

October 29—
November 4,
2021

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

Sunday is Halloween, a holiday that has seen dramatic growth in the last twenty years. People of all ages will spend this weekend at Halloween parties, watching scary movies, wearing costumes, and, of course, trick or treating.

Some of the earliest beginnings of Halloween trace back to Scottish and Irish traditions marking the halfway point (usually around November 7) to the winter solstice. Celebrations included games with apples and nuts, including bobbing for apples. To honor the dead, people would dress up and go from house to house, singing songs in exchange for food. Much of the celebration focused on remembering the dead.

As Christianity migrated across Europe, it influenced many of the cultural traditions. All Saint's Day was November 1, and Halloween (which is derived from words that meaning, "Hallows Eve." Halloween continued to be a day for remembering the dead, but with much more Christian influence. Children would go door to door, offering prayers for the dead in exchange for soul cakes. I'm sure the connection between that practice and modern-day trick or treating is easy to see.

What tends to get lost in all the Halloween celebration is the fact that October 31 is also Reformation Day. The Reformation was sparked into a fire on October 31, 1517, the day that Martin Luther posted on the door of Whittenburg Cathedral a list of grievances he had with the Roman Catholic Church. Luther's 99 Theses became the bedrock on which the Reformation was born and is the foundation for most protestant denominations in the world.

This coming Sunday, we will remember Reformation Day, and Dr. Henry Christie will be preaching on a passage with great theological significance for Reformed Theology, Ephesians 2:1-10. Reformed Theology, which is central to Presbyterian belief, is summed up in the five solas – *Sola Gratia*, *Sola Fide*, *Sola Christus*, *Sola Scriptura*, *Soli Deo Gloria* - We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to the Scriptures, to the glory of God.

The Reformation was a watershed moment in Church history. It called for greater accessibility to the scriptures, making personal faith an integral part of a person's faith journey. I, for one, am incredibly thankful for these brave souls who took a courageous stand to bring about changes we still enjoy today.

Happy Reformation Day!

-Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

Celebrations this week

October Birthdays

Roxanne Noland
Autumn Sword
Laura Crosby



October Anniversaries

J.P. & Donna Burns

November Anniversaries

Marty & Carol Kable

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



Donate



Know. Grow. Serve.

The session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 14th, immediately following worship for the purpose of acting on the 2022 terms of call for the pastor. Copies of the terms of call will be available in the narthex beginning Sunday, November 7th.



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.

Stewardship & Vision, November 1, 7:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/98725687881?pwd=dmtBWEFJQ3RDTFNUaytrRnVzdnhNdzo9>

Meeting ID: 987 2568 7881

Passcode: 210155

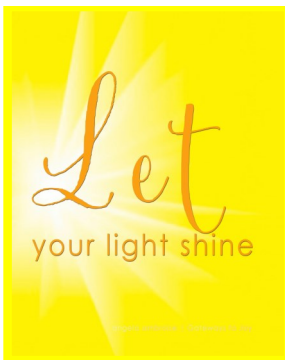
Mission & Outreach, November 2nd, 7:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/95324727255?pwd=QzlxUDVZL2RBeUVKM3o2YU1oZXpkdzo9>

Meeting ID: 953 2472 7255

Passcode: 218643





Let Your Light Shine!

Our annual “Sock it to me” collection begins next Sunday, October 17th, and ends on November 21st. We will be collecting socks and tee shirts. There is always a need for men’s work socks. Donations may be placed in the basket at the front of the church or dropped off at the church office. For monetary donations, please write “sock it to me” on the memo line. Mission and Outreach team will be happy to shop for you. Cold weather is just around the corner and your donations will be gratefully received by JCCM and distributed to those in need.

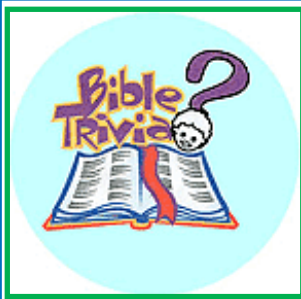


The Charles Town Christmas parade will be held on Saturday, December 4th. Four people have already signed up to help. If you are interested in helping please see or call Patsy White (304 725-8058), Kathy Donadio (703 403-9189) or Diane Mayhew (304 535-2409). Come out and join the fun!

The 2022 calendar for Friendship Ministry Meals is beginning to fill up. So far April, October and November are covered. Please let us know if you can host a month. Our committee will help you with the menu and details if you would like us to help you.

Hebrews 13:16—“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

We love you! Mission and Outreach Committee



Here are several more sayings rooted in Scripture that may challenge us in our life experiences. We have all been challenged to “Go the extra mile.” And I surely have told my kids at one time or another to “Go the extra mile” as encouragement to do one better. This may take origin from Matthew 5:41 which says: “If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.” If you are going the extra mile, one might consider going the “straight and narrow.” In other words, do it the right way.

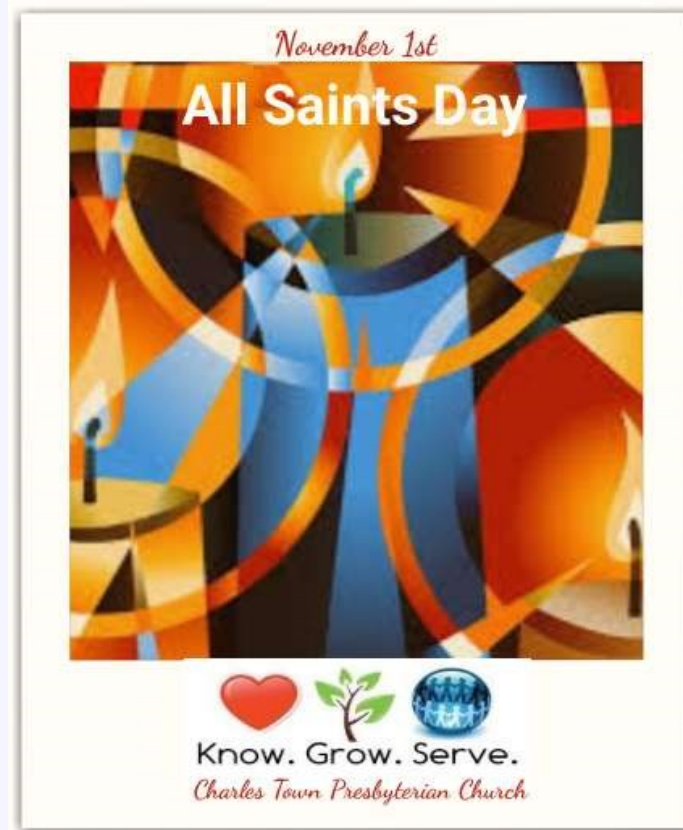
Matthew 7:14 says “Because strait is the gate, and narrow **is the way**, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (KJV)

There are also times you need to “move mountains.” The task or way just seems beyond your capability. Seek Christ and put faith in Him to allow the Holy Spirit to give you guidance and strength in all you endeavor to accomplish. Matthew 17:20 (NIV) "He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

I find it interesting that this phrase is found in several other verses (Matt 21:21, Mark 11:23, 1 Corinthians 13:2) and each in a slightly different context. This should tell us that in all things, turn them over to Christ. So go the extra mile and stay on the straight and narrow path and you may need help to move mountains. Nothing is impossible with Christ!!

—Diane Mayhew

Attitude of Gratitude! “All Saints Day”



The Faithful of every generation

An excerpt from the [*Companion to the Book of Common Worship*](#) (Geneva Press, 2003, 150-151)

All Saints' Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a time to claim our kinship with the "glorious company of apostles ... the noble fellowship of prophets ... the white-robed army of martyrs" (Te Deum). It is a time to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God's justice and peace in every nation.

To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around us like a cloud (Hebrews 12:1). It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds (Hebrews 12:1-2). Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation toward God's end in time. In this context, it is appropriate for a congregation on All Saints' Day to commemorate the lives of those who died during the previous year.

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

Blessings, Penny

◦ Nehemiah was a
◦ Servant ◦



◦ Nehemiah was a man of prayer ◦

Lord, hear my prayer

Lord, you are great



NEHEMIAH

◦ Nehemiah was hospitable + generous ◦



Mandy Groce '13

ministry-to-children.com



Weekly Congregational Giving: Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934 Sunday's Receipts: \$3,115; Special Offerings: Sunday School—

\$77; Loose—\$5; Hunger—\$85.

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.

New in the Amazon app

Sign up to generate donations while you shop, at no extra cost
amazon smile



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:

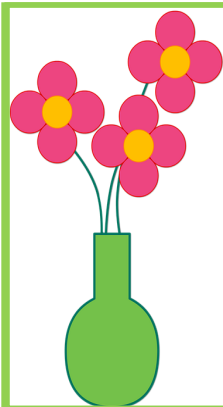
1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Charles Town Presbyterian Church" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app



JCCM Food Pantry needs. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated: Hot dogs, Ground beef, Eggs, Regular coffee (not instant), Microwave meals, Canned chili with beans, Shelf Stable/powdered milk, Pancake mix, Jelly, Rice/pasta sides, Boxed mashed potatoes, Flour, Powdered coffee creamer, Dish soap, Laundry detergent, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Shampoo/Conditioner, Body wash, Paper towels, Cat and dog food.

Thank you,

Kari Dean, Food Pantry Coordinator
Jefferson County Community Ministries



The flower chart is available for sign up. Available dates: 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.



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. Located by the mission bulletin board is detailed information, suggestions and instructions on how to pack a box. You can pick up a red/green boxes underneath the Mission Bulletin Board 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 21st**, 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.

HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX GIFT



1

Get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Preprinted boxes are available online.

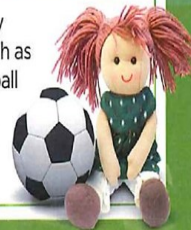
4



Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo.

2

Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal.



5



A donation of **\$9** is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. Give online through **Follow Your Box** and discover the destination of your shoebox.*

3

Fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.



6



Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location during **National Collection Week, the third week in November**. Visit our website to find one near you.

To Follow Your Box, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ



Life Line Screening will be here at Charles Town Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. Please refer to the attached flyer to get more info about how you can sign up. For only \$139 (regularly \$149) you can learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease.

There is no time like the present to take action! Learn more by watching this short video: <https://llsa.social/HSC>

Three ways to register:

- **Call toll-free: 888-653-6441**
- **Online: <https://llsa.social/HSC>**
- **Text: the word **circle** to 797979**