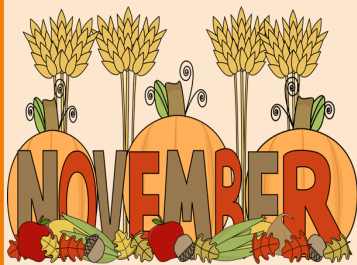


November 12-18,
2021



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

The Unending Pause

When I was teenager, I was heavily involved in the school media program, which, for my middle school and high school, was cutting edge. We produced daily news shows, programmed a 24/7 cable access channel, and aired football games, graduations, and other special programs that students helped to shoot, edit, and produce. It was what led me to pursue a degree in film and video production.

We worked in tape – video and audio. One of the biggest mistakes we tried to avoid was leaving a video or audio unit on pause for too long. There was no more disheartening feeling than walking into an editing suite hours or even a day or so later and finding something left on pause for an unusually extended period. Leaving a player on pause stretches the tape, and significantly decreases the quality. There were times where shots, clips, and shows were lost to the unending pause.

The pandemic has had a similar effect. Many parts of our lives have been on pause for such a long time, that it's left us sometimes feeling stretched and fragile, much like a piece of audio or video tape, only with greater consequences.

When the pandemic started impacting our daily lives eighteen months ago, all of us hoped the "pause" would be brief. But it hasn't been. Even with vaccines and other measures, it has taken far longer to end than anyone could have foreseen. We are still in it. But we can't stay on pause.

This week, I shared with several people and the session that one of the most exciting moments in worship last Sunday was the fact that announcements took longer than they have since before the pandemic. It means we are doing more. We are reclaiming space to do ministry and rediscover what it means to be a congregation looking to a post-pandemic age.

We must continue with precautions and stay flexible as we move forward, but in my view, we are overdue for getting things off pause. For the immediate future, we have to look for how we answer Christ's call amid the pandemic, but also with an eye to a preferable future. But we can't do that if we are stuck on pause. We can't keep waiting. Our mission as Christ's people continues no matter what hardships we are facing in our lives. Because what we will find is that throughout the pause, Christ has been faithful.

It is time to respond in faith and faithfulness to the One who has carried us this far.

Peace,

Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Hello, all! I am Garth Stevens-Jennings, the new Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. I have been asked to introduce myself and give some of my thoughts as to why youth and children's ministries are an important part of the life of the Church.

So first, a bit about me. I am a (relatively) recent seminary graduate; I attended Wesley Theological Seminary and graduated with a Master's in Divinity and a Master's in Theology. Initially my plan was to pursue ordination as a priest in the Episcopal Church, but the more I learned in my studies the more frustrated I became, so many of the ideas and concepts that I was being exposed to I could have learned earlier in life without having to spend so much money at a graduate program! As time went on I became aware of a change in my sense of calling, my new vocational goal was to take the insights I had gleaned from my time at seminary into the church at large, particularly to the youth and children of the Church who we often wrongly dismiss as being unable to handle some of the more difficult aspects of Christian theology.

Speaking of children and youth, let's talk a bit about why ministry to these parts of the Church is so important. We as humans and as Christians exist (hopefully) in a perpetual state of development and growth. As we go through life and as we live our faith we change and evolve in our perception and understanding of who we are and who God is, and this is as it should be. Our children and youth are no different, except that the rate of change and growth for them is much, much faster. A child or young adult's life is almost entirely defined by constant and rapid change, and their faith is no exception. This is why it is so vital that we adults of the church, who have the luxury of a more stable sense of self, do all that we can to support and aid in the healthy development of our younger members. I find it helps to think of a grape vine: These plants grow constantly, seeking a place in the sun so that they may bear fruit. Grapegrowers build trellises around their plants, structures intended partially to guide but primarily to support the vines as they grow towards the sun. This is our calling to our youth and children, to be the trellis supporting their growth as they learn who they are and who God is, so that they may grow even beyond us and bear the fruit of the Kingdom. It is every parent's dream to be surpassed by their children, and so we should work towards the goal that the next generation of the church will reach higher than we have and more fully bear witness to the love of Christ amidst a world that desperately needs the good news of the Gospel. Together, we can equip the young among us to do wonderful things, and if we are lucky, they will in turn teach us how to be better Christians.

Grace and peace,

Garth Stevens-Jennings

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny



Attitude of Gratitude!

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

Blessings, Penny

Celebrations this week

November Birthdays

June Adams

Betsy Wall



Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



Donate



Know. Grow. Serve.



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.

Session Meeting, Tuesday, November 16th, 7:00pm

Topic: CTPC Session Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91075223945?pwd=UXd3ejJOeks4K3VuQnYobjdZSszRUQTog>

Meeting ID: 910 7522 3945

Passcode: Elder

Upcoming in November/December

November 14th: Congregational Meeting following worship

November 21st: Deadline for "Sock it to me" collection for JCCM (questions see Patsy White)

Deadline for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes (questions see Nancy Lloyd)

November 24th: Thanksgiving Worship Service 7:00pm

November 25th: Happy Thanksgiving! OFFICE CLOSED

November 26th: OFFICE CLOSED

December 5th: Advent Festival following worship

December 4th: Charles Town Christmas parade (see Patsy White, Kathy Donadio or Diane Mayhew to sign up to help)

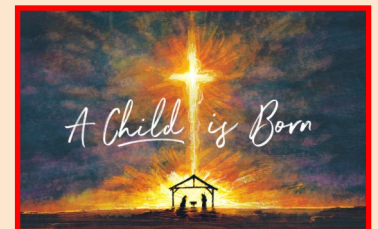
December 12th: Celebration and prayer Christmas Joy Service at 7:00pm
(snow date December 19th)

December 24th: Office Closed—Merry Christmas

December 24th: Family Christmas Eve worship TBD.

December 27th: Office Closed—Merry Christmas

December 31st: Office Closed—Happy New Year!



News from Mission and Outreach

Sock it to me!

Our sock collection will end on November 21st. We will present our collection to Keith Lowery on the 21st or the 28th when he will be visiting the Faith Weaver's Sunday school class.

Friendship Meals

The calendar is almost complete for 2022! Thanks to all who have offered to serve a meal next year. There are four months without servers: June 4th, August 6th, September 3rd, and December 3rd. It is still early, but if one of these dates is a date that you can serve, please let us know.

Guess who is coming to town?

Santa is coming to Charles Town on Saturday, December 4th. The parade will begin at two. CTPC will be handing out free hot dogs, nachos with cheese, coffee and hot chocolate. We will set up a tent and tables in the front of the church. We will begin to collect donations on November 13th. All contributions will help. (hot dogs, rolls, boxes of hot chocolate mix in packages, large bags of plain tortilla chips). You can bring the items on any Sunday or drop them off at the church office.

If you are looking for a fun way to start off the month of December, come and help out. We will probably start cooking at ten and setting up outside. Kitchen helpers will cook hotdogs and wrap them in foil, make coffee, and run food outside to the tables. Outside helpers will greet the community, hand out food and of course watch the parade. It is a fun day for everyone. We will also hand out cards with a picture of the church and a calendar for 2022. If you are able to help, contact Diane Mayhew (304 676 2807) Kathy Donadio (571 382 4528) or Patsy White (304 725 8058).

Missionaries

Please pray for all of our missionaries, but especially the Sanders in Eswastini. There is a lot of unrest there. Lift them up in prayer whenever you can.

As always, we appreciate your support of our programs. So, thank you! —Patsy White



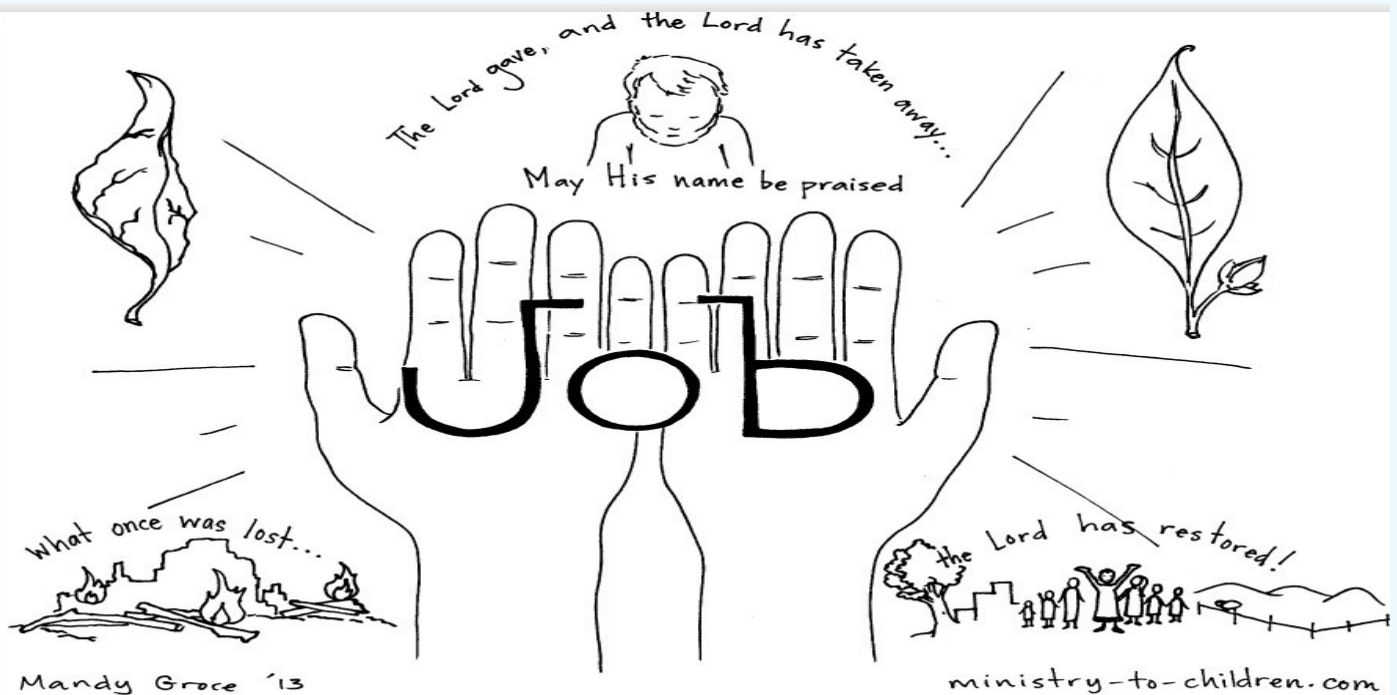
"No rest for the wicked" may stem from Isaiah 57:21 (NIV) "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked." This seems to indicate that those that have malicious intent will never find peace. We believers know that true peace comes from our faith in Christ and His promise of salvation. There are days that seem as if there is no rest, but we should stay focused on Christ.

Are the fruits of our efforts a "labor or Love?" Do we toil for the joy of the outcome or solely for money or reward? 1 Thessalonians 1:3 (ESV) "Remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and **labor of love** and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." This may be a reminder that salvation is not from works but a gift from God. May we strive to labor in the love we have for Him and his creation.

"The love of money is the root of all evil." If we are not laboring in love, we are often seeking reward that could result in greed and selfishness. 1 Timothy 6:10 (KJV) "For **the love of money is the root of all evil**: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Seek to find rest in Christ, laboring in His bountiful love and acknowledge the origin of your blessings. —Diane Mayhew

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, and Wednesday, November 24th. Note memo line "Thanksgiving offering". As always, thank you for your generosity.



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.



Weekly Congregational Giving: Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934
Sunday's Receipts: \$4,992;
On-Line Giving—\$676; Special

Offerings: Sunday School—\$150; Loose—\$35; Hunger—\$60; Help Fund—\$380; Thanksgiving—\$10.

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.

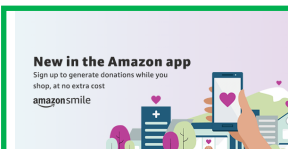
2021- Let's Journey through the Bible Together! Congregational Bible Reading. In 2021, we will endeavor to read the Bible together! Using the plan provided in the link below, we will take advantage of a plan produced by Navigators, and organization committed to deeper Christian discipleship. We encourage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

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



Online giving helps you to bring your offering before God. In addition to the no-fee Face-

book 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 be-

low 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, JCCM



Know. Grow. Serve.

