

October 30, 2020



BUSINESS NAME

CT Press

## MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

I rarely talk politics from the pulpit or in my newsletter column. I do touch on it from time to time on my personal Facebook page. This week, in my column, I'm going to address politics.

We face an historic election. Regardless of political leanings, most people view this election as exceptionally significant. No matter who people are voting for, there is a sense that the soul of America and our very Democracy lie in the balance of the outcome.

It is interesting to me that the same sentiments are shared regardless of which candidate people support. I'm not entirely sure what that means, though I suspect it reveals something incredibly important: that we are a people desperate for hope.

If we look to government for that hope, we will be disappointed, no matter who is in office. Human beings are flawed, and that frailty often leads to mistakes, missteps, and misfortune.

Hope must come from somewhere else, and it most definitely lies beyond the American political process. True hope – real hope, comes from God. Consider these words from scripture:

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*  
Psalm 20:7

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us...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 8:18, 38-39

Many years ago, a member of our congregation reminded me that there is much about politics that is beyond individual control, so getting upset about it all the time is a waste of energy and resources. I am inclined to agree with that sentiment, especially in deference to the scriptures above.

Go and vote. Pray for our nation. But above all, do not trust in politicians or programs. If the candidate you support loses, don't give in to despair. Remember that our God is bigger, and he will continue to guide us.

Blessings,

Pastor John

## Celebrations this week

### October Birthdays

Laura Crosby



### November Birthdays

Matthew Henshaw

### October Anniversaries

J.P. & Donna Burns

### November Anniversaries

Marty & Carol Kable

## Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



You can listen to Pastor Johns' sermon here:  
<https://soundcloud.com/john-bethard>



Donate



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/a1rY7sbHsL8):

**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.



### **Weekly Congregational Giving:**

Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934  
Sunday's Receipts for October 25th:  
\$2,528; Special Offerings—Hunger—\$35;

Ornament—\$25; Quilt Raffle—\$20

Attendance Last Sunday: Worship—19; Zoom Sunday School -Faithweavers-14; Children's -2Leader, 3 Children.

Checks can be mailed to:

CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town, WV 25414

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



Thank you!

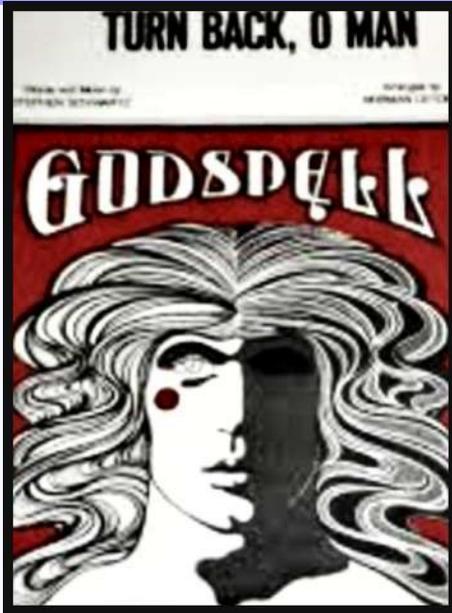
## ONLINE GIVING

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.



Don't forget  
Day Light Saving ends  
this Sunday, November 1st!

♪♪ MUSIC NOTES ♪♪ from Miss Penny



Turn back, O man  
Forswear thy foolish ways  
Old now is earth  
And none may count her days  
Yet thou, her child  
Whose head is crowned with flames  
Still will not hear  
Thine inner God proclaims  
Turn back, O man  
Forswear thy foolish ways  
Earth might be fair  
And all men glad and wise  
Age after age their tragic empires rise  
Built while they dream  
And in that dreaming weep  
Would man but wake  
From out his haunted sleep  
Turn back, O man...  
Turn back, O man...  
Turn back, O man...  
Forswear thy foolish ways  
Earth shall be fair  
And all her people one  
Not till that hour  
Shall God's whole will be done  
Now, even now  
Once more from earth to sky  
Peals forth in joy  
Man's old undaunted cry  
Earth shall be fair  
And all her people one

Songwriter: Stephen Schwartz

**Attitude of Gratitude & Compassion**

Turn Back, O Man

—Stephen Schwartz

I was thinking about the clocks turning back this weekend when a song popped in my head, (Chris often says the filing cabinet of music in my brain is amazing). “Turn Back, O Man” from the musical, Godspell was this song written during a global pandemic, heated political climate, systemic racism? Music is timeless!

Turn back, O man  
Forswear thy foolish ways  
Old now is earth  
And none may count her days  
Yet thou, her child  
Whose head is crowned with flames  
Still will not hear  
Thine inner God proclaims  
Turn back, O man  
Forswear thy foolish ways  
Earth might be fair  
And all men glad and wise  
Age after age their tragic empires rise  
Built while they dream  
And in that dreaming weep  
Would man but wake  
From out his haunted sleep  
Turn back, O man...  
Turn back, O man...  
Turn back, O man...  
Forswear thy foolish ways  
Earth shall be fair  
And all her people one  
Not till that hour  
Shall God's whole will be done  
Now, even now  
Once more from earth to sky  
Peals forth in joy  
Man's old undaunted cry  
Earth shall be fair  
And all her people one

This weekend when you turn back your clocks, “Turn Back” from your foolish ways and turn to God! Let us strive for that day when “Earth shall be fair and all her people one”!

Stay safe! Stay well! Please wear your mask and love your neighbor! Show compassion to all!

Blessings, 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](mailto:rkaetzel@ctpres.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

Proverbs 3: 13 - 15 states,

Blessed is he man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding,  
for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.  
She is more precious than rubies; nothing can compare with her.

God has blessed us with access to a wealth of knowledge. Whenever I am preparing for a sermon or Sunday School class, I am always amazed by how much information is available to us. I have read the Bible several times, but whenever I am preparing, I find insight by reading the thoughts and beliefs of biblical scholars. Many times, I am provided with new ways of looking at things and seeing things in ways I never considered before. Seeking to have the whole story is not a bad thing. Listening to the experts always brings greater understanding of what is true. Take advantage of what God has given us to gain knowledge. Research, open your mind to other ways of thinking, and pray for God to give you proper understanding. Unlike gold and silver, no one can ever take that wisdom and insight from you.

—David Weil



**You're invited: The Faithweavers** are studying Joshua. 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. It's not too late to join the class and everyone is invited and welcome! Log into Zoom and join Meeting ID. 789 5479 7659 and Password 8ZFCtT. For more information and a study book, contact Margaret Kursey at [mkursey@gmail.com](mailto:mkursey@gmail.com).

**The Children's Zoom SS class** . Good news! There will now be **two** Children's Zoom events on Sunday mornings starting this Sunday, November 1st, from 8:45-9:00 AM. Marsha Dibbern will meet with her class--(from the spring of 2020) on the Zoom ID # 814 041 7243 password 565656

Angie Lavalley will meet with her class (from the spring of 2020) at a new Zoom ID and password. Angie will send an invitation by email to all the parents and grandparents of her students, so please be looking out for that link.

**Yokefellows Sunday School class via Zoom** meets Sunday's @ 8:45 am. The Yokefellows Class will discuss its business from 8:45 am to 9:00 am. Business would include a discussion of members who are sick or have family members who are sick and require our prayers. Projects that are planned for the next several months, etc. Then @ 9:00 am the teacher will begin the lesson.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6307261213?pwd=VmRSaHhBdnMobVEyUytFUTFLTnp4QT09>



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: November: Marsha Dibbern; December: Faithweavers class If you can help, please contact Patsy White (304-725-8958) or Gary Scott (304- 279-5296).



**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.

~~~~~  
 Feliz Navidad! Joyeux Noel! Buon Natale! Mo'adim Lesimkha (Israel)  
 Merry Christmas

Around the world Christmas is celebrated in many different ways according to the traditions of the country. The celebration of Christmas started in Rome about 336 but did not become a major Christian festival until the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Decorating trees started in Germany and later spread to other parts of the world.

Christmas shoe boxes are now available in the church office. If you are able, stop by and pick up a box to fill. The deadline is Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. These boxes go out to more than 100 countries through Samaritan's Purse. We can't verbally wish children a Merry Christmas, but we can reach many through this shoebox ministry. This box may be the only gift a child receives. Let's spread the Good News around the world by giving with a cheerful heart and giving generously.



**Ornaments:** Keep "the reason for the season" on display during Christmas! As many of us look back on 2020, perhaps we've been anticipating the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as a means to give us hope for new beginnings in the coming year. These beautiful 2020 ornaments can help symbolize how we cherish Christmas at Charles Town Presbyterian Church. While supplies last, members, friends and family can purchase an ornament for \$25 until October 31, 2020 (purchase on our website <https://www.ctpres.org/ctpressblog/2020/10/20/keep-the-reason-for-the-season-on-display-during-christmas/> or check made payable to CTPC. Proceeds help Mission & Outreach. On November 1st, any remaining ornaments will be made available "for donation" to the general public.



**Quilt:** Stay warm this winter with this lovely, handmade quilt! Your heart will also be warmed knowing that this quilt was given to members of our mission team by a family who they helped during CTPC's mission trip to Webster Springs, WV. We'll be raffling off this quilt to one lucky winner. Tickets can be purchased on our website <https://www.ctpres.org/ctpressblog/2020/10/20/stay-warm-this-winter-with-this-lovely-handmade-quilt/> for \$20 each, proceeds to fund Mission & Outreach programs. Drawing will be held near Thanksgiving.

**Summary of Re-opening Guidelines** in place.

- **Register** – Everyone planning on attending worship is asked to notify the church office (304-725-5316, [ctpres@ctpres.org](mailto: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** – Please sit in one of the open pews, and observe social distancing.
- **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.
- **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.**