



VILLAGE CHAPEL  
PRESBYTERIAN

## “THE VILLAGER” – JUNE 26, 2025

### A SUMMER SERMON SERIES ON DIFFICULT TEXTS!

Barbara Brown Taylor once surprised her students at the McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta with a class called “Preaching Difficult Texts”. (No sleeping through that class, I’ll bet!)

In imitation, a group of VC members gathered on Sunday after church to discuss what those difficult texts might be. We came up with more than we could include in a six week series, which should tell you a lot about how difficult the Bible can be! (Most are not passages that the lectionary would not touch with a ten foot pole!) Still, we will make a start on July 20th, addressing topics such as “What Is Scripture?”, “Killing in the Bible”, “The Problem of Judas”, “Paul Regarding Women”, “Bowls of Wrath in Revelation”, and “Grace/Faith vs. Works”

Taylor writes, “*Since we are not used to hearing these difficult texts, our ears have no calluses on them. When we engage them, we are not protected from them by layers of interpretation. It is often up to us to wrestle them on our own!*”

As part of the Reformed Tradition, we are not afraid of wrestling with scripture, or asking hard questions. We believe in a BIG God, one who is certainly able to handle any questions we bring! So come to this series with curiosity but not fear: come as we engage scripture as a community of faith: and, by all means, come knowing that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God! And if you think this is a series that your friends and neighbors might be interested in, invite them to join us—in person or online!

After church on July 6th, the entire congregation is invited to stay for a discussion of the future of the church — what will it take to sustain us for another 25 years so we can celebrate our 100th?



### WORSHIP NOTES



Join us in person or virtually for worship during June and July

June 29		1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
July 6		2 Kings 5:1-14
July 13	Guest preacher Cherrie Sizemore	
July 20	Difficult Texts: What Is Scripture?	Selected verses from Leviticus 11, 19, & 18
July 27	Difficult Texts: Killing in the Bible?	Exodus 32:1-4, 15-16, 25-29 vs. Judges 11:29-40

### MISSIONARY MAIL

Sonia and Steve Dettweiler, who serve in Nigeria with SIL (a strategic partner with Wycliffe Bible Translators), have sent us greetings! Sonia grew up in the church from 1968-72 and made her profession of faith here. They also sent a book—***Language in the Mission of God*** which details the role of language in Christian faith and practice. A copy is in the library. You may contact them at [Sonia.dettweiler@gmail.com](mailto:Sonia.dettweiler@gmail.com) or 2006 College Ave., Anderson, SC 29621

### ONC BEGINS TO WORK

The Officer Nominating Committee will meet for the first time on the 29th to try and discern who God might be calling to serve as an elder in the class of 2028.



You can help by making suggestions via the insert or contacting elders Tara or Kelsey.

### Ukraine:

beyond the headlines,  
an expert panel discussion

June 28, 2025  
7 PM Alchemy Theater  
68 Holley Ave. Huntington

For more information, contact  
John Yeager 304-360-1198  
or [sunflowerseedstristate.com](http://sunflowerseedstristate.com)



## SUMMER GIVING



Summer is traditionally time for taking vacations... but the expenses of the church do not stop.

Giving through the end of June has been good! We are grateful for everyone who gave what they pledged during the first six months of the year! Some have given a little extra and others gave their whole pledge to start the year. That has allowed us to continue all the ministry of the church!

**Please keep faithfully giving!**

## COFFEE & CONVERSATION

If you are in the habit of attending Sunday School, what will you do for theological reflection, fellowship, and Bible study during the months your class is on recess?

Come to **Coffee & Conversation** Sundays, 10 AM, in the Library & on Zoom.



## BACKPACKS FOR BOOKWORMS

The Service committee will sponsor the annual "Backpacks for Bookworms!" We will begin collecting backpacks in mid-July.



The committee is asking the congregation to bring backpacks with tissues, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, water bottle with a snap top for refills, notebooks...

For more information, contact Sarah Gottlieb at: 304-345-4417 [mamasan41@hotmail.com](mailto:mamasan41@hotmail.com) or Heather Barry at 304-539-4949 [heatherhatcherbarry@gmail.com](mailto:heatherhatcherbarry@gmail.com).

## PAY IT FORWARD

Save the date! Pay-it-Forward 2025 will be on Saturday October 18th! Don't get rid of household items! Save them for Pay-it-Forward!



If you need items picked up prior to October, please reach out to Sarah Gottlieb (345-4417) or Heather Barry (539-4949).



## MISSION PROJECT

VCPC members and friends are invited to contribute to our Arts Camp Mission Project in support of WV Ministry of Advocacy and Work-camps. **These items are always needed for their work: 2.5" and 3" decking screws, speed squares, tape measures, and work gloves.** See more info at: [wvministry.org](http://wvministry.org). Donations may be left in Sockman Fellowship Hall any time from now to June 30.

# Out of Office

VCPC friends,

I'll be on vacation and study leave  
June 27 through August 3.

Rick & Debbie Hanna and Vicki Cunningham will take care of streaming worship services on Sunday, and Leslie will be doing the weekly software setup.

Everything else can wait till August, and I'll be glad to see you then!

*-Amy Parker*

## Arts Camp for Grownups!

### THURSDAY, 6/26, 6:30 PM

Mosaic Bricks, Salt Dough Medallions, Painting Rocks, Rock Pic Holders,



## WORSHIP IN THE PARK 2025





# ARTS CAMP 2025





PRAYER CHAIN

An important part of our caring for each other is the **Prayer Chain**. Please let **Betsy White** ([betsywhite06@yahoo.com](mailto:betsywhite06@yahoo.com)) know of any prayer concerns you may have. You may also contact Leslie Bremar in the church office (**304-925-7265** or [leslie@vcpresby.org](mailto:leslie@vcpresby.org)). Leslie will direct your prayer request to Betsy. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain, please contact the office.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS ON THESE DATES:

JULY

- 1 Teresa Lawlor

2 Bruce Lawson

3 Lisa Lawson

4 Noah Lawson

5 Josie Lawson

6 Mike LeMaster

7 Joyce LeMaster

8 Becky Lippitt

9 Jeanne MacDonald

10 Joan Mansell

11 Peter Markham

12 Tara Markham

13 Addison Markham

14 Paul Markham

15 Susie Matulis
- 16 Steve Matulis

17 Cathy McClung

18 Mike McClung

19 Brian Misiti

20 Mary Ruth Misiti

21 Sarah Misiti

22 Steve Murray

23 Sherry Murray

24 Joan Myers

25 Gerald Nottingham

26 Harriet Nottingham

27 Don Parker

28 Amy Parker

29 David Parks

30 Heather Parks

31 Kristen Parks

COMMON GROUNDS TOILET PAPER REQUEST

We so appreciate your dedication in donating toilet paper!

We are adjusting how we would like to continue this mission, and ask that in future you provide monetary donations for the purchase of toilet paper because we are able to buy in bulk at a lower cost.

We will have a box for donations at the back of the church that looks a lot like a toilet roll, or you can put it in the offering plate designating it for the purchase of toilet paper.



NURTURING FAITH IDEAS



I have a plant on my desk that came with clear instructions on how to nurture it — optimum sunlight, water, and temperature. ‘Wouldn’t it be nice to have similar information to help us nurture our own faith ... or that of our children or grandchildren? Well, the Presbytery of WV is providing weekly ideas for nurturing faith.

June 29: Third Sunday after Pentecost

Read Galatians 3:22-25  
The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These aren’t many fruit among many; we don’t get to pick and choose which we want to do most. Led by the Spirit, our lives are to reflect all of these. Which aspects do you celebrate most in yourself; which aspect do you need to ask the Spirit to help you with?

July 6: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Galatians 6:7-10  
In this passage, we are encouraged to keep doing what is right and working for the good of all. What are some things you could do this week that would help people? Make a list of at least three things and do them.

July 13: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 10:25-37  
When the lawyer wanted to know exactly who his neighbor was that he was to love, Jesus told the Story of the Good Samaritan, where the one considered “enemy” and “foreigner” was the one who stopped to help. Who is someone you know, who may be different from you, that needs to know they are cared for and loved? Consider what you might do to help them and then do it.

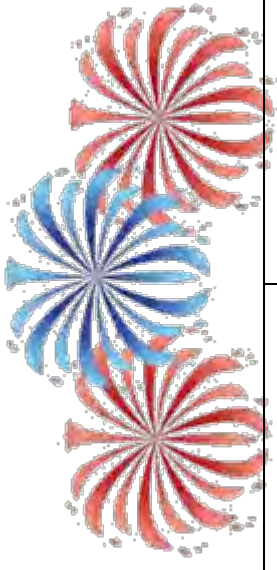
July 20: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost


Read Luke 10:38-42  
When Jesus visited, Mary took the time to sit at his feet and listen to what he said; Martha was focused on her tasks, perhaps she was trying to get a meal ready for all of them. Jesus pointed out the importance of spending time in his presence. Are you more like Mary or Martha? Take some time to focus on Jesus today; take a walk, read a book, play music, be silent, pray, whatever makes you aware of Jesus’ presence with you.

July 27: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Read Psalm 138  
God wants us to praise God with all our heart. That is a lot of praising! Cut out a heart from a piece of paper then fill up the heart with words and phrases that tell of the wonderful things you believe about God. Tape the heart up somewhere where you will see it all week, reminding you to praise God with all your heart.

STATISTICAL REPORT	6/22/25	6/15/25	6/8/25	6/1/25	5/25/25
In-Person Attendance	47	40	54	45	45
Non-Pledged	\$120	\$0	\$25	\$565.73	\$195
Pledged Contribution	\$1,240	\$1,040	\$6,105	\$4,272	\$1,020
Miscellaneous Income	\$118	\$753.91	\$124	\$195	\$417.42
Total Contributions	\$1,478	\$1,743.91	\$6,254	\$5,032.73	\$1,632.42



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4  OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 10 AM Coffee & Conversation 11 AM Worship	7 10:30 AM Bridge	8	9 7:30 AM Rotary Club 7 PM Stewardship Team Meeting	10	11 7 PM NA Group	12
13 10 AM Coffee & Conversations 11 AM Worship 12 PM Fellowship Time	14 10:30 AM Bridge	15	16 7 PM Session Meeting	17	18 7 PM NA Group	19 12 PM Devon Quilters
20 10 AM Coffee & Conversations 11 AM Worship	21 10:30 AM Bridge	22	23 7:30 AM Rotary Club	24 Newsletter	25 7 PM NA Group	26
27 10 AM Coffee & Conversations 11 AM Worship	28 10:30 AM Bridge	29	30	31		
July Birthdays: 5 - John Hawley, 7 - Sharon Richardson, 8 - Dreama White, Isaac Forman, 10 - Krista Stover, 11 - Beth Haddock, 12 - Rachel Chambers, Shannon Bland, 13 - Paul Markham, 14 - Erin Chiparo, 15 - Sawyer Stover, 17 - Riley Haddock, 19 - Terry Hickernell, 23 - Cindy Sloan, 24 - Sheila Danzer, 26 - Cindy Hanna, Terra Markham, 28 - John France, 30 - Eva Falbo, Terri Rader						