

August 7, 2020



## MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

It is a tremendous blessing to have the kind of technology that allows us to remain connected through this time of pandemic. This connectivity allows us to have two important educational opportunities.

### Revelation Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, September 2, weekly Bible Study will resume, and we will be studying the Revelation. With so many catastrophic and life-changing events shaping 2020, it seems appropriate to study the book of the Bible that focuses on the end times and the establishment of Christ's kingdom. For those who have studied this book before, this will be an exciting refresher! Bible Study will meet over zoom, and will be recorded, so those unable to attend at that time will be able to review the material at their leisure. Everyone is welcome!

Meeting ID: 962 0204 2739

Passcode: 021517

### READ Book Study

The Racial Equality and Discipleship group will resume meeting on Saturday, August 15, at 9:30am, over Zoom. We will begin studying Robin Diangelo's *White Fragility*. The book is immensely popular at the moment, but it is currently available from Amazon. All participants are asked to read the forward, introduction, and chapter one. All are welcome to join us as we begin this study. The purpose of this group is to seek to understand the issue of racial inequality and how it connects to our faith in Christ. Those who are interested but unable to come to the first meeting should contact me and let me know.

Meeting ID: 917 6583 6995

Passcode: 901006

It is my hope that these groups will help each participant grow in his or her faith and develop a greater understanding of the issues covered in each group. I am looking forward to growing with you!

Blessings,

Pastor John

CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

# Celebrations this week

## August Birthdays

Jillian Donadio  
Tommy Morgan  
Linda Puster  
Jimmy Burns  
Kay Feldstein

## August Anniversaries

Mike & Margaret  
Kursey  
James & Amy Sheetz



## Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration via  
FaceBook

For a complete listing of all of the church activities, please click [here](#).



The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our "Soul Food" campaign. We set a goal of \$1,200 and we collected \$1,585. A check will be sent to Community Ministries in the near future. Honestly CTPC has stepped up to make all of our missions possible, What a wonderful way to reach out to our community and help those in need. We can all help in our own way by supporting projects like this. Thank you once again.

The READ Group (Racial Equality And Discipleship) will meet on Saturday, August 15 via Zoom. We will be studying *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo. Please read chapter one for that meeting. Pastor John will be using the reading guide found on Dr. Diangelo's website, which you can view [here](#). Zoom meeting id: 917 6583 6995, Password: 901006.

## ONLINE GIVING

Online giving helps you to bring your offering before God. In addition to the no-fee Facebook donations and nominal fee Paypal service, we set up online giving through the Presbyterian Foundation. **Money donated via any of these services gets deposited to our church bank account.** By going through the Foundation, the fee they charge actually helps the mission of their organization, which is to help Presbyterian churches to be excellent stewards of their gifts and resources. The exciting part about working with the foundation is that we are able to use a mobile app that is connected to our account. The app is called Give Plus (created by Vanco) and you can find it at the Google Play Store if you have an android device or you may find the app in the Apple app store by searching for "Give Plus." The great part about the Give Plus app is that you can set up for weekly, monthly or one time giving! If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you.

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If you already shop on Amazon, you NOW can have Amazon donate a portion of every purchase to CTPC! There's only ONE simple thing you need to do: just start shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select Charles Town Presbyterian Church as your charity.

Here's a [one-minute instructional video](https://youtu.be/airY7sbHsL8): <https://youtu.be/airY7sbHsL8>

**Remember, always start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)** and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

AmazonSmile customers can now support Charles Town Presbyterian Church in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
3. Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

**Mid-Year Giving Statements.** If you would like a copy of your mid-year giving statement for the first half of 2020, please call (304-725-5316) or email ([ctpres@ctpres.org](mailto:ctpres@ctpres.org)) church office and a copy can be mailed or emailed to you. Thank you.



**Weekly Congregational Giving:** Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934  
Sunday's Receipts for August 2nd: \$2,580; Special Offerings: Memorial—\$150;  
Pastor's Help Fund—\$100  
Checks can be mailed to CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town, WV 25414

Thank you.

**For electronic giving, please scan here:**





### Blessings

We pray for blessings  
We pray for peace  
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep  
We pray for healing, for prosperity  
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering  
All the while, You hear each spoken need  
Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops  
What if Your healing comes through tears  
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know  
You're near  
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

We pray for wisdom  
Your voice to hear  
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near  
We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love  
As if every promise from Your Word is not enough  
All the while, You hear each desperate plea  
And long that we'd have faith to believe

When friends betray us  
When darkness seems to win  
We know that pain reminds this heart  
That this is not our home

What if my greatest disappointments  
Or the aching of this life  
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy  
What if trials of this life  
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights  
Are your mercies in disguise

Songwriters: Laura Story

### Attitude of Gratitude!

#### Blessings

Laura Story

The song I share today reminds us that God's blessings can be found anytime, anywhere, and in all circumstances.

The first time I heard this song was several years ago when Jessy introduced me to it. Anytime she said, "Mom, let's sing this", I know it was going to be a song that touched me. Even to this day, I can't listen to or sing this song without tears of gratefulness.

It is so easy to have the attitude of gratitude when life is going great. This song reminds us that even during the trials of this life we have a reason to be grateful.

"Cause what if your blessings  
come through raindrops

What if your healing comes  
through tears

What if a thousand sleepless  
nights are what it takes  
to know your near.

What if trials of this life  
are Your mercies in disguise"

Be grateful for the pain, the suffering, the tears. The Lord has you surrounded in His love and grace. His mercies abound!

Stay safe! Stay well! Please wear your mask!

Penny



### Wisdom Wanderings

Where do we turn in the Bible when we want encouragement or guidance? Often we seek out what Psalms or Proverbs may say to us. Maybe we want to sing God's praises, worship and thank Him. Again, Psalms may be our go to book. Psalms is a praise book for God's people. Maybe we need comfort and we are seeking guidance and again Psalms and Proverbs can give us spiritual insights. When we meditate on a Psalm, it can become very personal for us. Faithweavers Sunday school class recently finished a study of Psalms and during this study we learned that there is most likely a Psalm for every occasion: praise, celebration of God's sovereignty, lament, thanksgiving, wisdom, restoration and so forth.

It is our hope that we can share together the Psalms or proverbs that have special meaning to each of us. Maybe a particular Psalm spoke to a situation in your life. Sometimes we just seek the joy of the Lord and a Psalm speaks joy or encouragement. We would like to start a newsletter column that highlights our individual favorites. What is the Psalm that speaks to you and why? You can elaborate on the background of the Psalm. So give us the Psalm or Proverb with just a sentence or two about the significance of the Psalm or Proverb. Why do you find it special?

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To Submit your favorite Psalm or Proverb just email Rebecca at the church office: [rkaetzel@ctpres.org](mailto:rkaetzel@ctpres.org) or Diane Mayhew: [dcmayhew@hotmail.com](mailto:dcmayhew@hotmail.com).

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Psalm 1 has taught and inspired me in recent years. It begins: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord..." This gives me hope in difficult circumstances. What direction do I need to go to have joy? To be blessed? It is in the above words of wisdom from the Psalmist. Then there is a metaphor: This godly man is "like a tree planted by a river of water—that brings forth its fruit in season, whose leaf never withers...". This is the living water that Jesus told about. As long as my roots are planted in Him, I can trust that He will sustain me during these troubled times. --Marsha Dibbern

**The CNC** has been begun their prayerful consideration of potential church officers for the upcoming years. Being called to serve requires prayerful consideration along with a spirit of joy to serve God. I know that there will be challenging times ahead, yet hasn't that been the pattern for God's people all along? God has made a promise to never forsake us and we will certainly need to lean on His understanding. God will provide wisdom when called upon. Please search your heart and seek God's calling. If you are feeling a call to serve, please contact one CNC committee members. Diane Mayhew, Frank Donadio, Nancy Lloyd, Stephanie Rossi or Thane Van Zomeren.



**CTPC** hosts 1st Saturday of the month dinners. To offset the cost for people providing meals, you may mail or electronically send donations. Note in memo line "1st Saturday of month dinner donation." Our hosts are: September: **volunteer needed**; October: George Tabb & Jason Mullens; November: **volunteer needed**; December: **volunteer needed**. If you can help, please contact Patsy White (304-725-8958) or Gary Scott (304- 279-5296).

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have a very exciting job. We are still acclimating to living in a new culture. We are navigating two new languages (siSwati and Sign Language), and we are growing our circle of relationships. Every day is filled with opportunities and some days it seems that we have to turn down more invitations than we accept. We have had to fight against burnout and learn to **focus** so we can go **deeper** in our relationships and ministry (as we described previously in our [January newsletter](#)).

Yet nevertheless, we still face tedium.

There's the day-to-day tedium as we simply live life. The stuff everyone contends with. The simple work of managing a home. The house needs to be cleaned, groceries purchased, meals prepared, dishes and clothes washed, dried, and put away.

Then there's the tedium of the ministry. Take for example the food relief initiative. For every hour we spend in front of people delivering food, there are two hours spent in tedious preparation and follow up. Contacting officials to arrange the distribution, typing up the lists for the distribution, shopping for the food and loading it into the truck, and driving (sometimes for 1-2 hours) to the destination.

And then there's the desk work (what we used to call "paperwork" but which in this day and age tends to involve electronic records rather than paper ones). Every purchase we make we record for accountability, both for our personal finances and for our ministry expenses.

I know it sounds like I am merely complaining, but there's more.

Today, as I was thinking about tedium, I also was reminded of the following scripture from Colossians 3:23 - *"Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people"*

I realize that not every day can be exciting. Not every task can feel packed with meaning and significance. But we want to strive to do everything that we do as unto God. In that way the work of each day is transformed into an act of praise. Thus our **tedium** is transformed into **te Deum**, or more completely, **te Deum laudamus**, which translates from the Latin into "You, oh God, we praise."

Will you please pray for us, that we will strive to honor God in **all** that we do, both in the exciting outward work of our ministry, and in our tedious, private work? We want to see Jesus honored in all that we say and do here in Eswatini.

Thank you once again for your prayers, encouragement, and support.

For the Kingdom,

Mick & Cathy Sander