

June 11, 2021



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

Summer vacation is here!

Well, at least for the students in our lives. For the rest of us, summer often means that at some point, we may go on vacation. Going on a vacation is a wonderful blessing, but we must keep in mind that we never take a vacation from our faith. As summer is unofficially underway, I thought I'd offer some perspective on how to stay consistent as we follow Christ.

Worship. Worship is the central act in the life of every Christian. It is the one time each week we are gathered before God and one another. When we go on vacation, there is always a temptation to skip worship. I suggest that when it is practical, we should always go to worship. If we are in a new city or vacation spot, it might be a great time to visit a church that is *not* Presbyterian. Worshiping in a different tradition and style can be a real blessing to our time away and recharge our spiritual batteries. Obviously, if we are on a long drive or flying, it may not be practical, but when we can, we should go.

Devotions. This is the word Christians use for the daily practices we use to stay connected to Christ throughout the week when we aren't in worship. How we do our devotions varies person to person. Typically, Bible reading and prayer are the main components. Some people use devotionals like *The Present Word* and other tools that are set up for daily readings. When we go on vacation, we need to maintain our daily practices as much as possible for one simple reason: If we stop doing devotions for vacation, it will become harder to pick it up when we return home. Before we know it, weeks or even months will go by, and we will soon find ourselves struggling.

Unique Opportunities. If we are blessed to go somewhere like the beach or the mountains, we must be sure to take advantage of the beauty we find in those places. A sunrise at the beach or the summit of a hike that ends with an exceptional view are perfect moments to spend some time in prayer. Some of the most powerful moments in my faith journey have happened at sunrise on the beach, or taking in a mountaintop vista.

For those blessed with a vacation this summer, my hope and prayer is that it will be a time for faith in Christ to be enriched, that it will supplement rather than supplant spiritual growth.

God bless,

Pastor John

CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

Celebrations this week

June Birthdays

Megan Camilletti
Linda Myers-Hart
Will Pugh
June Titus
Peter Garms



June Anniversaries

John & Laurie Bethard
Doug & Julia McDonough
Doug & Patsy White
Doyle & Sharon Criswell
Bing & Laura Crosby

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>

Session has called for a congregational meeting next Sunday, June 20, following worship to hear and act upon a report from the congregational nominating committee. This will be an in-person meeting. If we are unable to have a quorum, the meeting will be rescheduled for Sunday, June 27 and conducted as a hybrid meeting (combination of in-person and Zoom meeting). The CNC will nominate the following people: Class of 2024: Elder – Signe Garms, Gary Scott, Kathy Shue; Deacon – Alex Bethard, Kaz Feldstein, Debra Low, Doug McDonough; Trustee – Janet Harner; CNC class of 2022: Sue Flanagan, Diane Mayhew, David Weil.

In-Person Worship Information (revised 5/19/21)

Masks. Per the revised CDC guidelines, fully vaccinated persons do not need to wear masks. So, if you are fully vaccinated, masks are optional in worship. Those who are not vaccinated or have health concerns are encouraged to continue masking. We trust that as brothers and sisters in Christ, we will honor each person's decision on this matter.

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 still requesting 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 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!

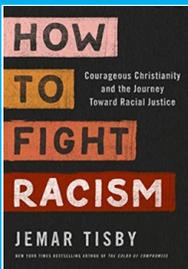


CTPC Zoom Meetings this week

(The Zoom meetings below are always the same info)

The Faithweavers has begun a blended Sunday School class with in person and virtual options. The class is studying Ephesians by Eric C. Redmond in the Knowing the Bible Series. Please come as you are; masks are optional for those who are vaccinated. We will space out as much as possible. All are invited and welcome! Log into Zoom and join Meeting ID. 789 5479 7659 and Password 8ZFCtT. For more information, contact mkursey@gmail.com.

The Yokefellows Sunday School Class has resumed in-person class. The lesson will be taught by a class teacher from the Adult Bible Studies series. Those who would like to visit the class on ZOOM should contact the following Yokefellows Sunday School Class members at their email address to request a ZOOM "invite": Gary Scott gary3042795296@gmail.com or James Mackenzie mackenzie48708@gmail.com



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... | Read... |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Saturday, June 26 | Chapters 8-10 & Conclusion |

Zoom Info:

<https://zoom.us/j/98451764248?pwd=SVUvTosvaWhsY1doN3E2aUErc3FiZz09>
Meeting ID: 984 5176 4248 Passcode: 254484



It's Yard Sale Time!!

When: Saturday June 19 from 9-12. Church parking lot.

We have several members looking to find homes for some of their past treasures. These items can be yours!! We will be also raffling several gift baskets/bags also. Chances will be sold that day or see Patsy

White or Diane Mayhew. If you make a purchase of \$10 or more, you will be entered to win! We will have more information on that next week. Invite your friends and get reacquainted with some of your church friends. So come on out and check it all out.

Attitude of Gratitude!

Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us:

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Music ministry allows us to actively live out this passage. I can think of no better way to Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks!, than through song.

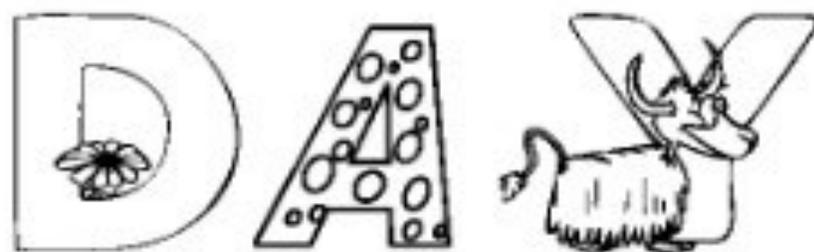
I hope you will prayerfully consider joining our music ministry with your gift of song! Summer is the perfect time to find your niche!



This is God's will for you in Christ Jesus!

Blessings,

Penny





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

Sunday's Receipts for June 6th:
\$6,070, On-Line—\$806; Special Offerings:
Sunday School—\$90; Hunger—\$50

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

For electronic giving, please scan here:



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

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.**

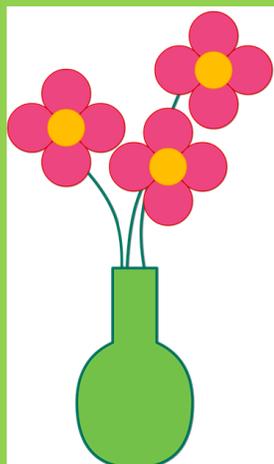
By going through the Foundation, the fee they charge actually helps the mission of their organization, which is to help Presbyterian churches to be excellent stewards of their gifts and resources. The exciting part about working with the foundation is that we are able to use a mobile app that is connected 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.

Shop Father's Day gifts at **smile.amazon.com** to support us while you shop



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



The flower chart is available for sign up. Available dates: June 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. Please take flowers with you following worship.



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), sugar, microwave meals, caned fruit, shelf stable milk, pancake mix, deodorant, conditioner. Donations may be dropped off at JCCM 9am-Noon, Monday—Friday.

Have a great week and God Bless,
Diana Carpenter, Volunteer JCCM