

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
Director of Youth Ministries:
Shawn Gray
e-mail: youth@shepherdstownumc.org
Administrative Asst.: Debra Buterbaugh
e-mail: admin.sumc@comcast.net
Custodian: Jeffery Forester
e-mail: custodian.sumc@comcast.net
Church Office: 766-3076 or 766-3251
Fax – 766-1867

December 23, 2018

just about three days Christmas will be past. The good news in that is that nothing you have forgotten or left undone won't prevent the day from coming. Whether or not you made everyone's favorite cookies, whether or not you chose all the right gifts for everyone, whether or not you got to see all those you wished you could see, Christmas comes and goes.

In that there really is good news. Christmas does not depend on us. It doesn't depend on what we do or don't do. It doesn't depend on how we feel. It isn't hindered by not singing favorite carols or seeing our favorite Christmas movies, Hallmark or Classic.

It all rests on God; it always did. From the birth that seemed to happen at an inconvenient time and place, to unexpected visitors Christmas came. It came in God's time and in God's way. That's how it will come this year. I pray God will meet you right where He intends and that you have eyes to see and hearts to receive the gift of his presence now as then. Merry 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, Betty Richards, Dennis Tewell, Barbara Protas, Ray Erney, Clair Lutz

CHURCH FAMILIES TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday	Randy and Wendy Fisher
Tuesday	Mark and Debra Fleming and Benjamin
Wednesday	Don and Harriet Franklin and family
Thursday	Heath Freeland, Lauren and Andrew
Friday	Larry and Gail Freeland
Saturday	Jeff and Ruth Gates

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!

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

- *** 24 Pat Finkenbinder,
- *** 24 Pete Swartz,
- * 24 Cassandra Morrison,
- *** 26 Eugene Hershey,
- * 27 Mercy Gray,
- *** 27 Joyce Shoemaker-Melhorn
- * * 28 Remy Murray
- A 28 Joe and Terry Neyhart,
- A 29 Dave and Jen Schade,
- *** 30 Kerry Finley
- A 30 Ken and Linda Bechtel

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

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.

MISSION BASKETS IN THE COMING WEEKS

- December 23SUMC Emergency Needs Fund
- December 30Daystar Center
- January 6Domestic Violence Services Cum./Perry Counties
- January 13Bethesda Mission

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

- December 23Bible Explorers Class
- December 30LIFE Class
- January 6Helping Hands Class
- January 13Elective Class

BREWERS AND BAKERS FOR GATHERING GROUND

December 23Keith and Charlene Kapp
December 30Deb Kenes
January 6Volunteer Needed
January 13Volunteer Needed

GIANT CARD FUND RAISER UPDATE: Since October of 2001, we have sold \$1,126,365.00 worth of Giant cards with a profit to the church of \$56,318.25. 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.

LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE

Early Service – 61
Sunday School – 99
Late Worship – 159
Membership – 512

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: The church office will be closed December 25, 26 and 27. Messages on the answering system will be checked but you can also reach Pastor Dennis for emergencies at 717-458-8874 or by email at pastor.sumc@comcast.net.

NOTE OF THANKS: I want to express my gratitude to your Children’s Department for the bag of cookies and Merry Christmas note I received at the Carlisle Truck Stop. I am a truck driver passing through the area, and I want you to know how much receiving that meant to me. Sometimes driving a truck can get lonely and especially during the holidays. Your kindness touched my heart, made my day, and will not be forgotten. May God bless you all, Frank

NOTE OF THANKS: On behalf of the young people who live at the United Methodist Home for Children, Inc., we gratefully acknowledge your contribution of \$342.83, which we received recently through the Susquehanna Conference. Your gift means that the Home can provide more than food, clothing, counseling, and a safe environment. Jeffrey Glass, Director of Programs in PA

NOTE OF THANKS: Thanks to the congregation for the prayers, calls, and cards while I have been recovering. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness. **Ray Erney**

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 dotta@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

JOIN US CHRISTMAS EVE, Monday, December 24 at one (or more of the following services of worship:

5:00PM - Christmas Café; a casual service 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 (-)
\$8,529	\$495,275	\$462,183	\$33,093

Beacon Clinic Offering- \$385.82

Capital/Special Projects & Related Expenses

Current Balance - \$51,032.29

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.

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 UMC Church, 6260 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg.

JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:11

I've read numerous messages on Facebook this month about making clear to children the meaning of Christmas. We are so familiar with Christmas that I sometimes think we forget that there are important lessons to be shared. One mom wanted to make sure that her children knew that Christmas is about sharing. She asked for ideas to cement that thought in her babies memories. There were at least 20 responses on what other parents had tried or were thinking about. I love seeing the evidence of hearts that are right. I think about the shopping and cleaning and baking I have done. Did I take time to drop to my knees and thank God or just move to the next thing on my list? I have relished this first retirement year because I have more time to do the things of Christmas. I got my cards out early. I had most of my shopping done and wrapped. My Christmas day menu was made and shopped for. But did I get down on my knees and thank God? Not enough, not nearly enough! Darryl and I keep trying to simplify our lives. I know that I want it to be so simple that I won't ever forget to thank and praise the maker of Heaven and earth. His son died for me and you....to make us free. Let's praise Him with great alleluias, with great joy, with a grateful heart! Amen and Merry Christmas!

Thank you Lord Jesus for all of your provision. Help us to be as charitable with our gifts, our talents, our time and our funds as you have been with us. Praise you, praise you my sweet Savior!!!! Join the Prayer Team on the third Mondays of each month. 12:30P in the parlor.

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.



through

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.

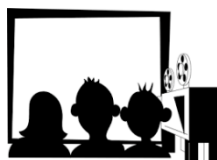
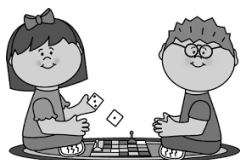
01/05 5-8pm Game Night in the Fellowship Hall (Pizza for dinner)

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



Today(12/23/18)-Celebrating the Birth of Jesus



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.

Christ is Born!
Merry Christmas!



JR CHOIR NEWS:



1. 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 23rd, 2018
"Fusion" Youth Ministries
Shawn Gray - Director
youth@shepherdstownmc.org / 570-460-8132**

Christmas is almost here. May your holidays be filled with fellowship, family, food, friends, festivities, fun, and Fortnite dancing. Most of all I hope that each and every one of us feel the presence of Jesus in our own special way as we remember the day that changed everything.

Christmas party is tonight. 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.

Christmas Party Tonight!!! 6-8:30

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 23 – Fusion (Christmas Party)
December 24 – Christmas Eve
December 25 – Christmas
December 30 – No Fusion
Jan 6 – Fusion**