



VILLAGE CHAPEL
PRESBYTERIAN

"THE VILLAGER" – AUGUST 28, 2025

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH!

Do you know how once something catches your eye — a yellow car for instance— you start seeing yellow cars everywhere? Well, the difficult text sermon about Paul's words about women has me noticing related information.

In her book, ***Finding Phoebe***, Susan Hylen invites the reader to forget what they "know" about women in the early church and discover what the available data really shows. For example:

- Women owned property (about 1/3 of all property across the Roman Mediterranean territory; about the same as now, worldwide).
- Like other property owners, women served as patrons, using their wealth and social influence to support civic and religious causes.
- Though culture deemed them inferior, women participated in civic and religious leadership roles.
- Women held a variety of jobs—managing the household, but also as textile workers, artisans, restaurant owners, doctors and midwives, and even gladiators!
- The command to be silent was more about status and the virtue of self-control than gender. A wealthy woman had more status than most men; they knew they should remain silent in her presence.

So, as is often the case, things are more complicated than we thought — the way we have simplified the reality of life in the first century has done the people in the early church a disservice and led centuries of interpreters to misunderstand the implications of their situation for our lives.

So maybe we are not just now getting it right. Maybe they had it right then too!

WORSHIP NOTES

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

August 31

Difficult Texts 6

Ephesians 2:1-10 vs. James 2:14-17

September 7

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

September 14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

September 21

1 Timothy 2:1-7

September 28

1 Timothy 6:6-19

ONC PROGRESS

The Officer Nominating Committee has been working throughout the summer with the goal of presenting a slate of nominees to the congregation on 9/7.

The session has called for a congregational meeting to elect a new class of elders on 9/21. Prior to that date, we will publicize information about each of the nominees and on the 21st the congregation will get to vote!



VITAL WORSHIP GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Having received Session's approval, the Worship Team will be applying for a Vital Worship Grant of up to \$25K, to fund a year-long project that will foster "*renewed or strengthened worship practices within worshipping communities*" and "*connect public worship with Christian discipleship and faith formation.*" These grants are sponsored by The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW), at Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI.

The first step will be attending a free Informational Webinar on September 30 at 7 PM. After that, interested members will begin the process of discerning a project and completing the grant application by April of 2026. If you are interested in participating, contact Amy Parker or Todd Wright.

HOW HAVE YOU 'BEAN'?

KICKING OFF, CATCHING UP, & BAGGING BEANS
(ASSEMBLING SOUP BAGS FOR COMMON GROUNDS)

RALLY DAY, SEPT 7, 2025
10 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

FUN FOR
ALL AGES!



Financial contributions to help
us cover the cost of ingredients
welcome! Mark donations for
Rally Day Soup. Thank you!



HONORING THE LEGACY OF HAL HOPSON



From Sharon Curnutte: *"Hal Hopson, composer of a vast number of anthems for church choirs has been very important to our Village Chapel choir throughout the last 40 years. We have 22 of his works in our library, including many of our favorites, such as Dona Nobis Pacem, Crown Him King of Kings, The Gift of Love, and the Pachelbel Canon. He made his anthems, including many based on works by classical composers such as Bach, Handel, and Schubert, accessible to smaller church choirs. He also composed many pieces for the organ."*

Carolyn and I were privileged to meet him when he came to Charleston for the Region III Convention of the American Guild of Organists, and led a workshop in the mid 1980's. He composed an anthem for that meeting which we sang here in worship at that time. Upon his death last month at the age of 92, his family requested contributions to PAM. This is the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, which sponsors the annual Worship and Music Conference at Montreat. Again, Carolyn and I gained knowledge and resources to use in our church when we attended two of these conferences a number of years ago."

At the news of Hopson's death in July, the Village Chapel choir shared their gratitude for his music and named some of their Hopson favorites – his was a name we had seen frequently on our music, and when seeing it we knew the piece would be fun to sing, not too difficult to master, and have a beautiful melody and meaningful lyrics. While originally we thought to make a memorial contribution in the name of the choir, we have broadened the plan to include those in the congregation who might want to join the choir in honoring his gifts and legacy. Session approved this idea at its meeting on August 20.

We will receive contributions to the memorial gift throughout September, and dedicate it one Sunday in October for which all the music presented will be from the treasury of Hopson's work.

Here is a link to his full obituary from the Presbyterian News Service. It is inspiring.

<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/7/24/beloved-composer-hal-hopson-dies-92>



BACKPACKS UPDATE

Sending a big THANK YOU to our Village!
Because of your generosity, we delivered 61 backpacks full of school supplies to Chamberlain Elementary School!



THANK YOU!

We'd like to shout out a big THANK YOU to **Peggy Palmer Johnston** and **Debbie Hanna** for planting and caring for all of the beautiful flowers around the church! What joy they have brought to all who visit the church!



FOR SALE

The Julian Sockman house in Kanawha City is now up for sale. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms, 2-car garage, corner lot, finished basement Located at: 601 43rd Street near Horace Mann Middle School Contact: Roger Sockman, 239-810-4372 for more information.



Free Laundry

up to 2 loads washed and dried per family



Sponsored by Village Chapel Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 31st
12:30 - 3:30



Mr & Mrs

Please join us for the happy couple's wedding!

Saturday, September 27th at 4 PM
3818 Venable Ave
Charleston, WV 25304

[Click here to RSVP...](#)

BLUESTONE FALL GETAWAY RETREAT

OCTOBER 3rd-5th Cost = \$85 Youth = \$50 (ages 4 - 11) Children FREE (ages 3 & under) There'll be plenty of good food and fellowship... plus - trail hike, crafting, study, devotional, and worship led by Noha Khoury and Chris Bailey, games, campfires, and more! Visit our web page to retrieve registration and medical forms as well as general information and details: bluestonecamp.org/fall-getaway Registration Deadline is Sept. 30th

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 15!

COST: \$5 donation to VPCP per class.



VILLAGE CHAPEL
PRESBYTERIAN

3818 Venable Ave,
Charleston, WV
Barb Smith, leader

GET-TO-KNOW OUR MEMBERS



Sandra Snyder Wilkerson was born in 1935 in Whitesville, WV. She went to grade school in Whitesville then to Sherman High school in Seth, WV. While a student at Sherman, she was invited to play professional basketball for the All-American Red Heads professional basketball team but her father said, "Absolutely not – you are going to college". She attended Marshall College (now University) majoring in speech and physical education. She married Tom Wilkerson in 1956 upon graduation and taught at Rockbridge County, VA while Tom finished his law degree at Washington and Lee University. Tom was also from Whitesville. Upon his graduation, they moved to St. Albans, WV. Over the years, Sandra was very involved in community activities. She played basketball on the Belleview PTA team in St. Albans, served on the Board of Trustees at Marshall University, was a member and Board member of the Women Builders of the University of Charleston where she was instrumental in changing the name/nature of

that group to the University Builders making it possible to include men in the membership. She served multiple terms as an elder and while a member of the First Presbyterian Church of St. Albans, she served on the Board of the Presbytery of West Virginia. Sandra served as a volunteer at Hospice House for 5-6 years; and as a volunteer at CAMC for a similar time. She was a Read Aloud Volunteer at Chamberlain Elementary School.

Sandra and Tom were married 61 years until his passing in 2017. They have three children – Fred, Jim, and Cindy. Fred and Cindy each have two children – a boy and a girl, and Sandra has seven great grandchildren and three great grand dogs! She moved to Edgewood Summit in 2016 and currently is residing in the Arthur B. Hodges unit of that facility.



Nancy Trotter was born in 1937 and grew up in the East End of Charleston, WV. She attended Capitol Grade School, Roosevelt Junior High and Charleston High School, Class of 1955. She graduated from Morris Harvey College with a BS in English and History and went to WVU for both her masters and post graduate degrees in Guidance and Counseling. Nancy began her teaching career at Lincoln Jr High and then moved to Wilmington, DE to teach in a local high school. She traveled and enjoyed her 2 years there but then decided to come home. She continued her teaching career at East Bank High School and retired from St

Albans High School. As a young girl in Charleston, she went to First Presbyterian Church but came to Village Chapel for Youth Fellowship on Sunday night with Kathryn McCrary. After she starting teaching, she belonged to Civitan Club with Frank Mansell and thought she would try Village Chapel out and never left. Nancy was an Elder, chaired Service Committee, a Circle Leader and even a part of VC partnership with Common Grounds. Also, under her leadership, blizzard boxes, backpacks for Chamberlin and KC Elementary, Angel Tree for Salvation Army were started. Nancy had a stroke a year ago, is doing well and still lives by herself on Smith Road. She does not go out much, but is enjoying life and watches worship every Sunday on Facebook.



Bob Hiser 84-year old Bob Hiser was born in Uniontown, PA in 1940. He graduated from Pt. Marion HS, and then attended WVU, where he played on the football team as a freshman. He graduated from WV Wesleyan College with a degree in Physical Education in 1962. Bob's first job after graduation was with Sherman Williams Paints in PA. His professional career in finance took him from PA to Morgantown, Wheeling, and Charleston WV until he retired in 2000 and moved to Elkview. He was married in 1961 to Gloria Jean Johnson, and has two children. Daughter Shari lives in Charleston and son Robert, Jr. lives in Seattle. After Bob retired, he met Todd Wright at the YMCA in a swimming class, where Todd is a lifeguard. Todd suggested he attend Village Chapel to meet new friends. He joined in 2020, and has served as an elder and guided the personnel and stewardship committees. Bob is also a member of Faith in Action. In retirement, Bob and fellow VC member Sandy Bowles, have traveled all the WV State Parks (using the VIPP pass). Currently, they have visited 37 of the 43 "Almost Heaven" swings throughout the state. Bob has been a Pittsburgh Pirates fan since 1947, and the Steelers fan since 1955. If you want to discuss Pittsburgh sports teams or WVU football, see Bob Hiser.



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

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR PRAYERS ON THESE DATES:

- SEPTEMBER
- 1 Rona Smith

2 Jacob Smith

3 Payne Smith

4 Jim Smith

5 Barbara Smith

6 Maddy Smith

7 Bailey Messer

8 Ellen Ann Sockman

9 Roger Sockman

10 Rita Sockman

11 Rick Staton

12 Charlie Stebbins

13 Sarah Stebbins

14 Alatheia Stickler

15 Nathan Stickler
- 16 Samuel Stickler

17 Joey Stonestreet

18 Krista Stover

19 Jaxon Stover

20 Sawyer Reid

21 Nimal Suhir

22 Barbara Tabaretti

23 Joan Thomson

24 Nancy Trotter

25 Kari Velasco

26 Gavin Jones

27 Callie Jones

28 Luca Velasco

29 Gaby Velasco

30 Mia Velasco

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.



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 31: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 14:1, 7-11

Jesus warns his disciples about thinking too highly of themselves and assuming the best places at the party table are for them. He also told them that when they threw a party to invite those who are poor, blind, lame, not their friends and relatives who would invite them in return. What would happen if we followed these instructions? How would your party be different?

September 7: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 14:25-33

What do you think Jesus means when he says one must hate their life to be his disciple? How does his call to carry our own cross inform this? Jesus gives examples of “counting the cost,” showing that being his disciple involves a willingness to give up everything. Is there something in your life that you need to give up in order to follow Jesus more faithfully?

September 14: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 15:1-10

The Pharisees and scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Jesus told them a story about a lost sheep that was found. What have you lost that you later found? Give thanks to God for lost and found things and people.

September 21: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters, meaning we cannot be faithful to God and worship something else. Whom or what do you worship and make most important in your life, God or something or someone else? Find a way to show your faithfulness to God this week.

September 28: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 16:19-31

Here we find the story of a rich man who was well-dressed and ate well, and the story of a poor man who was covered with sores and wished that he could eat the rich man’s leftovers. Most of us have plenty to eat and nice clothes to wear, while others do not. Go through your closets and/or drawers and find some clothing and food that you will share with those in need. Take them where someone in need can get them.

STATISTICAL REPORT	8/24/25	8/17/25	8/10/25	8/3/25	7/27/25
In-Person Attendance	54	48	40	40	42
Non-Pledged	\$7,246.29	\$50	\$70	\$683.44	\$85
Pledged Contribution	\$1,785	\$5,345	\$2,530	\$2,497	\$1,770
Miscellaneous Income	\$5,260.58	\$439	\$466.25	\$134.10	\$95
Total Contributions	\$14,291.87	\$5,834	\$3,066.25	\$3,314.54	\$1,950



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 	3 7 PM Worship Team Meeting	4 10 AM PW Coord. Team	5 7 PM NA Group	6
7 10 AM Rally Day Activity 11 AM Worship Service with Communion	8 10 AM Bridge	9	10 7:30 AM Rotary Meeting 10 AM Common Grounds Meeting 7 PM Stewardship Team Meeting	11 10 AM PW Circle	12 7 PM NA Group	13
14 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Time	15 10 AM Bridge 4 PM Balance w/ Barb	16 7 PM Choir Practice	17 7 PM Session Meeting	18 12 PM PW Luncheon	19 7 PM NA Group	20
21 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship Service with Congregational Meeting 12:30 PM Choir Practice	22 10 AM Bridge 4 PM Balance w/ Barb	23	24 7:30 AM Rotary Meeting	25 NEWSLETTER	26 7 PM NA Group	27 Bairefoot/Knight Wedding
28 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship Service 12 PM Fellowship Time 12:30 PM Officer Training #1; Choir Practice	29 10 AM Bridge 4 PM Balance w/ Barb	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.			