

May 14, 2021



## MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

I can't believe that as of this writing, we are experiencing a regional fuel shortage. It's creating a mix of panic and anger, as people are clearly hoarding fuel, much like toilet paper was hoarded in the early days of the pandemic.

I am old enough to remember when this was a nationwide problem in the 1970's. My mom would load my sister and me into the car, and we'd go get in line. I remember one time, the line was so long that I asked my mom where the gas station was. It was a crazy time. I remember when a rule about which letter or number ended a car's license number, and that determined which day(s) you could get gas. And it was not unusual to get close to the pump only to have them run out of gas. Many people were frustrated.

Part of what fuels our feelings of panic is fear. Fear that we will run out; fear that right when we need it, there will be no fuel anywhere. What if there is an emergency of some kind?

This Sunday I am preaching on a well-known passage from Matthew's gospel, where Jesus is walking on the water, Peter attempts to go to Jesus, and he ends up letting fear get the best of him, and he nearly drowns. It seems to fit well with what we are experiencing with this temporary gas shortage.

We will get through this. And don't we usually? I am always struck by how easily we give in to fear and panic. For the Christian, fearing the calamities of the world should be a foreign idea. We serve a God who is Lord of all, who owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10). The scriptures have over a hundred places where the people of God are encouraged to "fear not." In fact, that very sentiment is often stated in the imperative, which makes it much more of a command than a suggestion.

In Isaiah 41:10, God speaks these words through the prophet, to comfort Judah during a time of great fear and anxiety, "*..fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*"

Now that doesn't necessarily mean that God will make life easy for us. It means that as we go through whatever we are facing, God will watch over us and protect us.

It's extremely uncomfortable to imagine such a thing as a fuel shortage. But worse than that is imagining going through it without faith in Christ. For in Christ, we have the confidence that no matter how things are going, we can always trust in him.

Blessings,

Pastor John

## Celebrations this week

### May Birthdays

Vickie Lotts  
Jimmy Low  
J. P. Burns  
John Fanjoy  
Sara Fowler  
Abby Duncan  
John Karos



### May Anniversaries

Vincent & Beth Pugh

Please Note: in order to protect those whose names are listed in the celebrations, we do NOT list the actual dates. Those dates may be found in the on-line church directory.

## Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



Donate



You can listen to Pastor Johns' sermon here:

<https://soundcloud.com/john-bethard>



OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, May 31st, in observance of Memorial Day.

## In-Person Worship Information

**No Advance Sign Ups.** Even just a few months ago, this would have been a necessary step, but as more and more people get vaccinated, we feel that signing up to come to worship isn't necessary.

**Masks are still required.** For the same reasons we still wear masks outside our homes, we expect all those worshipping to wear masks in the building.

**No singing...yet.** The virus is still out there, and it is spread via aerosol, meaning the water droplets that come from our noses, mouths, etc. Even with masks, singing remains a spreader activity. For now, we encourage attendees to speak the words of the songs and hymns we sing. The first moment we can sing without fear of spread, sing we shall! So hang in there, that time is hopefully coming soon!

**Seating and social distancing.** We are not blocking off pews, nor are we telling people where they can sit or with whom. By now, we should all know how social distancing works. We do ask that worshipers sit at least every other pew. When we serve communion, we will be bringing the bread and the cup to each person, not passing it down the pew. We need will access by way of the pew in front.

**Offering.** We will have offering plates available at the doors, and we ask that everyone drop their gifts into the plates as they enter. This is to limit contact.

**Virtual worship will still stream.** We will continue to stream worship services live over Facebook. If you don't feel well or don't yet feel safe, worship with us virtually!

Like we said in the fall, when we last attempted to open, this is a fluid situation. Please be patient. As we are able, we will relax these guidelines, and work our way toward a more familiar experience. Until such a time, we all must patiently work together.



# CTPC Zoom Meetings this week

(The Zoom meetings below are always the same info)

**The Faithweavers** are studying Joshua. The Faithweavers Zoom class will be held from 9:00 - 9:50 AM. Log into Zoom and join Meeting ID. 789 5479 7659 and Password 8ZFCT. For more information and a study book, contact Margaret Kursey at [mkursey@gmail.com](mailto:mkursey@gmail.com).

**The Children's Zoom SS class** meets on Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:00 AM. Marsha Dibbern will meet with her class on the Zoom ID # 814 041 7243 password 565656

Angie Lavallee meets with Children's SS class (2-8 year olds) on Zoom from 8:45-9:00AM.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86014656252?pwd=enBaY25vYkJMbDY5YWN2YWxzZklsdz09>

Meeting ID: 860 1465 6252 Passcode: pVoHtz

**Yokefellows Sunday School Class** will not meet on Sunday, May 9, 2021, but will resume meeting on ZOOM next Sunday May 16, 2021 at 8:45 am. The Class will begin with a short business meeting from 8:45 am to 9:00 am at which time prayers will be offered for class members, family and friends who are ill or otherwise in distress. At 9:00am until 9:35 am a lesson will be taught by the class teacher from the Adult Bible Studies series. Anyone wishing to visit the class on ZOOM should contact the following class members to receive a ZOOM "invite": Gary Scott at email: [gary3042795296@gmail.com](mailto:gary3042795296@gmail.com) or James Mackenzie at email: [mackenzie48708@gmail.com](mailto:mackenzie48708@gmail.com)

**Session Meeting**, Tuesday, May 18, 7:00pm

**Topic: CTPC Session Meeting**

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91075223945?pwd=UXd3ejJOeks4K3VuQnYobjdZSszRUQT09>

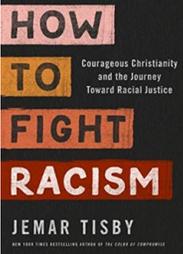
Meeting ID: 910 7522 3945 Passcode: Elder

**Wednesday Night Bible Study**, at 7:00pm.

Topic: Charles Town Presbyterian Church Bible Study

<https://zoom.us/j/96202042739?pwd=ZWt5aUhJYlBOVHJobE1RYmFoT2llQT09>

Meeting ID: 962 0204 2739 Passcode: 021517



## READ Book Study News

The Racial Equality and Discipleship group will be starting a new study in April. We will be reading and discussing Jerome Tisby's *How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey Toward Racial Justice*. Anyone interested in joining us for this study is welcome to get a copy of the book and join us on the dates below. At least through May, the meetings will be through Zoom, and that information is included below. Meetings are on the Saturdays noted below and begin at 10am.

**For the meeting on...**

Saturday, May 22

Saturday, June 26

**Read...**

Chapters 5-7

Chapters 8-10 & Conclusion

**Zoom Info:**

<https://zoom.us/j/98451764248?pwd=SVUvTosvaWhsY1doN3E2aUErc3FiZz09>

Meeting ID: 984 5176 4248

Passcode: 254484

# READY FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

## Attitude of Gratitude!

Music Ministry

New Beginnings—Week 4

Special music in worship is not a performance, but rather, an offering of God given gifts to lift us in our worship.

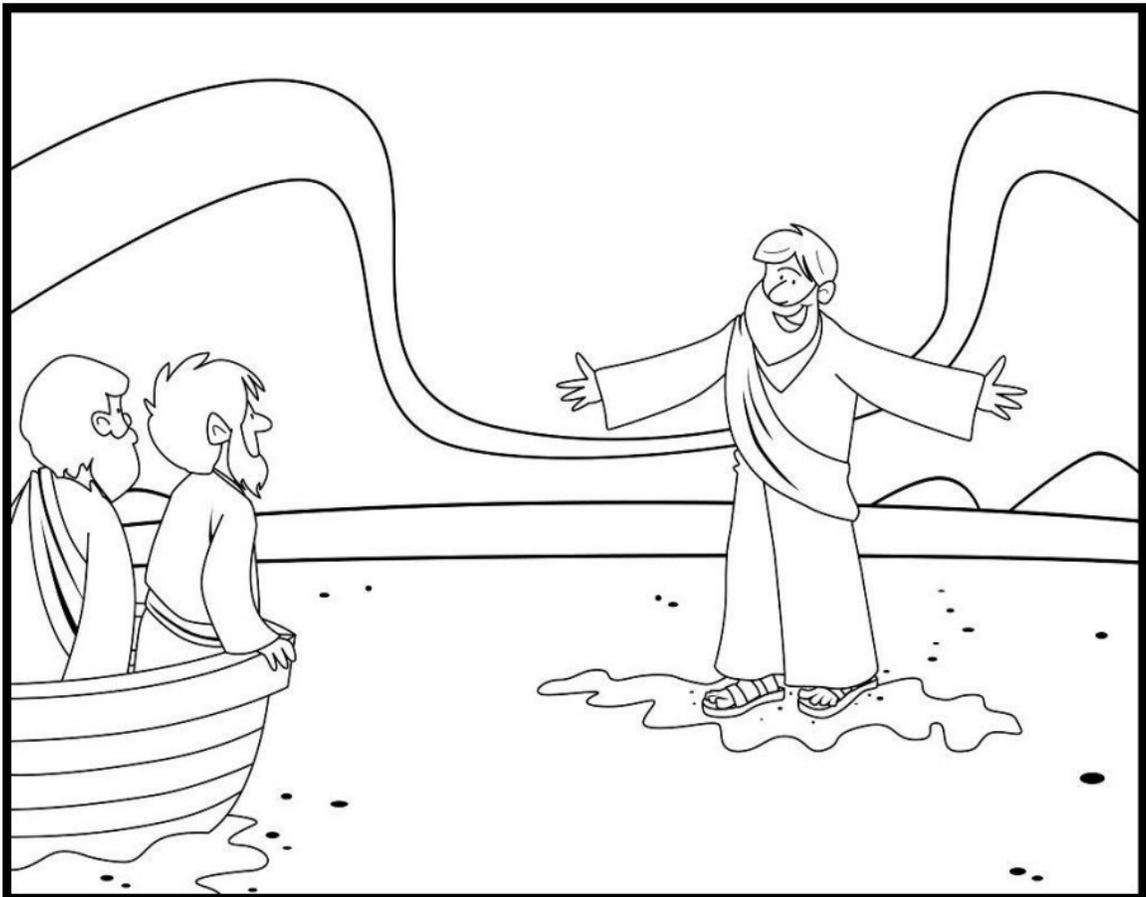
This week's new beginning is a new beginning of something old. Many of you have musical gifts you don't normally share during worship. This summer I ask you to share your God given music gift with us all during worship.

If you sing (currently we sing with a mask on), play an instrument, I would love to hear from you! Not comfortable sharing your gift by yourself? I love duets and will find music we can do together.

I hope you will prayerfully consider sharing your gift and contact me via: email: [penfvfarm@aol.com](mailto:penfvfarm@aol.com) (special music in subject line), FB messenger, call or text 304-886-2471.

Stay safe & well! Please wear a mask and love like Jesus!

Penny



# Stewardship

## NOTES:



Are you ready to declutter? Even just taking a small percentage of things taken out of the mix of life can be liberating!! CTPC plans to host a church yard sale. Interested folks are asked to join our Zoom meeting Monday, May 17, at 7pm, to get information and help set the date. The plan is to do a Saturday morning when the area is abuzz with market goers. We can have some fellowship too as we have fun seeing our treasures become someone else's treasures. This is being a good steward as we upcycle and not just fill up our landfill. We have several ideas floating around this event so join up and be a part even if you don't have items to sell, we have a place for you. If you wish to contact Patsy White or Diane Mayhew in addition to the Zoom opportunity that is fine and we look forward to hearing from you. Hope to have a full house Monday Zoommmmming.

Diane Mayhew is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Diane Mayhew's Zoom Meeting

Time: May 17, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96411145198?pwd=eDhoZFhGWUZlGNvMTNvYTJLWmw3QT09>

Meeting ID: 964 1114 5198

Passcode: 735935

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,96411145198#,,,,\*735935# US (New York)

+13017158592,,96411145198#,,,,\*735935# US (Washington DC)



## Virtual

How well do you know the officers of CTPC?

Here is your opportunity to get know some of the faces behind the scenes. Each week we will highlight an Elder or Deacon. Each person has been asked to list 5-10 things such as interests, personal church journey such as denomination we were raised, favorite Bible scripture with short reason why this is meaningful, and any other personal info that speaks of our personality. One of the "clues" will not be true and the answer will be posted the following week.

Matthew Henshaw: False guess-- I am NOT a three time defending champion rat wrangler.



### Attention Graduates:

We would like to honor your achievements. If you have a graduate in your family or know of any graduates (high school or college) in our church family, please call (304-725-5316) or email ([ctpres@ctpres.org](mailto:ctpres@ctpres.org)) their name, high school or college, and future plans to the church office by Monday, May 17th.



### The flower chart is available for sign up.

Available dates: May 23, 30; June 13, 20, 27; July 11, 18, 25; August 8, 15, 22, 29; September 12, 19, 26; October 10, 17, 24, 31; November 14, 21, 28; December 12. Sign up by calling church office at 304-725-5316, or by email at [ctpres@ctpres.org](mailto:ctpres@ctpres.org). Please include your name, phone number or email, name of person(s) and in honor of or memory of. Please take flowers with you following worship. (Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory /honor of \_\_\_ by \_\_\_.)



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

Sunday's Receipts for May 9th:  
\$6,685; Special Offerings: Homeless dinners—  
\$70; Memorial—\$25; Pentecost—\$60; Loose—  
\$38. Checks can be mailed to:  
CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town, WV 25414

**For electronic giving, please  
scan here:**  
Thank you!



**The Six-cents-a-meal offering**, collected on the 4th Sunday each month, goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program. To contribute to this offering please note on memo line: hunger offering. Thank you.

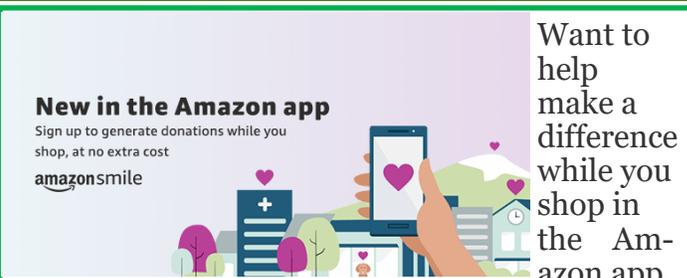
2021- Let's Journey through the Bible Together! Congregational Bible Reading. In 2021, we will endeavor to read the Bible together! Using the plan provided in the link below, we will take advantage of a plan produced by Navigators, and organization committed to deeper Christian discipleship. We encourage everyone to participate.

<https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/navtool-5x5x5.pdf>



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.



Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Charles Town Presbyterian Church" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Charles Town Presbyterian Church" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app



**Pentecost Offering,**

Sunday May 23rd. Giving to the Pentecost Offering is investing in our greatest resource, our youth and our children. The Pentecost Offering makes it possible for the church to encourage, develop, and support its young people and address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of this offering stays in our local community and will be designated for Jefferson County Community Ministries. The other 60% will help support: young adult volunteer programs, ministries for youth, and child advocacy. Please note in memo line: Pentecost. Thank you.



JCCM Food Pantry needs. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated: bottled water, ground beef, hot dogs, paper towels, instant coffee, canned meats (spam, ham, tuna, chicken), tuna packets, mac and cheese cups. Donations may be dropped off at JCCM 9am-Noon, Monday—Friday.

Have a great week and God Bless,

Diana Carpenter,  
Volunteer JCCM