VILLAGE CHAPEL
PRESBYTERIAN

"The Villager" – October 22, 2026

From the Word Into Worship Hits Its Stride!

By the time you read this newsletter, the $25,000 worship grant that we received from the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, funded by the Lilly Endowment has already funded a wonderful presentation by Rabbi Adam Berman about the Pentateuch at a joint meal with the Temple Israel and B'nai Jacob congregations, encouraged a group from Village to go and worship with our Jewish brothers and sisters at B'nai Jacob on the 17th and enabled us to focus on key passages from the Pentateuch on four Sundays!

But wait, there's more!

On Sunday morning, November 1st, we will transition into the historical books of the Old Testament (which tell the stories of Israel's shift from Judges to kings and into exile) with a lecture by Dr. Tyler Mayfield, professor of Old Testament at Louisville Seminary over breakfast! They say breakfast is the most important meal of the day- and this day will feed you body, mind, and soul! Arrive at 9:15 for a catered breakfast; the lecture and Q & A will start at 9:30 and be over in time for worship!

Before the month is over, we will begin the season of Advent. This year we have made an intentional decision to focus on prophecy-what were they saying about the priorities of God, God's desire for justice, and the nature of the expected Messiah-as we prepare for Christ's birth. We'll also enjoy another lecture over breakfast by Dr. Mayfield on December 6th.

Throughout, I invite you to read the weekly scripture closely and reflect on how it forms, informs, and reforms our worship.

Worship Notes

Join us in person or virtually for worship in October and November !

October 25	Reformation Sunday	Matthew 22:34-40
November 1	All Saints Sunday / History 1	Judges 4:1-7 (8-16)
November 8	Dedication Sunday / History 2	1 Samuel 8:4-20
November 15	Guest Preacher Nelle Howard / History 3	1 Samuel 16:1-13
November 22	History 4	2 Chronicles 36:14-21
November 29	First Sunday of Advent / Prophecy 1	Isaiah 64:1-9

Common Grounds Thanksgiving Boxes



We have already signed up 90 people for Thanksgiving boxes and have a couple more weeks to sign up more clients.

We are requesting the following items to be donated between now and November 8th and left at the back of the church. This will defray some of the costs that impact our budget.

Items needed: cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, corn, beans, yams.

We so appreciate your support of this important ministry!! *Betsy White & Shiela Danzer*

Dedication Sunday

You've heard a couple of stewardship moments from members of the congregation over the past couple weeks and you'll receive a "letter" soon with thoughts from the committee for stewardship season, but on Sunday, November 8th, during worship, you will be able to bring your pledge to support God's work through our congregation in 2027 down front and place it in a basket!

We've done a lot of good stewardship during 2026! It has truly been a "mast year"! We are hoping for continued generosity in 2027!

Joint Thanksgiving Service



We are looking forward to hosting this year's joint Thanksgiving service at Village Chapel! We'll gather with members of Morris Memorial UMC and St. Agnes Catholic on Sunday, November 22nd, at 7 PM to give thanks! We'll hear the latest about Common Grounds and receive a special offering to further this wonderful joint ministry to our neighbors!

Giving Tuesday

Village Chapel is participating in Giving Tuesday - Dec. 1st

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 Wal mart 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 12/14!

Pay-It-Forward

Saturday November 7th
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Items needed: housewares, blankets, sheets, towels, toys, seasonal decorations, coats, jackets and sweaters (please do not bring other items.)

Items may be brought to the church the week before the sale.

All Saints Sunday – November 1st



We will remember those "saints" who have died over the past 12 months.

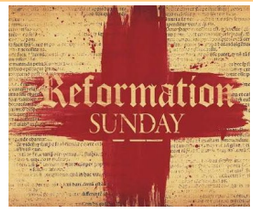
So who are the saints? In the Chrisitan tradition, "saints" refers to those who have kept the faith. Saints don't have to have lived perfect lives. In fact, when they haven't, their lives are a demonstration of God's grace! That means that everyone qualifies! Saints will have blessed the people they have lived, worked and played with in countless ways!

So come to worship ready to remember some of the saints who have impacted you. If you'd like to submit their names, we will receive them as a part of worship that day or you can send them to the church office.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

On Saturday, October 24th at GoMart Park - Registration begins at 8:30 AM and the walk around downtown begins at 10 AM.
To register to join the Village Chapel team or to donate please click here or contact Sarah Gottlieb by phone (304) 546-7087 or email her at mamasan41@hotmail.com.

Reformation Sunday



On October 25th, we will host Trinity Lutheran to celebrate Reformation Sunday! As in the past, there will be a joint choir and we will share in leadership of communion! Trinity will bring bell ringers and the loose offering will go to support the ministry of Covenant House. After the service we will have some time for food and fellowship. Lutherans like to eat, just as much as Presbyterians! Praise God!

Statistical Report	10/18/26	10/11/26	10/4/26	9/27/26
In Person Attendance	48	61	48	48
Non-Pledged	$235	$790	$1,770.70	$165
Pledges	$3,149	$2,504	$2,741	$3,344
Misc. Income	$456.10	$1,601	$85	$538.40
Total Contributions	$3,840.10	$4,895	$4,596.70	$4,047.40



December 3rd
1:00 – 6:00 PM

Village Chapel Legacy – A Caring, Giving Church

As Village Chapel prepared for its 75th anniversary, one theme emerged clearly from its history: a deep, sustained commitment to caring for people. Across generations, the congregation has supported its members, local neighbors, the wider church, and people in need around the world. Its giving has taken many forms—financial gifts, volunteer service, donated goods, practical assistance, and partnerships with community organizations.

A Legacy of Giving

Village Chapel's record of benevolence began early in the history of the Church. In 1952, the Church reported more than $6,500 in benevolent gifts; by 1960, that figure had reached $90,583. In the 1960s, the Women of the Church led special efforts for providing to Christian communities in the Belgian Congo, Taiwan, and Formosa. Mission support continued in the 1970s. Village Chapel sponsored Dr. Alan G. Gordon and Mrs. Gordon, a physician and nurse commissioned as Presbyterian medical missionaries in Brazil. When the Buffalo Creek flood devastated southwestern West Virginia in 1972, the Church received a special offering for victims.

Feeding People and Supporting Missions

Village Chapel has repeatedly responded to hunger. In 1980, the congregation began Share a Crop, asking members of the congregation to bring garden produce to worship for sharing within the Church and through the Hunger Program. The Presbyterian Women also gathered medical supplies for missionary hospitals along with linens, blankets, and other needed items.

Giving within the Church has also strengthened fellowship. A 1985 Book Exchange invited members and friends to "Select, Read, and Return," which was the beginning the library that remains in place today.

Serving Neighbors in Need

Over the years, Village Chapel has supported organizations that provide shelter, food, and stability. Through the Women of the Church, the congregation assisted Patchwork, later Daymark Patchwork, a crisis center serving homeless and runaway youth. Village Chapel also supported Sojourners, a shelter for women, children, and families, by donating clothing and toiletries and by adopting and maintaining a room within that facility.

In 1995, the Church participated in Souper Bowl Sunday - collecting money and soup for Health Rite of West Virginia and later for Manna Meal and other community groups. Youth groups added their own service projects, including car washes that supported George Washington High School, Ronald McDonald House, and Bluestone Conference Center.

That same spirit was evident in a Church walk that raised $1,850 for Charleston Manna Meal and Church World Service. For the Church's 50th anniversary, the congregation raised funds for, and blitz built a Habitat for Humanity home.

Practical Care and Community Partnerships

In 2005 Village Chapel partnered with other congregations and Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate a home, contributing $15,000 toward this effort. When a Church family needed a furnace and ductwork in 2007, the congregation raised $2,000 and the Church budget covered the remaining cost.

In 2008, Village Chapel joined with St. Agnes Catholic Church and Morris Memorial Methodist Church to establish Common Grounds. Village Chapel members have staffed the program, contributed food and funds, and remained active partners over the years. In 2025 Common Grounds moved into the house next door – a facility owned by Village Chapel.

The Pay It Forward event, begun in 2009, invited members to donate gently used clothing, housewares, linens, toys, and new blankets. Other outreach has included gifts to the Regional Coalition for Community Renewal, Project Graduation, backpacks for elementary students, picnics and gift bags for veterans, blood drives, homemade soup for people in need, meals at Trinity's Table and Manna Meal, and cookbooks, the proceeds from which have continued to support Common Grounds.

Continuing the Work

More recent community service and outreach has included Blessing Bags filled with basic necessities; support for Ronald McDonald House, Read-A-Loud, Habitat for Humanity, Heart and Hand Closet, the Walk to End Alzheimer's, and Remote Area Medical; socks for homeless shelters; donations to Extended Arms; and sandwich-making for Manna Meal.

In 2024, Village Chapel supported Chamberlain Elementary School with backpacks, participated in Guns to Gardens, and began Suds of Love, a laundry project for residents of Village Apartments.

The many examples in Village Chapel's history reveal more than a series of projects. They show a congregation committed to meeting real needs with generosity, partnership, and hands-on service. This legacy reflects the Church's purpose, as adopted by the Session in 1988: to invite people to commit to Jesus Christ and provide opportunities to worship, study, and serve Christ in a community of caring and giving people.

Sandra S. Bowles



NOVEMBER 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS: 6 - Nancy Trotter; 7 - Rona Smith; 11 - Butch Singleton; 13 - Gaby Velasco, Susan Caldwell-Bays; 21 - Bob Campbell, Bob Pogue; 23 - Jack Grimm; 24 - Greg Rader; 28 - Charlie Stebbins						
1  9:45 AM - Breakfast w/ Scholar; Sunday School 11 AM - Worship Service 12:15 PM - Choir Practice	2 10 AM - Bridge	3 2:30 PM - Worship Grant Meeting	4 7 PM - Worship Team Meeting	5 10 AM - PW Coordinating Team	6 7:00 PM - NA Group	7 PAY-IT-FORWARD
8 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship 12:15 PM - Officer Training	9 10 AM - Bridge	10 7 PM - Choir Practice	11  7:30 AM - Rotary Club 7 PM - Stewardship Team Meeting	12 10 AM - PW Circle	13 7:00 PM - NA Group	14
15 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship Service	16 10 AM - Bridge 7 PM - Office Training	17 7 PM - Choir Practice	18 7 PM - Session Meeting	19 Presbytery Meeting @ 1st Parkersburg 12 PM - PW Luncheon NEWSLETTER	20 7:00 PM - NA Group	21
22 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship Service 12:15 PM - Officer Training 7 PM - Joint Thanksgiving Service	23 10 AM - Bridge	24	25 7:30 AM - Rotary Club Meeting	26  **Thanksgiving Day - OFFICE CLOSED**	27 **OFFICE CLOSED** 7:00 PM - NA Group	28
29 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship Service	30 10 AM - Bridge					