

November 6,
2020



BUSINESS NAME

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

Scripture is one of the greatest gifts God has given the Church. It may be the greatest, next to the gift of the Son, of course. The scriptures allow us to read, learn, grow, and be challenged in our faith. We are not called to be static – to stay still or in one place, but rather, we are to keep moving closer to God in Christ. To do so we can use a variety of spiritual disciplines like worship, prayer, fasting, service, and so on.

What's great about the scriptures is that we can keep returning to them over and over again. A worship service or prayer meeting are one-time events. It's hard to replicate a powerfully moving worship service. But the scriptures are different. They can provide ongoing comfort and encouragement, and even when we think we've learned all we can about a particular passage, the Holy Spirit speaks to us and opens our eyes and our hearts!

We've been living with stress and anxiety for over eight months now, and the events of this election week are adding to that anxiety. All of it is overwhelming at times, and with the holidays approaching, the thought of how we gather and celebrate just seems exhausting.

When we feel this way, I think it is important to go back to those scripture passages that provide comfort and hope. As this strange week in this strange period of history draws to a close, I find great comfort in these verses:

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
(2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

These verses remind me of important truths: This world is temporary. Today will pass. God is preparing us for something better than what's in front of us. And that, my friends, provides great hope and comfort.

I encourage all of us to turn to the Word of God, and not only when things are hard. But yes, particularly when things are hard, we need the comfort only the scriptures can bring. Hang in there, keep the faith, and keep turning to the Word of God for hope and encouragement.

Blessings,

Pastor John

Celebrations this week

November Birthdays

Tracey Owens

Ruth Scott

Roberta Churchill

George Karos

Penny Liston

Quentein LaVallee



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



Children's Thanksgiving Offering. This Thanksgiving we ask you to remember children and families experiencing pain, hunger, hopelessness, separation from loved ones. The Apostle Paul teaches us that part of living together in community is reaching out to our brothers and sisters when they face hardships, temptation, or sorrow. Four ministries started by leaders in the Presbyterian Church serve our communities and address the needs of thousands of children each year. By participating in the Thanksgiving Offering Program, our congregation will sustain the valuable services provided by: Edmarc Hospice for Children; Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands; Presbyterian Home & Family Services and the Family Alliance. The Thanksgiving Offering will be collected on Sunday, November 21st, or you can mail to the church office at CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town, WV 25414. Note in memo line: Thanksgiving Offering.



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

Sunday's Receipts for November 1st: \$2,963; Special Offerings—Hunger—\$31; Quilt Raffle—\$100; JCCM—\$5; Help Fund—\$280; Thanksgiving—\$10 Attendance Last Sunday: Worship—25; Zoom Sunday School -Faithweavers-11; Children's -1 Leader, 2 Children.

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

For electronic giving, please scan here:



Thank you!

The church office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 26th, and Friday, November 27th. Have a safe holiday.



Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 25th, at 7:00pm. This will be an **online only service** on our FaceBook page (click [here](#)). Please plan to join us.



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.

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. **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.

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny



Excerpt

From All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten
Written by Robert Fulghum

ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but there in the sandpile at Sunday School.

- These are the things I learned:
- Share everything.
- Play fair.
- Don't hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.
- Clean up your own mess.
- Don't take things that aren't yours.
- Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
- Wash your hands before you eat.
- Flush.
- Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
- Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.
- Take a nap every afternoon.
- When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.
- Wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.
- Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup—they all die. So do we.
- And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned—the biggest word of all—LOOK.
- Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and equality and sane living.
- Take any one of those items and extrapolate it into sophisticated adult terms and apply it to your family life or your work or your government or your world and it holds true and clear and firm.
- Think what a better world it would be if we all—the whole world—had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankies for a nap. Or if all governments had as a basic policy to always put things back where they found them and to clean up their own mess.
- And it is still true, no matter how old you are—when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

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

Blessings, Penny

2021 Giving Envelopes are now available in the narthex for those attending in person worship. Call or email church office (304-725-5316 or ctpres@ctpres.org) if you would like to have envelopes mailed to you. If you give with a check, envelopes are not necessary. If giving with cash, please write your name on an envelope to enable us to credit your giving statement properly.



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.

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 Lavallee 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.

Dear Yokefellow's Class Members: Yokefellow's Sunday School Class **will not meet** on Sunday, November 8th, but will resume class meetings on Sunday, November 15th @ 8:45 am. The class will begin with the business meeting which will include prayers for members and friends who are ill or otherwise suffering in these difficult times. At 9:00 am the class will have a lesson which will be taught by Bill Whitacre.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

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). **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.



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 we think of Song in the Bible, our thoughts immediately jump to the Psalms. Of course, David is the master of song in scripture.

Psalm 96 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
For great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations, ascribe to the Lord strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name, bring an offering and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness, tremble before him, all the earth.
Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns" world is firmly established, if cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; the sea resound, and all that is in it;
Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;
They will sing before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples win his truth.

How wonderful are these words and doesn't our heart sing when we think to praise God. I am continuing on in my personal Bible study and I am currently in Isaiah. Isaiah 12 has two short songs to praise the Lord. This reminded me that the Bible has song throughout the many books. As mentioned above, David fills the Psalms with song and the Magnificat of Mary may come to mind next.

There is also the Song of Moses. I see this as a challenge to us to praise God and sing a song to Him daily. We may not be singing together as a congregation but we certainly can sing to the Lord in our hearts and minds. God has done great things and will continue to do great things. Lift your inner voices in praise to the Lord!!

Isaiah 26 is a Song of Praise that certainly speaks to my heart and should be a comfort to us in these moments we are experiencing now.

Isaiah 26: 3-4 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.

Who else can provide perfect peace but the Lord! Pray to Him daily and know that He alone is our Rock and Salvation. Let your heart sing of the joy and peace of the Lord.

---Diane Mayhew



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 **next 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.



Our sock it to me campaign is over this year! The socks have been delivered to community ministries. Our committee thanks you for your participation. Our church family has always risen to the occasion. Thank you. This is only one small way of reaching out.

We have until November 15th to shop and deliver the Christmas shoe boxes to the church office. I see some boxes are already there. If you haven't filled a box yet it is not too late. Let's make this Christmas special for some children.

Also don't forget the Christmas decorations and the quilt raffle. There is a lot going on in the life of the church!



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.



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).