-2 Monday – Fridays most weeks. I typically am off on Friday (which means I work about one Friday each month.) Remember even when the office is open, Deb, our Administrative Assistant may be on another line or in another part of the church. If you can't call in those hours or reach us during them, leave a message and we'll get back with you.

If you want to see me in person, it is best to call to set an appointment. While I am in the church much of the time during the day Monday – Thursday, I also go to meetings, visit hospitals or those who are shut in and may not be there for a host of other possible reasons. Deb has my electronic calendar so she can make appointments for me. You can email me to make an appointment. As a general rule I do not meet people when the church is empty, but there are activities most Sunday and Wednesday nights, from 10 – 2 Monday through Thursday. We can also schedule to meet in a public venue. So you can walk in and hope I am there and available when you do, but if you really want/need to connect call the church, the emergency number or email me. Pastor Dennis

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

The sermon series this Advent Season is intended to coordinate with the all church Advent Study, "All I Want for Christmas".

8:15 and 10:45 Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, December 16 - Third Sunday in Advent
"The Gift of A Strong Foundation"

Sunday, December 23 - Fourth Sunday in Advent
"The Gift of A New Style of Living"

Join us Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 at one (or more of the following services of worship:

5:00PM - Christmas Café; a casual time that will be suitable for all ages, the Christmas story told in various ways, carols, great coffee, drinks and light refreshments, Café opens at 4:30 (All children welcome)

7:00PM - Traditional Christmas Candlelight Serve; Carols, Choirs, the Christmas Story and Candlelight (Nursery care provided)

9:00PM - Candlelight Service with Communion; Quiet and more contemplative worship with the story proclaimed through lessons and carols and the celebration of Holy Communion

Our Financial Support of Christ's Ministry

Through Shepherdstown Church:

Beginning January 2018

Last Sunday	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted	+ or (-)
\$11,862	\$478,675	\$443,695	\$34,979

Ecumenical Food Pantry Mission Offering- \$455.51

Capital/Special Projects & Related Expenses

Current Balance - \$49,890.51

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 12/31/2018 to count as a donation in 2018. Following these IRS regulations, donations received and/or postmarked after 12/31/2018 must be counted as donations in 2019 (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.

ESTATE BEQUEST: The church has been notified that it is receiving a distributive share of the estate of Electa Jean Roosa. The amount of the share is \$45,271.36 and there are no restrictions for the use of the proceeds. We are appreciative and grateful for this most generous gift.

MISSION BASKETS IN THE COMING WEEKS

- December 9Benevolent Homes
- December 16Beacon Clinic
- December 23SUMC Emergency Needs Fund
- December 30Daystar Center

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

- December 9Helping Hands Class
- December 16Elective Class
- December 23Bible Explorers Class
- December 30LIFE Class

BREWERS AND BAKERS FOR GATHERING GROUND

- December 9Keith and Charlene Kapp
- December 16Volunteer Needed
- December 23Keith and Charlene Kapp
- December 30Volunteer Needed

GIANT CARD FUND RAISER UPDATE: Since October of 2001, we have sold \$1,122,330.00 worth of Giant cards with a profit to the church of \$56,116.50. Purchase your cards immediately following the worship service or on weekdays from 10 am – 12 pm in the church office.

JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM

And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should. Ephesians 6:19-20

There are so many places and opportunities to witness. Most of the time they pop up like prairie dogs - unexpectedly. I was at the grocery store. As usual, I had stopped for a "few" items and ended up with a cartful. I pulled into line and sighed. I don't mind grocery shopping but am glad when I am done. As I waited for the person in front of me to move up, someone walked up behind me. I turned and there was an older woman. She only had two items so I asked if she would like to move ahead of me. She was grateful. She had a bag of Goetz's caramels and a bag of pretzels. I jokingly told her I hoped that wasn't her supper. She said no, that she was going to visit her husband in assisted living and he just loved those two items. I shared that I hoped he would not be there long. She tearfully said that he probably would not be coming home as he had dementia. What can you say to that? She continued to share that she had had him moved from a different home to Bethany as she thought he would receive better care. He had once held an intellectual and high position but now was reduced to this. The upgrade to Bethany had reduced their income to barely anything as she had only ever been a stay at home wife/mom. Further, her daughters no longer talked to her or visited her. I'm not sure what was behind that situation but bottom line was she was alone in making decisions with very little money. I asked her name and told her that I would like to pray for her and her husband. Again, she teared up and said that prayer was the only thing getting her through this season of life. By this time, she had paid and was ready to move on. I asked if I could hug her and she said "oh yes, I haven't been hugged in so long". Folks, there is a world out there waiting for hugs and words of hope. Share yourself and God's love.

Lord, help me to reach out to others – with words, with hugs, with hope, with boldness. Make me like you. AMEN! Join the prayer team on the third Monday of each month in the Parlor at 12:30P. Come... **Deb Kenes**

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.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Early Service – 83

Sunday School – 117

Late Worship – 167

Membership – 512

BEREAVEMENT RESOURCES PROVIDED AT SUMC: The Cultivate and Nurture Team provides a resource for those who have lost a loved one. It is a set of four booklets in the series *Journeying through Grief* that will be sent over an 11 month period following the death. If you have suffered a loss and feel these booklets would help your journey through grief, please contact the church office.



“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(12/9/18)-The Gift of Understanding: Mary’s Gift (Luke 1:26-56)

Today is there will be Children’s Church for ages 3yrs.-5th grade. These kids will be dismissed after the Children’s sermon in the 10:45am service. Please fill out a **GREEN Children’s Church consent form** found in the pew.



THANK YOU! A BIG thanks to all who participated in the Christmas program last year. A special thank you to all the behind the scenes people who made it run smoothly. We hope the program helped to kickstart the spirit of Christmas in your heart.

JR CHOIR NEWS:

1. 12/9,12/16,12/23- Practice 8:45am-9:25am
2. 12/23- Practice after the 10:45am service
3. 12/24- Practice at 6:15pm in Fellowship Hall
4. 12/30- No Practice
5. 1/6/19- Practice resumes at 8:45am-9:25am



FLOCK NEWS: Upcoming Events:

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

1. 12/23-9:30am-10:30am(during Sunday School) FLOCK Christmas Party
2. 12/30-9:30am-10:30am(during Sunday School)- make crafts to hand out to Messiah Village residents in February
3. 1/5-Churchwide game Night



9th, 2018

"Fusion" Youth Ministries

Shawn Gray - Director

youth@shepherdstownumc.org / 570-460-8132

We are back on track with normal programming after a busy couple of weeks. The Cookie Walk was a great success and we were able to raise nearly \$700 dollars toward next year's Mission Trip. The Christmas Program went well too with all those who participated. The Elf Skit was very well received and we had some laughs doing it. Thank you to everyone who made the Cookie Walk and the Christmas Program possible.

Fusion Tonight

Zeteo is approaching. The theme this year is Architects which takes place in a post apocalyptic world. The deadline to sign up is January 13th. The cost for Zeteo is \$45 dollars and it's for 7th - 12th graders. If any 6th graders would like to go, see Shawn. It will be an amazing time of worship, dramas, and fellowship. If you have any questions feel free to call/text/email.

Upcoming Dates/Events:

December 9 - Fusion

December 16 - Fusion

December 23 – Fusion (Christmas Party)

December 24 – Christmas Eve

December 25 - Christmas