

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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December 3, 2017

Morning Everyone!

As a child I never really understood my grandmother's comment about time. She would frequently say, "As you get older, time goes faster!" (maybe your grandmother said the same thing). I would think to myself, "That makes no sense. A minute is a minute, an hour is an hour, a day is a day, and a year is a year." One year is not faster or slower than another year." But, as I have gotten older, I now understand her perfectly. Although a year is still a year, somehow it does go faster!!!

So, here we are again. It has been a year, although it seems shorter. Today we begin a new Christian year. Advent is a time of preparing ourselves spiritually; leading to the great celebration of Christmas – the birth of Jesus. In the coming weeks and months we will once again tell and live the story of Jesus. We will marvel at his birth; we will rejoice in the coming of the Light into the world; we will journey with the disciples; we will remember and relive his passion from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday to Good Friday; we will praise God for his incredible and glorious Easter resurrection; we will experience the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost; and we will continue deepening our walk with Jesus through his miracles, parables, and lessons.

So, no matter how fast (or slow) time seems, we embark once again on this glorious, wonderful, awesome journey of faith – looking to Jesus as our Lord, Savior, Guide, and Travel Companion!

Embracing Jesus time.....

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



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Today is the day! We hope you can join us at 4pm and enjoy the efforts of your friends here at SUMC who have been practicing throughout November. Start Advent on the right note with some singing, laughing, fellowship and a reminder of

The
ABCs
of Christmas

what Christmas is all about. Special Music will begin at 3:45. The Program will kick off at 4pm, and will be immediately followed by dinner in the Fellowship Hall. The main menu is baked ziti, but mac & cheese, a taco casserole and some hot dogs are also available. In addition, there will be Italian bread, salad, applesauce, and ice cream! We hope you can join us!!!

TODAY'S BLUE CARNATION: Congratulations to Joshua and Emilie Matthews on the birth of their son, Layland Alexander Matthews, born November 24, 2017 at Harrisburg Hospital. Proud grandparents are Mark and Cathy Fauber.

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**

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, 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

Monday	Jeff and Ruth Gates
Tuesday	Kathy Gates
Wednesday	Bill and Adeline Gaydosh and family
Thursday	Alice Gibney
Friday	Randy and Betsy Gibney and family
Saturday	Dale Glacken

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Sunday, December 10Second Sunday in Advent
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

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Peter 1:13

In one of my daily messages, I read this really interesting story. It talked about scientists doing experiments with rats on how long they would survive before drowning in a high sided bucket of circulating water. The average time was 15 minutes. However, if the rats were saved right before giving up, they could be dried off, given a brief rest and put back in the same bucket of circulating water and survive for 60 HOURS! How is that possible? They concluded that the rat could continue because it was given HOPE. Wow! Hope is what the upcoming season is all about. God is hope. No matter how much pain and sorrow or unresolved conflict you have in your life, God is ready to reach for you, love you, rescue you, prepare a room for you in His mansion. Embrace this season of Hope. It's yours, it has your name on it.

Pray with the Prayer Team as we surrender ourselves. Third Thursdays of the month, in the Parlor, at 6:30P. Come...

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

TodayEcumenical Food Pantry
December 10Benevolent Homes
December 17Beacon Clinic
December 24SUMC Emergency Needs Fund

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

December 3LIFE Class
December 10Helping Hands
December 17Elective Class
December 24Bible Explorers

BREWERS AND BAKERS FOR GATHERING GROUND

TodayAnn Baer
December 10Hersh and Annetta Simington
December 17Jason and Robin Hall
December 24Keith and Charlene Kapp

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 \$1,043,320.00 worth of Giant cards with a profit to the church of \$52,166.00 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 – 62
 Sunday School – 99
 Late Worship – 153
 Membership – 517

SOS CHRISTMAS PARTY: On Thursday, December 7th, at 12:00 the Seniors of Shepherdstown will hold their annual Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall. The Grumpy Old Men Barbershop Quartet will present the program. The menu will be Roast Beef and all trimmings. The cost of the meal is \$11.00 per person. A sign-up sheet is posted on the SOS bulletin board in the upper hallway. Deadline to sign up is December 3, 2017.



Christmas Party

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

Last Sunday	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted	+ or (-)
\$6,736	\$447,129	\$432,943	\$14,187

United Methodist Student Day Mission Offering- \$358.18
Capital/Special Projects & Related Expenses
Current Balance - \$36,525.40

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 12/31/2017 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.

CHURCH HALLWAY CLOSURE ON DECEMBER 6: A contractor will be in the church this coming Wednesday to renovate the floor in the lower hall. While work is underway, the side door will be closed and there will be no access to the hall from the Children's Center and the Fellowship Hall. Please use the front door or the rear entrance to the Fellowship Hall to enter the church until the work is finished.

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

***** 3 Eric Trimmer,**
***** 3 Michael Trinen**
***** 3 Wayne McFadden**
***** 3 Cody Noss**
***** 4 Michele Kreitman**
***** 6 Carolyn Kell**
***** 7 Carla Bashore.**
A 7 Bob and Sue Carr,
***** 7 Deb Kenes**
A 8 Ron & Claire Gruver
***** 10 Omar Shute,**
***** 10 Rebecca Schaefer**
A 10 Ken and Helen Love

**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.

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 – 5th Grade



Today(12/3/17)-John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus (Mark 1:1-8)

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.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TODAY...

It is hard to believe the Christmas program is here. We are so excited to bring the message of Christ through the *ABC's of Christmas*. **It would be appreciated if all those in the show could be to the church by 3:30pm.** Also, remember dinner will follow the performance. **This is open to ALL attending the program.**



JR. CHOIR NEWS...

1. 12/3,12/10,12/17,12/24- 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. 12/9-5pm-8pm- Gingerbread House Making Fun- Dinner and Movie provided. Cost \$2 per child. Please sign up in Children's Center
2. 12/24- Christmas Eve services- 5pm, 7pm, 9pm



December 3, 2017
"Fusion" Youth Ministries
Shawn Gray - Director
youth@shepherdstownumc.org / 570-460-8132

This has been a jam-packed Christmas so far. With the Cookie Walk over and the Christmas Program tonight we have had quite a bit of Christmas already. But there can never be too much Christmas. Come out tonight and see the Christmas Program as I am sure it will be an amazing collection of talents being performed for all of you.

Tonight! Christmas Program!!!
No Fusion

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 3 – Christmas Program (No Fusion)
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