



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

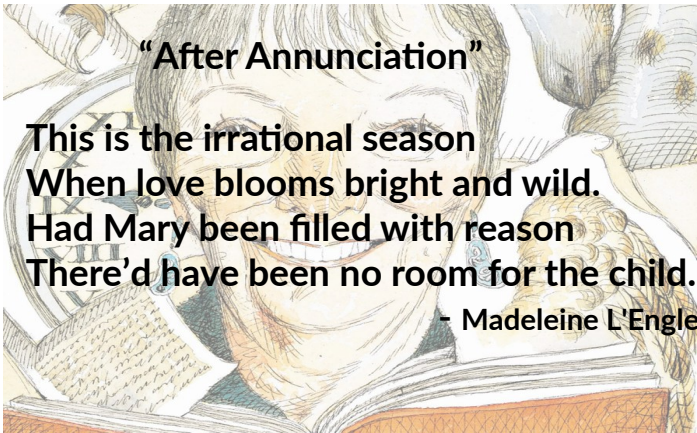
On Christmas Eve, at 9 pm, we will gather to celebrate Christ’s birth with music, prayers, the reading of Luke’s nativity story, and communion! And, of course, we will lift our candles high as we sing, “Silent Night”!



### “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!



**Wed. Jan. 21st 1-6 PM**

## 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.

## STEWARDSHIP

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](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.



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>January Birthdays:</b> 1 - Rose Ann Walker; 3 - Crosley Blank; 4 - Heather Barry, Patty Pogue; 7 - Philip Harich; 8 - Nate Wright; 9 - Sharon King; 10 - Kathy Kruk; 11 - Bruce Lawson; 12 - Mia Velasco; 20 - Richard Callard; 27 - Vera Forman						
<b>4</b> 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship with communion	<b>5</b> 10 AM - Bridge	<b>6</b> 10:30 AM - Staff Meeting 7 PM - Choir Practice	<b>7</b> 7 PM - Worship Team	<b>8</b> 10 AM - PW Coordinating Team	<b>9</b> 7 PM NA Group <b>Elder Retreat</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship 12:15 PM - Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 10 AM - Bridge	<b>13</b> 10:30 AM - Staff Meeting	<b>14</b> 7:30 AM - Rotary Club 7 PM - Stewardship Team Meeting	<b>15</b> 10 AM - PW Circle	<b>16</b> 7 PM NA Group	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship 12:15 PM - Choir Practice	<b>19</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10 AM - Bridge	<b>20</b> 10:30 AM - Staff Meeting	<b>21</b> 1-6 PM <b>Blood Drive</b>	<b>22</b> Newsletter 12PM - PW Luncheon	<b>23</b> 7 PM NA Group	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship	<b>26</b> 10 AM - Bridge	<b>27</b> 10:30 AM - Staff Meeting	<b>28</b> 7:30 AM - Rotary Club	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7 PM NA Group	<b>31</b>