



VILLAGE • CHAPEL
PRESBYTERIAN

“THE VILLAGER” – JANUARY 2024

LENT COMES

Every year, when the skies are grey and the cold has seeped into our bones, Lent comes. It begins with shadows and ashes and a reminder that in life and in death we belong to God. It builds through weeks of study and reflection as we take part in a simple meal and Bible study (on forgiveness) and mark the days with devotions. The Sunday scriptures will trace the progress of Jesus toward the cross and the reason for it. But all the while something is growing and our hearts quicken in response! The alleyway will burst into color with daffodils and our hearts will rejoice as Easter draws near! Lent helps us prepare for this transformation ... every year!

So, plan to welcome the start of Lent by taking part in the Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 14 and taking part in communion on Feb. 18. It'll do your heart good!

ELDER RETREAT SUMMARY

The Session met January 19-20 for a retreat, despite the snow! On Friday we elected John France president of the corporation; re-elected Rose Ann Walker as clerk; elected Greg and Terri Rader as co-treasurers; and re-elected Leslie Bremar as asst. treasurer. We heard more about Guns to Gardens and agreed that Sarah Gottlieb would make a presentation on February 18 about the event and receive a special offering for it. Finally, we heard a report about the need to remove the steeple to assess and address leaks. Doing so will cost about \$10,000. This is addition to \$49,000 to re-shingle the sanctuary roof. We have received gifts from anonymous donors of \$30,000 but will need to raise the rest. The session approved an envelope d campaign to do so, starting in February. (more on this on page 3)

On Saturday we drafted people to serve on ministry teams; evaluated 2023 and our ministry in the community; discussed the next steps in the Thriving Congregations process; and dreamed a little about what we might do in 2024. We also passed a budget for 2024 that includes a 3% raise for staff in response to inflation.

There will be a **meeting of the congregation on February 4** to present the budget, vote on any changes to the terms of Todd's call, and share MT reports.

WORSHIP NOTES

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

Jan. 28 Mark 1:21-28

Feb. 4 Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 11 Transfiguration Sunday Mark 9:2-9 and 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Isaiah 58:1-12 and 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Feb. 18 First Sunday in Lent Genesis 9:8-17 and Mark 1:9-15

Feb. 25 Second Sunday in Lent Romans 4:13-25



SOLAR HOLLER PRESENTATION

About 20 folks stayed after church this past Sunday to hear Thomas Ramey speak about the benefits of going solar. He recounted that he hasn't paid an electric bill since he made the switch several years ago. He told us that several county school systems are "renting" solar systems from Solar Holler in order to reduce their cost by 15-25%. While the church has decided to purchase the equipment and reap all the benefits, homeowners might rather "rent" and avoid the upfront installation costs.



Ramey distributed sign-up cards for a free estimate. (Anyone can get one.) If they end up going solar as a result, Solar Holler will give the church a \$400 credit!

ASHES TO GO

Mostly, our faith is private. We can go to the grocery store or to school or to work and no one can tell that we are Christians by looking at us. But on Ash Wednesday we step forward and are marked with ashes and hear the words "in life and in death, you are the Lord's.) And then for the rest of the day we wear those ashes for anyone/ everyone to see!



What a bold declaration! And an invitation to conversation! Prior to COVID we offered Ashes to Go in public places around the city, so that people could participate in this tradition. We are planning to do so again.

Details are still being worked out—we've got calls in to some high profile places— but the plan it for Amy and Todd to offer them from 11-1 along with a simple blessing. They'd love to have help! Let them know if you are interested by contacting the church office.

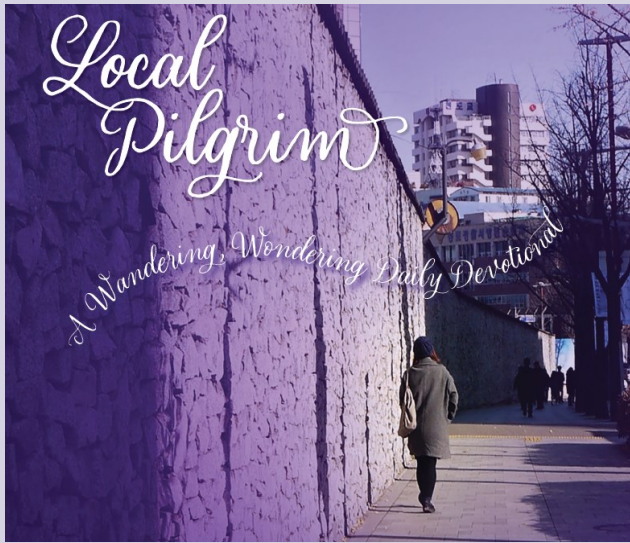


LENT 2024 AT VCPC

FEBRUARY 14 – MARCH 30



February 14 Ash Wednesday Service 6 PM.
So come and start the season of Lent with scripture and prayer and as part of a community of faith!



This daily Lent devotional from the *Presbyterian Outlook* invites you to explore and observe new and familiar places in your community. What will God reveal to you when you pause, ponder and reflect? A cemetery, a bar, a library, an emergency waiting room: what do all these places have in common? In *Local Pilgrim*, *Outlook* Editor Teri McDowell Ott and other writers explore what God might reveal to us if we intentionally explore our communities. Who do we see? What do we hear? God reveals God's self when we look. Devotions will be emailed to everyone beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14. **Please let Leslie know if you'd like a printed edition.**

LENTEN DINNER & STUDY 2024

Mondays: February 12– March 18

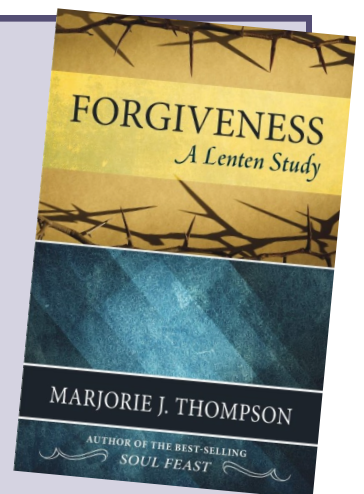
As we did last year, we will meet on Mondays at 6:30 in the Sockman Fellowship Hall for a meal and the study.

FORGIVENESS: A LENTEN STUDY

Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers. Lent is an appropriate time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness. Marjorie J. Thompson takes a close look at our understanding of forgiveness in this encouraging study. Thompson addresses such questions as: Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances, or are there situations when we do not need to forgive? Is forgiving the best route to healing for the injured? How do we get past emotional barriers to real forgiveness? This study will help us examine both our ability to forgive and our own need for forgiveness.

Participants in the study who are able will be asked to form groups that will be responsible for providing one meal. We are asking those interested to sign up for a book and meal planning: there will be a sign up sheet in the narthex or email aparker@vcpresby.org.

If you have questions, contact Amy Parker or Todd Wright!



PW REQUEST SWEATPANTS

The VC Presbyterian Women is asking for donations of men's sweatpants, size L, for Bream Shop. They are in need of these during the winter months. There is a box in the Fellowship Hall on one of the pews to place donations! Thank you in advance!

BLESSING BOXES

Our Blessing Box was damaged during the car wreck on the corner of the church earlier this winter. However, we have been given permission and an opportunity to continue helping our neighbors in need by contributing to the Blessing Boxes at Morris Memorial Methodist Church. They have two boxes on the 47th Street side of the church ready for water, snacks, toiletry items, etc... ready for drop off. You can also find me at church on Sundays with your items and I'll place them in the box. Thank you for continue to help those in our community who may be struggling.

Kathy Kruk, Membership/Outreach Team

HEROES OF THE DAY JANUARY 14, 2024

SPECIAL THANKS TO SHARON CURNUTTE & DON PARKER

for stepping up to provide music when the snowstorm meant Carolyn was stuck at her home on a hill. Sharon played the piano with only her left hand since her right arm was in a brace after shoulder surgery less than two weeks before. Don stepped up to play guitar on the hymns with little notice.

AND TO JIM & BARBARA SMITH

Jim spent the Sunday School hour clearing the sidewalks around the church as the snow fell, and Barbara staffed the sound mixer so Don would be free to help with music.

**GOD BLESS YOU, GOOD AND
FAITHFUL SERVANTS!**

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The **Souper Bowl of Caring** was founded by a Presbyterian youth group and has been helping feed the hungry for over 30 years! While the movement has expanded beyond the faith community, it continues to be fueled by people coming together to worship and make a difference in their community. People like you!

Nationwide, we've raised \$175 million so far! At our church, we will receive the offering on **February 11th!** We don't know yet who will be in the Super Bowl, but you can give cans or cash to support whichever is your favorite team! All we collect will go to Common Grounds to help feed our hungry neighbors.



EMPTY BOWLS AT MANNA MEAL

Join Manna Meal for lunch and dinner on February 5th!

Lunch preorders will be available for delivery or takeout from 11:00am-1:00pm at St. John's Episcopal Church Preorder on or before February 3rd.

Dinner will be available for in-person dining or takeout from 4:30pm-6:30pm at Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Orders include locally handcrafted ceramic bowls—that you can keep!—and a meal of soup, salad, bread, and dessert.

Cost: \$40

Pre-registration is encouraged but not required—[CLICK HERE](#)

We're so grateful to local potters at Taylor Books and Capitol Clay for donating bowls to honor the legacy of Jim Hores, longtime supporter and friend of Manna Meal.



GREETING CARDS NEEDED

Village Chapel always takes care of our members who are homebound, in a care facility, or just need some support. A few times a month the Care of Members ministry team, and the youth Sunday School class, send out cards to let our members know we are thinking of them. It could be for a birthday, sympathy, thinking of you, etc. However, our supply is running low.

If you would like to donate cards or stamps for this project, please put them on the card table in the back of the Fellowship Hall or give to Kathy Kruk to Betsy White.

Thank you for helping us continue a valued way to let our members know we care for them!

JULE SOCKMAN'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

Mark your calendars for March 2-3, 2024 to celebrate Jule Sockman's 101st birthday at Village Chapel.



On Saturday March 2nd, there will be a drive by at Jule's house (601 43rd Street) to wish him a happy birthday outside on 43rd Street from 3-5pm.

On Sunday, March 3rd (his actual birthday) we will have a birthday celebration in the Jule Sockman Fellowship Hall, complete with a cake and 101 candles for him to blow out.

See you March 2-3 for Jule's 101st birthday, for Village Chapel's oldest member and last living charter member.

V- is for the Victory in Jesus.
A- is for Amazing grace how sweet the sound.
L- is for His Love that lifted me.
and **E** - is for Eternal life, when found.
N- is Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
T- is for Thanksgiving praise we give.
I - is for, Jesus IS the answer
N- Is for - We Need His love to live.
and **E**- is - The love, He Ever gives.
Susan Y Nikitenko December 27th, 2013



WHAT'S AN ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN?



When the Stewardship MT met with Ellie Johns-Kelley, regional representative of the Presbyterian Foundation, recently to ask advice on how to best finance repairs to the sanctuary roof, we discussed several options: a full blown capital campaign, a loan, or an envelope campaign.

She recommended an envelope campaign — put together 200 envelopes numbered 1–200 and ask each individual to take one and give at least the amount on the envelope. So a person with one marked 7 could participate for just \$7 and a person who took one marked 156 could give \$156, or more. If everyone did that, we'd raise over \$20,000 — close to what is needed!

We liked that anyone could participate and even the highest amount is not overly burdensome!

To be clear, this would only fund removing the steeple to assess and address the leaking and to re-shingle the sanctuary roof. More funds will be needed, perhaps another envelope campaign another year, to replace the steeple.

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

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Max Falbo | 16 Julia France |
| 2 Eva Falbo | 17 Meredith France |
| 3 John Fleck | 18 Vicki Frisk |
| 4 Donzy Fleck | 19 Mike Frisk |
| 5 Kate Forman | 20 Julie Gentry |
| 6 Isaac Forman | 21 Jessica Gentry |
| 7 Nora Forman | 22 Sarah Gottlieb |
| 8 Vera Forman | 23 Richard Gottlieb |
| 9 Martha Foster | 24 Jack Grimm |
| 10 Carter France | 25 Sheila Grimm |
| 11 Melissa France | 26 Lynne Gunnoe |
| 12 Kendall France | 27 Judy Haddock |
| 13 Dean France | 28 Cindy Hanna |
| 14 John France | 29 Rick Hanna |
| 15 Missy France | |

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.

Growing up as part of a family, we learn the importance of saying sorry and seeking to heal relationships when things go wrong. The church family gives us opportunities to mess up and seek forgiveness, too. My errors seem to often be in being over-enthusiastic or thinking I'm always right! So I apologize if my desire for everyone to have the best worship experience possible for our hymn sing on Dec. 31 meant that I was too energetic in encouraging folks to sit closer together in the chairs. I will try my best to be more sensitive in the future. —Amy

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!

NURTURING FAITH IDEAS

January 28: Read Mark 1:21-28

Jesus taught with authority. What are some stories you know of Jesus teaching others? Write down some of the things Jesus taught us. Which of Jesus' teachings mean the most to you? How might you teach others what Jesus taught you?

February 4: Read Mark 1:29-39

As Jesus begins his ministry, his life takes on a rhythm of action (teaching and healing) and prayer and solitude. His time by himself in prayer perhaps confirms his calling: "This is why I have come." Reflect on your own life. How does it have a rhythm to it? Do you find time to be nurtured by God in solitude and silence so that you can engage with the world from a place of centered Presence?

February 11: Read Mark 9:2-9

Jesus orders the disciples to not tell anyone what they had seen. Reflect on why he would order this of the disciples. Why would he not want others to know about this experience? What is most important to Jesus? Have you ever had an amazing experience of God? Did you tell anyone about it? Why or why not?

February 18: Read Mark 1:9-15

Jesus' life and call are affirmed and confirmed through his experience of baptism. Reflect on what your baptism means to you. Every time you encounter water this week, perhaps as you wash dishes or pour yourself a drink, be reminded that you are God's beloved child. Hear God tell you, "With you I am well-pleased." Notice your feelings, both emotional and physical, as you rest in God's love for you.

STATISTICAL REPORT	1/21/24	1/14/24	1/7/24	12/31/23	12/24/23
In-Person Attendance	30	43	41	27	66, 58
Non-Pledged	\$35	\$35	\$285	\$1,310	\$149
Pledged Contribution	\$2,095	\$2,105	\$9,400	\$3,207	\$365
Miscellaneous Income	\$500	\$5,643	\$214	\$2,716.18	\$721.5
Total Contributions	\$2,630	\$7,783	\$9,899	\$7,233.18	\$1,235.50



FEBRUARY 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

February Birthdays: 3 - Todd Zubick; 5 - Josie Lawson; 11 - Tonja Parsons; 13 - Steve Murray; 15 - Hallie Barry; 17 - Alan Johnston, Melissa France; Samantha Rorrer; 20 - Jane Harich, John Walker; 23 - Rita Sockman; 25 - Daniel Walker, Emily Wright; 28 - Kyle Blank, Sharon Curnutte

4

9:45 AM - Sunday School
11:00 AM - Worship & Congregational Meeting
12:15 PM - Choir Practice

5

10:30 AM - Bridge

6

7

8

10:00 AM - PW Circle

9

7:00 PM - NA Meeting

10

11

9:45 AM - Sunday School
11:00 AM - Worship
12:00 PM - Souper Bowl of Caring Fellowship Time

12

10:30 AM - Bridge
6:30 PM - Lenten Bible Study

13

14

7:30 AM - Rotary Club
7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday Worship

15

12:00 PM - PW Luncheon
7:00 PM - Stewardship Team

16

7:00 PM - NA Meeting

17

Virtual Presbytery Meeting

18

9:45 AM - Sunday School
11:00 AM - Worship
12:15 PM - Choir Practice

19

10:30 AM - Bridge
6:30 PM - Lenten Bible Study

20

21

7:00 PM - Session

22

NEWSLETTER
10:00 AM - Book Club

23

7:00 PM - NA Meeting

24

25

9:45 AM - Sunday School
11:00 AM - Worship
12:00 PM - Fellowship Time

26

10:30 AM - Bridge
6:30 PM - Lenten Bible Study

27

28

7:30 AM - Rotary Club

29

30

31