

August 28, 2020



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38,39

Consider what has transpired in the last six months:

COVID-19. Aside from the infection and mortality rates, this disease has impacted just about every part of our lives in some way.

Racial Inequality. We clearly have much to do on this issue.

The Democrats and Republicans held their conventions. The race for president is on, and if the ugliness to date is any indicator, it will be get mean. Sadly.

Hurricane Laura pummeled the coast of Louisiana and Texas.

There have been many other stressors, and this doesn't even cover the day to day issues each of us deals with. There is no doubt about it, life has been harder for most of us in 2020. I suspect it may even get harder. Millions of people are unemployed. That always impacts homelessness and the number of people who are food insecure. That, in turn, raises the level of stress even more.

If ever there was a time to be seeking God, it is now.

As we do that, we need to remember that God has not left us, we have not been abandoned. As Romans 8 reminds us, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ – not pandemics, natural disasters, politicians, skin color or anything else! We must never forget this. Some days, as it feels like everything around us is crashing down, all we can say is, "At least I know God loves me," and that, friends, may be all we need to get through today. Maybe even to get through all of this.

As we prepare to send our kids to school, respond to the hurricane, live with the pandemic and elect a president for the next four years, remember, God's love will not leave us – no matter what is happening today, God's love for us is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Friends, I hope you are encouraged, because no matter how chaotic the world is, God is not changing.

Peace,

Pastor John

Save the Steeple

We are only \$2500 away from fully funding the project! The session would like to do that as quickly as possible. Please consider an additional gift for the steeple project, that we may celebrate 100% completion of this project! The session would like to announce the official end of the project at the October session meeting. Let's see if we can wrap this up by the beginning of October!

Celebrations

August Birthdays

Debbie Henshaw
Bill Whitacre



September Birthdays

Emily Pizzuti
Allen Rogers
Mary Rider Kline

August Anniversaries

Tim & Connie Casserly
Thane & Laura Van Zomeren

Due to some misinformation, the Racial Equality and Discipleship (READ) group, has rescheduled the meeting that was supposed to be held on Saturday, August 15. The new date and time is **this Saturday, August 29, at 10am**. The group will be studying Robin Diangelo's book *White Fragility*. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Pastor John at jbethard@ctpres.org, so he can send you additional information. The book can be found at Amazon and most bookstores.

Topic: READ Book Study

Join Zoom Meeting [https://zoom.us/j/98451764248?](https://zoom.us/j/98451764248?pwd=SVUvTosvaWhsY1doN3E2aUErc3FiZz09)

[pwd=SVUvTosvaWhsY1doN3E2aUErc3FiZz09](https://zoom.us/j/98451764248?pwd=SVUvTosvaWhsY1doN3E2aUErc3FiZz09)

Meeting ID: 984 5176 4248 Passcode: 254484

Communion—Sunday next, September 6th. The denomination has offered clear guidance for celebrating the Lord's Supper virtually. If you are participating in virtual worship next **Sunday, September 6th**, the sacrament will be part of the worship service. Please have some bread and grape juice to share with all who are participating in the worship service. Please do not substitute the elements with anything other than bread and juice (for example, Doritos and coke is not the sacrament). If you have questions, please contact Pastor John at jbethard@ctpres.org.



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.

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration via
FaceBook

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



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 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 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



Weekly Congregational Giving: Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934

Sunday's Receipts for August 23rd: \$2,325; Special Offerings—Steeple—\$250

Checks can be mailed to:
CTPC
PO Box 89
Charles Town, WV 2541

For electronic giving, please scan here:



Thank you.

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny



Attitude of Gratitude!

Let Your Heart Sing

Listen with Your Heart

Venturing away from the old blue hymnal this week. I will get back to it in my next article. Given the fact that our tentative date to worship in CTPC is just a little over a month away, I thought it a good time to share a few thoughts about singing in worship.



Let Your Heart Sing!

Colossians 3:16—let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and song from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts!

Singing aloud is our usual and preferred way to worship. We have never in my lifetime, been called upon to do anything different. The Lord has gifted us with the ability to be creative in worship.

With gratitude to God, we can let our hearts do our singing for us. Covid-19 cannot stop your heart from singing. While, at first, you won't be lifting your voice in song, you will be lifting your heart! I know it will be different, slightly uncomfortable, and probably like you're not participating in worship. You will be! God will hear your heart sing as if you were singing aloud!

Listen with Your Heart!

Zephaniah 3:17— the Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

God has been with us every step of the way this past 6 months. He has protected us, saved us, and will take great delight in us on October 4th. In His love He will rejoice over us with singing! Listen with your heart for His song!

So, what exactly am I trying to say? When we initially resume in person worship, there will be hymns/songs, but they will be sung by just a couple of people and you get to sing with your heart. If your heart song leads you to raise your hands to the Lord or clap along with the music, then follow your heart song!

Like our benediction response tells us, “Knowing Christ, Growing in God’ Love, and serving as the Holy Spirit Leads.”

Stay safe! Stay well! Please wear your mask! Be flexible!

Blessings, Penny

READY, SET, GO.....

Are you getting READY by praying about your financial commitment to CTPC so you will be SET to give with a cheerful heart? We as a church family desire to GO!! Help us to make these steps in our congregational faith walk. Please be in prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to help you get READY and SET. Pledge cards are due this August 30.

Please send in your pledges to Rebecca at the church office via mail or email your commitment to rkaetzel@ctpres.org. Thank you for your prayerful commitment.



WANTED:

Your Special Psalm or Proverb

Please consider sharing a Psalm or Proverb that has special meaning to you. Tell us why this passage speaks to you. This is such a great way to bless others.

Send your special Psalm or Proverb to Rebecca at the church office: rkaetzel@ctpres.org

My favorite Psalm is Psalm 98. I can still remember my youth Choir Director reading this to us before practice one night, and I have loved it ever since then.

Psalm 98

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation;

He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together

Before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

I have said in the past the Lord uses music to speak to me. This Psalm reminds me all God has done in my life. But it also reminds me of what he does for all of creation. All the earth depends on the Lord for existence and all the earth should give praise for the steadfast love God shows. The Psalm also reminds us that there are many ways to “Make a Joyful Noise”. You can sing or play an instrument. I remember a song from The Carpenters called “Sing a Song” where it says it doesn’t matter if you’re not good enough for anyone else to hear, just sing a song.

Find the music of God’s creation. Find the music in the laughter of a baby, the songs of the birds, the roar of the oceans and rivers, or even the quiet of a newly fallen snow. Let us make a joyful noise.

—David Weil

The Yokefellows Sunday School Class is considering offering its members an opportunity to participate in a virtual class on-line using Zoom with a teacher teaching a lesson from the “Adult Bible Studies” series just like regular in person Sunday School Class beginning @ 9:00 am on Sunday morning. Mike Thompson will teach the class on the first and fourth Sunday and where the calendar has a fifth Sunday he will teach that as well. Bill Whitacre has agreed to teach the third Sunday class. We are still in need of a teacher to take the second Sunday class. Teaching materials to include the “Adult Bible Studies” student lesson book and the teacher’s guide will be provided to each teacher. Please email Mike Thompson at his email address: mthompson@thompsonpardo.com, to indicate your interest in participating in this virtual class on Zoom. Also if any member would be interested in teaching the second Sunday class please indicate your interest. It is expected that the first meeting of this class will be to address issues with the Zoom platform and the limits that we will operate under. It is expected that the start date will be after September 1st.



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: The Deacons; 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).