



VILLAGE CHAPEL
PRESBYTERIAN

"THE VILLAGER" – JULY 28, 2022

THRIVING CONGREGATIONS

We recently received an invitation to be part of a new initiative offered by Montreat called Thriving Congregations. Here was the pitch:



What is a thriving church?

Booming + burgeoning + developing + flourishing + growing + healthy + prosperous + robust

Most churches want to be described by these words.

*But we live in a time when the church might seem relegated to the bench: a diminished community institution surviving in a facility built for [yesterday]. Individuals and churches are facing complicated questions of mission, vitality, diversity, community and more. And because these issues vary from church to church and community to community, there's no template ... One thing is clear: congregations need tools for unlocking their power to make a difference in their communities. In a polarized, pandemic-ridden, war-worried culture, a sharp focus borne out of deep community listening can shift a congregation into **thriving**.*

Montreat's Thriving Congregations Cohorts are about this work!

Thanks to a five-year grant from the Lilly Endowment, Montreat Conference Center is forming cohorts of ten to fifteen church teams per year to identify how community and congregational thriving can be linked. Each church brings its own team of 4-6 people, including their pastor. Together, teams learn the skills of what community organizing means to a church in a community and beyond.

The Cohort works together in a two-year commitment, meeting in Montreat every six months for two days at a time. Between the visits to Montreat for the larger cohort, Tim Conder and Dan Rhodes, co-founders of The Black Mountain School, coach the local church teams and conduct site visits. They will work to thicken relationships with in churches and thin the boundaries between the church and the surrounding community.

Presbyterians are about being reformed and reforming. This process is that! Examining who we are, who our churches are in the community and all while listening to each other and God, listening for who God wants us to be, where and to what God is calling us.

The Session was excited by the possibilities of what this program could mean to our church! We responded and have been included in the cohort that will begin in October! At their August meeting, the Session will begin the process of putting together our team!

WORSHIP NOTES

You are invited to prepare for worship during July and August by reflecting on these scriptures:

- July 31 Guest preacher Nellie Howard
- Aug. 7 Communion Jeremiah 32: 16-25
- Aug. 14 Daniel 9:3-19
- Aug. 21 Job 42:1-6 (end of sermon series on Great Prayers of the Old Testament)
- Aug. 28 Luke 14:1, 7-14



Copies of Todd's sermon are available on the church's website: www.vcpresby.org

ONC UPDATE

The full ONC has begun their work! They have received suggestions for elder from the congregation and have begun discerning who God might be calling to serve the church. (They are still open to suggestions – just contact one of the ONC members: Rona and Jeff Smith, Paula Bland, Sheila Danzer, Lynn Gunnoe, Rick Hanna, and Sarah Gottlieb.)



The goal is to have a slate of four elders to present to the congregation by the first Sunday in September. That will be followed by a congregational meeting on the 18th where the congregation will vote. **Keep them in your prayers!**

MONEY AVAILABLE FOR TEXTBOOKS

Thanks to a grant from the Skaggs fund, we have \$500 total available to help our college/grad students defray the expenses for textbooks.) If you are interested, please contact Leslie (lbremar@vcpresby.org) by August 1st.

We are postponing the August prayer walk!

It turns out that August is a busy month with lots of special events planned for Saturdays. As a result, we will wait and do the next prayer walk on September 24th.



Blood Drive!

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 27th
9 AM - 2PM**

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES

Please let the church office know your college addresses so we can keep in touch! Leslie@vcpresby.org



BACKPACK MISSION

Again this year the members of Village Chapel will donate backpacks to Mary Ingles Elementary School and Piedmont Elementary for children who are in need of assistance. This service project is easy and brings great joy to these young children!

Choose a backpack and fill with children's needed school supplies to include (but not limited to):

- Notebooks** **Folders**
- Pencils** **Colored pencils**
- Erasers** **Rulers**
- Loose leaf paper** **Glue (sticks or bottled).**

You may choose to add special items such as

- Hand Sanitizer** **Child-sized Masks**
- Tissues** **Simple Snacks**

or *anything else* you think a child would appreciate as they begin their school year!

Return the filled backpacks to the church by August 21st!

Thank you for caring and sharing your blessings with the children in our community.

PAY-IT-FORWARD

Pay It Forward Donations now being accepted will be stored in the house next door till the October 1st event.

Great Prayers of the OT

What makes a prayer "great"?

We've considered that for a total of five weeks in five very different prayers based on a book by Professor Walter Brueggemann. We just have three more prayers to look at:



8/7 Jeremiah 32:16-25 *a prophet prays for understanding*

8/14 Daniel 9:3-19 *Daniel prays for the people (a corporate confession)*

8/21 Job 42:1-6 *Job prays in wonder*

We hope these great prayers enrich your prayers!

Back 2 School Prayer for Kids

Dear Lord, use my eyes to **SEE** new friends.

Open my ears to **HEAR** my teachers.

Open my mind to **LEARN** new things.

Let my heart **REMEMBER** YOU are near when I'm afraid.

Help me to **LOVE** others like You do.

I want to **SHINE** Your light so bright in my school.

Amen



Dear Village Chapel,

Thank you all so much for such a lovely graduation Sunday, and the personalized Bible! The slideshow was amazing!



I'm happy to call VC a home! It is a place I can go and feel nothing but love and kindness! Growing up in the church and the people in it have helped mold me into the person I am today!

VC is full of so many happy memories and positive roll models!

Thank you VC for all that you have done for me!

Love, Noah Lawson



In order to use up some carry-over vacation days this summer, I'll be working only on Sundays and Tuesdays until August 16.

After that I will resume my regular Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday schedule (20 hrs/wk). – Amy



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? Through the rest of August, come to

COFFEE & CONVERSATION Sundays, 10 AM, In the Library & on Zoom

STATISTICAL REPORT	7/24/22	7/17/22	7/10/22	7/3/22	6/26/22
In-Person Worship Attendance	36	40	49	24	37
Non-Pledged	\$20	\$120	\$220	\$190	\$ 115
Pledged	\$1,375	\$2,658	\$1,915	\$7,776.03	\$2,275
Miscellaneous Income	\$48	\$131.91	\$222.23	\$240	\$0
Total Contributions	\$1,443	\$2,909.91	\$2,357.23	\$8,206.03	\$2,390



Please remember the following people in your prayers on these dates:

AUGUST

1 Barbara Smith	18 Joan Thompson
2 Maddy Smith	19 Nancy Trotter
3 Baily Smith	20 Keri Velasco
4 Ellen Ann Sockman	21 Rodrigo Velasco
5 Jule Sockman	22 Gavin Jones
6 Roger Sockman	23 Callie Jones
7 Rita Sockman	24 Luca Velasco
8 Marshall Spradling	25 Gaby Velasco
9 Tonja Parsons	26 Mia Velasco
10 Charlies Stebbins	27 Sharon Waggy
11 Sarah Stebbins	28 Daniel Walker
12 Alatheia Stickler	29 John Walker
13 Nathan Stickler	30 Rose Ann Walker
14 Samuel Stickler	31 Matthew Walker
15 Joey Stonestreet	
16 Brendan Stump	
17 Barbara Tabaretti	



An important part of our caring for each other is the **Prayer Chain**.

Please let **Betsy White** (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). Leslie will direct your prayer request to Betsy.

If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain, please contact the office.

Toilet Paper Donations Needed!

As part of Village Chapel's Ministry to Common Grounds, we donate toilet paper for those less fortunate. The Presbyterian Women have set the second Sunday of every month the official donation Sunday for toilet paper. You can just bring your donation with you to Church and place it in the specified area at the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

CARDS FOR MEMBERS



We may not be able to check the prayer display in the fellowship hall each week, but we can send cards out to let each other know we are thinking of and praying for one another! We encourage you to take a peek at the prayers section of the bulletin each week or the prayer section in the left column and send a card to someone. Our Village might be socially distancing but hearts and prayers are still with each of you!



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.

July 31 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost:

Read Luke 12:13-21

"Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Choose some of your money or a possession and give it away to someone who needs it. Praise God that you are able to give away some of what you have.

August 7- Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:

Read: Genesis 15: 1-6

God promised Abram an heir and descendants as numerous as the stars. His lineage continues with people of all ages. This is also College and Young Adult Sunday. Honor these individuals in your life and your church's life.

August 14 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost:

Read Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19

"Call your strength into action. Come and save us." This Psalmist asks for deliverance from the ills they have brought upon themselves. What will you do to save yourself from bringing ills upon you?

August 21 - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost:

Read Hebrews 12: 18-29

"But you have come to Mount Zion. You have come to the city of the living God." In receiving this city of God, we need to offer acceptable worship with reverence and awe. Reflect upon what that looks like for you.

August 28 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost:

Read Psalm 112

"Praise the LORD." This psalm praises the righteous, who are faithful to God's law, generous, gracious, merciful, just, steadfast, and care for the poor. Reflect upon ways you are righteous, and how you give praise for the gifts you receive from God.

August 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10 AM Bridge	2	3	4 Virtual Presbytery Meeting 7 PM Worship Team Meeting	5 7:30 PM NA Group	6
7 10 AM Coffee & Conversation 11:00 AM Worship Service	8 10 AM Bridge	9	10 7 PM Stewardship Team Meeting	11	12 7:30 PM NA Group	13 10 AM Devon Quilters
14 10 AM Coffee & Conversation 11:00 AM Worship Service	15 10 AM Bridge	16	17 7 PM Session	18 Virtual Presbytery Meeting	19 7:30 PM NA Group	20 Bonnie Waggy Memorial Service
21 10 AM Coffee & Conversation 11:00 AM Worship Service	22 10 AM Bridge	23	24	25 NEWSLETTER	26 7:30 PM NA Group	27 9 AM Blood Drive
28 10 AM Coffee & Conversation 11:00 AM Worship Service	29 10 AM Bridge	30	31	August Birthdays: 1 - Keri Velasco; 11 - Peggy Palmer; 12 - Mary Misiti; 13 - Barbara Smith; 14 - Becky Lippitt; 18 - T'Aja Blank; 19 - Alice Lawlor, Noah Lawson; 20 - Leslie Breinar, Sara Gottlieb; 26 - Bob Hiser; 29 - Vicki Cunningham		