

December 3–  
December 9,  
2021



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

## MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

I am so excited for this weekend!

Tomorrow is the Charles Town/Ranson Christmas parade. For many years I wondered why, as the parade passed in front of our church building, why we weren't doing any kind of outreach. Sure, we had some signage, but signs are easy to miss. Then, three years ago we decided to start giving away hot dogs, nachos, and hot beverages. Many people from the church helped, and it was great fun! Unfortunately, that year it snowed and sleeted, many of the parade entries dropped out, and the crowd was exceptionally light. Two years ago, was a different story. We were able to give away almost all the food even before the parade started! Last year, the pandemic was in full force, and the parade was canceled. This year, the parade is happening, and so is the outreach.

I'm sure people are wondering why we do this. It has not yet brought anyone to the church, but that's not the whole reason we do this. Sure, we want to see people become part of our church family because of this outreach, but there is an even more important reason. We are modeling the love of Christ. We are giving away food to anyone who wants it, and it is a way of telling our community, "We're here and we love you. Just as the gospel is free to all, so is this." So, if you're planning to attend the parade, please stop by. And we will need people to help, especially with setup, which begins at 10am, and with serving. And there is still time to donate hot dogs, rolls, and tortilla chips.

On Sunday, we are also hosting an event we have not had in a couple of years – the Advent Festival. Following worship there will be a light lunch, some singing, and we will create some Chrismon ornaments. Even if you don't want to do the crafts, please join us for the fellowship. I keep hearing over and over that what people have missed most about church during the pandemic is fellowship. We miss connection, and this event will allow us to do just that, while also connecting to the meaningful season of advent.

We have all been craving, "normal," and though normal may look different when this pandemic is over, these events are great strides forward. Connection, outreach, and sharing the love of God with others – all things the Church is called to do – will be happening this weekend. My hope and prayer is that this is the beginning of more and regular activities and ministries that will continue to build up the Body of Christ and share the love of God.

That is, after all, the point of advent and Christmas.

Blessings,

Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

Hear ye, hear ye, one and all

# *Advent Celebration*

Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup>

Immediately following worship

**Food**

Carol singing

**Fun stuff**

*Make chrismon ornaments*

**HELP TRIM THE FELLOWSHIP HALL CHRISTMAS TREE WITH YOUR  
CHRISMON**

For all ages



## 🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny

### Attitude of Gratitude! “Celebration and Contemplation”



What a difference a year makes! Last year we were unable to have our annual Christmas Joy Service due to the pandemic. We were sad and disappointed that the pandemic, once again, took something away from us.

2021 has certainly been full of ups and downs, but the love of our Lord has been constant. He is our hope, peace, love and joy.

In keeping with the “longing in our hearts, O God, for You to reveal Yourself to us”, we are having a service of Celebration and Contemplation on Sunday, December 12th, at 7:00pm. This service will have wonderful music from all our groups, scripture, prayer and congregational singing. It is our hope that this service fills the longing in your heart!

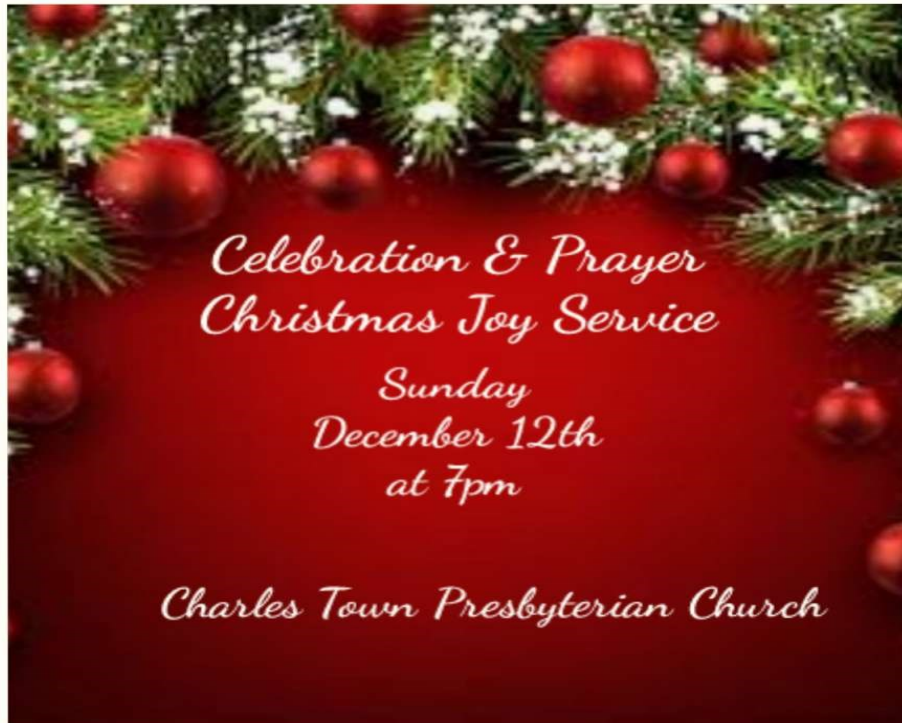
Love and Blessings! Penny

**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.



**Wreath:** Many of us adorn our homes with a wreath at Christmas time. A wreath bids us welcome and we may not know the origins of the wreath. My reading led me to understand the background of the wreath. Pagan traditions saw life preserving qualities in the evergreen branches. The giving of evergreen branches with the wish of health and vigor evolved into a circular shape we know as a wreath. This circular shape has come to symbolize perfection and unity. We again see the wreath at the crucifixion. The pointed holly leaves we correlate to Christmas becomes the thorny crown worn by Christ. The red berries of the holly in the Christmas wreath could symbolize the drops of blood shed by Christ at the Cross. The evergreens at Christmas may remind us of eternal life as promised by Christ.

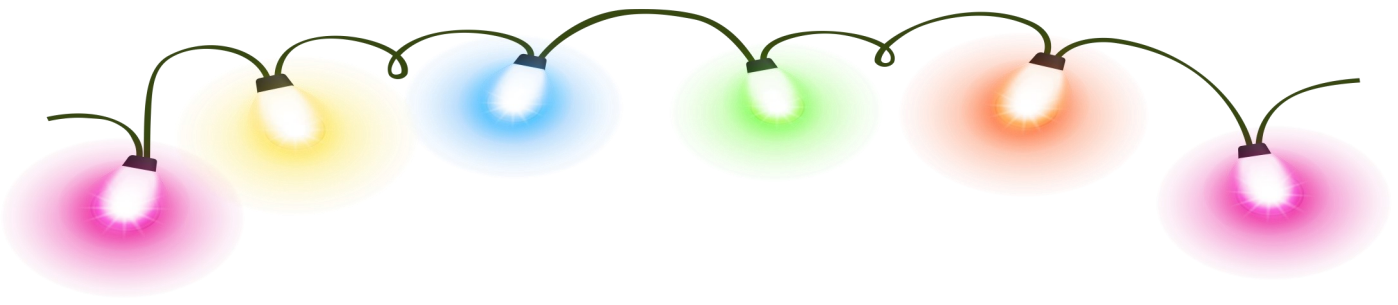
As we hang our wreaths on our doors, may they remind us to share the hospitality of Christ and let others know that we have invited Christ into our homes.



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



**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](mailto: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 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.





## Celebrations this week

### December Birthdays

Judy Holt  
Colton Ruffner  
Doug White  
George Tabb  
Megan Henshaw  
Meredith Hunt  
Rachel Tansill

### December Anniversaries

Frank & Kathy Donadio



## Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



[Donate](#)



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## 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](mailto:mkursey@gmail.com).

## Up Coming Events

December 5th: Advent Festival following worship

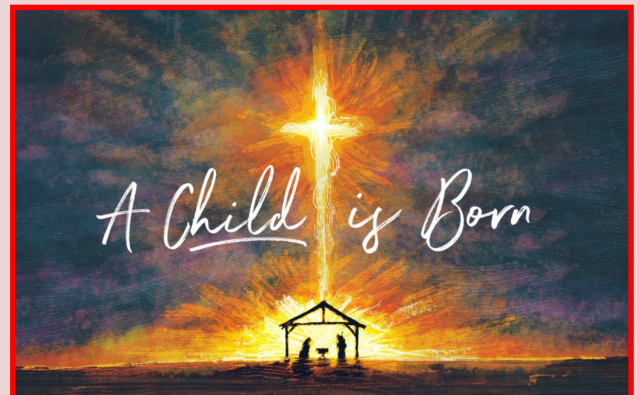
December 12th: Celebration and prayer Christmas Joy Service at 7:00pm  
Please join us for lite refreshments following the service in the fellowship hall  
(snow date December 19th)

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!





## News from Mission and Outreach

### **Sock it to me!**

CTPC presented socks to community ministries. This is the third year for our sock it to me campaign. Thanks to everyone who contributed socks.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup>, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and December 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 dona-

tions on November 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 Exgetical Methods. They are examining 1Peter 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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.



Know. Grow. Serve.



## Weekly Offering

## Weekly Congregational Giving:

Needed to Meet  
Expenses Budget: \$6,934  
Sunday's Receipts: \$2,475;

Special Offerings: Sunday School—\$24;  
Hunger—\$35; Thanksgiving—\$315, Loose—\$130;  
Poinsettias—\$50; Pledge offering 2022—\$2,200

Checks can be mailed to:

CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town, WV  
25414

**For electronic giving, please scan here:**



## ONLINE GIVING

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.

## THANK YOU!!

Dear CTPC, Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, cards and the overwhelming love offering that Pastor John brought by for our family from you. Overwhelmed by your love and support as we are seeking treatments for my husband's cancer. Your blessings have made a huge impact for our family and we sincerely thank each and everyone of you. He has completed week four of treatments and have three more weeks to go. Your continued prayers much appreciated.

With love,

Rebecca, Will and Hannah

**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.

2022- Let's continue the Journey through the Bible Together! Congregational Bible Reading. In 2022, we will continue 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>

### 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

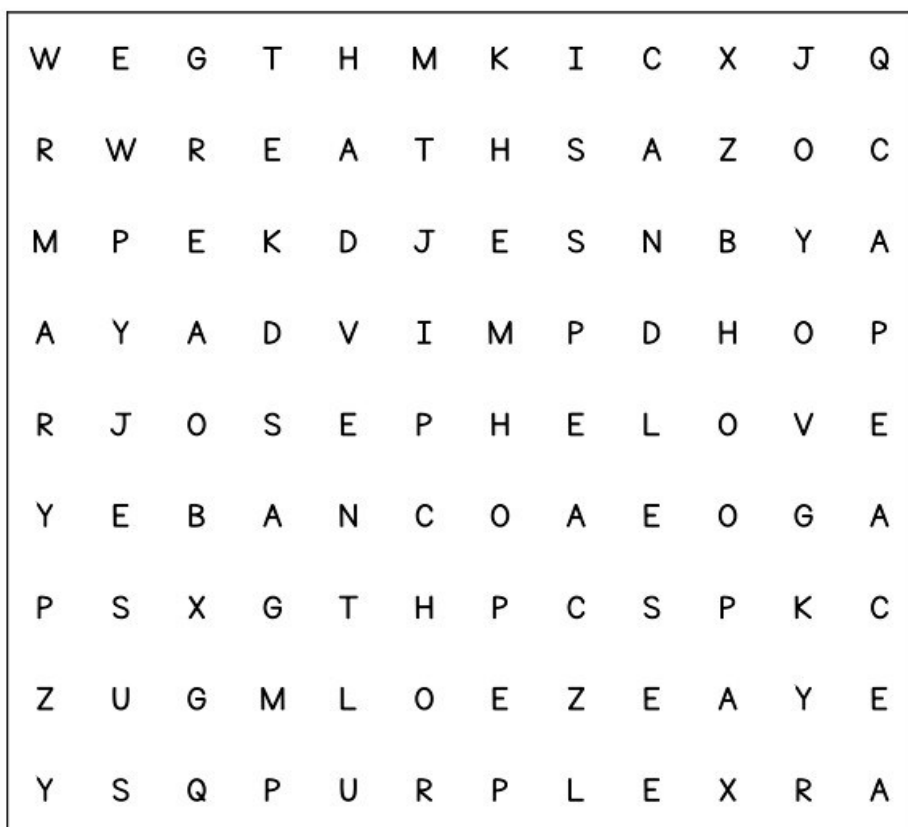


**JCCM Food Pantry needs.** Any assistance would be greatly appreciated: Hot dogs, Ground beef, Eggs, Regular coffee (not instant), Microwave meals, Canned chili with beans, Shelf Stable/powdered milk, Pancake mix, Jelly, Rice/pasta sides, Boxed mashed potatoes, Flour, Powdered coffee creamer, Dish soap,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





# Advent Word Search



## Words to Find

Words can be  
found left to right  
and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus

