



VILLAGE CHAPEL  
PRESBYTERIAN

## "THE VILLAGER" – SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

### FROM THE WORD TO WORSHIP BEGINS!

On Sunday, September 13th, I gave a brief overview of the scope of and hope for the \$25,000 worship grant that we have received from the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, funded by the Lilly Endowment. (If you missed the chart that was part of the was distributed in worship or shared on the screen, you can find it [here!](#))

In short, the plan is to spend 9 months exploring nine genres of scripture with select readings; to invite scholars to help us learn about six of those genres over breakfast during the Sunday School hour; and to partner with three other congregations for meals, discussion, and further exploration of how scripture forms, informs, and reforms our worship!

We hope the congregation will participate in the meals with the other congregations, read the scriptures set for each Sunday, and attend the breakfasts with visiting scholars. We hope you'll also help us evaluate things when we take a couple surveys or just by talking with any of the members of the planning team –Vicki Cunningham, Sheila Danzer, Patty Skaff, Amy Parker, or me. Finally, we hope this process will help us examine our worship practices and make any beneficial changes.

So start by digging into the Pentateuch (see below) and consider joining the group that is going to worship with our Jewish brothers and sisters in October (see below).

[By the way, I mentioned the logo was designed by Kristin Rhodes, Communications Director with the PWV. I was wrong. It was designed by Christen Kinard of Digital Communications, who designed our church logo. Their first name sound alike, but I should have known better. My apologies!]



### WORSHIP NOTES

*Join us in person or virtually for worship in August and September!*

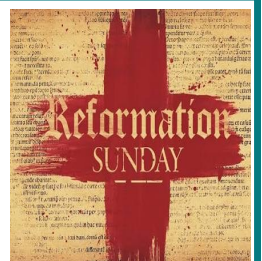
|              |                                     |                                  |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| September 27 | Leaving a Legacy                    | Guest Preacher Ellie Johns Kelly |
| October 4    | World Communion Sunday/Pentateuch 2 | Exodus 3:1-15                    |
| October 11   | Pentateuch 3                        | Exodus 14:10-31                  |
| October 18   | Pentateuch 4                        | Deuteronomy 5:6-21               |
| October 25   | Reformation Sunday                  | Matthew 22:34-40                 |

### WORSHIP FIELD TRIP!

If you enjoyed spending time with some of our Jewish neighbors at the joint dinner on Sept. 8th, maybe you'd like to visit them for a worship service. We are putting together a group trip to B'nai Jacob on Saturday, Oct. 17th at 10 AM. That service will include the Torah reading of the Noah story from Genesis 8:15-10:32. The Rabbi will orient anyone there at 9:45. The service ends about 11:45. Dress is business casual. See <https://exploringjudaism.org/shabbat-morning-services-what-to-expect/> for an overview. (Please contact the church office by 10/12 so we can give them an idea of how many to expect.)

### REFORMATION SUNDAY

On Oct. 25th, we will host Trinity Lutheran to celebrate Reformation Sunday! As in the past, there will also be a joint choir and we will share in leadership of communion! Praise God!



## WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Saturday, October 24th at  
GoMart Park - Registration begins at  
8:30 AM and the walk begins at 9:30.

To register to join the Village Chapel  
team or to donate please [click here](#) or  
**contact Sarah Gottlieb** by phone (304) 546-7087 or  
email her at [mamasan41@hotmail.com](mailto:mamasan41@hotmail.com).



## PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY!

**October 11th** is Pastor  
Appreciation Sunday!  
Join us for cake after worship! If you  
cannot attend, please send a note to  
Todd and Amy showing your  
gratitude for all they do for us!



## PAY-IT-FORWARD

Saturday November 7th  
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM



Items needed: housewares, blankets, sheets, tow-  
els, toys, seasonal decorations, coats, jackets and  
sweaters (please do not bring other items.)

Items may be brought to the church the week  
before the sale.

## Blanche's frightfully fabulous 100<sup>th</sup> birthday bash

JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR NIGHT  
OF MUSIC, TREATS, AND BOO-TIFUL  
MEMORIES IN HONOR OF  
BLANCHE CHEVALIER

OCTOBER  
**10**  
SATURDAY

**4:30-  
7:30**

NO GIFTS, PLEASE

**THE HIDEAWAY**  
189 SUMMERS ST  
CHARLESTON, WV

RSVP BY 9/30  
(304)419-4543

## BALANCE *with Barb*



Gentle exercises and tips  
for keeping your body  
balanced and flexible.

Learn how to let your  
skeleton hold you upright  
instead of your muscles.



TOPICS & TIPS FROM: Tai Chi, Alexander, Feldenkrais, Pilates,  
and Movement with Health and Centering.

**MONDAYS**  
**4-5 PM**  
**Classes start**  
**Sept. 21st!**

COST: \$5 donation to  
VCPC per class.



VILLAGE CHAPEL  
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3818 Venable Ave,  
Charleston, WV  
Barb Smith, leader

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY - OCT. 4TH

World Communion Sunday has been a  
catalyst for love for over 75 years! We'll  
celebrate communion, joining with  
churches worldwide, and receive the  
offering which supports racial and gen-  
der justice, peacemaking, global witness,  
ecumenical & interfaith relations.

What does the Lord require  
of you, but to do justice,

*...to love kindness*

and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8



WORLD COMMUNION  
OFFERING



## MEN'S DINNER



The next men's dinner will be on  
Thursday, October 22nd at 6:00  
PM at Aladdin's.

## LEGACY LUNCHEON

Please join us for a legacy luncheon following worship on Sunday, September 27, 2026 in fellowship hall. The Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley, our Ministry Relations Officer at the Presbyterian Foundation, will lead this workshop in fellowship hall. During our time together, we will discuss how to discern your legacy, how to share that message with our church and those you love, and how to make a planned gift to continue to your ministry here.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LEGACY

In reading through the “Snippets of History” book compiled by Sandy Bowles for our 75th Anniversary in March 2025, one can learn of the history of Presbyterian Women’s groups throughout the years. Shortly after the formation of the church in 1950, the “Women of the Church” consisted of eight circles. Through the years that number grew to nine before declining to five in the 1990’s, and to the current one. We have a very large group of wonderful women! While reading of the history can be interesting, participating in the life of PW is so much more!



The Women of the Church/Presbyterian Women have always played an active role in the life and ministry of the church. The PW mission statement outlines our purpose (1) to nurture faith and grow spiritually through programs and Bible study; (2) to support global mission by taking part in the broader church mission and outreach of the church; and (3) to build and foster an inclusive community.

My earliest awareness of the Women of the Church came as a child growing up not far from the church. My mother, Helen Singleton, attended an evening circle with other young mothers. It was an important outlet for her. After dinner on one night each month, my siblings and I would see our mom “get ready” for circle. She would dress just as if she were attending church on a Sunday morning! She heard interesting Bible Studies led over the years by Shirley Campbell and Helen Settle, to name two study leaders. She made life-long friends and shared love and laughter with members of her circle, and within the larger group at the monthly luncheons. The friendships she developed also were an influence in my life - Becky Lippitt, Phyllis Livesay, Mary Jackson, Charlotte Murphy, and Barbara Richardson, just to name a few.

As a young adult, I began attending Presbyterian Women gatherings and joined an evening circle. What a wonderful experience this has been for me! I met people of different generations and got to know them much better than a casual greeting on Sunday morning. Among these women were Polly Dodson, Phoebe Frost, Helen Eberbaugh, Betty Arthur, Mary Lee Jung, Perry Field, Jean Blair, Helen Settle, Sue Graham, Dorcas Smith, Hazel Kuhn, Mildred Wrenn, and Evelyn McClure.

Our current circle continues the thread woven through the years, with Sharon Curnutte leading interesting Bible Study lessons (and Barb Smith as her substitute when needed). The leadership team of Harriet Nottingham, Sarah Stebbins, Jane Harich, Sharon King, Patty Pogue and myself share lots of laughs and work hard in coordinating projects, luncheon speakers/food, and receptions for families, as needed.

The PW through the years has supported many mission and outreach projects of the church such as “rolling bandages”, preparing “Blizzard Boxes”, supporting Patchwork and Daymark, dressing dolls for the Salvation Army, dressing stuffed bears for CAMC Women & Children’s hospital, sewing breast cancer recovery bags, participating in the Least Coin Offering, the Birthday and Thank Offerings, supporting Bluestone, and supporting the YMCA’s Sojourner’s Shelter for homeless women and families. When Sojourner’s first opened, Village Chapel was asked to sponsor a room and to provide linens for bedding, towels, blinds, rugs, lamps, and a mirror. Village Chapel sponsored a room and PW provided all the furnishings! For Village Chapel’s 50th Anniversary in 2000, the church built a Habitat House at 58th Street. While members and friends of the congregation provided the physical labor, PW groups were on site every day with water, snacks, light lunches, and cold wet towels. Recently, the PW purchased and had planted the beautiful young maple tree in front of the Fellowship Hall, replacing the tree that had to be taken out several years ago. Our PW members have been involved in many other activities throughout the community.

Nancy Coffee Martin describes her PW experience as providing a connection to her mother, who attended circle meetings in the Parlor, just as we do today. This feeling of connection provides a special, warm feeling in remembering her mother.

In our children/youth Sunday School class last year, we looked at a book called “The Invisible String” by Patrice Karst that speaks of an unbreakable, loving connection that links people together, no matter the distance. This is how I view the legacy of PW at Village Chapel ... I’m connected to all the women of the church, from those who participated in the earliest days through our current circle members . . . and for that I am blessed and very grateful.

Patti Salisbury

ELDERS ELECTED!

The Officer Nominating Committee nominated **Rick Cook, Teresa Lawlor, Patti Salisbury, & Cindy Sloan** to serve as elders in the class of 2029. All were unanimously elected at a meeting of the congregation on September 20th! They will start five weeks of preparation on Sunday, **Oct. 4th**, and be examined by the session in early December.

Please keep them in your prayers!

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 US IN YOUR PRAYERS ON THESE DATES:

OCTOBER

- 1 Elaine Barry

2 Kris Blair

3 John Blair

4 Jack Bland

5 Max Bland

6 Noell Bland

7 Paula Bland

8 Shannon Bland

9 Kevin Blank

10 Shelby Blank

11 Kyle Blank

12 T'Aja Blank

13 Kaia Blank

14 Crosley Blank

15 Sandy Bowles
- 16 Leslie Bremar

17 Kristin Bustany

18 Susan Bays

19 Richard Callard

20 Sharon Callard

21 Bob Campbell

22 Nancy Campbell

23 Dionne Canterbury

24 Vivien Canterbury

25 Annabel Canterbury

26 Isaiah Canterbury

27 Lois Carper

28 Matthew Chambers

29 Raechel Chambers

30 Blanche Chevalier

31 Erin Chiparo

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.

September 27: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

The psalmist reminds us we have learned the stories of faith from our ancestors, including parents, grand-parents, great-grandparents, and others. The psalmist also reminds us to tell our stories to those in younger generations. Who are some of the people in your life who have shared their stories with you and with whom you have shared your story? Give thanks to God for them in prayer.

October 4: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Exodus 20:1-20

In the Ten Commandments, God set before God’s people the way to live in relationship with God and with one another in the community of faith. They continue to guide us as we love God and love our neighbors as Jesus commanded. Which of these do you find most challenging? Which are easier to follow? \*If you are reading and using these each week, please send Leslie an email to let her know you find them useful [Leslie@vcpresby.org](mailto:Leslie@vcpresby.org).

October 11: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Exodus 32:1-14

The people thought Moses, who had been gone for quite a while, wasn’t coming back, and, it seems, that God wasn’t coming back either. Feeling they had been abandoned, they asked Aaron, Moses’ brother and back-up, to make other gods for them, and Aaron built the gold calf for them to worship. What do your idols, those things that you put your loyalty and trust in other than God, look like? How might you put them aside and worship only God?

October 18: Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Read Matthew 22:15-22

When Jesus is questioned about paying taxes to the emperor (the ruler, the government), he says to give to the emperor the things that belong to the emperor, and to give to God what belongs to God. As we consider what this means in our lives as citizens of God’s kingdom and citizens of the world, it’s worth remembering that most, if not all, of what we have is a gift from God.

| STATISTICAL REPORT   | 9/20/26 | 9/13/26  | 9/6/26     | 8/30/26 |
|----------------------|---------|----------|------------|---------|
| In-Person Attendance | 38      | 49       | 42         | 46      |
| Non-Pledged          | \$1,575 | \$10,045 | \$2,212.77 | \$1,120 |
| Pledged Contribution | \$944   | \$3,634  | \$3,756    | \$1,029 |
| Miscellaneous Income | \$411   | \$1,715  | \$1,431    | \$342   |
| Total Contributions  | \$2,930 | \$15,394 | \$7,399.77 | \$2,491 |



OCTOBER 2026



| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Mon                                        | Tue                       | Wed                                                        | Thu                                   | Fri                 | Sat                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS: 8 - Missy France; 10 - Alatheia Stickler; 11 - Blanche Chevalier; 12 - Maureen Wright; 15 - Noell Bland, Sherry Murray; 19 - Carolyn Perrine, Jacob Smith; 20 - Jim Smith; 22 - Jack Bland; 24 - Jeanne MacDonald, Sarah Hawley; 25 - Cherrie Sizemore, Rhonda Jacobs; 27 - Amelia Powell, 30 - John Barry, Nora Forman; 31 - Helen Warren |                                            |                           |                                                            |                                       |                     |                                                                                           |
| 4<br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>11 AM Worship Service<br>12 PM Elder Training #1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 5<br>10 AM Bridge<br>4 PM Balance w/ Barb  | 6<br>7 PM Choir Practice  | 7<br>7 PM Worship Team Meeting                             | 8<br>10 AM PW Circle                  | 9<br>7 PM NA Group  | 10<br>Blanche Chevalier's 100th birthday party (see invite above for details)             |
| 11<br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>11 AM Worship Service — Musician & Staff Appreciation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 12<br>10 AM Bridge<br>4 PM Balance w/ Barb | 13<br>7 PM Choir Practice | 14<br>7:30 AM Rotary Club<br>7 PM Stewardship Team Meeting | 15<br>12 PM PW Luncheon               | 16<br>7 PM NA Group | 17<br>10 AM Worship Field Trip to B'nai Jacobs                                            |
| 18<br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>11 AM Worship Service<br>7 PM Choir Practice                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 19<br>10 AM Bridge<br>4 PM Balance w/ Barb | 20                        | 21<br>7 PM Session Meeting                                 | 22<br>NEWSLETTER<br>6 PM Men's Dinner | 23<br>7 PM NA Group | 24<br>Alzheimer's Walk                                                                    |
| 25<br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>11 AM Worship Service                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 26<br>10 AM Bridge<br>4 PM Balance w/ Barb | 27                        | 28<br>7:30 AM Rotary Club Meeting                          | 29                                    | 30<br>7 PM NA Group | 31<br> |