



VILLAGE CHAPEL
PRESBYTERIAN

“THE VILLAGER” – NOVEMBER 20, 2025

THANKSGIVING AROUND THE TABLE

In a few days many of us will find ourselves gathered around a table for a Thanksgiving meal. The components of that meal may differ (Is green bean casserole required? What about cranberry sauce?), but we will all be thinking about what we are grateful for AND waiting for someone to say grace so we can begin feasting! Shea Watts, chaplain at Union Presbyterian Seminary – Charlotte, offers these words (in case you are the one praying):



Loving God,
in Jesus, you bless, break, and pour out your love, sharing it with us.
Draw us into your presence, making us keenly aware of your love for us.
May we find nourishment in the food, giving thanks for the farmers who grew it and the hands that prepared it. May we also find love in the conversation around this table, remembering your sacrifice for us in our words and actions.
By your Spirit, make us one with you and with each other. Amen.

What are you grateful for?
How will that gratitude find its way into your prayer at the table?
How will it guide your conversations? How will it follow you out into the world after the meal?

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:

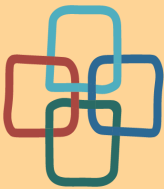


- 12/1 Advent devotions will be available via email
- 12/6 Caroling at Charleston Health and Hubbard Hospice
- 12/14 Gathering at Vicki and Ira's to fill bags for Veterans at 9 AM
- 12/16 Longest Night service (Taizé style) 7 PM
- 12/24 Candlelight Communion Service at 9PM

WORSHIP NOTES

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

Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Sunday	Psalms 100 and Philippians 4:4-9
Nov. 30	1st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5 and Romans 13:11-14
Dec. 7	2nd Sunday of Advent	Matthew 3:1-12
Dec. 14	3rd Sunday of Advent	Service of Lessons and Carols
Dec. 21	4th Sunday of Advent	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-14
Dec. 28	First Sunday of Christmas	Hebrews 2:10-18



Maureen Wright was elected as the Presbytery of West Virginia Lead Presbyter and Stated Clerk at the November stated meeting on Saturday, November 15, 2025.

Rev. Julie Olt, who led the search committee said, “Throughout our interviews, we were deeply impressed by Maureen’s ability to artfully connect the mission of the Lead Presbyter role directly to Scripture. She has already demonstrated exceptional leadership by proactively implementing the new strategic plan and guiding the presbytery toward its future vision,”

Maureen has served as a Christian Educator at churches in North Carolina and earned her certification from the PC (USA) as a Christian Educator in 2004. She was ordained as a ruling elder by Village Chapel Presbyterian Church in Charleston, WV, on January 8, 2012. Wright has faithfully served the Presbytery of West Virginia as Stated Clerk since 2013 and Associate Congregational Support from 2016 to 2023. In 2023, She stepped in to the Transitional General Presbyter and Stated Clerk role.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

On Dedication Sunday, Nov. 9th, 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 \$173,758 toward the 2026 budget which allows us to do the ministry God has called us to do! Thank you for your generosity! We asked for a “mast year” and those who increased their pledge did so by an average of 18%!

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

VOICES OF ADVENT

THE BIBLE'S INSIGHTS FOR A SEASON OF HOPE

ADVENT STUDY

MONDAYS - DECEMBER 1 - 22
7 PM ON ZOOM

Exploring how Advent texts shape our lives and our Christmas celebrations. And though they come from various perspectives, you'll hear *HOPE* in all of them.

NOVEMBER 30, 2025 - ADVENT 1
"HANGING OF THE GREENS"
A special service of worship.
Come and be a part of it!



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL @ VILLAGE CHAPEL

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER
WELCOME ADVENT
Exploring the Advent Season with weekly art activities & lessons
REMEMBERING VETERANS
Preparing small bags of candies & mints

GIVING TUESDAY

Village Chapel is participating in
Giving Tuesday - Dec. 2nd



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

We are raising support for: **Common Grounds & Chamberlain Elementary!**

You can help by contributing...

- cans of tuna, a key source of protein included in the food boxes given out by Common Grounds. Our goal is 100 cans! (Jars of peanut butter are good too!)
- snacks for the classes at Chamberlain elementary. Target, Kroger, and Walmart all sell large containers of pretzels, cheeseballs, and animal crackers that can be distributed by the teachers. (No nuts please.)

We hope to deliver donations by 12/12!

PW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & CONCERT

The Presbyterian Women will hold their annual Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 18th at noon.

At 12:30 they welcome ALL TO JOIN in the sanctuary as Sharon Curnutte presents some beautiful music, live and video flashbacks, and leads a sing-a-long of some favorite carols.



JOINT THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This year's Thanksgiving service will be hosted by St. Agnes Catholic Church! We'll gather on Sunday, November 24, at 7 PM, along with our hosts and Morris Memorial Methodist Church. A reception will follow the service.



CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Join us on Sunday December 14th 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!



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR STUDENTS IN NEED

Chamberlain Elementary School has 3 students in need of Christmas gifts. If you are interested in sponsoring a child entirely or even partially, please contact the church office for more specific details about each child's needs and requests. Gifts are due to the school by December 12th.



OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS



Thursday, November 28th
Thanksgiving Day
OFFICE CLOSED - Nov. 27th—28th



Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day
OFFICE CLOSED - Dec. 25th - 26th

STAFF BONUSES

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

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

DECEMBER

- 1 Vera Forman

2 Martha Foster

3 Carter France

4 Melissa France

5 Kendall France

6 Dean France

7 John France

8 Missy France

9 Vicki Frisk

10 Mike Frisk

11 Sarah Gottlieb

12 Meg Green

13 Jack Grimm

14 Sheila Grimm

15 Lynn Gunnoe
- 16 Judy Haddock

17 Cindy Hanna

18 Rick Hanna

19 Debbie Hanna

20 Phil Harich

21 Jane Harich

22 Jared Hawley

23 Katie Hawley

24 John Hawley

25 Candy Hawley

26 Sarah Hawley

27 Terry Hickernell

28 Scott Hickernell

29 Bob Hiser

30 Tish Hodovan

31 Nelle Howard

PRAYER CHAIN

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.

CG 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.

November 23: Christ the King/Reign of Christ
Read Luke 23:33-43

Jesus was a king though he wasn’t the kind of king that the people expected. He was the kind of king that died on a cross out of love, not a king who ruled a country and controlled people. On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, remember all of the things Jesus did and how he showed God’s love. Give thanks to God for the gift of his son, Jesus, Christ the King.

November 30: First Sunday of Advent
Read Matthew 24:36-44

In the season of Advent that leads up to Christmas, we look back to the past, to the birth of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem as we prepare to celebrate his birth again. We also, in this season, look forward, to the return of Christ on earth. This passage reminds us that we don’t know when Christ will return but we should always be ready for him.

December 7: Second Sunday of Advent
Read Matthew 3:1-2

As John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, so must we prepare ourselves for Jesus. This is a time of hope and preparation. During Advent, reflect on what preparations you are making in your life and in your heart for the coming of Jesus.

December 14: Third Sunday of Advent
Read Luke 1:46b-55

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her that God had chosen her to be the mother of God’s son, Gabriel also told Mary that her relative Elizabeth, who was up in years, was also pregnant. After Mary greeted Elizabeth, she sang praise to God for what God was doing in her and in the world. In her words she proclaimed that God was turning the world upside down. What do you see that God is doing in the world today that is changing the world? Share with a friend or family member.

STATISTICAL REPORT	11/16/25	11/9/25	11/2/25	10/26/25
In-Person Attendance	43	45	55	49
Non-Pledged	\$125	\$120	\$647.74	\$40
Pledged Contribution	\$2,700	\$2,555	\$8,397	\$1,630
Miscellaneous Income	\$135.81	\$331	\$1,021	\$880.54
Total Contributions	\$2,960.81	\$3,006	\$10,065.74	\$2,550.54

2025 REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

This year we are including a “reverse” Advent calendar project in our seasonal celebrations. We hope you will count your blessings each day as you contribute to these worthy causes during this holy season. The list below suggests items and the organizations that will receive them. Supplement and substitute items as desired, but please note the requested sizes.

The Polly Dodson Sunday School will be working with a Veterans’ facility here in Charleston this year. We will also be collecting items for Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church’s Shower Ministry and the Sojourner’s Children’s Program.

We encourage you bring your contributions in each Sunday, so they can be distributed during the month of December. The items for the Vets’ gifts bags will be sorted and bagged on Dec. 14th, so please have those items to the church before 9 AM. We will collect all items in the narthex.

Sunday	Dec 1	Toothpaste & Toothbrush	Gift Bags for Vets
Monday	Dec 2	Wash Cloth & Hand Towel	Gift Bags for Vets
Tuesday	Dec 3	Flashlight & Razor	Gift Bags for Vets
Wednesday	Dec 4	Kleenex (Small pkgs for pockets)	Gift Bags for Vets
Thursday	Dec 5	Hand Sanitizer	Gift Bags for Vets
Friday	Dec 6	Shampoo & Bar Soap	Gift Bags for Vets
Saturday	Dec 7	Candy	Gift Bags for Vets
Sunday	Dec 8	Warm Hat & Gloves (adult size)	Gift Bags for Vets
Monday	Dec 9	Batteries	Gift Bags for Vets
Tuesday	Dec 10	Socks (adult size)	Gift Bags for Vets
Wednesday	Dec 11	Kleenex (Small pkgs for pockets)	Bream Shower Min.
Thursday	Dec 12	Hand Sanitizer	Bream Shower Min.
Friday	Dec 13	Shampoo & Bar Soap	Bream Shower Min.
Saturday	Dec 14	Wash Cloth & Hand Towel	Bream Shower Min.
Sunday	Dec 15	Warm Hat & Gloves (adult size)	Bream Shower Min.
Monday	Dec 16	Toothpaste & Toothbrush	Bream Shower Min.
Tuesday	Dec 17	Socks (adult size)	Bream Shower Min.
Wednesday	Dec 18	Young Readers Books	Sojourner’s Kids Prog.
Thursday	Dec 19	Packaged Toys	Sojourner’s Kids Prog.
Friday	Dec 20	Diapers (2mon. – 3yrs.)	Sojourner’s Kids Prog.
Saturday	Dec 21	Child Socks & Underwear	Sojourner’s Kids Prog.
Sunday	Dec 22	Child Gloves & Hats	Sojourner’s Kids Prog.
Monday	Dec 23	Child PJ’s	Sojourner’s Kids Prog.
Tuesday	Dec 24	Child Undershirts	Sojourner’s Kids Prog.
Wednesday	Dec 25	Have a Very Merry Christmas!	

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Village Chapel congregation for the Fellowship Hour, cake, and punch for Roger and Rita's departure to their new home in Greensboro, NC. We will miss all of our Village Chapel friends and look forward to seeing everyone again for the Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 14th in the Julian Sockman Fellowship Hall.

Roger & Rita Sockman

KVSS PRESENTATION – THANK YOU

Thank you to all of you who were able to support the Membership Team by attending the Kanawha Valley Senior Services program and/or by sharing a snack. Executive Director, Melanie Hirst, gave us a lot of information to think about when it comes to caring for seniors in our community. Along with her question/answer session, Melanie left some information and pamphlets about what KVSS has to offer. They can be found in the fellowship hall.

Membership Team Co-Moderators
Kathy Kruk and Vicki Frisk

DECEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10 AM - Bridge 7 PM - Advent Bible Study	2 7 PM - Choir Practice	3 7 PM - Worship Team	4 10 AM - PW Coordinating Team Meeting	5 7 PM - NA Group	6 3:30 PM - Caroling @ Charleston Health & Hubbard Hospice
7 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship & Examination of Elders 12:15 PM - Choir Practice	8 10 AM - Bridge 7 PM - Advent Bible Study	9 7 PM - Choir Practice	10 7:30 AM - Rotary Club 7 PM - Stewardship Team Meeting	11 12 PM - PW Circle	12 7 PM - NA Group	13
14 9 AM - Packing Vet Bags 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Lessons/Carols Worship 12PM - Christmas Dinner Fellowship Time	15 10 AM - Bridge 7 PM - Advent Bible Study	16 7 PM - Taizé Blue Christmas	17 7 PM - Session Meeting	18 12 PM - PW Christmas Luncheon Newsletter	19 7PM - NA Group	20
21 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship Service	22 10 AM - Bridge 7 PM - Advent Bible Study	23	24 9 PM - Christmas Eve Service	25  Office Closed	26 7PM - NA Group Office Closed	27
28 11 AM - Worship Service	29 10 AM - Bridge	30	31 	December Birthdays: 4 - Todd Wright 5 - Luca Velasco 7 - Dianne Ellis 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		