

***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  
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Directors of Children's Ministries:  
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Church Office: 766-3076 or 766-3251  
Fax – 766-1867  
December 10, 2017

Good Morning Everyone!

In a world that screams commercialism this time of year, we hear the prophet Isaiah reminding us to tell the world of the arrival of God! Maybe the best thing is to just simply let Isaiah say it as found in Isaiah 40:3-5,9-10. (The Message)

*Thunder in the desert! "Prepare for God's arrival!  
Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God.  
Fill in the valleys, level off the hills,  
Smooth out the ruts, clear out the rocks.  
Then God's bright glory will shine and everyone will see it.  
Yes. Just as God has said."*

*Climb a high mountain, Zion. You're the preacher of good news.  
Raise your voice. Make it good and loud, Jerusalem.  
You're the preacher of good news.  
Speak loud and clear. Don't be timid!  
Tell the cities of Judah, "Look! Your God!"  
Look at him! God, the Master, comes in power,  
ready to go into action.*

Friends, just makes you want to shout the Good News – doesn't it?  
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, Emilie Matthews, Layland Matthews, Peggy Denison, Beverly Wijas, Tim Baer**

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

***CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS:*** Thank you for your donations of \$20 gift cards to either Walmart or Target. This year we collected 41 gift cards totaling \$825.00. They were delivered to New Hope Ministries and The United Methodist Home for Children. **Kathy Ries**

## *Family Promise Hosting Week (Dec. 17-24)*

Please prayerfully consider signing up to be a dinner provider, greeter/evening host, overnight host, van driver or doing the laundry during our next hosting week as we partner with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dillsburg. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Any questions call the church office.

Dinner Provider – Prepares and delivers a hot meal for the families to St. Paul's Church at 6:00 p.m. You are encouraged to stay and eat with the families, but you can just drop off the meal, if you prefer.

Greeter/Evening Host- (6:00-7:30 p.m.) This can be one person or a family. You need to unlock the church and be there to receive the donated meal from the dinner provider. You will eat with the families.

Overnight Hosts – (7:30 p.m. – departure time varies) We need 2 adults to sleep overnight.

Van Drivers – Pick up the families at the Day Center, 525 Hummel Ave., Lemoyne at 6:00 p.m. and drive them to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 201 S. Baltimore St., Dillsburg. Pick up the families at St. Paul's in the morning and drive them to the Day Center.

Laundry- Washes the sheets and blankets (at your home).

Monetary Donations – 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 give them to the Church Office.

***COOKIE WALK UPDATE:*** This year we had a wonderful variety and quantity of cookies. Thank you to all our bakers who provided the delicious cookies, bars, candy, bread and fudge. Thank you to Kathy Eberly and the youth for decorating the tables and room. Thank you for everyone who helped set up, refill cookie platters, greet and welcome customers, and weigh and check out the orders. Thank you for supporting the youth by buying cookies and making generous donations to the Cookie Walk. We made \$844.18 this year which will be used toward 2018 youth activities and mission trips. Thank you, Kathy Ries and Shawn Gray.



**COOKING CLUB NEWS...** On this Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 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 the church office.

***TODAY'S MISSION BASKET (Benevolent Homes)***

The Benevolent Homes of the Susquehanna Conference exist to provide loving care to marginalized children and senior adults. Five retirement communities offer care for elderly residents, some of whom need help to make ends meet. The United Methodist Home for Children provides long term care and short term residential care for troubled children, many the victims of abuse and neglect. Your gift today will make a difference in the lives of the residents of our Benevolent Homes.

***United Methodist Home for Children*** [umhcservices.org](http://umhcservices.org)

***Bethany Village*** [bethanyvillage.org](http://bethanyvillage.org)

***Normandie Ridge Senior Living Community*** [NormandieRidge.org](http://NormandieRidge.org)

***Quincy Village*** [quincyvillage.org](http://quincyvillage.org)

***RiverWoods Senior Living Community*** [RiverWoods.org](http://RiverWoods.org)

***United Methodist Homes Wesley Village Campus***

[unitedmethodisthomes.org/locations/Wesley\\_village\\_campus.asp](http://unitedmethodisthomes.org/locations/Wesley_village_campus.asp)

***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.**



***CUMBERLAND SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT***

***SHEPHERDSTOWN UMC:*** Join us here at Shepherdstown UMC, next Sunday, December 17 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 our concerts, and we look forward to seeing you!

### ***CHURCH FAMILIES TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK***

<b>Monday</b>	Jerry and Sandy Goodling
<b>Tuesday</b>	Lena Goshorn
<b>Wednesday</b>	Bob Gray
<b>Thursday</b>	Shawn and Mollie Gray and family
<b>Friday</b>	Sue Graybill
<b>Saturday</b>	Ron and Claire Gruver

### ***UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:***

Sunday, December 17.....Third Sunday in Advent

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

***NEW CHRISTMAS TREE!*** Over the years of use, our Sanctuary Christmas Tree was showing signs of wear. We are pleased to share with you that a new Christmas Tree is being displayed in the Sanctuary today! This has been made possible through the Bill Mann, Duaine Swenson and Jay Shoop Memorial Fund! Our thanks to the Memorial and Honors Gifts Team and the Worship Team for making this possible!

### ***JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM***

*Then God said, 'Let the land sprout with vegetation-every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.' And that is what happened. Genesis 1:11*

Trees are amazing. They are all shapes and sizes just like us. They usually portray such strength and tenacity in the midst of wind, ice, and snow. They too are battered about but still remain standing. Good roots are obviously important. I wonder what God was thinking when he created them. Are they to be visual reminders of what our faith can be? Are we to "branch" out to others and point to Heaven? Are we to shelter those that need respite from the storm? Do we share life giving oxygen with those without breathe? There is a huge ole pine tree in the yard down the street. It is a haven for birds of all kinds each evening as they look for a place to roost. As the birds settle in for the night there is a raucous chorus of bird talk. It's almost like they are proclaiming their gratitude for a place to be. If God provides for them, we can be assured of our own importance to him. The next time you look at a tree, be grateful.

We thank you God for reminders of your omnipresence. Join the Prayer Team as we pray our thanks. **Deb Kenes**

**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.

**MISSION BASKETS IN THE COMING WEEKS**

Today .....Benevolent Homes  
December 17 .....Beacon Clinic  
December 24 .....SUMC Emergency Needs Fund  
December 31 .....Jacob Buterbaugh Eagle Scout  
Project/Cumberland Vista

**SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS**

Today .....Helping Hands  
December 17 .....Elective Class  
December 24 .....Bible Explorers  
December 31 .....LIFE Class

**BREWERS AND BAKERS FOR GATHERING GROUND**

Today .....Hersh and Annetta Simington  
December 17 .....Jason and Robin Hall  
December 24 .....Keith and Charlene Kapp  
December 31 .....Lori 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 \$1,044,670.00 worth of Giant cards with a profit to the church of \$52,233.50 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 – 72  
Sunday School – 95  
Late Worship – 175  
Membership – 517

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

<b>Last Sunday</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budgeted</b>	<b>+ or (-)</b>
<b>\$12,286</b>	<b>\$459,416</b>	<b>\$441,962</b>	<b>\$17,453</b>

**Ecumenical Food Pantry Mission Offering- \$447.94**

**Capital/Special Projects & Related Expenses**

**Current Balance - \$37,510.90**

***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](http://shepherdstownumc.org) and click the red "Online Giving" link then follow the directions. Thank you for your continued support.

***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 Wanda Julias,**
- \*\*\* 16 Melissa Bruck,**
- \*\*\* 16 Janice Deveney,**
- \*\* 17 Noah McAllister**



**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](http://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.

***SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL:*** If you would like to be included in an email church sidewalk snow removal chain, 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 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



**Today(12/10/17) God Dwells With Us**  
(John 1:1-14)



There will be Children's Church for AGES 3yrs-5<sup>th</sup> 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.



**A Special Thanks to all the kids, parents, youth, and behind-the-scene people that made the Christmas program such a success. It is interesting to see how things "always come together". You did a wonderful job!**



**JR. CHOIR NEWS...**

1. 12/10,12/17,12/24- Practice from 8:45am-9:25am
2. 12/17- practice with Chancel Choir- 12pm
3. 12/24- practice in Fellowship Hall- 6:15pm-6:45pm
4. 12/31- no practice
5. 1/7- practice resumes-8:45am-9:25am

**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 10, 2017**  
**"Fusion" Youth Ministries**  
**Shawn Gray - Director**  
**youth@shepherdstownumc.org / 570-460-8132**

It was an incredibly successful last weekend. We raised just under \$850.00 for the cookie walk for upcoming missions. The Christmas Program was a well-oiled machine of awesomeness. Everyone who was involved in any of those programs should be very proud. I hope that this Christmas season is filled with joy and anticipation. Not just of presents but the celebration of Jesus coming to us and changing everything.

### **Fusion Tonight!!!**

**Shepherdstown United Methodist Church is hosting a youth rally on January 7, 2018 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cknouse@susumc.org) with your name and contact info.**

### **Upcoming Dates/Events:**

**December 10 – Fusion Youth Group**  
**December 17 - Fusion Youth Group**  
**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**