

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
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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 31, 2017

Good Morning Everyone!

"I hope you had a GREAT Christmas!" I have said that many times over the past week as I have greeted people; perhaps you have as well. As I think about it, there are many things that go into having a great Christmas. For me, family is one of those things. This Christmas, Joshua and Sarah were home, and we were able to spend time with the "Baer" family and the "Brown family." Time spent together is always special.

Gift giving and gift receiving is another one of those things that make Christmas great. Perhaps you too, when you go to get a gift, spend time thinking about that person to whom you are going to give the gift – what he/she is like, what he/she might need, what would be just the right thing to get and give him/her. Then, to see them unwrap the gift and the joy on their face as they discover what it is, is special as well. Being on the receiving end of a gift is just as special. The anticipation of what "it" is as the wrapping comes off, and then the enjoyment of discovering and appreciating the gift is special as well.

All of this is so special because we know behind and because of gift giving and gift receiving is God, who gave the greatest gift of all – Jesus. This is the gift we receive with great anticipation, discovery, and appreciation – for it is the gift that forever changes our lives. The gift of Jesus is what makes Christmas GREAT!!!

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

Beverly Wijas, Barbara Protas, Nicole Courtney, Shawn and Mollie Gray and family, Kevin and Kelly Morrison and family

TODAY'S PINK CARNATION: Congratulations to Kevin and Kelly Morrison on the birth of their daughter, Cassandra Harper Morrison, on December 24, 2017.

TODAY'S PINK CARNATION: Congratulations to Shawn and Mollie Gray on the birth of their daughter, Mercy Sofia Gray, on December 27, 2017.

NOTE OF THANKS: Thank you to my Shepherdstown Church Family for all their prayers and get well wishes in cards and food. Rev. Baer's visit was greatly appreciated. I feel better, but it is a long way back to full recovery. Millie Lerew

TODAY'S MISSION BASKET Supports Jacob Buterbaugh's Eagle Scout Project at Cumberland Vista. Located at 1073 York Rd. in Dillsburg, Cumberland Vista provides permanent housing to adults with special needs. Jacob's Eagle Project will be re-organizing their supply storage room, mechanical room, garage and outdoor storage shed by cleaning out the areas and then designing and building new shelving and storage areas, building steps for safety access, creating improved tool storage and conducting maintenance on their riding and push lawn mowers. Proceeds collected will go directly to the project with any extra funds donated to Cumberland Vista. Jacob will provide a report to SUMC when the project is finished in the Spring of 2018.

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 vegetables, fruit or meat, peanut butter, cooking oil, salt and pepper, powdered milk, catsup, pancake mix and syrup, dishwashing liquid and clothes washing detergent.** 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.**

CHURCH FAMILIES TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

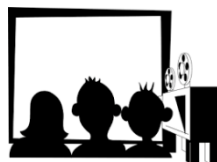
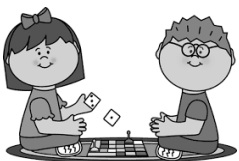
Monday	Al and Jeanie Hershey
Tuesday	Eugene Hershey
Wednesday	Jerry and Peggy Hinke
Thursday	Barry and Shirley Hixson
Friday	Sally Hoffman
Saturday	Ron and Doris Hofsass

THANKS TO FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEERS: Thank you to everyone who helped during our week of hosting Family Promise. Our meals were provided by Lynne Douty, Janice Deveney and Pearl Rinehart. Our greeters/evening hosts were JoAnn Kyper and Kathy Ries. Our overnight hosts were Kathy Ries, Ada Rhoads, Rich Dixon and JoAnn Kyper. Janeann Runkle washed the sheets and blankets. Thank you for monetary donations, as they are used to provide additional food and supplies during the week. If you have not volunteered in the past, please consider volunteering during our next hosting week (Feb. 11-18, 2018). Kathy Ries, Family Promise Volunteer Coordinator

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.



JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM

Last week I talked about the stresses of trying to find the perfect gift for someone. This week I want to share about my perfect gift(s).

I attended two Christmas Eve services last Sunday. The first was at First Church – the early service geared toward families. It was my home church for 60 years and my grandbabies go there for nursery school. It's a noisy service. The pastor there wears his cardigan and sits in a rocker next to a fireplace and window filled with light. The sanctuary ceiling is covered with stars. He invites the children to the altar as he tells the story of Jesus's birth. Young people act out the story as he tells it. The children were entranced as was I.

The second service was our second service and it was packed! It started out with a video that made me want to stand up and cheer called *At The Manager*. In fact, I did hoot and clap. The many scriptures were read perfectly by Colin Snyder who obviously was feeling their meaning. A healthier looking Pastor Tim (thank you, Jesus!) delivered a wonderful message. As I looked around at the many happy faces, I felt incredibly blessed to belong to this family of believers. I had received the perfect gift.

No one can walk this journey alone. I am praying that each member of this congregation keeps seeking the face of God and His purpose for you in the New Year. We need each other. We have each other to pray with and for. We have each other to laugh and cry with. Pray with the Prayer Team for a New Year filled with purpose, service, and love – the perfect gift(s). **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

TodayJacob Buterbaugh's Boy Scout Eagle
Project at Cumberland Vista, Dillsburg
January 7Domestic Violence Services, Cumb./Perry Co.
January 14.....Bethesda Mission
January 21Silence of Mary Home

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

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

BREWERS AND BAKERS FOR GATHERING GROUND

TodayLori Weicht
January 7Deb Kenes
January 14Volunteer Needed
January 21Ann Baer

GIANT CARD FUND RAISER UPDATE: Since October of 2001, we have sold \$1,048,650.00 worth of Giant cards with a profit to the church of \$52,432.50 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 Worship at 8:15 - 87
Late Morning Worship at 10:45 – 170
Sunday School – 96
Christmas Eve. 5:00 – 30
Christmas Eve. 7:00 – 347
Christmas Eve. 9:00 – 65
Membership – 517

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

Last Sunday	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted	+ or (-)
\$9,380	\$489,138	\$469,021	\$20,116

SUMC Emergency Needs Mission Offering- \$441.00
Capital/Special Projects & Related Expenses
Current Balance - \$39,322.79

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

A 31 Scott and Darlene Lippert,

JANUARY

- *** 1 Doyle Ivey,
- *** 1 Louise Henry,
- *** 1 Barbara Protas,
- *** 2 Sandra Loyer
- *** 2 Steve Runkle,
- *** 2 Jakub Thurstin
- ** 3 Destinee Richard
- *** 4 Pat Mayberry,
- *** 5 Judy Brandt
- * 6 Colin Snyder

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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(12/31/17) –What Gift Will You Give Jesus This Year?

Today is Family Sunday! There will be Children's Church for AGES 3yrs-5yrs. ONLY. 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. **The Elementary kids will worship with their families today.**



Every year brings new Hope, and new Possibilities. Remember, we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength. Phil 4:13
Happy New Year!



JR. CHOIR NEWS...

1. 12/31- no practice
2. 1/7- practice resumes-8:45am-9:25am

FLOCK NEWS: Upcoming Events:

Being a Light! Love God, Love Others, Serve All!

1. 12/31- Making crafts for Messiah Village-9:30-10:30am
2. 1/20- Churchwide Game Night- come enjoy time with friends
3. 1/21- Soup/Sub Orders Begin
4. 2/4- Soup/Sub Orders Due
5. 2/4- "SOUP"erbowl Sunday! Bring in those canned goods for New Hope
6. 2/10- Churchwide Movie Night
7. 2/11- Deliver Valentines to Messiah Village- 9:30am-10:30am



December 31, 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 may it be in the spirit of this Christ like love.

Happy New Year!!!
(No Fusion Tonight)

Next Sunday, January 7th from 3-7 pm, 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 31 – New Years Eve (No Fusion)
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
February 11 – Fusion Youth Group