

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
e-mail: pastor.sumc@comcast.net
Directors of Children's Ministries:
Janice Deveney & Charlene Kapp
e-mail: childrens.sumc@comcast.net
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e-mail: custodian.sumc@comcast.net
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Fax – 766-1867

December 16, 2018

Christmas Eve is a special time for worship. Shepherdstown Church will be offering three different times to worship in three very different tones. Most of all I want to invite you to join us at one of those times to worship God for his great gift. Be sure to invite those in your house and in your circle of life to come with you as well.

Christmas Cafe Service - The evening will begin at 4:30 with the coffee bar in the Life Center opening and serving gourmet coffee from Alabaster Coffee (owned by a friend of mine and making incredible coffee), light refreshments and some youth serving as "baristas" by making some specialty drinks as a way of beginning our casual worship which starts at 5. This worship service will be around tables and in comfortable group seating in the Life Center. Carols, Children's time, video, and brevity will make this appropriate for all ages. While no nursery is available, movement is welcome and a "kids corner" will be available for those who desire space to move around. The service will be about 45 minutes.

Traditional Candle Light Service - At 7:00pm there will be a Candlelight service featuring the Junior, Chancel and Bell Choirs, the story of Christmas will be read and preached with the beauty of candle lighting and carol singing. This service focuses on the joy of God's great gift. This is the best attended of our services so you will want to come early, park as far away as your are comfortable parking to allow space for the many guests, and be ready to welcome them and each other in the joy of this evening.

Lessons & Carols with Communion Service - The evening continues with a quiet, more contemplative service at 9:00. The Story will be told in lessons and carols and in the sacrament of communion. Thoughtful and meditative, this service is more quiet than others offering the opportunity to ponder the wonder of His love."

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, Betty Richards, Dennis Tewell, Barbara Protas, Ray Erney

CUMBERLAND SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT TODAY AT SHEPHERDSTOWN UMC: Join us here at Shepherdstown UMC, today 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. The Concert is 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!



CHURCH FAMILIES TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

- Monday** Jon Fauber
- Tuesday** Mark and Cathy Fauber
- Wednesday** Rebecca Fauber
- Thursday** Kirk and Kim Filer
- Friday** Ron and Pat Finkenbinder
- Saturday** R.J. and Kerry Finley and family

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

- *** 16 Janice Deveney,
- ** 17 Noah McAllister,
- *** 18 Lisa Kapp
- A 18 Darryl and Deb Kenes,
- ** 19 Connor Crone,
- *** 20 Ron Scott,
- A 21 Bob & Jill Steps,

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.

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 16Beacon Clinic
- December 23SUMC Emergency Needs Fund
- December 30Daystar Center
- January 6.....Domestic Violence Services Cum./Perry Counties

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

BREWERS AND BAKERS FOR GATHERING GROUND

December 16Jason and Robin Hall

December 23Keith and Charlene Kapp

December 30Deb Kenes

January 6Volunteer Needed

GIANT CARD FUND RAISER UPDATE: Since October of 2001, we have sold \$1,124,280.00 worth of Giant cards with a profit to the church of \$56,214.00. Purchase your cards immediately following the worship service or on weekdays from 10 am – 12 pm in the church office.

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.

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 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 (-)
\$8,071	\$486,746	\$452,939	\$33,807

Benevolent Homes Offering- \$432.18

Capital/Special Projects & Related Expenses

Current Balance - \$50,456.40

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 12/31/2018 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

December 16Elective Class
December 23Bible Explorers Class
December 30LIFE Class
January 6Helping Hands Class

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Early Service – 78
Sunday School – 82
Late Worship – 151
Membership – 512

FOOD PANTRY FOR NEW HOPE MINISTRIES: This month's Food Pantry Collection is for New Hope Ministries. The following staple items are currently needed: **Canned chicken, tuna or beef stew, canned vegetables, fruit or soup, peanut butter. Laundry detergent, shampoo, toilet paper.** These items may be brought to the Food Pantry table in the Lobby. **Please keep in mind, any opened containers or expired items cannot be used.**

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!

VAN DRIVER NEEDED FOR 2019: Please contact Don Holtzman if you would like to volunteer to drive the church van to pick up Messiah College students for a few Sundays in 2019.

HOPE UMC FREE BREAKFAST ON CHRISTMAS DAY: The community is invited and welcome to partake in a free Christmas Day Breakfast from 8:30 – 10 am, at Hope UM Church, 6260 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg.

HARRISBURG DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION OPEN: The Harrisburg District Office of the Susquehanna Conference is seeking an individual who will support the ministries of the district superintendent, assisting elder, and the pastors and churches of the district. This position is 30 hours per week, Monday through Friday, with paid holidays and vacation. The job description is available upon request. Please send letters and resumes to brobison@susumc.org

JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans:15:4

Pastor Dennis said at Stan Kingsborough's memorial service last week that he did not know the "backstories" of Stan's life. I too being a newer member of Shepherdstown didn't either. Stan had been a member of my worship team but was a quiet member. Milt Loyer did an admirable job of sharing the humble, always willing to help, God loving pieces of his friend's life. Stan will live on through Milt, his other friends, his brother and the children of Shepherdstown recollections of who he was. Two of my neighbor childhood friends recently gathered to visit a couple who had been part of our growing up years. We had heard that the woman had the beginnings of dementia and we wanted to see them before it got worse. We spent two hours talking about our old neighborhood. It was a sweet time – full of laughter and memories of our parents and this couple. Our neighborhood was an integral part of who we are today. Jesus too has lived on through his disciples, through his word as recorded, through story telling. It is OUR responsibility to share these stories and truths with others and future generations. If we don't, who will? Just as we don't want the quilt pieces of our friends and family lives to fade away, we can't be passive about sharing our faith.

Join the Prayer Team in asking God to strengthen our resolve, calm our fears, and be bold in sharing the "backstories" of Jesus. Lord God, help to give us a backbone instead of a wishbone in role modeling what God means to us. Amen. We meet the third Monday of each month at 12:30P.

Deb Kenes

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.



Save the Date

2019 is right around the corner and the Cultivate and Nurture Committee has already started planning events. The purpose of our committee 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.

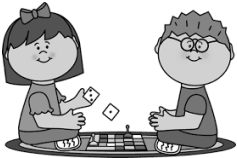
01/05 5-8pm Game Night in the Fellowship Hall (Pizza for dinner)

02/23 5-8pm Movie Night (hot dogs and mac&cheese for dinner)

05/19 1:30-2:30 Riverboat ride on the Pride of the Susquehanna

09/29 12:15 Church Picnic

Stay tuned for more details. If you have any suggestions or would like to be involved with any events, please see one of our committee members: Cynthia Barletta, Janice Deveney, Bob Gray, Michele Kreitman, Brian Rainey, Mary Rowland, Nancy Stout, and Curran Trimmer. We always welcome extra help!



"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



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Today(12/16/18)-The Gift of Tradition: Shepherd's Gift (Luke 2:8-20)

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.



JR CHOIR NEWS:

1. 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



December 16th, 2018
"Fusion" Youth Ministries
Shawn Gray - Director
youth@shepherdstownumc.org / 570-460-8132

Just a little over a week left until Christmas. As always we are offering three services for Christmas Eve. There is a 5pm, 7pm, and 9pm. The 5pm is going to be in the Life Center and will be a Christmas Café service with coffee and treats in a relaxed setting with carols. The 7pm has our choirs performing with instrumentalists and candlelight. The 9pm is a more contemplative quieter service. You are welcome to go to any or go to all three.

The Christmas party is coming. Make sure you grab a White Elephant gift for under \$5. We will be playing games and watching a Christmas movie. The best ugly Christmas sweater will be awarded a special prize.

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 16 - Fusion
December 23 – Fusion (Christmas Party)
December 24 – Christmas Eve
December 25 - Christmas