

September 25,
2020



BUSINESS NAME

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

This summer, I began leading the congregation through the teachings of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew. We started in Matthew 5, after the Beatitudes, because I had preached on those a little over a year ago. It's been a fun series to preach, full of challenges and reminders, and it's been amazingly practical.

This coming Sunday, I am going to be teaching on prayer and fasting. I am more convinced than ever we need prayer – the more the better.

Frequently in the Old Testament, when calamity struck, there was a national call to prayer. Since the first century, whenever and wherever the Church is, when there is danger or threat, there is always a compulsion to pray. Perhaps I have been out of the loop, but with everything going on in our world at the moment, there has been one thing missing: a call to prayer.

I want to encourage everyone who reads this to start today, and to specifically pray for our country. I urge us to pray for the following:

That the people of God would seek the Lord and ask for forgiveness, mercy, and grace as we seek to live for God and shine God's light into the world.

For a cure and/or vaccination for the Coronavirus.

For a return to peaceful, uplifting discourse, publicly and privately, even when we disagree with one another.

That we will be able to demonstrate grace and civility in political discussions.

That we will be able to hold a peaceful election with a clear outcome, and a peaceful transfer of power should the people elect a new president.

That we can learn to love our neighbors. All of them.

That the Church of Jesus Christ would show the love of God to the world.

I hope that all who read this will agree to join me in prayer for our country. We are facing so much uncertainty and anxiety in 2020. In times past, these kinds of moments drove God's people to prayer. Let's change the world by changing how we respond to all of this, that we would seek God in prayer as our first, best response!

Yours in prayer,

Pastor John

Reminder – Don't forget, if you are joining us for in-person worship next Sunday, October 4, that signing up in advance is required, so that we are adequately prepared. Even if you are involved in leading worship (deacons, elders, staff, communion prep, special music, etc.), sign up is required. And in case it was not clear, sign ups must be done every week, by the end of the day Thursday prior to the Sunday you plan to worship with us.

Celebrations

September Birthdays

Ray Jamison
Margaret Damm
Susan Wall
Thane Van Zomeren
Violet Eilers



October Birthdays

Timothy Casserly

September Anniversaries

Chris & Margaret Damm

October Anniversaries

Jonathan & Vicki Burns

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration via
FaceBook

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



The session agreed to tentatively plan for in-person worship beginning on Sunday, October 4. That plan is still moving forward. The worship service will also continue to be streamed on FaceBook. As we all know, the Coronavirus has dramatically changed how we do everything, and worship is no exception. October 4 is World Communion Sunday. All persons joining us for in person worship are encouraged to bring their own bread, and those who will be worshipping with us virtually will need to have bread and juice ready for that service.

Congregational Meeting

The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, October 11th, following worship. We know not everyone wants to attend in person, so this meeting will be held concurrently via Zoom (information is below). That means we will be holding an in-person/virtual congregational meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to hear and act upon recommendations from the nominating committee. The CNC will also be presenting the following question: Shall the session transition over the next three years from twelve to nine members? The CNC will also place into nomination the following persons: For class of 2023, Elder – Beth Pugh, Kathy Donadio, Roger Snook; Deacon(4) – Anne Portrey, Hoyle Fulbright, Matthew Henshaw; Trustee(2) – Susan Wall, Allen Rogers; Class of 2021 CNC (3) – Jane Ishman, Stephanie Rossi, Henry Christie.

We will also take nominations from the floor. Because of COVID and the hybrid nature of our meeting, this gets tricky. If we have more nominees than slots available, we will need to do a paper ballot vote that will need to be sent to virtual participants and returned by mail. This will also require a vote by the congregation to allow this one-time method of voting at a congregational meeting. We are asking that if anyone plans to make nominations from the floor that they contact the church office and let us know so that we can appropriately plan for this contingency. All nominees must fulfill the requirements found in the *Book of Order* G-2.01. Of course, if there are no nominations from the floor we will be able to handle this with a simple voice vote.

CTPC Congregational Meeting: Oct 11, 2020 11:15 AM Eastern Time

<https://zoom.us/j/93908217387?pwd=cE9PemVMdXM5dURBbEI2ToUzWCt6UT09>

Meeting ID: 939 0821 7387

Passcode: CTPC1



Weekly
Offering

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

Sunday's Receipts for September 20th: \$1,725 Special Offerings—

Steeple—\$50

Sunday School attendance (via Zoom)-Faithweavers-13 & 1 visitor



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

Thank you.

For electronic giving, please scan here:



Word of God Speak

I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is it's okay
The last thing I need is to be heard
But to hear what You would say

Word of God speak
Would you pour down like rain
Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty
To be still and know
That you're in this place
Please let me stay and rest
In your holiness
Word of God speak

I'm finding myself in the midst of You
Beyond the music, beyond the noise
All that I need is to be with You
And in the quiet hear Your voice

I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is it's okay

Attitude of Gratitude

Word of God Speak
Bart Millard/Pete Ripley/Peter C .Kipley

Our first Sunday for in house worship is just a little over a week away. I thought this song by Mercy Me might help center us for what is truly important and our new “normal.”

I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is it's okay
The last thing I need is to be heard
But to hear what You would say

Word of God speak
Would you pour down like rain
Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty
To be still and know
That you're in this place
Please let me stay and rest
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Word of God speak

I'm finding myself in the midst of You
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And in the quiet hear Your voice

I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is it's okay

Listening is an active part of worship!

Listening is a way to praise God!

Listening, as a form of praise, requires more effort on our part than singing or speaking.

Our “new normal: may actually lead you to a deeper, focused, more personal worship experience. It may even be a little uncomfortable at first.

Word of God speak to all of us!

Stay safe! Stay well! Please wear your mask and love your neighbor!

Penny



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

When I was asked to write about my favorite Psalms, I thought, “No, I’m not good at expressing my thoughts!” But as I considered it, two Psalms came to mind- Psalms 23 and 100. I’m sure they must be favorites of many people.

Starting with Psalm 100: Well, of course, it was my profession as organist and church musician to make a joyful noise to the Lord! I’m sure some people questioned whether it was joyful or just a lot of noise! I kept the choir and congregation in mind as I chose my music and tried to keep in touch with the pastor about the topic of the sermon. Some of them would give me the scriptures for a half a year in advance on which the sermons would be based. I enjoyed matching the music to the scriptures. This explains why there was so much music in the files! After I had the scriptures for the sermon, I would search for an appropriate anthem, order the copies for the choir, and then learn the music.

Next Psalm 23: My father died with I was four years old. I barely remember him, but two particular incidents remain in my mind. In both of them, he was warning me to be careful and not to fall and hurt myself. One day, I was sitting in an open window. My father walked by and said, “Be careful, you might fall.” The other incident was similar—I was pushing a stick ;in front of me as I ran along the porch. He said, “Be careful you might hurt yourself.” Surely, Psalm 23 is about life. Sometimes the going may be rough, but our Heavenly Father is right there beside us to guide us through those times.

—Ceil Frazier

Faithweavers' School Supply Collection: Saturday, September 26 , at 4:00 PM - Faithweavers will meet in the church parking lot to say hello and drop off school supplies. School supplies will be delivered to Ranson Elementary and CW Shipley Elementary. Suggested items to bring: loose leaf paper, 2 pocket folders, composition books, pencils (not mechanical), crayons, glue sticks, spiral notebooks, pencil boxes. We welcome donations of school supplies from anyone who would like to bring them!

You're invited: The Faithweavers will begin studying Joshua on Sunday, October 4. On that date and every Sunday thereafter, the Faithweavers Zoom class will be held from 9:00 - 9:50 AM giving class members time to travel to in-person church which begins at 10:30 AM. The start of a new lesson book is a perfect time to join the class and everyone is invited and welcome to join! Log into Zoom and join Meeting ID. 789 5479 7659 and Password 8ZFCTT. For more information and a study book, contact Margaret at mkursey@gmail.com.

Children's Sunday School .Children's Sunday School will be held Sunday, September 27, from 9:15-9:30 via Zoom. Children of all ages are invited! The lesson will be led by Marsha Dibbern.

The meeting ID is 815 041 7243 the password is 565656. Use this link to access Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8150417243?pwd=R1JYQllXd2FXTHQwR1hvZ3YycWw1QT09> or simply log on to Zoom.com, click on Join a Meeting, and enter the ID and password.

If you have any questions or need any help, please email marshadib@juno.com or mkursey@gmail.com.



Let your light shine!



Matthew chapter 5, verse 16 says, "Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

How many times does the work light appear in the Bible? In the King James version 177 in the Old Testament and 95 in the New Testament. It varies somewhat in the different versions. Light is and was a very important word.

I remember singing in Sunday school as well as Bible school this song:

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel? NO
I'm gonna let it shine.

As Christians our light should shine and not be hidden. It should be obvious by our actions that we belong to Christ. Our good works should glorify our Father in heaven.

We have opportunities this fall to let our light shine. Mission and Outreach will be collecting socks and tee shirts for Community Ministries. Your donation can be dropped off at the church office or monetary donations can be mailed in and someone will shop for you. Fall and winter are just around the corner. This has been a rough year for many in our community.

The church address is: Charles Town Presbyterian Church, Box 89, Charles Town, West Virginia 25414.

Let's LIGHT UP Charles Town in the next few months!

This is another Mission Possible. All things are possible through Christ Jesus.

—Patsy White, mission & outreach team



Operation Christmas Child. Christmas is approaching and that means it is time to prepare Christmas boxes! The shoebox ministry is a national project and an opportunity to reach impoverished children in more than 100 countries through Samaritan's Purse. Along with the shoebox, the children receive a booklet called "The Greatest Gift of All" that tells the story of Jesus in their local language. It is time to start collecting items to fill the boxes with small gifts. Ideas and suggestions are small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, t-shirts, socks, ball caps-- that encourage schoolwork and other small items that a boy or girl might like; just make sure it will fit into the box. OCC boxes have been

purchased from Samaritan's Purse and may be picked up from the church office during business hours. Please call Rebecca (304-725-5316) and she will meet you at the parking lot doors with your box(es) or you may wish to purchase and wrap your own boxes. Just be sure the box top can come off easily to check the contents. The **deadline** for boxes is **Sunday, November 15th**, and will then be taken to the shipping point.

Please Note due to customs regulations DO NOT INCLUDE: candy (of any kind); toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; seeds; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.



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:

October: George Tabb & Jason Mullens; November: **volunteer needed**; December: Faithweavers class If you can help, please contact Patsy White (304-725-8958) or Gary Scott (304- 279-5296).

These Days daily devotionals for October/November/December have arrived. If you'd like to stop by the church to pick up a copy, please call the church office prior to coming and Rebecca will be glad to meet you at the door with a copy. Thank you.

Summary of Re-opening Guidelines

The list below is a summary of guidelines mailed/emailed to every member this week. These guidelines will be in place beginning Sunday, October 4.

- **Register** – Everyone planning on attending worship is asked to notify the church office (304-725-5316, ctpres@ctpres.org). **Registration needs to be updated weekly.**
- **Do a self-check** – If you do not feel well, stay home, and participate via Facebook.
- **Wear a Mask** - Everyone will be asked to wear a mask upon entering the building for the duration of the service. If you forget your mask, we will have one available for you.
- **Entering/Exiting** – Enter/exit via the sanctuary entrance on Washington Street unless you need the elevator.
- **Offering** – Mail it to the office, give online, or place it in the offering plate upon entering.
- **Bulletins** – Print at home, save to your phone, or use one of the copies we will have on hand.
- **Seating** – One pew per household, even if it's only one person.
- **Singing** – For now, we will not be singing. It is a major spreader of the virus. There will be music.
- **Communion** – Bring your own bread (BYOB ☐), juice will be set up and in pews prior to the service.
- **Dismissal** – By pews, as directed by the ushers.
- **Nursery** – Available for emergencies and nursing mothers. Children must stay in worship with parents.

Please avoid congregating close together before and after the service. To that end, we encourage people to consider staggering arrival times prior to the service, and to head straight to their vehicles after the service.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

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.

Meals-on-Wheels annual Fall Fundraiser will be held on, Saturday, October 3rd, at 9:00am and until soup is gone, in the church parking lot. Please come out to help raise money for our homebound Jefferson County neighbors to be able to get a hot and balanced meal each week. There will be 3 types of soup for sale by the quart only vegetable beef, chicken noodle and navy bean, along with country ham sandwiches. This will be by pick-up only due to Covid-19.

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 to complete the process.