

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 24, 2017

Good Morning Everyone!

Have you noticed over the last few weeks, some people have been wishing others “Happy Holidays.” No doubt this is a nod to the variety of present day approaches to and understandings of Christmas. That said, there are many who are still wishing others a “Merry Christmas” (thankfully so). This has me thinking about “Merry Christmas.” Webster dictionary defines “merry” as: “full of cheerfulness and gaiety; joyous in disposition or spirit; mirthful; festively joyous; hilarious”. Without doubt, I believe this season should be all Webster defines it.

But I am also thinking it should be more than joy, cheerful, and mirth filled. I believe this special time of year should be “blessed.” Just think about it. Webster dictionary defines “blessed” as: sacred; holy; sanctified; worthy of adoration; reverence; worship; divinely favored”. That is exactly what Christmas – the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ is! It is a blessed time as God entered into the human experience via a baby. It is a blessed time as God made possible a holy forgiveness and reconciliation for each and every one of us. It is a blessed time of reverence and worship for God who loves us so much!

Well, I wish you a “Merry Christmas.” But, even more so, I wish you a “Blessed Christmas!”

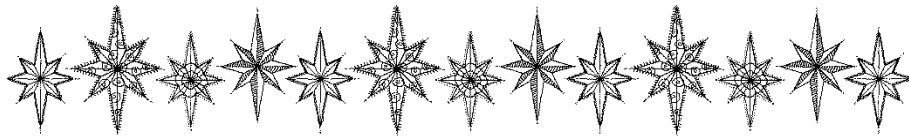
Pastor Tim

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, Barbara Protas



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

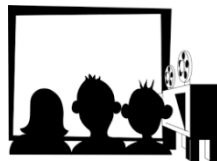
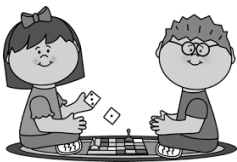
9:00 Candlelight and Communion Service in Sanctuary

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	Joe and Carol Helsel and Caitlin
Tuesday	Gary and Diane Henderson
Wednesday	Dick and Louise Henry
Thursday	Stephanie Hepford
Friday	Tom and Lisa Herb
Saturday	Bryson Herb

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!

NOTES OF THANKS: Dear Friends at Shepherdstown UMC, Thank you so much for the donation of \$358.97 to Pink Hands of Hope. As a non-profit, we rely on generous support like yours to fulfill our mission. Your Mission Basket giving will go a long way to help local ladies battling breast cancer. Please stop in to visit our store (5325 East Trindle Rd., 17050), especially on Tuesday to say hi to Peggy Reed and me! Thanks again, **Dixie Trinen**

Dear Shepherdstown UMC, Thank you so much for all of the care packages, during this past semester. I really appreciate all of them! I am thankful that you cared to send these to me. **Alex Vollert**

We are so grateful for your donation of \$415.17 made on 12-6-17. Your support is deeply appreciated. Your gift will be used to further God's call to be the hands and feet of Christ here at mission Central. **Rob Visscher**

I want to express my gratitude for the generous gift you sent to Samaritan's Purse. Thank you for your partnership and for praying for this ministry. In all that we do around the world, we want to share God's love and the Good News. Merry Christmas, **Franklin Graham**

JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM

God loves the person who gives happily. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Are you still working on the perfect gift for someone? Christmas can be overwhelming when the quest for the gift removes the joy. The desire to impress someone else wars with the innate need for filling our hearts. Long after the gift is given and perhaps forgotten is the desire for a simple peace. Only God can fill that space and keep it filled. God is a lot more interested in our motive for giving than the gift itself. This blessed season is for reminding us that Christ is King - that He is the giver of every good thing. The best thing we can RETURN to him is a joyful heart. Remove the stress of perfect gift giving with a resolve to know Him and know peace.

Lord, I want to be a giver like You. I want to share my heart and my things with those that need them and I want to do it joyfully! I want you to be happy with my attitude and my giving. Abide with me. Amen.

Join the Prayer Team in joyous adoration of the King! Third Thursday of each month, 6:30P in the parlor. Come... **Deb Kenes**

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!

MISSION BASKETS IN THE COMING WEEKS

December 24SUMC Emergency Needs Fund
December 31Jacob Buterbaugh Eagle Scout
Project at Cumberland Vista, Dillsburg
January 7Domestic Violence Services, Cumb./Perry Co.
January 14.....Bethesda Mission

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

TodayBible Explorers
December 31LIFE Class
January 7Helping Hands
January 14..... Elective Class

BREWERS AND BAKERS FOR GATHERING GROUND

TodayKeith and Charlene Kapp
December 31Lori Weicht
January 7Volunteer Needed
January 14Volunteer Needed

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 \$1,047,060.00 worth of Giant cards with a profit to the church of \$52,353.00 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 – 94
Sunday School – 98
Late Worship – 189
Membership – 517

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

Last Sunday	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted	+ or (-)
\$10,092	\$479,758	\$460,002	\$19,756

Beacon Clinic Mission Offering- \$387.18
Capital/Special Projects & Related Expenses
Current Balance - \$38,811.29

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 12/31/2017 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

*** 24 Pat Finkenbinder,
*** 24 Pete Swartz,
*** 26 Eugene Hershey,
*** 27 Joyce 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
A 31 Scott and Darlene Lippert

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**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(12/24/17) –Merry Christmas!



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.



Jesus will always be the greatest gift given to us. We pray you and your family will capture the spirit of the Christmas season. Always remember to be that shining light, so that others may see Him in you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
-Janice & Charlene



JR. CHOIR NEWS...

1. 12/24- practice in Fellowship Hall- 6:15pm-6:45pm
2. 12/31- no practice
3. 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 24, 2017
"Fusion" Youth Ministries
Shawn Gray - Director
youth@shepherdstownumc.org / 570-460-8132

I hope that you are able to take some time away from the busyness that this time of year brings and remember that God loves you. So much so that God sent God's perfect son Jesus into a imperfect world to share with us perfect love. In everything we do this Christmas season may it be in the spirit of this Christ like love.

Happy Merry Christmas Eve!!!
(No Fusion Tonight)

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 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
February 2-4 – Zeteo
February 4 – No Fusion