

December 17–  
December 24,  
2021



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

## MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

‘Tis the season.

One of the great joys of the Christmas season is the liberality and generosity with which people give. It is such a joy to see so many people willing to help this time of the year. And we have seen it in our own church.

When we asked the congregation to help our secretary and her family, the response was more than generous – it was overwhelming! What a demonstration of love and generosity. This past weekend, I shared in worship how we were working with a family needing help, and because Christmas is only days away, the window in which to gather the funds was small. No matter – you all stepped up and we raised a little over two thousand dollars in a matter of days. We should be able to get most of what this family wants and needs. They will surely have an amazing Christmas in the middle of a very difficult time. What a way to demonstrate the love of God!

This weekend, we all woke up to the devastating news of unbelievable destruction caused by tornadoes in Kentucky. Several people have asked me how to help, and I promised as soon as I knew how, I would share it. Well, here it is. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working on raising needed monies. They will soon get “boots on the ground” to assess what is needed, and then the call for mission teams will follow. When that call goes out, we will share it with the mission and outreach committee, and then let the congregation know if we plan to take a group or if there are groups people can sign up with. For now, monetary donations can be made by following this [link](#). This information will also be in the worship bulletins the next few Sundays.

I am so proud and blessed to serve such a generous congregation. Not once when the calls for help went out did anybody ask questions. You simply gave, and generously so.

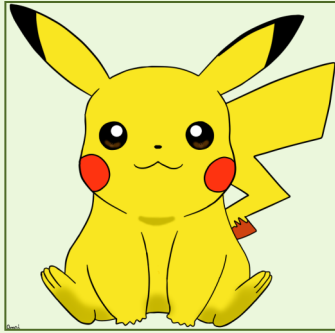
This spirit of generosity is one of the marks of our faith, and it is the way we should be, not only during the Christmas season. Poverty, hunger, and need never take a break, and neither should our generosity. In 2 Corinthians 8, the apostle Paul commends to the Corinthians, the Christians in Macedonia, who were undergoing severe hardship, but still gave generously to help those in need. He writes, *“We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord...”*

Brother and Sisters, keep up the excellent work!

-Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.



## Youth Ministry Pokémon Card Drive!

Do you or someone you know have old or extra Pokémon cards gathering dust in an attic or box? Clean out unwanted clutter and help your community at the same time by donating them to the Charles Town Presbyterian Youth Ministry! We will gladly take your old cards and use them for our upcoming youth events, and if we find out that some are valuable, we can even sell them for you! Pokémon is as popular as ever among today's youth, and the Charles Town Youth Program intends to capitalize on this by hosting events and tournaments themed around the Pokémon card game in the near future. However, due to supply chain issues the cards themselves have become difficult to acquire, with most stores selling out the same day that any arrive. Your donations can help overcome this obstacle and help us to make sure that all kids who want to participate in these events will have an abundance of cards to choose from. Feel free to drop any cards off at the Youth and Children's Ministries office from 8AM to 3PM Monday through Thursday, or contact Garth at [garthstevensjennings@gmail.com](mailto:garthstevensjennings@gmail.com) or 804-955-8497 to arrange a pickup.

Thanks in advance!

-Garth Stevens-Jennings, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

### 🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny

#### **Attitude of Gratitude! "Love Came Down"**

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, Love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus:  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Blessings and Love to All!

Penny



## Celebrations this week

### Birthdays

Jessica Donadio  
Kathy Donadio  
Don Engle  
Janet Harner  
Justin Hardy  
Brianna Pizzuti



### Anniversaries

Dennis & Marsha Dibbern  
Marty & Katherine Hunt  
Bob & Rachel Tansill  
Michael & Sharon Stevens

## Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



Donate



zoom

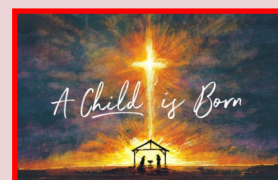
## CTPC Zoom Meetings this week

(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 8ZFCT. For more information, contact [mkursey@gmail.com](mailto:mkursey@gmail.com).

## Up Coming Events

- 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 26th: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, worship at 10:30am  
December 31st: Office Closed—Happy New Year!



**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.



Gifts:

With much anticipation we look forward to Christmas Day. But is it because of the birth of Jesus or do we seek to unwrap those desired gifts under the tree? Gift giving recreates the giving of the gifts from the Magi- the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The idea of gift giving goes back to Roman times long before Christianity. The Romans celebrated Saturnalia with the giving of gifts to celebrate the bounty provided by the agricultural god depicted by Saturn. This took place the end of December with the exchange of gifts and merriment. Emperor Constantine's conversion in AD312 to Christianity began the evolution of this pagan practice of gift giving to take on a Christian perspective when the gift giving was associated with the gifts of the Magi. Nikolaos of Myra, a fourth century saint had a practice of giving gifts and thus he became known as Saint Nicholas. He had a reputation for kindness and generosity. We as Christians have been blessed to have received the greatest gift of all: Our redemption that began even before the birth of Christ. As we exchange gifts this season, let us remember the kindness and blessings we have received.





### Weekly Offering

### Weekly Congregational Giving:

Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934  
Sunday's Receipts: \$8,598;

On-Line Giving: \$893; Special Offerings: Sunday School—\$59; Loose—\$16; Poinsettias—\$110; Music Programs—\$175; Joy—\$995; Christmas Help 2021—\$1,948.

Checks can be mailed to:  
CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town, WV 25414

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



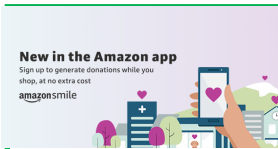
**The Six-cents-a-meal offering**, collected on the 4th Sunday each month, goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program. To contribute to this offering please note on memo line: hunger offering. Thank you.

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>



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.

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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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These Days are January/February/March are located in the narthex and the information rack by the church office. Please help yourself.

