

October 2, 2020



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

I am so excited for this Sunday!

We haven't worshiped together since the middle of March – seven months!

When the coronavirus first became a threat, all of us hoped that our suspension of worship would be only a couple of weeks, maybe three at the most. Seven months ago, we had no idea what to expect; and to be fair, we still don't know what to expect in the long term. There is a reason we keep hearing the phrase, "new normal." Many things will be different, even at church.

Scripture is clear that the people of God need to be in the habit of gathering for worship. In Hebrews 11:24, 25, we read these words:

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Worship holds a twofold purpose. First, we give glory to God. We ought to be doing that every day with every part of lives. But we also need to regularly gather and glorify God corporately. What a relief we are doing that this Sunday! Second, worship serves to encourage us. This encouragement happens two ways. First, the experience of the worship service – singing and music, prayers, preaching, and sacraments – all of these serve to bring us encouragement. How frequently do we hear people express the sentiment that a worship service lifted them up?

We also find encouragement in one another. The collective love and wisdom of the Body of Christ is an irreplaceable part of the Christian experience. We need each other! Some of the greatest parts of our Christian experience happen when we are gathered.

I am thankful we are gathering again this Sunday. I know not everyone is comfortable with this. And if you are coming, it's important to know what to expect. We may have to sit in different places, the worship order will be a little unfamiliar, and we will be practicing social distancing. There won't be congregational singing.

But there will be worship.

We will be encouraged.

And God will be glorified!

Blessings,

Pastor John

BUSINESS NAME

CT Press

Celebrations

October Birthdays

Sharon Criswell

Brooklyn Farmer

Hoyle Fulbright

Michelle Hart

Jackson Smith

Evan Longerbeam



Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration via
FaceBook

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



Donate



Congregational Meeting

The session has called a congregational meeting for next 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 27th: \$1,570; Special Offerings—Sunday School—\$28; Hunger—\$65

Sunday School attendance (via Zoom)—Faithweavers-14, Children's —2 Leaders, 2 children.

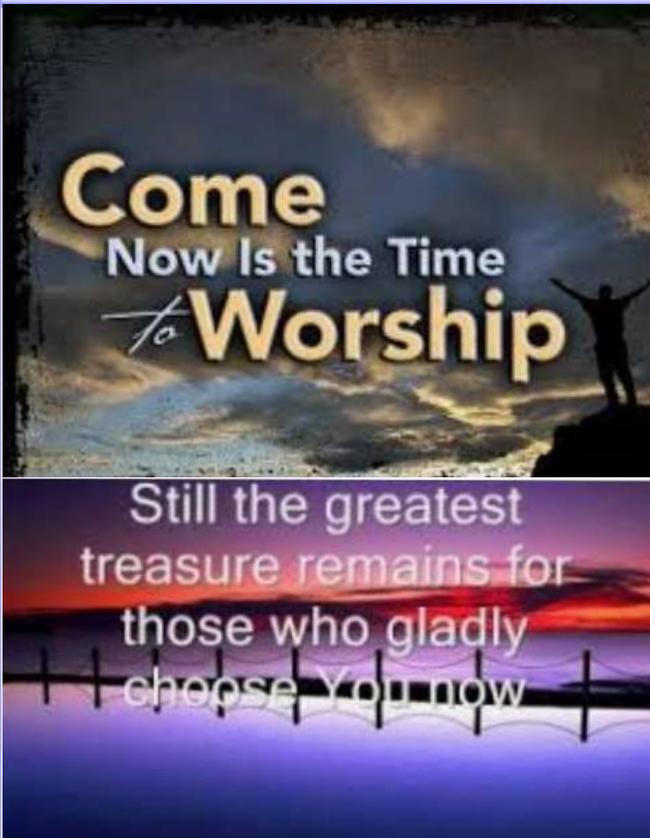
Checks can be mailed to: CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town, WV 25414

Thank you!

For electronic giving, please scan here:



🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny



Come Now Is The Time To Worship
—Brian Doerksen

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God
One day ev'ry knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

Attitude of Gratitude

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship!

— Brian Doerksen

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come!

This classic contemporary Christian song has some wonderful music ministry memories. Flashback to about 16 years ago, when a group of musically enthusiastic youth, agreed to participate in a CTPC Praise Band. The first Sunday they played for worship included this song, and yes, we had a drum set in the sanctuary and it sounded great!

We are just a couple days away from in person worship with video streaming and this song says so much!

The time to worship is now and the moment you are in is Now! While worship at 10:30am is very important, we need to give any and all moments we can to worship.

“Come, now is the time to give your heart”

Come now to the Lord and give him your heart, not just on Sunday morning, but every moment of every day!

“Come, just as you are before your God”

Wherever you are in your faith journey or relationship with the Lord, come! Come, ye Sinners, Poor & Needy, come all you who are weary and burdened, come share the Lord!

You can come to the Lord whether in person for worship, or at home watching the live stream.

I chose this song for the praise band years ago because it is a song for all ages, appropriate for any stage of faith formation.

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship!

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

Even though we are now into the season of fall, we probably remember that really hot dry stretch of weather that we experienced this summer. Each morning I would try to walk early and do my Bible podcast. We were in what one may call drought conditions as it had been quite a few days since the last rains. There was finally rain the previous evening. As I started my walk that morning I scanned the landscape which for me is a nice corn field. I was marveling at how God provides as the corn was reaching tall and there was still the early morning dew glistening on the crop. My podcast at that moment was Psalm 42.

Psalm 42:1-2 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

Just as the deer pants for water so does the earth rely on God's goodness to nourish and replenish the needed moisture. We too need refreshed. Only God can provide true refreshment. Just as the Lord provides for our physical needs as seen in the corn and rain, God alone gives us what we need for spiritual wholeness. This Psalm reminds me to seek the refreshment of the Lord just as the deer pants for water. Water is essential for life but even more essential is the life giving refreshment of the Lord.

—Diane Mayhew

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 on Sunday, 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://uso4web.zoom.us/j/8150417243?pwd=R1JYQlIXd2FXTHQwR1hvZ3YycWw1QTO9> 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.

Yokefellows Sunday School class via Zoom with begin on Sunday, October 11th @ 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=VmRSaHhBdnMobVEyUytFUTFLTnp4QTO9>



It Is Now Post Time!



The annual "Sock it to me" race will begin October 4, 2020 and end on October 26, 2020.

Drop your sock and tee shirt donations off at the church office. If you would rather make a monetary donation that is okay too.

Mission and Outreach will shop for you.

So, see if you can make it to the finish line by the 26th of October.

Let's let our community know that we are praying for them and that we care.

CTPS is off and running!



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 9th 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 15th. 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.



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: **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 tomorrow, 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.