



VILLAGE CHAPEL

PRESBYTERIAN

www.vcpresby.org

"THE VILLAGER" – FEBRUARY 24, 2022

Where are we now?

While at APCE in Chicago two weeks ago, I took a class with (WV's own) Becky Davis, Associate Prof. of Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary. She showed us three clips and asked which best described our current reality two years into COVID:

1. A time lapse of a blizzard as the snow comes down, burying a chair, and then the sun comes out.
2. A shot out the widow of the taxi on the way to the hotel from the airport – road clear and recent snow piled up to the sides.
3. A clip from the movie Ice Age: the meltdown where the whole crew attempts to navigate a frozen lake that is thawing.

If it's the first, then COVID has forced us to pause everything, but it will end and everything will go back to normal.

If it's the second, then COVID is inconvenient, but we, like the folks in Chicago, can learn to deal with it (and get really good at adapting).

If it is the third, then COVID is something that changes everything and we must learn to live in a new reality.

Reasonable people will answer differently, but what is clear is that how you answer impacts how you think the church should respond.

As the session makes plans about everything from masking to hybrid worship to programming, we will be guided by what we think about the current reality. (Pray that God will give us wisdom!)

Of course the deeper reality is that COVID or no COVID, we serve a BIG God, who has the best plans for us (see Jeremiah 29:11) and will be with us even to the end of the age (see Matthew 28:20)

Plans for Lent

Like Advent, Lent is that period of time when we prepare ourselves for the big thing that God is doing! In this case, it's Easter, but that won't come until we have navigated a whole season of emotions – hope and doubt, triumph and grief, joy and anger.

There is no better guide to navigating emotions than the psalms which sing/pray candidly about all the raw emotions humans experience. They also assert that God does not expect us to put on our best face before we approach. We need not wipe away the tears or count to 10 or sing a happy tune. Far from serving as a barrier, those raw emotions help us connect honestly with the God who created us to have such emotions.

So, even if you are not ordinarily in the habit of doing so, please read the psalm for the day before we gather for worship. If something hits you – some insight or idea or story – let Todd know.

A focus on the psalms will be different, but maybe that's what we need for Lent this year!

Worship Notes

You are invited to prepare for worship during February and March by reflecting on these scriptures:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Feb. 27 Transfiguration Sunday | Luke 9:28-43 |
| March 2 Ash Wednesday | Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 |
| March 6 Lent 1/communion | Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 and Luke 4:1-13 |
| March 13 Lent 2 | Psalm 27 |
| March 20 Lent 3 | Psalm 63:1-8 |
| March 27 Lent 4 | Psalm 32 |



Copies of Todd's sermon are available (text and audio) on the church's web-page: www.vcpresby.org



2022 Festival of Faith

**Festival of Faith 2022:
God Speaks in the Chaos**

**9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Saturday, April 2 at Charleston
First Presbyterian Church**

You will find all the information on the Presbytery website or by contacting the church office. The cost per person by March 17 is \$20; the cost for lunch is \$13.



We raised \$667 and collected a variety of canned and boxed food items to TACKLE HUNGER in our area! The proceeds will go to Common Grounds to serve our community!

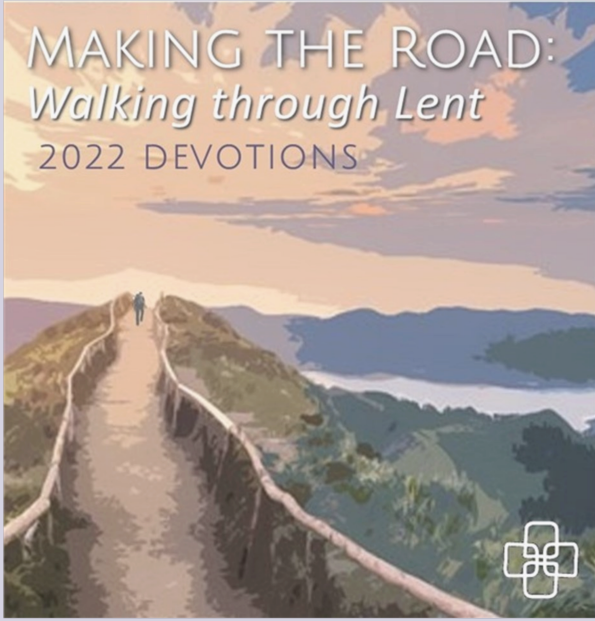
Great work and a big THANK YOU!



LENT 2022 AT VCPC



MAKING THE ROAD: *Walking through Lent* 2022 DEVOTIONS



In the Spanish poet Antonio Machado's poem, "Walker" he writes:

"Walker, there is no road, the road is made by walking."

Machado's poem resonates because it feels as if there is no road in front of us. The soil of our well-worn Lenten path has been overturned by the pandemic. If we want to follow Christ this Lent, we'll need to prepare the way and make the road. We'll need to rethink and recreate our Lenten practices.

This year our Lenten devotional includes daily reflections and prayers written by Presbyterian Outlook Editor Teri McDowell Ott. They will be available printed or via email. They begin on Sunday, March 6.

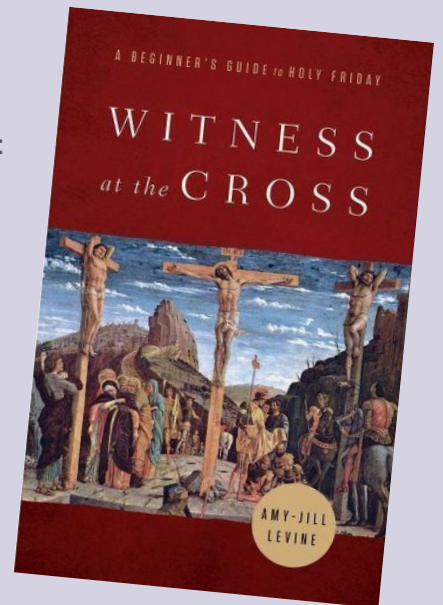
LENTEN STUDY 2022

Mondays at 7 PM on ZOOM — Everyone is welcome!

Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple; Mary Magdalene and the other women; the two men crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

***The story of Jesus's death is not something we just read:
we think about it, and we experience it.***

In *Witness at the Cross*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how each Evangelist presents a distinct picture of the death of Jesus. Each portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross, each offers different images and dialogues, and so from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.



On March 2nd we will hold an Ash Wednesday service at the church at 6 PM. We hope this timing will allow people to come on their way home from work and/or get home before it gets dark.

That hope seems a little ironic given the scripture for the day, from Joel 2 includes the words

*"The day of the Lord is coming,
a day of darkness and gloom ..."*

But Joel also reminds his listeners,

*"Return to the LORD, your God,
for [the LORD] is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love"*

So come and start the season of Lent with scripture and prayer and as part of a community of faith!

WHAT'S NEW

Village Chapel is exploring the possibility of adding a praise band to fill in at worship service when the Chancel Choir is on summer break.



If you can play a musical instrument and have interest in starting a Praise Band at the church, please contact either Rick Hanna (trumpet) or Roger Sockman (percussion) and let them know what instrument you could play in the band.

Or if you have Praise Band experience as a vocalist, that is also in need. An organizational meeting is planned for early March.

Blood Drive!

SATURDAY, MARCH 19th @ 9 AM

Daylight Saving Time **BEGINS**

Sunday, March 13th

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Thursday March 17th

On Saturday, March 5th from 3-4pm we will have a drive-by birthday greeting for Village Chapel's oldest member, Julian Sockman, who is turning 99 years old on March 3rd. Plan to drive by his house at 601 43rd Street, on Saturday, March 5th from 3-4pm, four blocks from the church off Washington St., and wish Julian a Happy 99th birthday from your car. Let's also try to send him birthday cards - 99 if possible!

Happy 90 Plus!

Jule Sockman's birthday has us thinking about all the members we have who are 90 plus! So during the worship service on March 6th we will be celebrating their stories! Come hear how God has blessed them!

Presbyterian Women Luncheon

The PW will host a luncheon on Thursday, March 17th at noon. Reservations are required and the cost is \$10.

BALANCE WITH BARB

Standing and sitting activities to improve balance

Mondays 4:00 - 4:45PM starting March 7th

Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, 3818 Venable Ave.
Call 304-342-1755 for more information.
A \$5 per person per class donation to VCPC is requested
VPCP Covid-19 protection policies observed, subject to change

KPCC reps to lead worship

For nearly five years KPCC has operated a satellite counseling service out of the house next door to the church (which belongs to Village). Paige Winfree and Kerrie Harris will lead worship on March 13th as a sign of appreciation. They will focus on Psalm 27 and the importance of social connection in the face of COVID. Join us!

STATISTICAL REPORT	2/20/22	2/13/22	2/6/22	1/30/22
Worship Attendance	In-Person: 44	In-Person: 45	In-Person: 51	In-Person: 42
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$400	\$90	\$90	\$160
Pledged Contributions	\$695	\$3,760	\$3,634.62	\$3,100
Misc. Income	\$5	\$733.95	\$220.21	\$26
Total Contributions	\$1,100	\$4,583.95	\$3,944.83	\$3,286



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

March

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Isaiah Canterbury | 18 | Dianne Ellis |
| 2 | Blanche Chevalier | 19 | Anthony Falbo |
| 3 | Erin Chiparo | 20 | Grace Falbo |
| 4 | Mike Hurban | 21 | Max Falbo |
| 5 | Antitino Chiparo | 22 | Eva Falbo |
| 6 | Jeff Chiparo | 23 | John Fleck |
| 7 | Beth Chiparo | 24 | Donzy Fleck |
| 8 | Sandra Copeland | 25 | Kate Forman |
| 9 | Leon Copeland | 26 | Isaac Forman |
| 10 | Vicki Cunningham | 27 | Nora Forman |
| 11 | Ira Morris | 28 | Vera Forman |
| 12 | Doug Curnutte | 29 | Martha Foster |
| 13 | Sharon Curnutte | 30 | Carter France |
| 14 | Warren Danzer | 31 | Melissa France |
| 15 | Sheila Danzer | | |
| 16 | David Dawson | | |
| 17 | Joyce Dunlap | | |



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!

Sunday Morning 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.

February 27 – Transfiguration Sunday:

Read Luke 9:28-36

Peter, James, and John had a "mountaintop" experience as they witnessed Jesus' transfiguration, or transformation, and heard a voice from a cloud say, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" How do we listen to Jesus today? As we prepare to enter again into Lent, preparing to walk with Jesus to Jerusalem, what might Jesus be saying to you?

March 6 – First Sunday in Lent:

Read Luke 4:1-13

As we journey through this season of Lent, Luke's account of the Temptations of Jesus shows us that God will "test" us before God can use us for his purposes. Hear the words of the hymn "When We Are Tested" by Ruth Duck. When we are tempted to barter our souls, trading the truth for the power to control, teach us to worship and praise only you, seeking your will in the work that we do. What ways is God testing you?

March 13 – Second Sunday in Lent:

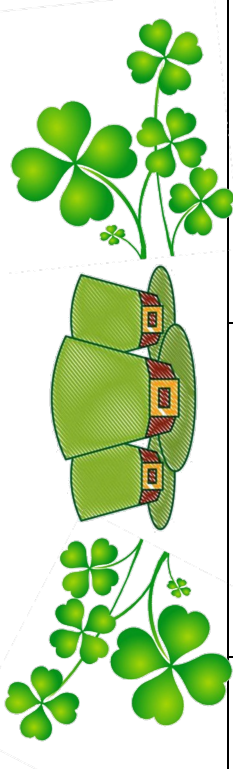
Read Luke 13:31-35




In the scripture reading, you will see the theme of rejection. Many have been given the choice to seek God's kingdom, but have turned their back on this offer. But the good news is that God has limitless patience! God will wait for you to accept or refuse God's offer of love through Jesus Christ.

March 20 – Third Sunday in Lent

It's A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood! March 20 is Fred Rogers' birthday, and the PC(USA) has designated it as Mr. Rogers Day. Take a moment to reflect on the principals that Fred Rogers exhibited throughout his life. He welcomed the little children and taught forgiveness and the power of kindness, as well as the importance of unconditional love and empathy and to love your neighbor as yourself. Happy Birthday, Fred!

March 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 PM Education Team Meeting	2 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	3 7:00 PM Worship Team Meeting	4 7:30 PM - NA Group	5 3 - 4 PM - Drive-by Birthday Jule Sockman
6 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM - Choir Practice	7 10:30 AM - Bridge 7:00 PM - Lenten Study	8 7:00 PM Property Team Meeting	9 7:00 PM Stewardship Team Meeting	10 10:00 AM - PW Circle	11 7:30 PM - NA Group	12 12:00 PM - Devon Quilters
13 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	14 10:30 AM - Bridge 7:00 PM - Lenten Study	15 7:00 PM Choir Practice	16 7:00 PM Session	17 12:00 PM - PW Luncheon 1:00 PM - Service Team Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 7:30 PM - NA Group	19 9:00 AM BLOOD DRIVE
20 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	21 10:30 AM - Bridge 7:00 PM - Lenten Study	22	23	24 NEWSLETTER	25 7:30 PM - NA Group	26 Village Chapel's Birthday 
27 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	28 10:30 AM - Bridge 7:00 PM - Lenten Study	29 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	30	31		
 <p>March Birthdays: 1 - Sandra Zubick, 3 - Jule Sockman, 4 - Mike McClung, Sally Clark, 6 - Mary Schiano, 7- Janet Kinzer, Joan Myers, 10 - Sharon Callard, 11- Elaine Barry, 13 - Maggie Powell, 14 - Maddy Smith, 20 - Antitino Chiparo, David Joslin, 24 - Judy Haddock, Katie Parks, 25 - David Salisbury, 26 - Tyler Zubick, 28 - Betsy White, Heather Parks</p>						