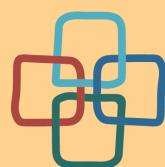




VILLAGE CHAPEL
PRESBYTERIAN

"THE VILLAGER" – DECEMBER 18, 2025



WORSHIP NOTES

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

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
Jan. 4	Epiphany Sunday	Isaiah 60:1-6 and Eph. 3:1-12
Jan. 11	Baptism of the Lord	Matthew 4:12-23
Jan. 18		John 1:29-42
Jan. 25		Matthew 4:12-23

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"!



"After Annunciation"

**This is the irrational season
When love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
There'd have been no room for the child.**

– Madeleine L'Engle

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Our congregation responded to our Giving Tuesday challenge in a BIG way!

We've received 90 jars of peanut butter and 114 cans of tuna to help Common Grounds feed hungry neighbors and lots of snacks for Chamberlain kids!

IMPORTANT DATES

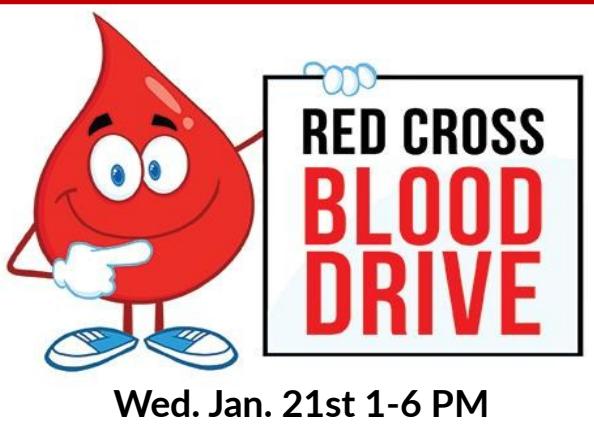
Thursday, December 25th
Christmas Day
Office Closed Dec. 25th–26th



Thursday, January 1st
New Years Day
Office Closed



Monday, January 19th
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

ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

Back in September the congregation elected a new class of elders – T'Aja Blank, Sandy Bowles, Raechel Chambers, and Vicki Cunningham. They studied hard, passed their examination by the session early in December, and now they will be ordained and/or installed on Sunday, January 11th!



EPIPHANY COMMUNION

Epiphany marks the beginning of a season of light. Isaiah 60 begins, "Arise, shine, for your light has come ... Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn!" (We often focus on the visit of the Magi as fulfillment of this prophecy.) We will mark Epiphany with the celebration of communion on 1/4/26. Come ready!

ELDER RETREAT

The new class of elders will join the rest of the elders for a retreat January 9-10. 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 Friday night at Common Grounds (eating from a standard box given to hungry families) and Saturday at the church. We will vote on a budget for 2026, and draft people to serve on the Ministry Teams.

STEWARSHIP

We have continued to receive additional pledges toward the 2026 budget. At last count the total was **\$187,138!** 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 2025, please consider an extra gift to the church before the end of the year. We hope to hear from everyone!

The Gifts of the Magi

Frederick Buechner reflected on the gifts of the Magi in *Peculiar Treasurers*:

"The gifts that the three Magi, brought to the manger in Bethlehem cost them plenty but seem hardly appropriate to the occasion. Maybe they were all they could think of for the child who had everything. In any case, they set them down on the straw — the gold, the frankincense, the myrrh — worshiped briefly, and then returned to the East ... It gives you pause to consider how, for all their great wisdom, they overlooked the one gift that the child would have been genuinely pleased to have someday, and that was the gift of themselves and their love."

As we celebrate Epiphany, it is worth asking, have we given Jesus the wonderful gift of ourselves and our love? Like Buechner, I bet that is exactly what our Savior wants!



Caroling at Charleston Healthcare - bringing the joy of the season!



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

JANUARY

1 Jeff Howard	16 Bobby Knight
2 Bruce Husson	17 Tina Bairefoot Knight
3 Chris Husson	18 Kathy Kruk
4 Pat Jacobs	19 Teresa Lawlor
5 Rhonda Jacobs	20 Bruce Lawson
6 Lillie Jacobs	21 Lisa Lawson
7 Jake Jacobs	22 Noah Lawson
8 Alan Johnston	23 Josie Lawson
9 Peggy Palmer	24 Mike LeMaster
10 Bruce King Jr.	25 Joyce LeMaster
11 Lori King	26 Jeanne Macdonald
12 Sam King	27 Joan Mansell
13 Alexander King	28 Peter Markham
14 Martha Grace King	29 Tara Markham
15 Sharon King	30 Addison Markham
	31 Paul Markham

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.

December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Read Matthew 1:18-25

Luke's gospel tells Mary's story; Matthew's gospel focused on Joseph. When Joseph found out that his fiancée, Mary, was pregnant and he wasn't the father, legally, he could have sent her away in humiliation and shame or even had her killed. As he considered his options, he had a visit by an angel who told him in a dream that Mary had been chosen to bear God's son. Trusting God, he went ahead with his marriage to Mary. What's a hard decision you've had to trust God as you've made it? What did you do?

December 28: First Sunday of Christmas

Read Matthew 2:13-15

King Herod wanted to hear back from the magi after they'd found the child they sought. He said he wanted to worship him as they did. But he was lying; he really wanted to get rid of him. Jesus was warned in a dream to take his family and flee to Egypt to keep Jesus safe. Many others have also had to flee from their home because it was no longer safe there. Pray for those who look for a safe place to live and raise a family in our time.

January 4: Second Sunday of Christmas

Read John 1:1-18

John's gospel does not have a story of Jesus' birth. Instead, it identifies Jesus as the Word who has been active since the beginning and who began human and lived among humans showing them God's grace. Some didn't recognize him or accept him. How does your life show that you recognize Jesus? How do you reflect Jesus' gift of grace to the world?

Amy & Don Parker's new address

(as of January 1, 2026):

5408 Embassy Drive
Cross Lanes, WV 25313



STATISTICAL REPORT	12/14/25	12/7/25	11/30/25	11/23/25
In-Person Attendance	51	68	37	54
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$145	\$485	\$754.87	\$2,075
Pledged Contributions	\$1,949	\$2,804	\$3,506	\$2,184
Miscellaneous Income	\$13,954.29	\$521	\$1,237	\$715
Total Contributions	\$16,048.29	\$3,810	\$5,497.87	\$4,974



JANUARY 2026