



VILLAGE • CHAPEL  
PRESBYTERIAN

# “THE VILLAGER” – NOVEMBER 16, 2023

## GRATEFUL FOR THE PEWS

When I was just getting started in ministry, Maureen and I invited the church’s college students over to our apartment for a homecooked meal. We borrowed some tables from the church to seat everyone ... and after the meal, as they were helping us clean up, they removed the tableclothes and saw all the graffiti on the tables. They spent the next 20 minutes telling stories and laughing about writing on the tables when they were in Middle School!

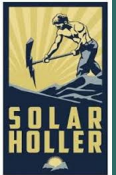
On Saturday, Mike Bowles will take 8 of our pews and transport them to his grandfather’s church. We know they are going to a good home and rejoice that they will continue to welcome people to worship, but saying goodbye to them still stings a little bit.

Those pews have served us well for six decades and some of you can remember the people who regularly set in them and the times when the sanctuary was full to overflowing – weddings, funerals, special concerts, and Christmas Eve. Those pews are full of memories, so removing them feels like the end of an era.

Of course this is not the first time we’ve removed pews – we did so when the organ was installed and once before to accommodate wheelchairs in the back. I know we will make more memories with the new chairs, but grieving the removal of these pews is not only appropriate, it is necessary! So, I hope you will join me in a little remembering.

## GOING SOLAR

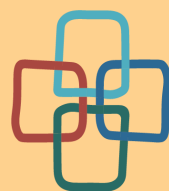
This week, Patti Salisbury, as president of the corporation, signed a contract with Solar Holler, formalizing what the Session had already approved – we are going solar! It will be spring before the work will begin, replacing the shingles and placing the panels, but by the summer of 2024, we will be generating all our own electricity! While there are significant upfront costs to install the equipment, we expect to save at least \$107,244 over the next 25 years! (More if utility rates increase more than 3% per year.) This is one way the Session is planning for our future!



## WORSHIP NOTES

Join us in person or virtually for worship during November and December . . .

Nov. 19	last in the worship series	Matthew 25:14-30
Nov. 19	Joint Thanksgiving service	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Nov. 26	Christ the King Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46
Dec. 3	1st Sunday of Advent	Mark 13:24-37
Dec. 10	2nd Sunday of Advent	Mark 1:1-8
Dec. 17	3rd Sunday of Advent	Service of Lessons and Carols
Dec. 24	4th Sunday of Advent	Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Luke 2 :1-14
Dec. 31	First Sunday of Christmas	hymn-sing



## THANKSGIVING SERVICE

We are excited to be hosting the joint Thanksgiving service this Sunday, at 7 PM, with St. Agnes Catholic and Morris Memorial UMC! The offering will go to Common Grounds and their ongoing ministry to our hungry neighbors!

So bring cash or canned goods (such as peanut butter; cereal, pasta, and sauce) and we’ll sing and pray and give thanks!



## PAY IT FORWARD!

The fellowship hall was full of stuff when we opened our doors last Saturday. By the end of the day (almost) everything had gone to people who needed it – baby clothes and children’s toys, coats and bedding, chairs, pots and pans, bikes, Christmas decorations, and more! All because of your generosity and the hard work of a dedicated group of volunteers! And all we asked was that folks do something for others!

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

On Dedication Sunday, Nov. 12, people placed their pledges in a basket, or sent them in by mail, or used the “give” button on the website. As a result, we have received pledges of \$118,360 toward the 2024 budget which allows us to do the ministry God has called us to do! Thank you for your generosity!

If you haven’t yet sent in your pledge, there is still time, but the Session will begin putting together a budget soon.

## HOLIDAYS AND IMPORTANT DATES

**Thursday, November 23rd –  
Thanksgiving Day**  
Office is closed Nov. 23rd &  
Nov. 24th



**Sunday, December 25th –  
Christmas Day**  
Office is closed Dec. 25th and  
26th



## CHRISTMAS COMMON GROUNDS OFFERING

Our annual Christmas poinsettias have been generously given by an anonymous donor!



Instead of taking up donations toward poinsettias, this holiday season we will be taking up an offering to go toward Common Grounds. If you would like to contribute to this offering in memory of a loved-one or as a gift in honor of a loved-one, please call the office or email [Leslie@vcpresby.org](mailto:Leslie@vcpresby.org) and mail your check to, 3818 Venable Ave. SE, Charleston, WV 25304, made payable to Village Chapel Presbyterian Church.

We will list those remembered/honored in the bulletin on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve.

## GIVING TUESDAY

**Village Chapel is  
participating in  
Giving Tuesday – Nov. 28th**



The goal is to create a massive wave of generosity that lasts well beyond that one day and touches every person on the planet!

We are raising support for two things:  
**Common Grounds & RIP Medical Debt!**

**You can help** us do that by contributing ...

- jars of peanut butter, a key source of protein included in the food boxes given out by Common Grounds. Our goal is 100 jars!
- \$100 which RIP Medical debt will turn into \$10,000 of purchased medical debt relief for folks right here in Appalachian! (On average \$16 can wipe out the medical debt of an entire family.)

Increase your impact by telling your friends about this opportunity to make a difference!

## ALZHEIMER'S WALK

The Charleston's Alzheimer's walk included 550 walkers and raised almost \$70,000. Team Village Chapel raised \$370 and had a great time walking. We're already looking forward to next year!

## CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Join us on Sunday December 10th following worship for a traditional Christmas dinner with turkey and ham! Please bring your favorite covered dish to share (side item, dessert...)



Feel free to wear your ugly Christmas attire!

## STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUS

It's the time of year to express our gratitude and appreciation to those who mean the most to us.

Please consider a donation for staff Christmas bonuses, which will be divided among all the members of our amazing Village Chapel staff.

Please designate your donations as Christmas staff bonus on the envelope or your check .

Thanks, in advance, for your generosity and for letting them know how much they are appreciated.

The Personnel Team

## ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see articles about the Advent Bible study and the PW Luncheon, but there are more opportunities to prepare your hearts for Christmas:

- 12/3 Advent devotions will be available via email
- 12/17 Gathering at Vicki and Ira's to fill bags for Veterans
- 12/20 Longest Night service (Taizé style)
- 12/22 Caroling at Hubbard Hospice House, starting at 4PM!
- 12/24 Candlelight Communion Service at 9PM.

## COMING SOON: ADVENT!

Our Advent Study this year will return us to *The First Advent in Palestine* (the book Todd used for his Christmas in July sermon series)

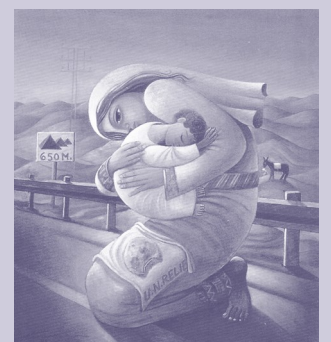
We will be looking at four chapters that he didn't cover in his preaching:

**Nov. 27:** Silence and Suffering: The Maccabees

**Dec. 4:** Mothers of Advent: Mary & Elizabeth

**Dec. 11:** Even after God Arrived: The Holy Family, Mother Rachel, and the Slaughter of the Innocents

**Dec 18:** Homeland, but Not a Home: Holy Family, Return from Egypt.



7 PM in the Library  
& on Zoom

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

## DECEMBER

1 Adele Willis	16 Hallie Barry
2 John Willis	17 Elaine Barry
3 Betsy Willis	18 Jack Bland
4 Fifi Wolfe	19 Paula Bland
5 Nicholas Wolfe	20 Noel Bland
6 Emily Wright	21 Shannon Bland
7 Todd Wright	22 Max Bland
8 Maureen Wright	23 Kevin Blank
9 Nathan Wright	24 Shelby Blank
10 Heather Wroebel	25 Kyle Blank
11 Todd Zubick	26 T'Aja Blank
12 Sandra Zubick	27 Kaia Blank
13 Tyler Zubick	28 Crosley Blank
14 Heather Barry	29 Sandra Bowles
15 John Barry	30 Leslie Bremar
	31 Krista Brogan

## 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.

## 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!

## 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.

**December 3:** Advent begins today. This season of the church year is when we prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus as a baby. This is a busy season with church services, decorating, concerts, parties, shopping and getting ready to visit with family members we might not see often. In the busyness of the season, don't forget why we are celebrating. How will you prepare your heart to welcome Jesus into your life once again?

**December 10:** Mark 1:1-8 introduces us to John the Baptist. John was Jesus' cousin, and his role in the story of Jesus was to prepare people for Jesus. What are ways that you and your family are preparing for Christmas? What are ways that you can help people in your community prepare for Jesus? If your church doesn't already do it, encourage them to go Christmas caroling, to bring some joy into people's lives.

**December 17:** One of the lectionary passages this morning is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24. This is a letter to the church at Thessalonica. They are told that they are to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in all circumstances. Who and what are you praying for today? What are you thankful for?

**December 24:** It's Christmas Eve. As you prepare to exchange gifts with family and friends tomorrow, what gift will you bring to Jesus this year?

**December 31:** The Gospel lesson today is from Luke 2:22-40. We are introduced to two very old people named Anna and Simeon. When Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple for the first time, these two knew immediately that Jesus was the one they had been waiting for all of these years. They knew Jesus was the one who would bring hope and salvation to the people. As a disciple of Jesus, think of ways that you can bring hope to people in the new year.

### An Advent Prayer

By Sr. Ernestine Havlovic, ND

Heavenly Father, we beg you to make this season a time of slowing down, a time to open our hearts in preparation for your coming.

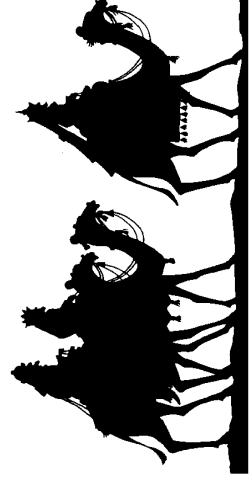
Let our love of God spread throughout the world and may we find joy in bringing joy to others.


Amen.



STATISTICAL REPORT	11/12/23	11/5/23	10/29/23
In-Person Attendance	44	51	80
Non-Pledged	\$1,625	\$258.86	\$25
Pledged Contribution	\$3,425	\$4,579	\$2,485
Miscellaneous Income	\$229	\$30	\$497
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$5,279</b>	<b>\$4,867.86</b>	<b>\$3,007</b>

# DECEMBER 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>December Birthdays:</b> 2 - Heather Wolfe 4 - Nick Wolfe, Todd Wright 5 - Luca Velasco 7 - Dianne Ellis 11 - Joanie Panger 13 - Jessica Gentry 14 - Teresa Lawlor 15 - Gerald Nottingham, Joan Mansell 16 - Rick Hanna, Sandy Bowles, Sandy Singleton 18 - Rodrigo Velasco 19 - Lisa Lawson 20 - Addison Markham 22 - Patty Skaff 23 - Kaia Blank 25 - Sarah Stebbins 26 - Barbara Tabaretti 30 - John Willis 30 - Michael Schiano						
<b>3</b> 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship with Communion 12:15 PM - Choir Practice	<b>4</b> 10 AM - Bridge 7 PM - Advent Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10 AM - PW Coordinating Team Meeting 7 PM - Worship Team	<b>8</b> 7 PM - NA Group	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship 12PM - Christmas Dinner Fellowship Time	<b>11</b> 10 AM - Bridge 7 PM - Advent Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:30 AM - Rotary Club 7 PM - Session Meeting	<b>14</b> 12 PM - PW Circle Newsletter 7 PM - Stewardship Team Meeting	<b>15</b> 7PM - NA Group	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Lessons & Carols Worship Service	<b>18</b> 10 AM - Bridge 7 PM - Advent Bible Study	<b>19</b> 7 PM - Choir Practice	<b>20</b> 7 PM - Blue Christmas Service	<b>21</b> 12 PM - PW Christmas Luncheon	<b>22</b> 4 PM - Caroling at Hubbard House 7 PM - NA Group	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship Service 12PM - Fellowship Time 9 PM - Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10 AM - Book Club	<b>29</b> 7:00 PM - NA Group	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 11 AM - Worship Service 