

GIVING



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
AUSTIN, TX

2025/2026



A Message From Pastor Leon

Grace and Peace, Shepherd Family!

What an amazing year we have shared together! **Because you shared your gifts with our church family**, we have continued to **Love God and Love Everybody** in ways we could hardly have imagined. Our giving theme this year, **Broken and Shared**, reminded us of Jesus taking bread, breaking it, and sharing it—and how God can take what we offer and multiply it into something that nourishes, heals, and brings hope.

Your gifts made incredible church-wide mission projects possible, bringing our entire congregation together to serve our neighbors near and far. They helped us welcome more children to Vacation Bible School than we had in the previous two years combined! They nurtured our children and youth, strengthened families, deepened faith through classes and Bible studies, supported meaningful worship, and created countless opportunities for fellowship, connection, prayer, and care.

And God is still doing something new among us! This year we began the exciting journey of merging with Faith Presbyterian Church—bringing two congregations together and imagining how God might use our combined gifts, people, resources, and dreams for an even greater impact in Austin and beyond.

None of this happens without you. Every gift—large or small—becomes part of something bigger when it is **broken and shared**. Together, we have watched God take what we offer and turn it into ministry, community, compassion, and hope.

This report tells the story of what your generosity made possible this year. As you read it, I hope you feel gratitude for what we have accomplished together—and excitement for what comes next as we continue stumbling after Jesus, **Loving God and Loving Everybody**, here in Austin and around the world!

Counting it all Joy, Pastor Leon Bloder



Communications

[ABOUT ▾](#)[NEXT STEPS ▾](#)

**LOVE GOD.
LOVE EVERYBODY.**

This is the vision of Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church. It is that simple.

WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY @ 10AM

MEMBERS

YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US SHARE OUR MESSAGE

Our Online Reach Is Impressive!

- Last year, we averaged over **2,800** views **PER WEEK** on our social media posts, reels, and stories.
- Our weekly E-Blast has **655** subscribers and a **64%** open rate (about 30% higher than the industry standard).
- **640** people have downloaded our church app, and our website has had over **31,000** overall visits!
- Our YouTube channel published nearly **70** new videos last year, which received over **2,500** total views, averaging **40** views per video.

Worship



YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US WORSHIP TOGETHER IN ALL KINDS OF WAYS

Because we encounter God in different ways, we offer worship experiences that reflect this diversity and remind us that Christ meets us in our brokenness and in what we share. Together, we discover opportunities to encounter God face-to-face.

Each month, we worship through a variety of styles and expressions. Community Worship blends modern hymns with contemporary acoustic music. Worship with The Choir draws us to our Christian roots through liturgies, creeds, choral music, and traditional hymns. Worship with The Band brings playful worship through contemporary music. Contemplative Worship grounds us in prayer, creating space to offer our brokenness, share our lives, and listen together for God's still, small voice.



Worship Attendance

Average Number of In-Person Worshippers: **190**

Average Number of Online Worshippers: **100**

Christmas & Easter

Christmas Eve - **484** in person **160** online

Easter - **494** in person, **120** online

Worship at Shepherd is truly a unique experience. We offer four different styles of worship experiences throughout the year, providing our entire church family with the opportunity to worship in various ways.

It takes nearly all of our staff and a host of volunteers to make each worship service a fantastic and joyous occasion each week. Because of your generosity, we can do what most other churches would never dare to try!



We had **207** unique visitors attend worship at Shepherd last year!

We added **41** new members and baptized **EIGHT** children and **ONE** adult!

We have **515** active members.



Faith Formation

YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US GROW TOGETHER IN OUR FAITH

At Shepherd of the Hills, growing in faith is a lifelong journey. Thanks to your generosity, we offer a wide variety of opportunities to grow together. Our learning tracks—Biblical Studies, Theology, Christian Living, and Spirituality—invite us to explore God's Word, wrestle honestly with our questions, understand what we believe, learn to live our faith more fully, and deepen our relationship with God.

Faith grows when we break open our lives, questions, wisdom, and experiences and share them with one another. That's why we offer classes and Bible studies designed to deepen our understanding of God and discover the life God desires for us. Your generosity makes every class, every conversation, and every moment of discovery possible. Your gifts create spaces where questions are welcomed, wisdom is shared, and faith flourishes.

How Many?

We had **17** different classes last year, with **333** participants.

102 people took one of our **four** Enneagram classes, the most of any class we offered!



Without your shared gifts, we couldn't offer such a wide range of unique and amazing classes and faith formation opportunities. Our pastors, several of our staff members, and church leaders taught classes last year. From yoga to theology, bible studies to book studies, Enneagram and centering prayer, we had something for everyone!

More Awesomeness

We had great **LifeGroups** last year, starting with **FIVE** groups that met with a total of **70** participants.

We also had **12** participants from Shepherd attend the **Mission Presbytery Women's Retreat**.



Connect



YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US STAY CONNECTED AS A CHURCH

At Shepherd of the Hills, we believe real life and genuine faith are meant to be shared. Thanks to your generosity, we create spaces where people can show up as they are—bringing their joys and struggles, hopes and questions, brokenness and gifts—and find a community where they belong. We celebrate our diversity and strive to respect one another, even when we disagree. When we move beyond the surface and share life together, we discover that what unites us is far greater than what divides us.

Our Connect Groups & Events help us build those deeper relationships. Through small groups, service projects, shared meals, and events filled with laughter and joy, we break open our lives and share them with one another. Your generosity makes these connections possible, creating spaces where friendships deepen, faith grows, and nobody has to journey alone.



Holy Smokes!

At our Annual Holy Smokes/ Trunk or Treat event last year, **17** people sponsored a trunk, and we had **350** participants! We fed over **300** people some amazing BBQ smoked by our fantastic BBQ team!
AND
 At our Annual Chicken-Fest event, we had over **275** participants.

All The Ways We Connect

Last year, we had **35** people attend our annual Family Fun Day at John Knox Ranch.

Our We-Brews all-church gatherings averaged **20** people per event.

The average attendance at our She-Time women's gatherings was over **20** participants.

We had **150 participants** at our first annual Ice Cream Social and we had **EIGHT** homemade ice cream flavors made!



Thanks to your shared gifts, we were able to offer truly amazing events that helped our congregation connect more with one another. None of this happens without you!



Children's Ministry



YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US NURTURE OUR KIDS' FAITH

At Shepherd of the Hills, we believe every child is a precious gift from God. Thanks to your generosity, we create vibrant, age-appropriate, and interactive experiences that meet children right where they are. This past year, your gifts made joyful lessons, creative activities, and meaningful relationships possible—helping children explore their faith, grow closer to God, and discover the unique gifts God has given them. When we share what we have, God uses it to nurture something new. Your generosity helps our dedicated team welcome every child into a safe, loving environment where they can flourish. It also helps us partner with parents and guardians, providing resources and opportunities for families to learn, worship, and grow in faith together. Every smile, every prayer, every question, and every spark of wonder is part of a faith being formed. Through the gifts you share, you are helping children discover that they are loved by God, surrounded by community, and invited to share their own gifts with the world.



This Many

We experienced an uptick in attendance at our Sunday morning kids' programs!

This year we averaged over **17** at Wonder Junction and Upstreet.

We had **four** staff members and **28** volunteers serve in leadership roles for our children's programs.

Lots of Kids' Stuff

Last year, we gave out **SIX** 3rd Grade Bibles. We welcomed **THREE** new babies to the fold. We had **SEVEN** participants in our Bible Navigators Class.

We gave out **95** backpack tags for our Blessing of the Backpacks!

There were nearly **75** people at our Holiday Hoorah celebration, and we welcomed almost **100** people to our Playground Pizza Parties!

There were **54** participants at Vacation Bible school **68%** of them were nonmembers, and there were **10** for last year's Splash Bash.



Thanks to your shared gifts, our kids and families have a safe, welcoming space to belong, grow in faith, share meals, and have fun together. Your giving makes every step of faith and friendship possible!



Youth Ministry



YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US HAVE A VIBRANT YOUTH GROUP

Like our church, the SHPC Youth Ministries' vision is simple and powerful: *Love God & Love Everybody*. We live that vision by creating a place where young people can bring their whole selves—their joys and struggles, gifts and broken places—and discover that they are loved, valued, and never alone. Thanks to your generosity, every young person has a place at the table.

Week after week, students and families gather around that table. We break bread. We share meals. We share stories. We share laughter, questions, struggles, faith, and life. And in those moments, something sacred happens. What is broken and shared becomes the foundation of genuine community. Young people discover that faith isn't about having everything figured out; it's about following Jesus together and trusting that God can take what we offer and make it more than enough.



Let's Count

Last year, we averaged **7** High Schoolers at our weekly meetings and **17** Middle Schoolers!

We also had **15** volunteers serve in our Youth Ministry last year!

Here's More Numbers

We had **10** students and **3** adult sponsors attend the Fall Retreat at John Knox Ranch in 2024

We had **12** students attend the 2025 MidWinter Youth Conference (Spring Youth Conference at Mo-Ranch)

At our 2025 Confirmation Spring Retreat, **11** students attended.

We had **13** students attend Summer Camps: JKR Camp: **12** students; KinDom Camp: **1** student



Youth & Mission

Mexico Mission Trip: 3 students.

2024 Guatemala Mission Trip: 2 students

Angel Tree: 11+ students participated

2024 Souper Bowl of Caring: Each week on average, **16** students.





Prime Time Ministry

YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US OFFER FELLOWSHIP & CONNECTION TO THOSE SEEKING MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY

Prime Time is a community of active adults who know that some of life's greatest gifts are meant to be shared. Through fellowship, learning, laughter, and adventure, they bring together a lifetime of stories, wisdom, experiences, and faith. When we break open our lives and share what we have learned along the way, we discover that every season of life has something meaningful to offer.

That spirit of Broken and Shared extends far beyond Prime Time itself. The friendships they nurture, the wisdom they offer, the joy they bring, and the ways they serve enrich our entire congregation. They remind us that God continues to work through us at every age and every stage of life. Your generosity helps make this vibrant community possible. Your gifts create opportunities for connection, belonging, adventure, and purpose—places where stories are shared, friendships deepen, and life is celebrated together.



More Numbers

Last year we averaged **20** participants for all of our many **Prime Time Gatherings!**

These included Coffee & Convos, Film Discussions, Lunch & Dinner Gatherings, Day trips, and so much more!

A lot Happened Last Year

Our Mary/Martha Circle gatherings routinely averaged **25 or more** participants. They included some amazing seasonal parties, such as our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons, which also drew our Association of Retired Christian Men's group.

We also had nearly **29-plus** participants in groups like our Men's and Women's Book Clubs, and our Quilting Group (who make our prayer shawls and provide donations of baby blankets to single moms)



Thanks to your shared gifts, we can offer exceptional events, programs, and affinity groups for our Prime Time members. Without your generous donations, we couldn't have such a thriving, excellent ministry!

Young Adult Ministry



YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US CREATE REAL COMMUNITY FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults at SHPC is a thriving community built around a simple truth: life is better when it is shared. Open to adults ages 21–35, this is a place where people can bring their whole selves—their hopes and questions, joys and struggles, faith and uncertainty—and know there is a place for them. Through social gatherings, game nights, worship, retreats, and shared moments at local Austin breweries, young adults are building relationships that go deeper than the surface. They are breaking open their lives and sharing them with one another, discovering that God often meets us through authentic friendship and community. That is what Broken and Shared looks like: offering what we have and who we are, trusting that God can use it to create something beautiful. Your generosity creates opportunities for young adults to find belonging, deepen their faith, build lasting friendships, and navigate life together.



Also This!

There are **41** active members of our Young Adult Group! Many members may also invite friends and coworkers to attend events.

We averaged **16** participants per event over the **14** events we held last year!

But Wait, There's More!

Last year, we had **TWENTY** young adults attend our annual Young Adult Retreat at John Knox Ranch!

Our “Who Created God” Class is created and led by three of our young adult leaders and averages **20-plus** participants ages 23-83.

One of our young adults, Noah Killeen, serves as an Elder, and several serve as volunteers in Youth Ministry, Greeters, Choir, and Communion Prep!

The annual Young Adult Murder Mystery Event had nearly **40** participants last year!



Because of your shared gifts, we can provide staff and resources to minister to Young Adults, something most churches are not able to do. This commitment to providing space for young adults truly could not happen without your help.



Missions



YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US LOVE GOD & LOVE EVERYBODY OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH

At Shepherd of the Hills, our mission is simple yet profound: Love God, Love Everybody—in Austin and around the world. We follow the example of Jesus, who entered into the broken places of people's lives, met them where they were, and shared God's love through compassion, presence, healing, and hope. That is the heart of Broken and Shared. We do not turn away from the brokenness of our world; we enter into it together. We share our resources, our time, our compassion, and ourselves.

And along the way, we discover that mission is never simply about what we give to others. When we share lives, we form relationships, strengthen communities, and transform ourselves too. From local outreach to global partnerships, your generosity makes this work possible. Every meal served, every need met, every relationship formed, and every life touched begins with someone willing to share.



Guatemala Partnerships

Last year we commissioned **50** participants to serve in **FOUR** different service areas in Guatemala: *Medical, Orphanage (Hogar), San Bartolome School, and Water Team*

In addition, SHPC members are sponsoring **17** Children at the Hogar.

Our **Guatemala Solar** partnership continues to grow: **8** participants installed **10** solar panel systems on homes in Tzampoj, Solola



Unhoused Outreach

Mobile Loaves & Fishes

We conducted **24** truck runs
WITH A TOTAL OF **192**
VOLUNTEERS!

Street Youth Ministry

20 volunteers
participated in person
alongside SYM, and
another **20** served as
prayer partners.



Mexico Mission

Last year, we continued our partnership with **Ministerio de Fe in Mexico** by sending a crew to build a home

11 persons built one home in Reynosa, and we sponsored **3** children's education costs!

Williams Elementary

Last year, through our Kids Hope partnership, we had **11** mentors meeting regularly with students.

We supported teachers and staff through staff appreciation parties, end-of-year parties, and holiday parties for the community at Williams ES, with help from **15** volunteers.

We are also sponsoring a food pantry at Williams for families facing food insecurity. Donors raised over **\$30,000** for this project last year!

Also through our Souper Bowl of Caring annual event, we raised **\$5,061** for food insecurity for Williams' families and received **2,270** donated food items.

Senegal Mission Trip

Last year, **SIX** participants traveled to Senegal, Africa, to visit our mission partners in three remote villages where we work together to meet the needs of the villagers and churches..

Participants toured the villages, met with pastors and village elders, worked at a one-day medical clinic that served many surrounding villages, visited churches, and visited a local Kids Club that serves over **100** children each week.



More Local Stuff

Freeze Nights

Through the Oak Hill Alliance of Churches, **8** volunteers served at our local Freeze Night program for unhoused neighbors.

Manos de Cristo

We averaged **50+** food bags per month (\$25 a bag) to help address food insecurity. **600+ BAGS WERE FILLED LAST YEAR!** Also, **80** members bought **145** tamales to support Manos de Cristo!

Presbyterian Children's Home & Services

45 volunteers prepared Book Buddy personal libraries for Children in PCHAS. **105** kids got a bag of books!



San Antonio Family Service Trip

Our partnership with Divine Redeemer Presbyterian and House of Neighborly Service drew **TWENTY-ONE** participants of all ages to the West Side of San Antonio to help repair homes for senior residents!

How Much Did We Spend On Missions?

Because of you, last year we were able to spend over \$369,302 on Missions.

Meals On Wheels

100 boxes at \$40 each were donated, totaling \$ 4,000 in-kind donations

Angel Tree Project

114 gifts for 75 children in 34 families, plus \$1000 in gift cards and \$820 in cash contributions with two delivery volunteers. Total approximately \$8000

Williams Elementary

We supported teachers, Kids Hope and also students and their families as well as a food pantry: \$15,611

Africa

Manyamula & Senegal (includes Senegal trip costs and Malawi grain grinder) \$51,775

Guatemala

We supported our partners, solar projects, water projects, medical team, and more. Total Guatemala: \$200,382

Mexico

Between supporting our partners and trip costs: \$16,247

John Knox Ranch
\$2,500

Refugee Collective
\$2,000

PCHAS
\$3,756

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
\$2965

Souper Bowl of Caring
\$5,061

Mobile Loaves & Fishes
\$6,000

*American Gateways
\$10,000

*Kin-dom Community
\$6,800

*SAFE ALLIANCE
\$5,000

*Dripping Springs Helping Hands
\$5,650

*Sleep In Heavenly Peace \$10,000

** From the Caring Forever Endowment*

Also All These

Mission Presbytery - \$18,000

Disaster Relief - \$2,232

San Antonio Family Service
Trip - \$1,796

Street Youth Ministry
\$2,700

Some More Numbers That Are Awesome

What was the total dollar amount of above-and-beyond, non-budgeted mission giving?

\$200,172

What was the total dollar amount of above-and-beyond, non-budgeted ministry giving? **\$64,501**

What was the total dollar amount of gifts that were given to the Preschool? **\$21,204**

Property Upgrades

2 ACs were replaced in the Education wing and the Office. Total: \$20,000

Roofing and Gutters: Replaced the roofs on the Adult Building and Youth Building, and installed new gutters on all buildings. Total: \$50,079



We have an incredibly generous congregation, and are so grateful for all of the monetary donations and volunteer hours that went into making all of this possible!

What We Received

Total Revenue: \$1,910,353
Donations: \$1,242,301
Program Income: \$364,663
Investment Income: \$285,669
Miscellaneous: \$17,720



Belong

YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US WORK TO INCLUDE EVERYONE

At Shepherd of the Hills, we believe the church should feel like home—a place where everyone knows there is room at the table. Our Belong Team helps make that vision real, welcoming people, helping them find their place, and creating spaces where everyone is valued and included. Broken and Shared reminds us that we come as we are, bringing our stories, gifts, questions, joys, and struggles—and discover belonging when we share life together. Your generosity makes this possible, helping us turn Love God, Love Everybody from something we say into something people experience every week.

Key Events Last Year: *Austin Pride Parade, Native American History Month commemorated in worship, Screening of “1946”—movie*



Pastoral Care

YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US CARE FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Deacons, Stephen Ministers, and Pastoral Care Team do a fantastic job of caring for congregants in need through visits, cards, calls, companionship, and so much more.

LAST YEAR OUR CARE TEAMS DID THE FOLLOWING:

460 Care Calls

33 Visits

402 Cards Sent

21 Grief books sent to members who lost a loved one.

4 Memorial services where the Deacons provided food and support.

4 prayer shawls were handed out to those going through challenging times.

23 meals were delivered by our Meal Team to church members in need.

SHPC PRESCHOOL



YOUR SHARED GIFTS HELP US PROVIDE AFFORDABLE PRESCHOOL FOR OUR COMMUNITY

For forty years, Shepherd of the Hills Preschool has been a place where little ones can learn, play, grow, and discover just how loved they are. Every day, our teachers create a warm and nurturing environment where children are encouraged to explore the world around them, build friendships, and take those important first steps in learning.

Your generosity helps make this special ministry possible. Because of your support throughout the year, we can continue providing families in our community with affordable, high-quality preschool care filled with kindness, encouragement, and love.

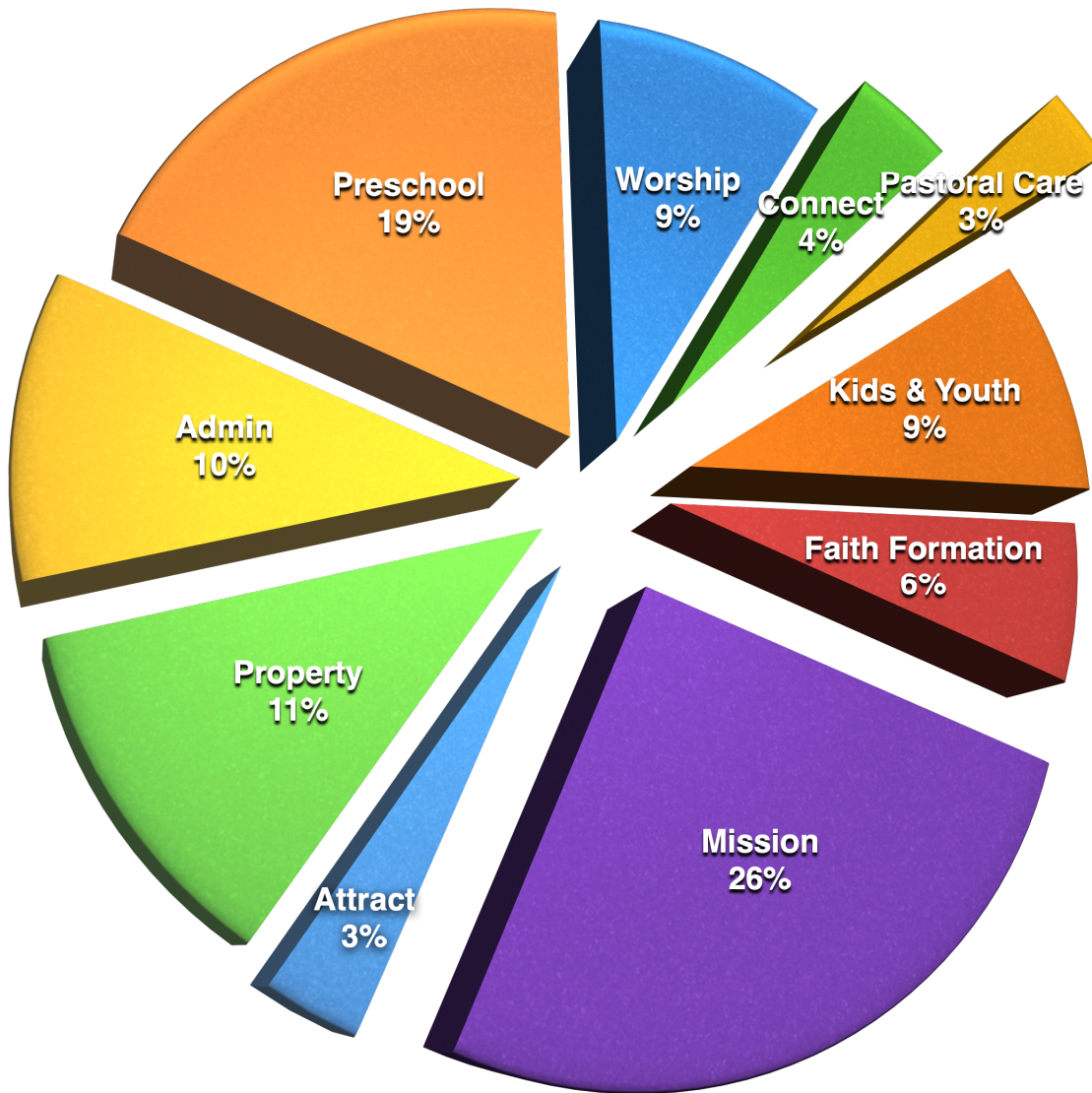
Number of Students Enrolled: 47

Number of Teachers: 10

Major Projects This Year: The Preschool paid for the annual inspection of our fire extinguishers and fire pull system and provided maintenance for all classrooms.

Here's How We Spent Your Gifts Last Year

● Worship ● Connect ● Pastoral Care ● Kids & Youth ● Faith Formation ● Mission ● Attract
 ● Property ● Admin ● Preschool



Total Expenditures: \$1,727,685

Worship: \$165,508	Children & Youth: \$157,888	Attract: \$51,931	Preschool: \$324,974
Connect: \$74,074	Faith Formation: \$100,536	Property \$194,518	
Pastoral Care \$29,950	Mission: \$444,325	Admin: \$166,872	

All of these figures include the staff allocations within them. Staff members allocated percentages of their time to various areas last year, and so the percentage of salaries have been included in these numbers to show the real expense per area.

Love God.
Love Everybody.



We Believe In the Power of Love. Period.

Through love, we are each created in God's image and filled with the divine spirit. No matter where we are on our journey, God's imprint is in **every person of every race/ethnicity, every culture, every religion, every gender and gender identity, every socio-economic status, every ability and disability, every sexual orientation, and every political ideology**



Shepherd of the Hills

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