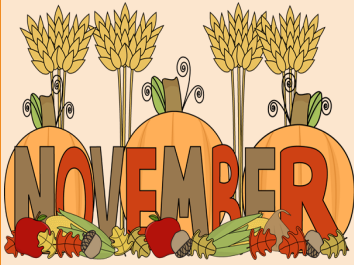


November 19—
December 2,
2021



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

Happy Thanksgiving!

We are entering one of the busiest times of the year, and personally, I am grateful it is busy. We have so much going on at Charles Town Presbyterian Church, and that's a far cry from last year, when the pandemic led us to pretty much close everything. I want to share with you the nice long list of activities we have coming up over the holidays!

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 24, we will gather in-person and online for our annual Thanksgiving worship service. This is my favorite service every year, and I hope all of you can join us. For me, it sets a nice, thankful tone for the holiday.

Sanctuary Christmas Decorating

After worship on Sunday, November 28, the first Sunday in advent, we are asking people to stick around for a bit so we can decorate the sanctuary. This is always a fun experience and has the bonus of fellowship while we work together!

Parade Outreach

On Saturday, December 4, the Charles Town/Ranson Parade is on! Last year it was cancelled, but it is going ahead for 2021. A few years ago, we started a new outreach of making hot dogs, nachos, and hot beverages available for free to our community. We will need food donations prior to the event and help the day of the parade. This is a great way to get some visibility for the church with so many people gathering downtown. You'll find more information in this newsletter and the Sunday bulletin.

Christmas Joy Service

The Christmas Joy service will be Sunday, December 12, at 7pm. This year, the service will have a different tone. There will be plenty of music but also an emphasis on prayer and personal peace and encouragement during the holidays. It will be different than what we are used to, but still very uplifting and joyful!

Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, worship will be at 7pm, and feature communion and candle-lighting. It's hard to believe this is the first in-person Christmas Eve service in two years! We are only doing one service because many people are still choosing to worship virtually due to the pandemic.

As you can see, we are in a much different place than we were a year ago. That's exciting. Last week I talked about "unpausing." This busy schedule is evidence that we are beginning to move forward. I hope and pray the holidays bring all of you joy and peace!

Blessings,

Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Awkward
Icebreakers!

COVID
Safe!

ATTENTION YOUTHS AND PARENTS:
COME AND MEET

GARTH

**YOUR NEW DIRECTOR
OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND
FAMILY MINISTRIES**

Sunday, November 28th

6:30 PM

Zoom Meeting ID: 724 4475 2903

Passcode: 9Lw784

Zoom!

Games!

Greetings
ISLAND

♪ MUSIC NOTES ♪ from Miss Penny

Attitude of Gratitude! “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year”



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, while the title of a popular secular Christmas song, accurately describes our church life at this time.

It is “most wonderful “ to plan worship and music for Thanksgiving and Christmas!

It is “most wonderful “ to plan and carryout outreach to our community!

It is “most wonderful “ to sing and ring our way into the season!

It is “most wonderful “ to anticipate the birth of our Savior!

It is “most wonderful “ when we all come together as one in Christ and share the hope, peace, love and joy of the season!

May you be “most wonderful “ at this “Most Wonderful Time of the Year “!

Love and Blessings! Penny

Images of Advent: This year as you prepare for Christmas, take time to look upon Advent as an opportunity to prepare your heart and mind to receive the glorious gift of Christ. Each week reflect on one of the symbols that remind us of birth of Christ and God’s provision for our ultimate gift of salvation.

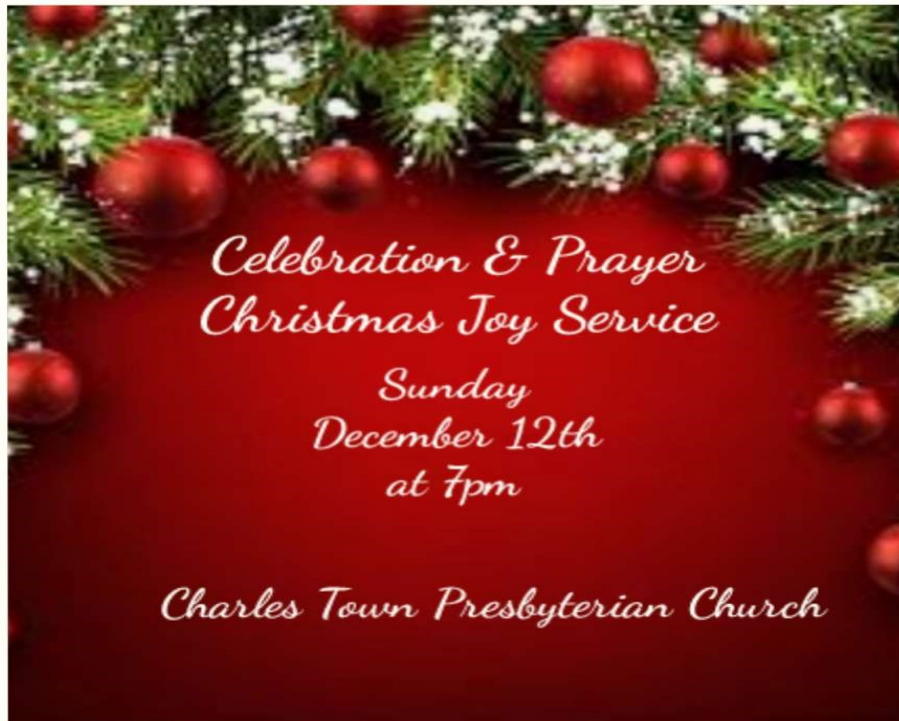


Candles: Jesus is the light of the world. This is a familiar image. A devotional by DL Moody talks about how in old times, people would bring a candle to the evening meetings. One candle would not provide very much light but as folks gathered and joined their candle lights together, there was a great illumination. Suppose all Christians would shine their light for Christ, what a blaze we could have to glorify God. As we prepare for Christmas this Advent, let us remember to shine our light to blot out the darkness as we share the love, light and gift of Christ. Light a candle for Christ.

Charles Town Presbyterian Church

Thanksgiving Eve
W O R S H I P

November 24th at 7pm



**Please join us for lite refreshments following
the Christmas Joy Service in the fellowship hall.**

Celebrations this week

November Birthdays

Susie Moreland
Allen Peacher
Shirley Ferguson
Kylee Low

November Anniversaries

Dan & Linda Hart
Ken & Kathy Reim



Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



[Donate](#)



Know. Grow. Serve.



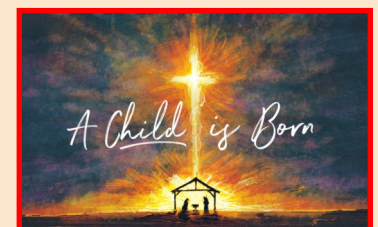
CTPC Zoom Meetings this week

(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.

Upcoming in November/December

- 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
- November 28th: Decorate sanctuary following worship—all welcome
- 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
Please join us for lite refreshments following the service in the fellowship hall (snow date December 19th)
- December 24th: Office Closed—Merry Christmas
- December 24th: Christmas Eve Worship with communion and candle lighting at 7:00pm
- December 27th: Office Closed—Merry Christmas
- December 31st: Office Closed—Happy New Year!



Session News

At the November 16, 2021 stated meeting of the session, the following actions were taken:

- Received as corrected, minutes of the October 19 stated meeting of the session, the October 28 called meeting of session, and the November 14 congregational meeting.
- Discussed at length the ministry funding and expense plan for 2022. After some hard work, the session adopted the plan unanimously. This will be presented for questions at the annual meeting on January 9, 2022.
- The Communicating with Technology and Worship and Music committees presented a joint motion asking for the session to approve, in principle, the installation of two monitors in the sanctuary to enhance worship. When installation and cost details are finalized, a broader scope motion will be brought to the session. The intent for using the monitors is to display lyrics, responsive readings, scripture, and other tasteful ways to enhance our worship experience. After discussion, the motion passed with a vote of 6-2 with one abstention.
- The Discipleship and Family Ministry committee submitted for session approval, updates to our Congregation and Child Protection Policy. This policy establishes the guidelines for how the church manages physical, verbal, and sexual misconduct in the life of the church. The amended policy passed unanimously.
- The Worship Committee shared that there will be one in-person worship service on Christmas Eve, at 7pm. The session agreed with this by consensus.
- The session unanimously approved a motion that there will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 26. Worship will be held at the usual time, at 10:30am.
- The session did not change the current mask mandate, due to the lack of movement on local case incidence. If this situation improves over the next few weeks, the session will reconsider the mask rule.



Memorial poinsettias will be placed in our sanctuary this Advent and Christmas season. Call or email the church office by Wednesday, December 8th, to sign up (304-725-5316 or ctpres@ctpres.org). Cost is \$10.00, single stemmed. If you purchase a poinsettia, please remove it from the sanctuary after the 7:00 p.m. service on the 24th. Thank you.



Operation Christmas Child. 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. The **deadline** for boxes is this **Sunday, November 21st**, and will then be taken to the shipping point.

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

Missionary News. Our missionary Drake Williams is back in Europe teaching. He has been teaching seventeen students. The class is called New Testament Exegetical Methods. They are examining 1 Peter in Greek and comparing it with English and Dutch. The class is by way of Zoom right now. Two sessions we be live. One was in October and the other will be on November 27th. In between times, the students work on assignments. Please pray for Drake. He is also learning the Romanian language which he says is very beautiful especially when sung. He has also asked us to pray for his children and wife.



"It is more blessed to give than to receive." We have so much to be thankful for and as we approach Thanksgiving, take time to reflect on the true gift we Christians share- the gift of salvation. What better way to acknowledge this gift but to share the Good News of Christ?

Acts 20:35 (NLT) "And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is **more blessed to give than to receive.**'" As we give thanks this Thanksgiving, remember these words and not only share the material bounty we enjoy but share the blessings of Christ.

—Diane Mayhew

Children's Thanksgiving Offering. This Thanksgiving we ask you to remember children and families experiencing pain, hunger, hopelessness, or 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.



PSALMS



Handy Grace 14



ministry-to-children.com



Merry
✦
Christmas





Weekly Offering

Weekly Congregational Giving:

Needed to Meet
Expenses Budget: \$6,934
Sunday's Receipts: \$1,050;

Special Offerings: Sunday School—\$104; Loose—\$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

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, JCCM



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