



VILLAGE CHAPEL
PRESBYTERIAN

“THE VILLAGER” – NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Being Thankful People

I read recently this assertion:

“If we think of “gratitude” primarily as a kind of duty to discharge (*Now remember to write that thank-you note!*), we’re missing the boat entirely, effectively reducing one of life’s wonders to mere good manners. On the contrary, gratitude is vital force in the world, a profoundly dignifying act that builds relationships, communities, and healthy human hearts.”

The article went on to contrast two different types of people – those who focus on the obstacles in their lives (headwinds) and overlook blessings (tailwinds), an imbalance that, over time, leads to feeling aggrieved and resentful. The other sort of people, who focus on tailwinds/blessings, experience lives full of appreciation.

I know which sort of person I’d rather spend time with (and who I’d rather be). I’ll bet you do too!

Becoming a more thankful person is simple – say it out loud:

I am so grateful for this congregation, for your sense of compassion and creativity, your generosity and willingness to work hard!
I am grateful for the beauty of WV, especially maples in the Fall!
And I’m grateful for Maureen, a better partner than I deserve!

Now its your turn. What are you thankful for?

Advent begins!

COVID has made us feel more vulnerable than normal. It turns out, though, that is perfect preparation for Advent!

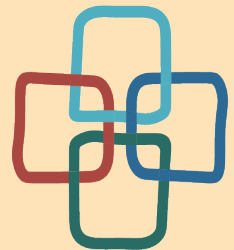
Let me explain, Starting on Nov. 28th, we will tell the stories of God coming to earth to save us. Surprisingly God appears, not as a sage or a philosopher or an emperor, but as a cold little child with no home. He disarms us with his vulnerability and invites us to take care of others who are just as vulnerable. And so Medieval Western Christians set aside at least one day during this season when those on the margins could demand charity from the powerful – who were briefly aware /responsive to their need.

Now it begins again!

WORSHIP NOTES

Join us in person or virtually for worship during November and December . . .

- Nov. 21 Thanksgiving Sunday John 1:1-14
- Nov. 28 1st Sunday of Advent Jeremiah 33:14-16
- Dec. 5 2nd Sunday of Advent Luke 1:26-38
- Dec. 12 3rd Sunday of Advent Luke 1:39-55 (and Children’s Pageant)
- Dec. 19 4th Sunday of Advent Micah 5:2-5a
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Luke 2:1-20



New Elders to be examined

After five gatherings to prepare (reviewing some key points about Presbyterianism, gaining a working knowledge of the Book of Order, studying communion, and pouring over church policies designed to protect the vulnerable) the members of the class of 2024 (**Sharon King, Teresa Lawlor, Jim, Smith, and Joey Stonestreet**) are ready to be examined, by representatives of the Session. The big day is Dec. 5th, after church, so keep them in your prayers!

Stewardship Update

On Dedication Sunday, Nov. 14, people made their way down the aisle to deposit their pledges in the basket or sent them in by mail, or used the “give” button on the “new” website. As a result we have received pledges of \$149,880 toward the 2022 budget which allows us to do the ministry God has called us to do! Thank you for your generosity!

And if you haven’t yet sent in your pledge, there is still time, but the Session will begin putting together a budget soon.

This is what stewardship looks like!



Thanksgiving Service

We’ll be celebrating Thanksgiving as part of the worship service on Nov. 21st. While we won’t be gathering with the other churches that support Common Grounds, we will still be collecting canned goods to support their ongoing ministry to our hungry neighbors (and especially the Thanksgiving baskets that are being given away on Tuesday, November 23rd)! So bring cash or canned goods and we’ll sing and pray and give thanks!

Check out the recently completed mural from Arts Camp 2021!



Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 12, during worship.

If you know a child who would like to participate, contact Amy Parker or Patti Salisbury.



HOPE: AN ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Hope is waiting in faith. It is not merely wishing for something to happen, or hoping everything will work out if the stars align. Hope is waiting with anticipation—at times, with impatience—for what you know and believe is coming. Christian hope is found in the ever-present God, who is always with us. It is based on trust in God and in God's promises. But to trust those promises, you have to know what they are — so we are going to study hope in four hybrid sessions, all on Monday nights, at 7 PM:



- 1) **Monday, Nov. 29th: Hear Hope.** Isaiah 9:1-2, 6; Matthew 28:16-20. Generations of God's people have heard the words of prophets and faithful followers, which proclaim hope in God's power and presence.
- 2) **Monday, Dec. 6th: See Hope.** Genesis 1:1-5, 31; John 1:1-5. Christians claim that Jesus is the light of the world, offering hope even on the darkest nights and most difficult of days.
- 3) **Monday, Dec. 13th: Offer and Receive Hope.** Mark 2:1-12; Luke 1:39-49. The communal dimensions of hope encourage us to share hope with those who need it and borrow hope from others in our hard times.
- 4) **Monday, Dec. 20th: Proclaim Hope.** Luke 4:16-21; Leviticus 25:1-13. Followers of Jesus take our place as part of God's unfolding plan,

HOPE VILLAGE

Fair Trade holiday shopping



18 International Artisan Vendors
All proceeds are returned to the artisan vendors.
Open Nov 18-20, 26-27 & Dec 2-4 from 10 AM- 3 PM.
On Sundays Nov 21, 28, Dec 5
16 Leon Sullivan Way,
First Presby Church, Charleston.

EMMAUS ROAD WALKS

I (Todd) will be leading two short walks in 2021 (and at least two more in 2022) as follows, starting at 10 AM:

Saturday, Nov. 20th—we'll start at the church and walk past several members' homes, pray for them, and leave a note or a token of thanksgiving for them

Saturday, Dec. 18th—leaving from the church we'll walk past a few neighboring churches and pray for their impact of people's lives this Christmas!

Remember, we'll be looking for signs of hope as well as signs of pain. I hope you'll join me!



Staff Christmas Bonus

The Session has approved a recommendation from the Personnel Team for a Christmas bonus for our staff. The past two years have required them to learn new skills and to work extra hard to provide services and programs virtually and in person. As much as we appreciated their faithfulness and leadership before the COVID pandemic, this year's bonus will give us an opportunity to express our thanks for their dedication, creativity and hard work in a very difficult situation. Please consider contributing to a Christmas gift to be divided among Todd, Amy, Leslie, Carolyn, Sharon and the janitorial staff. If you would like to include the VC staff in your Christmas giving, please mark your contribution Christmas Staff Bonus.

Statistical Report	11/14/21	11/7/21	10/31/21	10/24/21
Worship Attendance Number of people viewed post	In-Person: 42 Virtual Reach: 80	In-Person: 47 Virtual Reach: 95	In-Person: 34 Virtual Reach: 99	In-Person: 42 Virtual Reach: 88
Non-Pledged Contrib.	\$145	\$665	\$440	\$600
Pledged Contribution	\$1,915	\$6,325.57	\$85	\$3,855
Misc. Income	\$505	\$311.58	\$5	\$1,060
Total Contributions	\$2,565	\$7,302.15	\$530	\$5,515



The office will be closed on Thursday November 25th and Friday November 26th in observance of Thanksgiving!



December 27th and 28th

In observance of Christmas

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

On October 30th the Village Chapel team walked 2 miles and raised \$560 for research to help end Alzheimer's disease!



Cards for Members



We may not be able to check the prayer display in the fellowship hall each week, but we can send cards out to let each other know we are thinking of and praying for one another! We encourage you to take a peek at the prayers section of the bulletin each week or the prayer section in the left column and send a card to someone. Our Village might be socially distancing but hearts and prayers are still with each of you!



Please remember the following people in your prayers on these dates:

December

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Phil Harich | 18 Peggy Palmer |
| 2 Jane Yeager | 19 Bruce King |
| 3 Jared Hawley | 20 Lori King |
| 4 John Hawley | 21 Sam King |
| 5 Candy Hawley | 22 Alexander King |
| 6 Sarah Hawley | 23 Martha Grace King |
| 7 Bob Hiser | 24 Sharon King |
| 8 Tish Hodovan | 25 Janet Kinzer |
| 9 Tim Hoff | 26 Kathy Kruk |
| 10 Terra Hoff | 27 Alice Lawlor |
| 11 Bruce Husson | 28 Teresa Lawlor |
| 12 Chris Husson | 29 Bruce Lawson |
| 13 Pat Jacobs | 30 Lisa Lawson |
| 14 Rhonda Jacobs | 31 Noah Lawson |
| 15 Lillie Jacobs | |
| 16 Jake Jacobs | |
| 17 Alan Johnston | |



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.

November 21 – Christ the King/Reign of Christ:

Read John 18:33-37

On this Christ the King Sunday, we find Jesus confronted by Pilate, who wants to know if Jesus is indeed the king of the Jews. How do you answer this question in your own life? Is Jesus your King? If so, how do you honor your King?

November 28 – First Sunday of Advent:

Read Luke 21:25-36

As we enter this Advent Season, our Scripture passage speaks of signs of the coming of the Son of Man in a cloud with power and glory. How do you visualize this scene depicted in the Scripture passage? Draw a picture with your family to depict His coming.

December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent:

Read Luke 3:1-6

As John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, so must we prepare ourselves for Jesus. This is a time of hope and preparation. During Advent, reflect on what preparations you are making in your life and in your heart for the coming of Jesus. The way must be prepared in your heart for Jesus' coming; only then will you see the true salvation of God.

December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent:

Read Isaiah 12:2-6

December is a wonderful time of year, but it is also a very busy time, with shopping to do, presents to wrap, trees to decorate, and more. During all of this, we must remember, first and foremost, that Jesus, the Son of God, is coming soon to bring joy and salvation into this world! Salvation is the gift for all of us! So, despite all the other distractions of this season, remember to put the coming birth of our Savior at the top of your priority list.



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.

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!

December 2021



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



December Birthdays: 2 - Heather Wolfe, 4 - Nick Wolfe, 4 - Todd Wright, 5 - Luca Velasco, 7 - Dianne Ellis, 11 - Joanie Panger, 13 - Jessica Gentry, 14 - Teresa Lawlor, 15 - Gerald Nottingham, 15 - Joan Mansell, 16 - Rick Hanna, 16 - Sandy Bowles, 16 - Sandy Singleton, 18 - Rodrigo Velasco, 19 - Debbie Hanna, 19 - Lisa Lawson, 22 - Patty Skaff, 23 - Kaia Blank, 25 - Sarah Stebbins, 26 - Barbara Tabaretti, 30 - John Willis, 30 - Michael Schiano, 31 - Scott Hickernell

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 10 AM - PW Coordinating 7 PM - Worship Team	3 7:30 PM - NA Group	4 10 AM - Devon Quilters
5 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship and Examination of Elders 12 PM - Choir Practice	6 10:30 AM - Bridge 7:00 PM - Advent Bible Study	7	8 7 PM - Stewardship Team Meeting	9 10 AM - PW Circle	10 7:30 PM - NA Group	11
12 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship 12 PM - Choir Practice	13 10:30 AM - Bridge 7:00 PM - Advent Bible Study	14	15 7 PM - Session Meeting	16 12 PM - PW Luncheon NEWSLETTER	17 7:30 PM - NA Group	18 10:00 AM Emmaus Road Walk
19 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Worship	20 10:30 AM - Bridge 7:00 PM - Advent Bible Study	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 8 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas
26 11 AM - Worship	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed	HAPPY New Years!