

September 3-9,
2021



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

This Sunday, I am starting a new series on what it means to love others. Over the past eighteen months, we have seen ugly fights over masks, vaccines, politics, and many other issues. The fights have been particularly vicious on social media, even between Christians. Personally, I find that incredibly sad.

When Jesus was asked what the most important commandment was, he gave this answer: *“The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these”* (Mark 12:29-31). Jesus not only answered the question of which commandment was the greatest, but he gave a bonus answer – Love your neighbor as yourself.

The reason these commandments are tied together is fairly straightforward: a person who loves God, ought to be able to share that love with others. In the gospel of Luke, when this question comes up, Jesus follows the answer with the telling of the parable of the Good Samaritan. Samaritans and Jews hated each other, and the point of the parable was that we are not called to love only those who love us, we are called to love all, period.

In the first letter of John the Apostle, John expounds on this idea: *God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother* (1 John 4:16-21).

I will begin with Cain and Abel in Genesis and be working through various instances of what it means to love others until we get to advent. We need to hear this, we need to wrestle with it, and we need to relearn how to love others.

I pray this series will be a blessing to all who hear it.

-Pastor John

Celebrations this week

September Birthdays

Mary Rider Kline
Connor Howard
Ken Hetzinger
Tammy Connors



September Anniversaries

Samuel & Rachel Wilson

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



Donate



Church Office closed Monday, September 6th. Have a safe holiday weekend.



You can listen to Pastor Johns' sermon here:

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



CTPC Zoom Meetings this week

(The Zoom meetings below are always the same info)

The Faithweavers has 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. 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.

Recently the congregation received a mailing with 2022 pledge cards and an informational sheet concerning the ministries of our church. We will be accepting the returned pledge cards through September 15. Cards may be returned either by mail or in person to the church office or deposited in the gold box near the front of the sanctuary on Sundays. The informational sheet concerning the ministries of our church is meant as a starting point as to how members may share their gifts and talents. Often folks wait to be invited to join a ministry, yet committee chairs are not always aware of what may interest an individual. Please take time to review the listing and seek where the Lord may be leading you for 2022 ministry involvement. All of us must pray that God will show us where he wants us to serve in and strengthen His Church. Thank you for your commitment to Charles Town Presbyterian Church. **BE SURE TO WRITE YOUR NAME ON PLEDGE CARD.**

Christian Education Sunday. On Sunday, September 12, we will highlight our Sunday School ministry in worship. We will celebrate this ministry and pray for our teachers and classes as we begin a new school year. We are blessed with so many great teachers and classes, and it is appropriate for us to thank God for this ministry, and to seek God's blessing on the year ahead.

Weekly Bible Study. As Bible study wound down at the end of spring this year, we talked about changing the meeting time. Some of the attendees are involved in the music ministry, and those rehearsals are usually Wednesday evening. We are going to try meeting at a new time, and the study will continue to meet via Zoom. Our new time will be 4pm on Wednesdays, beginning September 22. We are studying the book of Ezekiel, and all are welcome to join us.



Mission and Outreach— Friendship Ministry Meals.

We are continuing to serve meals on the first Saturday of each month. We are packaging meals to take out since there is still a Covid threat. The numbers vary month to month but the average is thirty meals each Saturday. The deacons are scheduled for September 4th, George Tabb and Jason Mullen's for October 2nd, the Yokefellow Sunday school class for November 6th, and Marsha Dibern and Patsy White for December 4th. If you would like to host a meal for 2022, please let the Mission and Outreach team know. Call Patsy White (304-725-8058) or Kathy Donadio (703-403-9189). If you would like to help by donating food items or fixing a dish please let us know. Many in our community count on this evening meal and it may be the only food they have that day. If we all pitch in and help it makes the meal very enjoyable. It is one small way to be a good steward. We hope that you can help in any way that you can. (Water, cookies, chips, fruit)

Attitude of Gratitude! “Loving Others”



I'm excited for Pastor John's upcoming series on "Loving Others". It's apparent by watching the news, scrolling your FB newsfeed, listening to the radio, that many are lacking in the "loving others" department.

For those of us that live with depression and anxiety issues; witnessing human ugliness, selfishness, bullying and uncaring is a struggle.

Years ago the Beatle's did a song "All You Need Is Love". How much better the song would be today, if it were "All You Need Is to Love Others"! Such a simple concept that seems hard to carry out these days.

We cannot profess to love the Lord and not love others. We cannot care for God's creation without loving others.

John 15:12 "My command is this: love each other as I have loved you."

I propose a "Loving Others" challenge! Part of the challenge—worship with us every Sunday, either in person or FBLive, for Pastor John's "Loving Others" series.

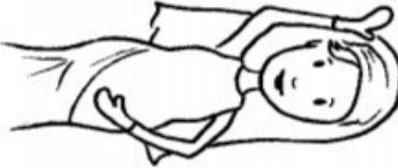
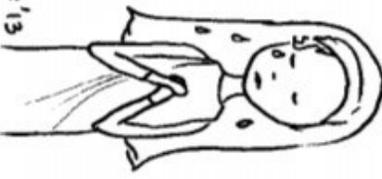
Part 2 of the challenge—make a daily effort to practice "loving others." In thought, word and deed, demonstrate love!

"All You Need Is to Love Others!"

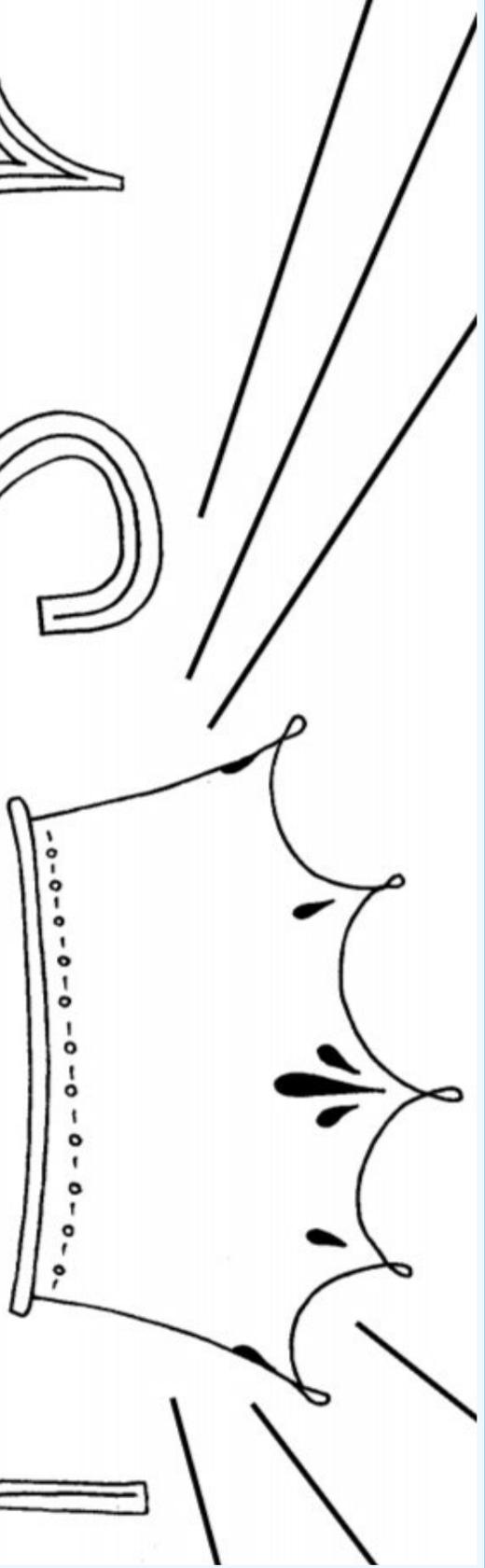
Please stay safe and well. Wear a mask at indoor activities and love like Jesus!

Blessings, Penny

M. Grace '13



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

Sunday's Receipts: \$4,240; Special Offerings: Sunday School—\$57; Pastor's Help Fund—\$62.

Checks can be mailed to:
 CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town, WV 2541

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 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



Yokefellows
BBQ Pork/Chicken dinner
 Saturday, October 23, 2021
 4:30-7:00 pm

Get your tickets now from any Yokefellow and plan to join us on Saturday, October 23, 4:30-7:00 pm, for fresh pork/chicken BBQ, slaw, mac & cheese, baked bean, desserts, and drinks provided. Tickets: \$15.00 adults; \$7.00 children under 12 years; Free children under 3 years. Donations appreciated.



JCCM Food Pantry needs. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated: hamburger, hot dogs, paper towels, regular coffee, canned meats (spam, ham, tuna, chicken), sugar, microwave meals, shelf stable milk, pancake mix, jelly, saltine crackers, rice/pasta sides, instant mashed potatoes, deodorant, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent dry cat and dog food. Donations may be dropped off at JCCM 9am-Noon, Monday—Friday. Have a great week and God Bless,
 Diana Carpenter, Volunteer JCCM



The flower chart is available for sign up. Available dates: September 19, 26; October 10, 17, 31; November 14, 21, 28. Sign up by calling church office at 304-725-5316, or by email at ctpres@ctpres.org. Please take flowers with you following worship.