

January 7, 2022



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

As I sit here writing my newsletter for this weekend I'm being warmed by a little heater at my feet. Last week, I was wearing a tee-shirt while running errands. Life is like that, isn't it? One day we're doing one thing, and the next day, it's the total opposite.

I am talking, of course, about change, and we have one of our annual changes coming up this weekend. On Sunday morning we will ordain and install the elders and deacons for the class of 2024. Many of the people are familiar faces, some are new. Each person will bring their own, unique style and ideas to their respective leadership areas. That most certainly means change, for different people bring different ideas, energy, and perspectives to their work.

We also have our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, following worship. Some of you may be thinking, "With Covid we didn't do all that much, so why meet?" First, an annual meeting is a *Book of Order* requirement, so we are obligated to have an annual meeting, but that's not the only reason. We did some unique things this year. We received a huge and very unexpected gift and then turned around and gave ten percent of that gift back to the community. We had the most creative and inspiring stewardship service we've ever had. We started shifting toward more outreach, and we hired new staff. We are clearly shaking the dust off from the pandemic. Even though the pandemic isn't over, we are starting to intentionally look forward, and that is good. There will be plenty of good news to hear on Sunday.

I always look at this particular Sunday as a stepping off point for the new year. We can celebrate where we've been, but we can also look ahead, which we need to do. I am excited for 2022. I know we're all hyper-focused on the pandemic, and I have been no exception. But let's face it – almost two years ago, everything came to a screeching halt. In the nearly two years since, much has changed for us at the church. We learned how to adjust, and sometimes quickly. We saw God move in incredible ways. And we have also struggled. Our newest staff member, Garth, has his work cut out for him as some of our children's and youth ministries need to be rebuilt from nearly the ground up. But the biggest thing we don't want to miss is this: we have a message of hope in Jesus Christ that the world needs to hear, and given that people are more hurt, more exhausted, and more hopeless than I can ever remember them being, that we have an opportunity to share God's love in a profound way.

As we step into a new season of ministry, I hope you will join me in praying for and looking for ways to share the one thing, the one message, the one savior, who can deliver us from this messy world.

Blessings,

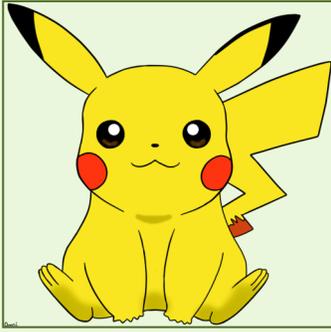
Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press



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 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! "A Vision for the New Year"



Hello 2022! What do you have in store for us? Whatever it may be, one thing is for certain, God IS IN CONTROL!

This Sunday is our congregational meeting when you will hear “brief” reports from committees and stuff on what we accomplished last year and our vision for the future. Here is my “not so brief” take on music ministry.

1. What did we accomplish.....

After a rough Covid start in 2021, we were finally able to resume full bell and choir rehearsals which enabled us to glorify the Lord in worship. The Glory Singers, Geneva Ringers, Legato Handbell Team, Children’s Choir and Rose Ann Glover worked very hard journeying you through the Advent Season to Christmas with special music to capture the true meaning of Christmas.

2. What is my vision for our music ministry.....

I can honestly say that it is not my vision, but rather, God’s vision that we are called to fulfill. God calls us to: participate, share our talents, creativity and always to Glorify Him with music.

His vision for our music ministry is that anyone with a special musical gift will come forth and share! He wants us to look beyond singing and ringing and glorify Him with a wide variety of instruments and ensembles. May you be called to fulfill God’s vision by sharing your instrument, leading an ensemble, starting a praise band!

A music director’s calendar is quite fun. While preparing for Christmas, I was also looking to Easter. God’s vision for our Easter celebration includes You! Please let me know if you are called to share in His vision!

“Be thou my vision, O Lord, of my heart”

New Year Blessings & God’s vision for all!

Penny

Celebrations this week

Birthdays

Summer Burns

Noah Portrey

Carina Snook



Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



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 8ZFCTT. For more information, contact mkursey@gmail.com.

Wednesday Bible Study will resume this Wednesday, January 12 at 4pm. We will continue our study of the book of Ezekiel, beginning with chapter 33. This is a Zoom meeting, and can be accessed via this link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96202042739?pwd=ZWt5aUhJYlBOVHJobE1RYmFoT2llQT09>.

Meeting ID: 962 0204 2739 Passcode: 021517.

Ordination and Installation of deacons and elders for the class of 2024 will take place during worship this Sunday, January 9th. Those to be ordained and installed are: Deacons: Alex Bethard, Kaz Feldstein, Debra Low, Doug McDonough; Deacon 2022: Tommy Morgan; Elders: Signe Garms, Gary Scott, Kathy Shue.

Congregational Meeting. The session has called a congregational meeting immediately following worship this Sunday, January 9th. We will hear brief reports from committees, and review the 2022 budget. Following the meeting you are invited to stay and help take down decorations.



Save Lives By Giving to the Blanket Offering for Church World Service will be collected on Sunday, January 16th. Help fight hunger and malnutrition, meet emergency needs, nurture sustainable development, assist refugees and displaced persons, and help address the root causes of poverty and powerlessness.



The flower chart for 2022 is available for sign up. It is located on the bulletin board by the church office or call at 304-725-5316. If you would like to donate your flowers for the deacons to deliver to a shut-in or someone in the hospital, please call the church office.



Know. Grow. Serve.



Weekly Offering

Weekly Congregational Giving:

Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934
Sunday's Receipts: \$2,910;
(2021) \$2,235; (2021) On-Line Giving—\$891;
Special Offerings: Loose—\$30; Sunday School—\$33; Initial Offering—\$3.

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 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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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) 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.

New in the Amazon app

Sign up to generate donations while you shop, at no extra cost



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