

December 24,  
2021—

January 6, 2022



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

## MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

Merry Christmas!

Tonight, in worship we celebrate the birth of Christ. We are having one service, at 7pm. I know this is a deviation from our usual in-person Christmas Eve schedule of two services. I've been asked several times why we are only having one. Since Covid has affected our worship attendance, we thought it better suited the celebratory nature of Christmas worship to have one fuller service than two sparsely attended events. This may not be ideal, but at least we are worshipping in person.

As you have probably guessed, I am off this coming week. Garth Stevens-Jennings, our Director of Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries, will be preaching. There is no Sunday School on Sunday, just worship. If you're in town, give Garth some support and be present for his first sermon at CTPC.

What I am looking forward to the most is the break. I'll be honest with you: I'm exhausted. After I return on Monday from visiting my parents, I plan to rest in the nothing of a few days of quiet. There will be nothing to plan, nothing to do until the kids, Laurie, and I gather on New Year's Day to celebrate Christmas together (let me tell you, getting several adult working children together at the same time is a challenging feat!).

2021 has been hard. The pandemic did not end, as we had hoped. In fact, there were times this year when it got downright horrible. And right now, we seem to be in another wave, and it's just so tiring. As pastor of a mid-size church, the safety of the congregation and of the groups who use our building has been on my mind every single day for twenty months, in addition to my own health and that of my family. And while we were dealing with this, the political and social temperature of our nation reached the boiling point on a couple of occasions. Plus, there are the usual pastoral concerns that arise while serving a congregation.

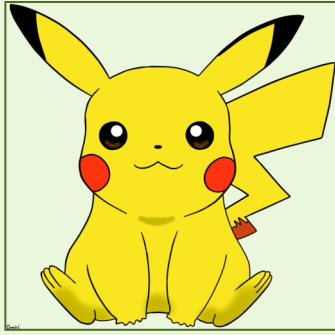
I am glad I know Jesus as Lord and Savior. I don't think I've had a more active prayer life than I've had in the past twenty months. Some days, the prayers are long. Some days, I just say, "Lord, I got nothing. Help." And every time, Christ sustains and proves himself faithful. I honestly have no clue how people with no faith are making it during such a difficult time. I have no idea if 2022 will be better, worse, or more of the same. But what I do know, is that the God who came down at Christmas in the greatest demonstration of love the world has ever known, will not leave or forsake those who trust and follow him. God is faithful, no matter what is happening. And that, dear friends, is the miracle of Christmas.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a (hopefully) Happy New Year,

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! "Wrapping It Up"**

The music ministry team hopes that during this Advent/Christmas season our music has brought you hope, peace, joy and love in your journey to the birth of our Savior.

Our music groups worked very hard in preparation for the Christmas season, so it's only fair they get a little break.

All bell groups will resume practice on Wednesday, January 12, 2002.

Children's choir will resume on Sunday, January 9th, 2022.

The Glory singers will resume practice on Wednesday, January 5th, 2022.

The singers will be off on Sunday, December 26th, and January 2nd.

If you are new to our church family or a current member and would like to sing or ring please let me know! I can be reached through the church office, our Facebook page or by email at [penfvfarm@aol.com](mailto:penfvfarm@aol.com).

I am blessed to be your music director and beyond blessed to serve our Lord in music ministry. May we continue to shine the light of Christ to all with hope, peace, Joy and love in the new year.

Stay safe and well!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Blessings,

Penny

## Celebrations next two weeks

### Birthdays

Amy Sheetz

Amy Low

James MacKenzie

Bea Miller

John Bethard

Larry Lloyd

Bettye Mason



### Anniversaries

Bill & Augusta Whitacre

## Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



[Donate](#)



## 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 24th: Office Closed—Merry Christmas

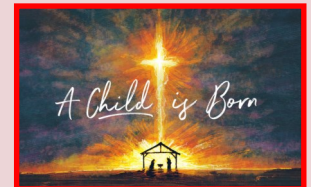
December 24th: Christmas Eve Worship with communion and candle lighting at 7:00pm

December 27th: Office Closed—Merry Christmas

December 26th: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, worship at 10:30am

December 31st: Office Closed—Happy New Year!

January 3rd: Office Closed—Happy New Year!



## Merry Christmas



## And Happy New Year



## Weekly Offering

## Weekly Congregational Giving:

Needed to Meet  
Expenses Budget: \$6,934  
Sunday's Receipts: \$5,219;

Special Offerings: Sunday School—\$54; Poinsettias—\$60; Christian Ed—\$40; Christmas Help 2021—\$525; Help Fund—\$300; Joy—\$30.

Checks can be mailed to:

CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town, WV 25414

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



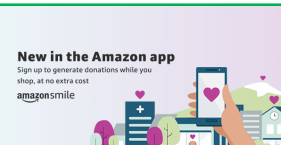
**For those who wish to continue** with the Bible reading plan in 2022, you can access or download the document [here](https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/navigators-bible-reading-plan.pdf). This plan is a little different than the 2021 plan. The 2021 plan had only five readings per week, and we were able to finish the entire New Testament. The 2022 plan has two readings every day, and they are a little longer, but we will read through the whole Bible in a year. If you read through the 2021 plan, it is okay to use this plan but skip the New Testament readings. These are the readings from which Pastor John will do his daily devotions each morning on the church Facebook page. Happy New Year!

<https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/navigators-bible-reading-plan.pdf>

## 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.



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

**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.



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

**2022 Giving Envelopes** are now available in the narthex for those attending in person worship. Call or email church office (304-725-5316 or [ctpres@ctpres.org](mailto:ctpres@ctpres.org)) if you would like to have envelopes mailed to you. If you give with a check, envelopes are not necessary. If giving with cash, please write your name on an envelope to enable us to credit your giving statement properly.

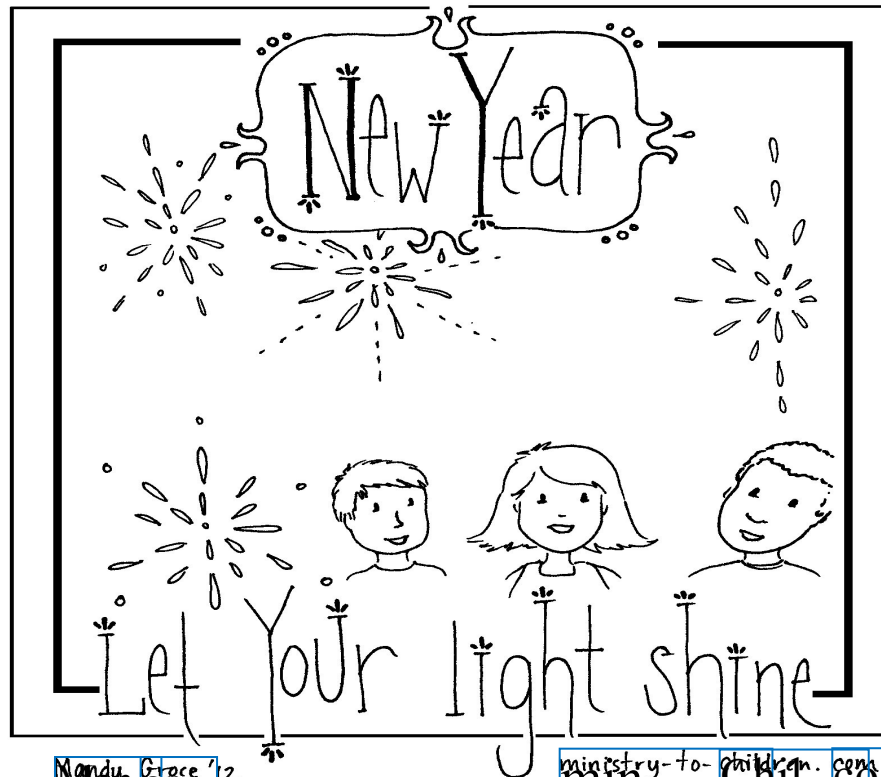






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God Bless



Nancy Grace '12  
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ministry-to-children.com  
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