

Connections

A monthly publication from St. Timothy's in-the-Valley Episcopal Church



Incarnation and Gratitude

The Feast of the Incarnation, commonly called Christmas, is upon us. This is when Christians celebrate that God loved humanity so much that he took on human flesh (carne) and lived among us. Although not a joyful time for all people (because of loneliness, loss, etc.) it is a time for us to be grateful for the many ways in which God reaches out to us and extends a loving hand. We share time, food, and gifts with our loved ones. It is also the time of the year when all people, whether Christian or not, are the most generous to those in need through donations of money, toys, and food and even sometimes by joining in fellowship with them.

As we engage in these activities of the season, I invite you to reflect on the ways you are actively 'putting flesh on 'God's love for God's people. Give with Gratitude. Share with Gratitude. Know that you are blessed and be a blessing to others. Remember that God's greatest gift to us is Gods-self in human flesh, Jesus the Christ. And through Him we have received the gift of eternal life.

Peace,

Cheryl

Come Grow With Us!

Christmas Eve 2019

4:30 pm – Our early service will be one hour earlier than our regular evening worship time. This service will include the Procession and Placing of the Infant in the Manger, a Children's Sermon, Children's Musical Offering, and the Holy Eucharist.

11:00 pm – As a prelude to our Candlelight Service at 11:30 pm, we will have a half hour of Special Music provided by soloists, the choir, and congregational caroling. Please plan to arrive for this special time.

11:30 pm – The Festive Candlelight Service begins as we sing "O Come All Ye Faithful" gathered in warm candlelight. We will hear the proclamation of the Birth, pray for the Church, our loved ones, and the World, gather around God's table and be nourished by Christ's holy meal, light more candles and sing in the darkness, and finally be Blessed and sent out into the world to spread the Joy of the Incarnation! Please invite your friends and neighbors to join you on this Holy Night to celebrate Christ's coming into our human world.

Connections —December 2019 Page 1



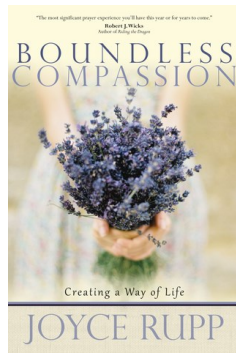
Wonderful Women's Wednesday Book Club

Wonderful Women's Wednesday Book Club will meet on two Wednesdays in December; **December 4th and the 11th at 10:45 am--noon in the Sanctuary.** Our current

book, "Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life" by Joyce Rupp is our study guide. Joyce is a writer, spiritual midwife, International retreat leader and a conference leader. We will resume our weekly meetings after the holiday season on Wednesday, January 8th, 2020.

You do not have to be a member of St. Timothy's to join our group. Questions or to join the group contact Kitty Byus 304-757-0319.

The book can be ordered from Amazon.



Centering Prayer

St. Timothy's ecumenical centering prayer group will **NOT** meet in December. Our first meeting in 2020 has been scheduled for Sunday afternoon, **January 12, 2020 from 3:30 to 5:00** in The Meeting Room. Questions? Contact Kitty Byus.



Gabriel Project

Gabriel Project will be closed on **December 23.**



New Email Address

We have switched to a new email address! The new email is office@sttimothyswv.org. Please add this address to your safe-senders list to make sure you get our emails! We will still have access to the old email for a short time as this transition will take some time to get used to.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministers continue your knitting and crocheting at home! We will gather as a group in the new year. Stay tuned for the date.



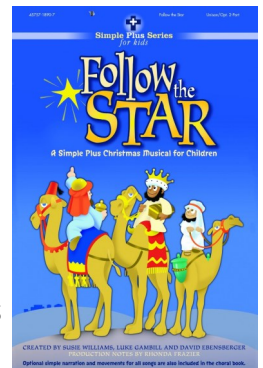
Thanksgivings

With the theme of 2020 being Gratitude, We would like to hear everything you're thankful for! All throughout 2020, there will be slips of paper in the Welcome Center. Whenever you feel like expressing your gratitude for anything, please write it down along with your name (or you can remain anonymous) and put it in the box we will have set up! We will be featuring some of them in future newsletters.



Christmas Musical

Practice for the Christmas musical, "Follow the Star", will be held every Sunday in December after worship except December 22. We will have lunch and practice lines and music in the sanctuary for about one hour. The musical will be performed during the worship service on **Sunday, January 5.** All are welcome to participate. Contact The Rev. Cheryl Winter or Laura Leslie for more information.





St. Timothy's Scrip Program

As everyone is getting ready to buy gifts and stocking stuffers for Christmas, please consider getting your gift cards through our Scrip Program! We have all kinds of gift cards for restaurants and stores. You pay the face value of the card, as you would anywhere, and St. Timothy's earns a percentage of your purchase. Many stores and restaurants are available. Contact Jennifer Midkiff for more information or to purchase!



Blue Christmas Service

The Holiday Season is often difficult for many people. The social atmosphere is that of joy and expectation while the hearts of many are filled with dread and sadness. There are any number of reasons for this: grief from losing a loved one, loneliness, loss of job, financial insecurity, illness, anxiety and fear.



December 21st is the 'longest night of the year'. And so, the church provides an opportunity to gather in community, surrounded by warm candlelight, soft music, and gentle prayer to bring all our distress to God. In this setting we offer healing and the opportunity to not pretend that everything is 'okay'. If you or anyone you know would benefit from this worship opportunity, we hope that you will come join in this beautiful service. Please spread the word and invite and bring to this service those in the larger community for whom this season is difficult. You and they will be blessed.

A Brief Overview of the Gospel of Matthew – A one-night Bible Class

As we enter the season of Advent, we enter a new Church Year. And with the change in the year we also change the Gospel that we focus on. This past year we have been reading primarily from Luke. We will now begin reading primarily from the Gospel of Matthew.

Bible Study



On Wednesday December 11th at 6:30 p.m. you are invited to come for coffee, hot chocolate and some holiday treats and participate in a Bible class that will introduce you to the Gospel of Matthew. We hope that this class will lay a foundation as we move through the lectionary this coming year. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. If you have a favorite Bible you like to use bring it with you – we also have several here. If you have a personal BCP you might want to bring that as well.

Greening of the Church

Because Christmas Eve falls on a Tuesday this year, we will decorate for Christmas following the **10:30 morning service on the 22nd**. We hope that many will stay to help 'hang the greens'! There will be some jobs that children can help with as well as a movie provided while adults are climbing ladders and arranging greens and candles. Pizza will be ordered for ALL and drinks will be provided. Please plan to help us prepare for our Christmas celebration. Many hands make light work!





The Annual Women's Christmas Party

Our Annual Women's Christmas party will be on **December 15 at 6:30pm** this year. All women of the congregation are invited to a fun evening of frivolity, food, laughter, and gift sharing.

Please bring a finger food appetizer or dessert to share and a gift for the 'gift exchange game'. Gifts should not cost more than \$15-\$20 and be wrapped (or bagged) and placed under the tree. After we have enjoyed our food and drink, we will gather round and share in the gift giving (and taking). This is a fun evening and hope to see all the women there!

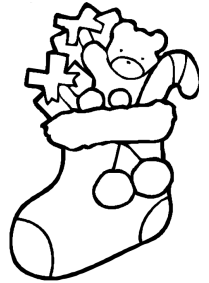
Order Your Christmas Poinsettias Today!

There are order envelopes on the Welcome Center Table. Fill out the envelope before service and place it in the offering plate. Each plant is \$9.00. Last day to place an order is **December 22**.



Christmas Stockings

Each year we work with Heart and Hand to help families provide Christmas for their children. We received 4 families this year. There are still 4 stockings left on the tree to be shopped for, hopefully they will be gone by the end of worship this coming Sunday. On the table in the Welcome Center you will find a half-sheet of white paper with the directions for sponsorship. Deadline for things to be returned to the church is **December 15th**.



LUNCH BUNCH

ATTENTION—

December Date Change!

Lunch Bunch will gather on the first Wednesday of December. **December**

4, 2019 at 12:30 pm. We will "lunch" at the Eagles Nest Restaurant at Little Creek Country Club in South Charleston (the former Kanawha Country Club) 99 Fairway Drive. Meet at the church at noon if you want a ride, or to follow someone there. The Dining Room overlooks the golf course.



Select from a \$9.99 buffet, the famous Kanawha hamburger or you may choose from the menu. Questions and for Reservations: contact Kitty Byus or Lola Warren.

Hurricane Community Band

We are honored to again be hosting The Hurricane Community Band as they perform their Winter Concert on **Saturday, December 7 at 3:00pm** in the sanctuary with a reception to follow. We invite everyone in the community to come out and enjoy this fantastic group of musicians! You do not want to miss this! Please bring your friends and family and enjoy some festive music!





Christmas Offering

The Vestry has designated this year's Christmas Offering to three worthy causes. The offering will be divided equally between the Rector's Discretionary Fund, Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), and our local chapter of Young Life. The Discretionary Fund is used to assist folks in Putnam County (mostly) with utilities, food, medicine, and gasoline. ERD is the organization of the Episcopal Church that assists domestically and Internationally when there are disasters. 100% of donated funds goes to the people – there are no overhead costs. Young Life is a Christian-based non-denominational youth program for High School students in our county that provides fellowship and outreach. Thank you for your generosity.



Christian Community Cupboard

St Timothy's has signed up to donate 11lb pasta and sauce to the Community Cupboard. We also need Volunteers!



There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. Please consider offering a few hours of your day once or twice (or more!) to help the community.

We need volunteers for the following dates:

JANUARY 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Holiday Office Hours

The office will be **CLOSED** on the following days:

- Tuesday, December 24
- Wednesday, December 25
- Thursday, December 26
- Tuesday, December 31
- Wednesday, January 1



Christmas Trees

We are in need of gently used 6ft-7ft artificial Christmas trees for use in the Fellowship Hall. We need them soon! We will pick them up! Please contact Cheryl.



Reminder

The Vestry would like to remind everyone that Commitment & Promise Cards are due by **December 15**



Express your *Gratitude*

As we reflect on the blessings that God has given us over this past decade, we invite you to be more vocal about those blessings and tell us something that you're grateful for!

Some of the things we are thankful for since 2010:
Health and happiness for our family, Izzy Mae, A home, Our dog Stella, Trips and vacations filled with love, laughter and memories, New and continued friendships, and God's continued guidance and love.

-The Noel Family

The addition of my first grandchild—a BOY, Parker! Then...

THEN!

THREE MORE over three years: Carson, Roman, & Charli Kate. Four grandchildren & likely more one day!

-Debbie Elkins

God's leading me to St. Timothy's where people do care about the community and showing God's love through money, time, and service.

-Nancy Lively

I am thankful for every person that has come and gone in my life over the past decade. I've learned a lot. I'm especially thankful for everyone at this church for welcoming me into your community. I've met some amazing people in my short time here that will definitely have a lasting impact on my life.

-Katie Conley

I have been BLESSED by becoming a part of St. Timothy's.


I am grateful for the beautiful people and kind community this church has to provide. Every Sunday is an absolute treat. Thank you.

-Chloé Sergent

FIVE new grandchildren! Also, successful surgeries for myself and my husband.

-Soleil Gregg

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>10:30am—Holy Eucharist & Baptism (S)</p> <p>11:30am—Choir Practice (CR)</p> <p>11:30am—Christmas Musical Practice (S)</p> <p>5:30pm—Holy Eucharist (S)</p>	<p>12-2:00pm—Gabriel Project</p> <p>5:30pm—Monday Night Supper (GFH)</p> <p>6:30pm—Boy Scouts (AC)</p> <p>6:30pm—Compline(S)</p>	<p>9:00am—Lifeline Screening (GFH)</p> <p>6:00pm—Girl Scouts (AC)</p> <p>7:00pm—NA (MR)</p>	<p>10:45am—WWW Book Club (S)</p> <p>12:30pm—Lunch Bunch @ Eagle's Nest</p> <p>8:00pm—AA (MR)</p>	<p>5:00pm—AFT Banquet (GFH)</p> <p>6:30pm—Women's Dinner/Book Group @ Cindy Winter's house</p>		<p>3:00pm—HCB Winter Concert *Reception to Follow*</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>10:30am—Holy Eucharist & Baptism (S)</p> <p>11:30am—Choir Practice (CR)</p> <p>11:30am—Christmas Musical Practice (S)</p> <p>5:30pm—Holy Eucharist (S)</p> <p>6:30pm—Youth confirmation Class (RO)</p>	<p>12-2:00pm—Gabriel Project</p> <p>5:30pm—Monday Night Supper (GFH)</p> <p>6:30pm—Boy Scouts (AC)</p> <p>6:30pm—Compline(S)</p>	<p>6:00pm—Girl Scouts (AC)</p> <p>7:00pm—NA (MR)</p>	<p>10:45am—WWW Book Club (S)</p> <p>6:00pm—Gospel of Matthew Bible Class (GFH)</p> <p>8:00pm—AA (MR)</p>			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>10:30am—Holy Eucharist & Baptism (S)</p> <p>11:30am—Choir Practice (CR)</p> <p>11:30am—Vestry Meeting (RO)</p> <p>11:30am—Christmas Musical Practice (S)</p> <p>2:00pm—Autism Group (GFH)</p> <p>5:30pm—Holy Eucharist (S)</p>	<p>12-2:00pm—Gabriel Project</p> <p>5:30pm—Monday Night Supper (GFH)</p> <p>6:30pm—Boy Scouts (AC)</p> <p>6:30pm—Compline(S)</p>	<p>6:00pm—Girl Scouts (AC)</p> <p>7:00pm—NA (MR)</p>	<p>3:00pm—TV Mom's Club (GFH/AC)</p> <p>8:00pm—AA (MR)</p>			<p>7:00pm—Blue Christmas (S)</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>10:30am—Holy Eucharist (S)</p> <p>11:30am—Greening of the Church</p> <p>11:30am—Choir Practice (CR)</p> <p>5:30pm—Holy Eucharist (S)</p> <p>6:30pm—Youth confirmation Class (RO)</p>	<p>5:30pm—Monday Night Supper (GFH)</p> <p>6:30pm—Compline(S)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Office Closed</p> <p>4:30pm—Christmas Eve Early Service (S)</p> <p>11:00pm—Special Music (S)</p> <p>11:30pm—Candlelight Service (S)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Office Closed</p> <p>8:00pm—AA (MR)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Office Closed</p>		
29	30	31				
<p>10:30am—Holy Eucharist & Baptism (S)</p> <p>11:30am—Choir Practice (CR)</p> <p>11:30am—Christmas Musical Practice (S)</p> <p>5:30pm—Holy Eucharist (S)</p>	<p>12-2:00pm—Gabriel Project</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Office Closed</p> <p>6:00pm—Girl Scouts (AC)</p> <p>7:00pm—NA (MR)</p>				



December Sunday Servers



	December 1 Advent 1	December 8 Advent 2	December 15 Advent 3	December 22 Advent 4	December 29 Christmas 1
Chalice Bearers	Terrance Lively Dave Wood	Kitty Byus Cathy Slemph	Nathan Arnett Soleil Gregg	Andy Bird James Kliner	Cathy Slemph Soleil Gregg
O.T. & Psalm Reader	Trish Fisher	Emma Markins	Karen White	Hannah Goes	Janessa Noel
N.T. Reader	Marcy Benincasa	Ethan Markins	Sarah Castle	Grace Goes	Richard Spillman
Prayers of The People	Karen White	Nona Dolmetsch	Kitty Byus	Cooper Ellis	Dave Wood
Acolytes	Jana Naylor-Aten Lilly Kaul	Lauren Arnett Hailey Bennett Zane Boyd	Ben Arnett Jana Naylor-Aten Lilly Kaul	James Kliner Jayden Ellis Dehlia Ellis	Jana Naylor-Aten Cooper Ellis
Ushers	Kelle Maxwell Frank Thompson	Chris Lewis Alex Ward	Randy Thompson Jenny Jenkins	John Alvis Terry Holliday	Kelle Maxwell Frank Thompson
Counters	Karen White	Mark & Jenny Jenkins	John Wilson Lola Warren	Karen White Allison Hughart CS: Roger Guest	Annette Montoya Bobby Norman
Children's Chapel	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Children's Sermon	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Nursery	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Vestry Greeter	Laura Leslie	Terrance Lively	Randy Thompson	Tom Midkiff	Chris Branam
Altar Guild	Andy Bird Chuck Montgomery	Andy Bird Chuck Montgomery	Andy Bird Chuck Montgomery	Andy Bird Chuck Montgomery	Andy Bird Chuck Montgomery

Christmas Eve Servers

	December 24 Christmas Eve 4:30 pm	December 24 Christmas Eve 11:30pm
Chalice Bearers	James Kliner	Andy Bird Terrance Lively
O.T. & Psalm Reader	Cooper Ellis	Dave Wood
N.T. Reader	Caroline Damron	Nona Dolmetsch
Prayers of The People	Caroline Damron	Nona Dolmetsch
Acolytes	Jayden Ellis Dehlia Ellis	Ben Arnett
Ushers	Randy Thompson Jenny Jenkins	Terry & Doug Holliday
Counters	TBA	TBA
Children's Chapel	N/A	N/A
Nursery	N/A	N/A
Vestry Greeter	Joyce Wilson	Terrance Lively
Altar Guild	All Members Participate	All Members Participate

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Forgot password?

First time signing in? [Create a login now.](#)

Are you an admin? [Click here to sign in.](#)

2. Confirm your email.
3. Sign In from any web browser (using your computer or mobile device).

Instant
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Monday Night Supper

December Menu

12/2

Indoor Cookout!

12/9

Pasta Night! Marinara,
Meat Sauce, Alfredo,
Salad & Rolls

12/16

Beans & Cornbread,
Hotdogs & Tater Tots

12/23

Ham, Mashed Potatoes,
Green Beans,
Rolls & Desserts

12/30

NO DINNER

**Menu Subject to Change. Please
check the Feed Putnam Facebook
Page for updates**

November/December Women's Dinner & Book Group

Come close out another year of reading at the **Thursday, December 5th** meeting of St. Timothy's Woman's Dinner and a Book Group at 6:30pm. Cindy Winter will be our hostess for the evening and we will be meeting at her house. Our year ending book is "Becoming" an intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States.

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America—the first African American to serve in that role—she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives, and standing with her husband as he led America through some of its most harrowing moments. Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare.

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.

There are several copies of the book in various formats at the Western Regional library website (Putnam County) and at the Kanawha County Library. You can also find it at your local bookstore or online.

Our hostess Cindy Winter will supply the main dish and other group members will bring the rest of the dinner like salad, dessert, fruit, rolls/butter. We are all trying to come up with a honey of a meal! You can call Kitty at 304-757-0319 for information about the menu. Newcomers are always welcome, and it isn't necessary to have read the book. You only need to let us know that you plan to come, there's a place at the table set just for you.



December Celebrations at St Timothy's



Birthdays

3 Chuck Elkins
4 Gary Painter
4 Vicki Wood
5 John Wilson
6 Aaron Carr
7 Mary James
8 Stacy Barna

9 Amanda Blessing
12 Lynda Rumbaugh
13 Cooper Ellis
16 Pat Chard
16 Roger Guest
16 Sandy Branam
18 Rachel Midkiff

20 Kitty Byus
21 Jennifer Midkiff
24 Trish Fisher
29 Sally Dunlap
30 Jerry Damron

Anniversaries

2 Billy Jack & Soleil Gregg 14 Steven & Kim Carr 22 Rick & Ruth Ann King
27 Ryan & Megan Click 30 Ray & Susan Patrick



Directory/Technology Workshop

The Social Media Team will be doing a workshop around the first of the year focused on helping everyone access the mobile/online directory as well as touching on some other technology difficulties you may be having. If this is something you may be interested, please contact the office. There will be more information coming soon!



Marshall University Symphony Orchestra

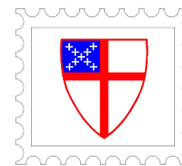
Our very own Choral Scholar, Chloé Sergent, will be performing in the Marshall University Symphony Orchestra Concert on Wednesday, December 4th. Chloé has invited the entire congregation! The concert starts at 7:30pm and will be held in the Smith Music Hall on the Huntington campus.





**St. Timothy's in-the-Valley
Episcopal Church**

P.O. Box 424
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Hurricane WV 25526.



The Rev. Cheryl Ann Winter, **RECTOR**

Staff

Andy Bird, LAY ASSISTANT
Katie Conley, SECRETARY
Janet Heck , MUSIC DIRECTOR & PIANIST
Chloe Sergent, CHORAL SCHOLAR
Jim Dunaway, CUSTODIAN

Vestry

Billy Wayne Bailey SR. WARDEN
Randy Thompson, JR. WARDEN
Laura Leslie
Joyce Wilson
Tom Midkiff
Chris Branam
CK Dolan
Terrance Lively
Brian Noel
Ed Garrett, TREASURER
Trish Fisher, VESTRY CLERK



Come Grow With Us!



St. Timothy's in-the-Valley Episcopal Church

Come As You Are

Sundays:

10:30am—Holy Eucharist

5:30pm—Holy Eucharist with Healing

Mondays:

5:30pm—Free Community Dinner

6:30pm—Compline