



VILLAGE CHAPEL
PRESBYTERIAN

"THE VILLAGER" – AUGUST 27, 2026

STUDYING THE END OF LIFE

For the past seven weeks I have been taking a continuing education class through the University of Vermont to receive an End of Life doula certificate. It has been fascinating!

According to Dr. Peter Saul there are four primary ways that people die. In order, they are:

- **Dwindling capacity/frailty**—the most rapidly growing option in the US
- **Organ failure**—major systems like the heart, lungs, or kidneys stop working
- **Terminal illness** from things like cancer—statistically less common as treatments improve
- **Sudden death** from heart attack or traumas like car crashes—now rare

Part of what interests me about this class is that much of what applies to individuals also applies to churches. When I moved to WV in 2009 there were 150 churches in the PWV; now there are 112, with additional churches closing each time the Presbytery gathers. Their reasons for closing echo Dr. Saul's description: the majority close because they have become weakened versions of their former selves; some die because over time they have given up on the programs that are the beating heart of being the church (doing away with Sunday school or mission in the community); others suffer a scandal (an affair or embezzlement) that eats away at the congregation from the inside like cancer; and finally some churches cannot overcome a trauma like a fire or a flood.

Consider the health of Village—we are 76 and still going strong (we're smaller, but still have vital worship, mission, and educational ministries); we've avoided scandals (and received members from other congregations that haven't); and we've built back after two lightning strikes! Praise God!

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WORSHIP NOTES

Join us in person or virtually for worship in August and September!

August 30

Romans 12:9-21

September 6

Psalms 119:33-40

September 13

Matthew 18:21-35

September 20

Worship Grant Begins

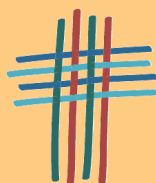
Genesis 1:1-2:4a, 2:4b-25

September 27

Leaving a Legacy

Guest Preacher Ellie Johns Kelly

WORSHIP GRANT KICK-OFF EVENT



Catered Dinner with Presentation & Discussion

with Scholar - Speaker Rabbi Adam Berman

and honored guests, members of B'nai Jacob & Temple Israel

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Reservations required!

Please RSVP by Wednesday, Sept. 2

Email lbremar@vcpresby.org or call 304-925-7265

*More information on the worship grant project
appears on page 3 of this newsletter.*

ONC NEARS COMPLETION

The Officer

Nominating

Committee has been

discerning who God

might be calling to

serve as an elder in the class of

2029. They will announce a slate

of nominees on Sunday, Sept. 6

and the Session has called for a

meeting of the congregation on

Sept. 20th for a vote.



BACKPACKS UPDATE

Sending a big THANK YOU to our Village!
Because of your generosity, we delivered backpacks
FULL of school supplies to Chamberlain Elementary
School!



Blanche's frightfully fabulous 100th birthday bash

JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR NIGHT
OF MUSIC, TREATS, AND BOO-TIFUL
MEMORIES IN HONOR OF
BLANCHE CHEVALIER

OCTOBER
10
SATURDAY

**4:30-
7:30**

NO GIFTS, PLEASE

**THE HIDEAWAY
189 SUMMERS ST
CHARLESTON, WV**

RSVP BY 9/30
(304)419-4543

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad
& Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool
that allows you to get to know our church
family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for
Instant Church Directory and download
the FREE app to begin.

Enter your email listed in the directory, and
click "Send Secure Sign-In Link." Check your
email, and click the "Log in to Instant Church
Directory" button.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you
have trouble logging into the app, please
contact the church office.



ONLINE GIVING PAGE UPDATE

If you wish to contribute to
your annual pledge or make a
donation to Village Chapel
Presbyterian Church, you can
scan the QR code below and
you will be directed to our
NEW online giving page!

Current scheduled online giving will occur as
normal, but our contribution page got a
facelift!



The Presbyterian Women group met for lunch
recently... planning for the upcoming year! Stay tuned
for more info about PW Circle and Luncheons!

LEAVING A LEGACY!

On Sunday, September 27th, Ellie Johns Kelly,
with the Presbyterian Foundation, will lead
worship and then speak at a potluck luncheon to
follow. She'll ask how we want to be remem-
bered — what things that we have supported
during our lifetime do we want to continue.

BALANCE *with Barb*

Gentle exercises and tips
for keeping your body
balanced and flexible.

Learn how to let your
skeleton hold you upright
instead of your muscles.

TOPICS & TIPS FROM: Tai Chi, Alexander, Feldenkrais, Pilates,
and Movement with Health and Centering.

**MONDAYS
4-5 PM**

**Classes start
Sept. 21st!**

COST: \$5 donation to
VCPC per class.



**VILLAGE CHAPEL
PRESBYTERIAN**

3818 Venable Ave,
Charleston, WV
Barb Smith, leader

FROM THE WORD INTO WORSHIP

The Vital Worship Grant Project
September 2026 thru June 2027



This summer we received a \$25K Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship to deepen our understanding of the Bible and its various genre, learning from scholars and other traditions, and to explore new ways to use that understanding to deepen our worship practices. You'll be hearing much more about the plans for the year on September 13 during worship. But our **first event will actually be on Sept. 8** – information about that is on the cover page of the newsletter.

We returned to Christen Kinnard at Digital Congregations for developing a logo for the project. (Christen did our VCPC logo back in 2021.) Here is her brief description of the above logo:

"A woven grid evoking woven cloth that also forms the shape of a cross. The strands represent scripture being woven into one integrated practice over the year. It can also represent community coming together to make a unique whole." How perfect is that!

"This program is made possible through a Vital Worship, Vital Preaching Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc."

THE LEGACY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND TEACHING

The lasting legacy of a teacher or mentor is based upon their impact on an individual. Growth begins when someone believes in your desire to do better. A teacher who show empathy for every young life he/she touches will most likely be remembered for a long, long time.

Growing up at Village Chapel helped to shape my life today as a Sunday School teacher. My earliest memories of Sunday School are from my elementary days with Mrs. Anderson. I remember her kindness and compassion while teaching us about the life of Jesus. Mr. Ed Cork was our junior high Sunday School teacher. We learned about how to manage our day-to-day experiences based on Bible teachings. It was like he understood what our lives were like and he knew exactly the right Bible passage or parable to help us. There are many people at Village Chapel who will remember these fine teachers and hopefully will share their legacy with others.

Mrs. Pat Carey was our junior high basketball coach. Tough as nails but compassionate about teaching the basics of basketball and how to manage our emotions of growing up at the same time. Just like Mr. Cork, Mrs. Carey knew how to "listen" to teenagers. She commanded a good performance on the basketball court knowing that dedication and perseverance would transfer to everyday living. Her legacy will be remembered by all the girls she coached and molded into caring Christians.

A present-day person who has helped to shape Christian lives through education is Sharon Curnutte. Sharon has influenced young children through music, young adults by her mentoring skills, and imparting creativity, organization, and patience to aspiring Vacation Bible School teachers.

Another group of members adding to the legacy of the Christian Education program for children are the Sunday School teachers. At the present time, under the direction of Dr. Amy Parker, Minister of Education and the Arts, the elementary Sunday School teachers are Sharon Richardson, Patti Salisbury, and myself. As we grew up our faith was shaped by the teachers at Village Chapel. Amy and her expertise in the arts has helped us to be creative and explore the many possibilities of how to share a lesson to the children. Sharon has created a legacy that lives on in art projects that are displayed, songs learned, and curriculum topics that grow from year to year. Patti has a passion for teaching a Bible story or parable and relating it to an experience in her childhood to make the story more personal for the children. Her legacy will be remembered through storytelling and making the lesson come alive through drama. I love to share the Bible through stories, art projects, and mindful involvement through role plays and games. I hope my legacy as a Sunday School teacher will be remembered by bringing out the true caring hearts of children.

Village Chapel has a legacy for our involvement in service projects for the community. Caring for others is always a topic we discuss in Sunday School. The children understand that following Jesus involves being kind, loving others, and taking care of the less fortunate in our community. Each Sunday after class is over, the children get a bag and fill it with non-perishables such as canned foods, applesauce, pepperoni sticks, Pop-Tarts, etc. We take the food out to the Blessing Box beside the sanctuary for those in the community to freely take and eat. Also, the children take a donated children's book or a homemade card to share. The legacy of helping others might begin with this small way of serving the community.

The legacy of Christian Education at Village Chapel will live on for many years to come. We are a community-based church that has influenced many people and organizations over our 76 years through our personal approach to education, outreach, and service through education.

Kathy Kruk-Elder and Sunday School Teacher



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



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.

August 30: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Read Exodus 1:1-15

When God called to Moses through a bush that was on fire but not burning us, God told Moses to take off his sandals for he was standing on “holy ground.” While we may not literally take off our shoes, what “ground” for you is “holy,” that is set apart as a place where God meets you? It could be a special place or with special people or engaging in a special activity or something else.

September 6: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Read Matthew 18:15-20

Here Jesus instructs his disciples, including us, on what to do is someone in the church hurts us, and he gives us steps to follow. He also reminds us at the end that, when we do so, he is with us. What difference does, might, it make in a conversation about being hurt, if we remember Jesus is part of the conversation?

September 13: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Read Matthew 18:21-35

Peter wanted to put a limit on how many times he had to forgive someone; he suggested seven times. Jesus responded not seven times but seventy times (some translations say seventy times seven times). That’s a lot to remember. Do you think Jesus wants us to keep track of how many times we forgive someone, or to always be forgiving, as our God is forgiving?

September 20: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Read Matthew 20:1-16

Those who had been working all day complained that those who started late in the day got paid the same. We want God to act like we would, and we aren’t happy when God shows grace and love to those who are different from us, who don’t work as hard as we do. We focus on what we don’t have, instead of what we do have. Think about what you have and give thanks to God for it.

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR PRAYERS ON THESE DATES:

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 16 | Mia Velasco |
| 1 | Alatheia Stickler |
| 2 | Nathan Stickler |
| 3 | Samuel Stickler |
| 4 | Joey Stonestreet |
| 5 | Krista Stover |
| 6 | Nimal Suhir |
| 7 | Barbara Tabaretti |
| 8 | Joan Thomson |
| 9 | Nancy Trotter |
| 10 | Keri Velasco |
| 11 | Rodrigo Velasco |
| 12 | Gavin Jones |
| 13 | Callie Jones |
| 14 | Luca Velasco |
| 15 | Gaby Velasco |
| 17 | Sharon Waggy |
| 18 | John Walker |
| 19 | Rose Ann Walker |
| 20 | Helen Warren |
| 21 | Betsy White |
| 22 | Dreama White |
| 23 | John Willis |
| 24 | Fifi Wolfe |
| 25 | Todd Wright |
| 26 | Maureen Wright |
| 27 | Nate Wright |
| 28 | Heather Barry |
| 29 | John Barry |
| 30 | Hallie Barry |

COMMON GROUNDS TOILET PAPER REQUEST

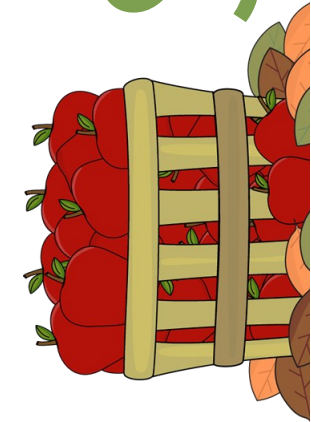
We so appreciate your dedication in donating toilet paper!

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.



STATISTICAL REPORT	8/23/26	8/16/26	8/9/26	8/2/26	7/26/26
In-Person Attendance	41	54	49	48	39
Non-Pledged	\$120	\$130	\$1,473	\$1,445	\$1,665
Pledged Contribution	\$1,499	\$1,424	\$9,500	\$3,195.55	\$609
Miscellaneous Income	\$98.20	\$194	\$21	\$1,556	\$197.65
Total Contributions	\$1,717.20	\$1,748	\$10,994	\$6,196.55	\$2,471.67



SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 PM Choir Practice; Men's Study	2 7 PM Worship Team Meeting	3 10 AM PW Coord. Team	4 7 PM NA Group	5
6 11 AM Worship Service	7 10 AM Bridge OFFICE CLOSED	8  6:30 PM Study & Meal	9 7:30 AM Rotary Meeting 7 PM Stewardship Team Meeting	10 10 AM PW Circle	11 7 PM NA Group	12
13 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Choir Practice	14 10 AM Bridge	15	16 7 PM Session Meeting	17 12 PM PW Luncheon	18 7 PM NA Group	19
20 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship Service w/ Congregational Meeting	21 10 AM Bridge 4 PM Balance w/ Barb	22	23 7:30 AM Rotary Meeting	24 NEWSLETTER 1 PM Blood Drive	25 7 PM NA Group	26
27 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship Service w/ Ellie Johns-Kelley	28 10 AM Bridge 4 PM Balance w/ Barb	29	30	September Birthdays: 8 - Susie Matulis; 9 - Max Bland; 11 - Sandra Copeland, Warren Danzer; 13 - James Powell; 14 - Sandra Wilkerson; 16 - Kendall France; 17 - Rick Skaff; 18 - Amy Parker; 19 - Cathy McClung; 20 - Payne Smith; 23 - Ellen Ann Sockman; 24 - Don Parker; 27 - Paula Bland; 28 - Bruce King Jr.		