DECEMBER 2025 INSIGHTS

The Newsletter of Mitchells Presbyterian Church

Looking ahead:

DEC. 14TH - HYMN SING - 11 A.M.

- BLUE CHRISTMAS & TREE OF LIGHTS SERVICE - 7 P.M.

DEC. 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - 7 P.M.

JAN. 11th - INSTALLATION OF ELDERS SERVICE - 11 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All are welcome to attend Sunday mornings at 9:45! Adults meet in the large classroom near the choir room. Children have several rooms in which to meet depending on the age group. Nursery is also available if needed for the younger quests.

Contact Us: 12229 Mitchell Road Mitchells, VA 22729

Office: 540-825-1079 Pastor's cell: 540-881-0201

Website: mitchellspresbyterian.org

YouTube: youtube.com/@mitchellspresbyterian

Email: mitchellspresbyterian@gmail.com

Pastor's Email: mitchellspcpastor@gmail.com

GriefShare: mpcgriefshare@gmail.com

Pastor's Corner:

This year for the Advent/Christmas season (Nov 30th – Jan 11th) a familiar Christmas decoration will be our thematic guide through our worship. While this decoration has been depicted since around 380CE in carving and artwork found in tombs of church fathers, its use as an object of seasonal importance isn't recorded until 1223 CE, when it was created in a cave near the town of Greccio in Central Italy by St. Francis of Assisi. In 1290, it was set in stone, as a leading sculptor of his day, Arnolfo diCambio would make stone figures for the Santa Maria Maggiore (also known as the Basilica of Saint Mary the Great) in Rome. This decoration's popularity would see it spread throughout Christian countries, and around 1500 to 1700–1800, sculpted versions were exported from Italy to many churches and wealthy homes.

So have you guessed where the thematic inspiration comes from? The Christmas Tree? The stockings hung by the fireplace with care? The inflatable Santas in the front yard? Hint: We have one in the narthex of the sanctuary....

Well, I'll spare you from anymore wondering and guessing, the thematic focus will be the Nativity – specifically our Advent and Christmas season will be focused on "The Crowded Nativity". The characters we place in our decorative versions of a humble birth long ago, will be the guides through this season. From the stable itself to the main characters of Mary, Joseph and Jesus to everyone else in–between. The Advent season is all about the waiting, the anticipation of Christ coming into the world; and Christmas day through Epiphany is all about celebrating the reality that Christ has come into the world. Some of the nativity characters waited, and are maybe even still waiting for Christ coming back into the world in a new way. While some of the nativity shows us how to celebrate, proclaim, and spread Christ throughout our lives and throughout the world.

Continued on Page 2

Pastor's Corner Continued:

As you decorate your own spaces, and if you have your own nativities, whether they be simple stones of Mary and Joseph and the Baby; or full blown nativities with all different animals, characters and cosmic wonders, take a picture and email it, text it or bring it in to share! I'll be posting them on the bulletin board, and maybe even include them in the bulletin (I haven't decided yet). A new nativity will be in the sanctuary each week, and I hope that you'll take some time come to the front of the sanctuary to see all the different ways the humble birth of Christ is portrayed for us to hold close, and remember how our Lord and Savior came to be amongst us. Because it's time to prepare the way, to wait for and then celebrate the coming of Christ into the world!

USHERS:

Perrin Kinsey and Scott Mitchell

Did you know the monthly newsletter isn't just for committee news? If you have a favorite verse, quote, joys, announcements, shoutouts, etc., please email: mskaffy2@gmail.com by the 25^{th.}

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

At the January 2025 Session meeting, I advised the Session that I would be willing to serve as Treasurer through Dec. 31, 2026. I will be retiring from practice as of Dec. 31, 2026 and in conjunction with that retirement I will no longer have access to either the hardware or software that I have utilized to maintain the Church's financial records. In addition, and more importantly, I am ready to step aside as Treasurer.

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in serving as Treasurer, effective no later than Jan. 1, 2027, please contact Patrick (moderator of Session) or Steve Hicks (clerk of session).

I will obviously be available to assist with any transition.

I appreciate your assistance and support.

--Ron Evans

Actions Taken at the November 2, 2025 Session Meeting

- Ordination and Installation of the Class of 2028 Elders will take place during the Worship Service on Sunday, January 11, 2026. Linda Brooks will be Ordained as a Ruling Elder prior to the Installation service which will see RE Crystal Settle installed with her.
- Session will hold their Organizational and First meeting of the new year following Worship on Sunday, January 11, 2026.
- Thomas Cuccherini was elected as the Ruling Elder Commissioner for the POJ Called Meeting on November 13 to adopt the POJ budget for 2026.
- Session approved a wedding rehearsal on December 4th and a wedding on December 5th. Pastor Patrick will officiate.
- Session approved H&R Block reservation of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen for a luncheon for their new trainees on January 10th.
- The Building & Grounds Committee has contracted for the church building, sidewalks, playground equipment, etc. to be spray washed at a cost of \$3,500.
- The Christian Education Committee has acquired Bible study materials for children to use during Sunday School should the need arise. Teachers have become familiar with the material and have signed the Child Protection Agreement.
- The Missions & Outreach Committee reported that 55
 Emergency Use buckets were filled and ready for
 delivery to the Weyers Cave collection site. They reported
 donating \$2,000 to the Blue & Red Santa Project to help
 first responders take children shopping for Christmas.
 The gross proceeds from the Car Show allowed an \$1,100
 contribution to the Rapidan Volunteer Fire Department.
- The Worship Committee reported on the Advent Schedule and the Communion Schedule during the first 6 months of 2026. Be sure to watch for all these dates in your newsletters and Sunday bulletins.

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women are selling "Christmases at Mitchells Presbyterian" 2026 wall calendars. Each month features one of the beautiful prints painted by Janet Miller. The calendars are only \$12.00 and can be purchased from any of the ladies. Hurry, they are selling fast!

Our December social this year will be held at the home of Susan Wohlleben on Friday, December 12th, at noon. Please bring a dish to share. The gift exchange is "anything Christmas" and should cost less than \$15.00. If you have any questions, contact Kim Hicks or Susan Wohlleben.

Community Band Concert - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join the Eastern Panhandle Community (EPC) Band for an evening of festive music on Thursday, December 11th @ 7:30 p.m. at Shepherd University's Frank Center (Shepherdstown, WV). Admission is FREE with donations greatly appreciated.



-Heather (Massey) Grochowski EPC Band Member



(last year's concert)

Interested in attending the concert and staying the night in Shepherdstown? A suggested place to stay is The Bavarian Inn WV.

The Bavarian Inn WV is perched on a spectacular bluff overlooking the Potomac River, our 11-acre European Inspired Boutique Resort offers comfort, elegance, and world-class food and service. Located in beautiful Shepherdstown, West Virginia, our 72 luxury rooms feature gas fireplaces and whirlpool baths, with many offering stunning views of the Potomac River.

Just an hour from D.C., the Bavarian Inn is just minutes from Historic Harpers Ferry, Antietam Battlefield, and Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races as well as endless outdoor recreation opportunities including whitewater rafting, hiking, biking, tennis, and golf.

Information on the inn can be found @ www.bavarianinnwv.com



Hi everyone!

Love puzzles? Wanna join in on puzzle swaps?

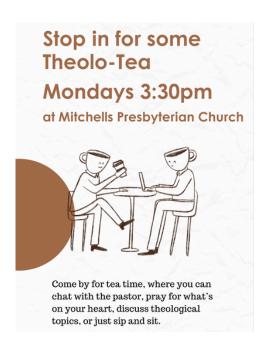


Bring your jigsaw puzzles to trade and find new ones to enjoy! Please bring puzzles in tip-top shape with all the pieces present and accounted for. Feel free to bring puzzles for all skill levels. Let's have some fun!









The Culpeper Baptist Church 2025 Concert Series. All concerts are free and take place in the church sanctuary.

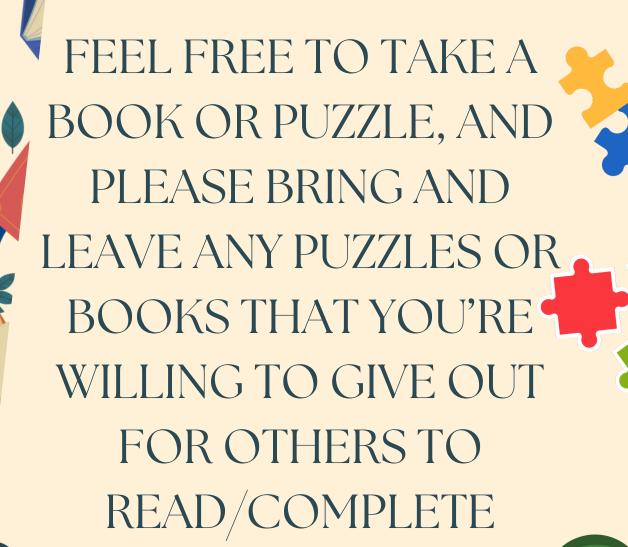
American Youth Harp Ensemble

Saturday, December 6th

@ 4:00 p.m.



BOOK & PUZZLE EXCHANGE



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	Vickie Wallace Abbie Weaver	Judy Norris	3	4	5	G Josh Tidman
7 Amber Gallahan	Delores Aylor	9	1	О	11	12	Paul Craycraft
14	15	16	Bill & Janet Miller	7	Heather (Massey) Grochowski)	19	20
21 Thomas & Heather Grochowski	22	23	2	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Paul & Lynn Craycraft Jeremy & Kaitlyn Tidman Thomas Grochowsk Kim Nixon	31			

