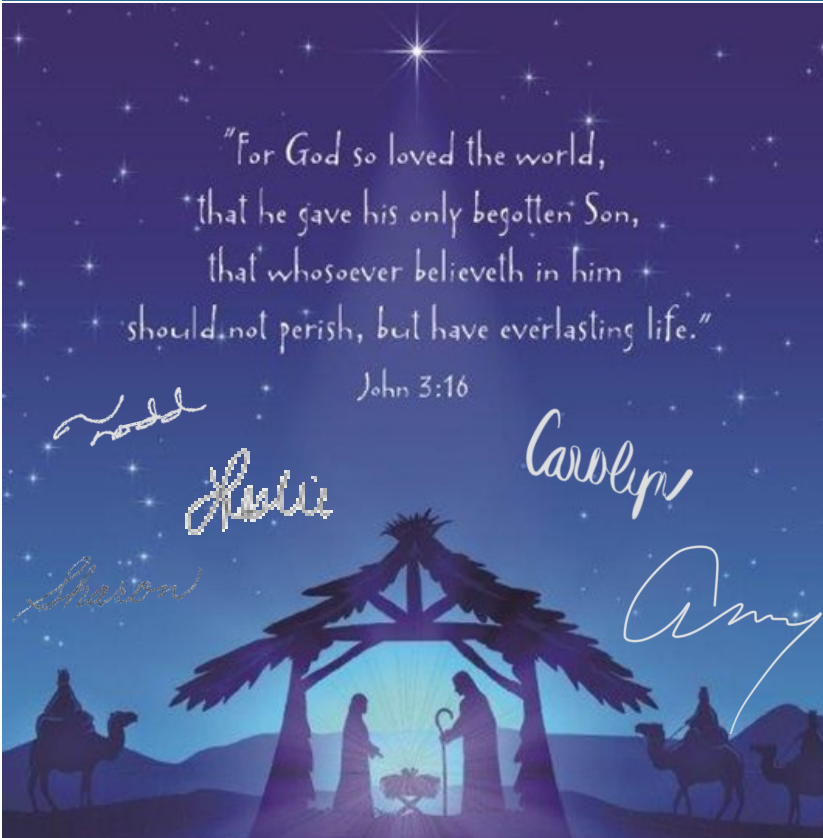




VILLAGE CHAPEL  
PRESBYTERIAN

# "THE VILLAGER" – DECEMBER 16, 2023



On the next two Sundays in December — the 17th and 24th — we will receive the Christmas Joy offering — an offering of the PCUSA that is split between leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related school and colleges equipping people of color AND the assistance program of the Board of Pensions.

Please give as you are able.

**Candlelight Communion Service**  
On Christmas Eve, at 9 pm, we will gather to celebrate Christ's birth with music, prayers, the reading of Luke's nativity story, and communion! And, of course, we will lift our candles high as we sing, "Silent Night"!



## WORSHIP NOTES

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

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	Carol Sing!
Jan. 7	Epiphany Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 14	Baptism of the Lord	Mark 1:4-11
Jan. 21		Mark 1:14-20



### GIVING TUESDAY

Our congregation (and your friends) responded to our Giving Tuesday challenge in a BIG way! We've received 56 jars of PB to help Common Grounds feed hungry neighbors AND \$556 for RIP Medical debt which will be leveraged to pay off the entire medical debt of almost 35 families in Appalachia!

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We have continued to receive additional pledges toward the 2024 budget. At last count the total was **\$175,120!** Your generosity translates into us being able to do the ministry God has called us to. do! Thank you for your generosity!

And if God has blessed you in 2023, please consider an extra gift to the church before the end of the year.

We hope to hear from everyone!

### ELDER RETREAT

The new class of elders passed their examination and will join the rest of the elders for a retreat January 19-20. We'll get to know each other better, break bread, and take care of some business — looking back and to the future. We will spend Saturday at the Library, vote on a budget for 2024, and draft people to serve on the various Ministry Teams. Fun, right?



### LONGEST NIGHT TAIZÉ

On Wednesday, Dec. 20th, at 7 PM, we will gather in the sanctuary for a Taizé style Longest Night service. There will be ample time to pray, sing, and sit in silence as we reflect on what we are grieving and what gives us hope!

Betty King & Kenn Long will join us again to add to the music! And, we hope to have the new chairs in place (The service will not be streamed, but will be available as a recording on Thursday, Dec. 21 on Facebook.)

## 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.

## HOLIDAYS AND IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday, December 25th** –  
Christmas Day  
Office is closed Dec. 25th & 26th



**Monday, January 1st** –  
New Years Day  
Office is closed Jan. 1st



**Monday, January 15th** –  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Office Closed



## 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

Opportunities to prepare your hearts for Christmas:

- Daily** Advent devotions are available via email
- 12/17 Gathering at Vicki and Ira's to fill bags for Veterans at 9 AM
- 12/20 Longest Night service (Taizé style)
- 12/22 Caroling at Hubbard Hospice House, starting at 4PM!
- 12/24 4th Sunday of Advent worship at 11 AM  
Candlelight Communion Service at 9 PM

## PW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

PW Will once again host their Christmas Program on Thursday, December 21st.



The luncheon is carry in, with Christmas Music provided once again by Sharon and Carolyn beginning in the Sanctuary at 12:30.

The congregation is invited to attend at 12:30 program bypassing the luncheon, or if you wish to attend the luncheon just make a reservation by notifying Leslie at the Church office.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

On the first Sunday after Christmas, 12/31, we will have a Carol Sing, belting out our best-loved Christmas carols!



**(You can wear your favorite Christmas sweater or tie or socks!)**

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

On Sunday, January 14th, we will ordain and/or install the elders in the class of 2026:



**Sheila Danzer, Sarah Gottlieb, Kathy Kruk, Rita Sockman, and Kelsey Rorrer!**

Come be part of their special day!

## SOLAR HOLLER Q & A

On Sunday, January 21st, after the worship service, Solar Holler will make a presentation about the advantages of going solar for both organizations like our church and local homeowners. This Q & A is open to members of our congregation and our friends/neighbors. As a benefit to us, Solar Holler has offered to credit us \$400 for each system sold as a result of our presentation!

**(So invite folks!)**



## ADVENT WINDOW ART





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

## JANUARY

1 Jaxon Brogan	16 Antonio Chiparo
2 Sawyer Reid	17 Charlotte Chiparo
3 Kristin Bustany	18 Jeff Chiparo
4 Susan Caldwell Bays	19 Beth Chiparo
5 Richard Callard	20 Sandra Copeland
6 Sharon Callard	21 Leon Copeland
7 Bob Campbell	22 Vicki Cunningham
8 Nancy Campbell	23 Doug Curnutte
9 Dionne Canterbury	24 Sharon Curnutte
10 Vivien Canterbury	25 Warren Danzer
11 Annabel Canterbury	26 Sheila Danzer
12 Isaiah Canterbury	27 David Dawson
13 Blanche Chevalier	28 Joyce Dunlap
14 Erin Chiparo	29 Dianne Ellis
15 Mike Chiparo	30 Grace Falbo
	31 Anthony Falbo

## 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!

## 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.

## 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 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.

### January 7:

Read Acts 19:1-7

The apostle Paul "baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus...the Holy Spirit came upon them." Pour a glass of water into a small bowl and think about your own baptism. Share a story about what you remember about your own baptism.

### January 14:

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10

The Lord called to Samuel in the night. Samuel responded, "Here I am!" Read the lyrics to the hymn "Here I am, Lord," written by Dan Schutte. Find them on the internet or in your hymnal. How has God called you? How might God call you this week? How will you respond?

STATISTICAL REPORT	12/10/23	12/3/23	11/26/23
In-Person Attendance	64	50	47
Non-Pledged	\$9,540	\$4,166.81	\$65
Pledged Contribution	\$2,930	\$2,260	\$2,360
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,382.59	\$747	\$358
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$13,852.89</b>	<b>\$7,173.81</b>	<b>\$2,783</b>

A CHRISTMAS

*Prayer*  
FOR YOU

May knowing JESUS bring you  
PEACE to bless each day,  
HOPE for each tomorrow,  
and JOY in every season.



# JANUARY 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4 10 AM - PW Coordinating Team 7 PM - Worship Team	5 7 PM - NA Group	6
7 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship	8 10 AM - Bridge	9 7 PM - Choir Practice	10 7:30 AM - Rotary Club 7 PM - Stewardship Team Meeting	11 10 AM - PW Circle	12 7 PM NA Group	13
14 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship with Elder Ordination 12 PM - Fellowship Time & Choir Practice	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Day OFFICE CLOSED 6 PM - Thriving Cong.	16	17	18 12 PM - PW Luncheon	19 Elder Retreat 7 PM NA Group	20
21 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship w/ Solar Holler Presentation 12:15 PM - Choir Practice	22 10 AM - Bridge	23	24 7:30 AM - Rotary Club	25 Newsletter 10 AM - Book Club	26 7 PM NA Group	27
28 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship 12 PM - Fellowship Time	29 10 AM - Bridge	30	31	<b>January Birthdays:</b> 1 - Rose Ann Walker 4 - Heather Barry 7 - Mary Howard, Philip Harich 8 - Nate Wright 9 - Sharon King 10 - Kathy Kruk 11 - Bruce Lawson 12 - Mia Velasco 16 - Alex Panger 20 - Richard Callard 22 - Peyton Panger 27 - Vera Forman		