

January 14-20,
2022



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

Every day I see and hear a theme that is familiar to most of us: We are more divided than ever. All of us have views on everything – the government, the pandemic, politics, etc. We each hold our views dear, as they shape our thinking on a great many things. As Christians, how are we supposed to act in world that is so divided. The answer is surprisingly simple: love your neighbor. When Jesus reminded us that the summary of God's law is to love God and love neighbor, he gave no conditions to either. And when he was pressed on this point in Luke 10, Jesus proceeds to share the parable of the Good Samaritan, a parable known by most followers of Christ.

In the parable, a Jewish traveler is robbed, beaten, and left for dead. Two Jewish religious leaders, a priest and a Levite, pass him by. But a Samaritan stops, changes his plans, takes the man to an inn, attends to his injuries, and provides the financial means so the innkeeper can keep helping him until he returns. Samaritans and Jewish people hated each other. They had different views of the scriptures. The Samaritans embraced only the Law, whereas most Jewish people held that the Law, the Prophets, the narrative books, and the poetic books were the Word of God. They disagreed about where to worship. Samaritans would have welcomed participation in temple worship, but Jewish people barred them from entry. There were also disputes about their land. In short, they disagreed about scripture, worship, and politics. Sound familiar?

What are we to do when we are in engaged with someone with whom we disagree? We love them. Jesus explained what godly love for others looks like in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:38-48):

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. 'You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

We change this world by loving others, sometimes at what can feel like great cost to ourselves. But if this division is to stop, or at least become less hostile, it begins with followers of Jesus learning and living the way of love. It might be hard, but it is worth it.

Blessings,

Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

Charles Town Presbyterian Church
invites you to a
Pokemon Trading Card Game
Extravaganza!

Free Cards!

Ages 5-16!

Trade!

Play!

Learn the Official Rules!

Bring Friends!



On Saturday,
January 15th
4PM-6PM in the upstairs Youth Room
Questions?

Contact our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries
at garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org

♪♪ MUSIC NOTES ♪♪ from Miss Penny

Attitude of Gratitude!



Jesus, priceless treasure, source of purest pleasure,
friend most sure and true:
long my heart was burning, fainting much and yearning,
thirsting, Lord, for you.
Yours I am, O spotless Lamb, so will I let nothing hide you,
seek no joy beside you!

Let your arms enfold me: those who try to wound me
cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, every heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Fires may flash and thunder crash; yea, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

Hence, all worldly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure,
Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! What to me your story
told with tempting voice?
Pain or loss or shame or cross shall not from my Savior move me,
since he chose to love me.

Banish thoughts of sadness, for the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in;
though the clouds may gather, those who love the Savior
still have peace within.
Though I bear much sorrow here, still in you lies purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

I've chosen this week to share with you the hymn lyrics that this Sunday's prelude is based on. I love hymns ! I love to use their words for daily meditations, for prayer, and for strengthening my faith.

May you hear these words in my Prelude on Sunday!

Stay Safe and Well!

Blessings to All,
Penny

Celebrations this week

Birthdays

Mason Noland
Georgie Wilson
Nancy Lloyd

Charlie Amos
Signe Garms



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.

Wednesday Bible Study has resumed on Wednesdays, 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.

Important TAX NOTICE: To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2021 income tax return until you have accessed your on-line giving statement. If you need the office to print a hard copy of your contribution statement please call (304-725-5316) or email (ctpres@ctpres.org) the church office. Giving statements will be mailed to those without email by the end of January.

To access your giving statement go to [servantkeeper.com/member-portal/ctpres/login#/,](http://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/ctpres/login#/) go to giving history, under "overview" click on the drop down dates and choose year (2021), and the option to print your statement needed for tax purposes.



Save Lives By Giving to the Blanket Offering for Church World Service to be collected this 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: \$2,471; On-Line Giving (2021)—\$550; Special Offerings: Loose—\$133; Sunday School—\$45; Initial Offering—\$11; Blanket Offering—\$5; JCCM—\$5; Help Fund—\$230; Hunger—\$61; Memorial—\$140; Music Program—\$255

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. <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.

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.



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

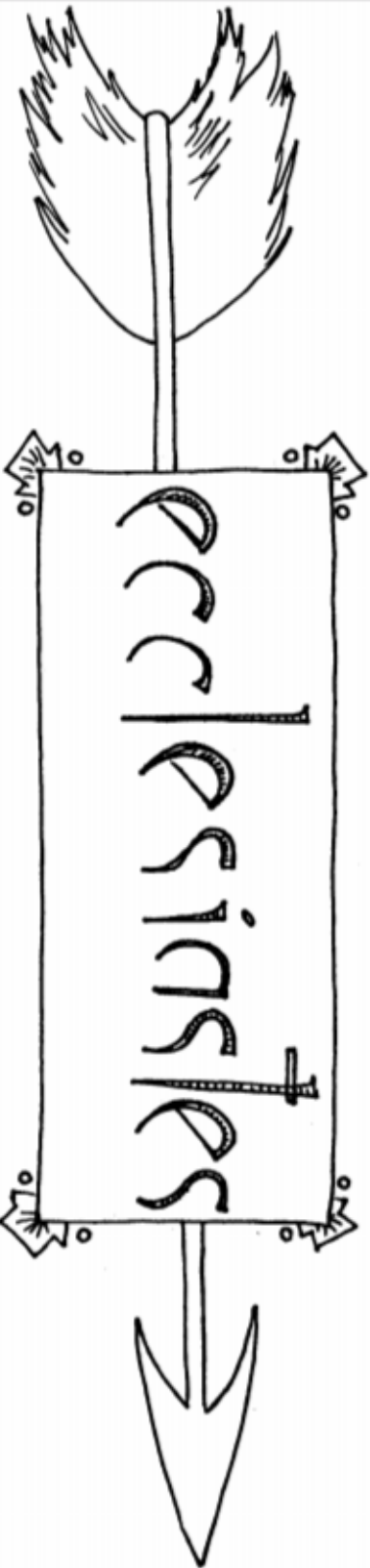
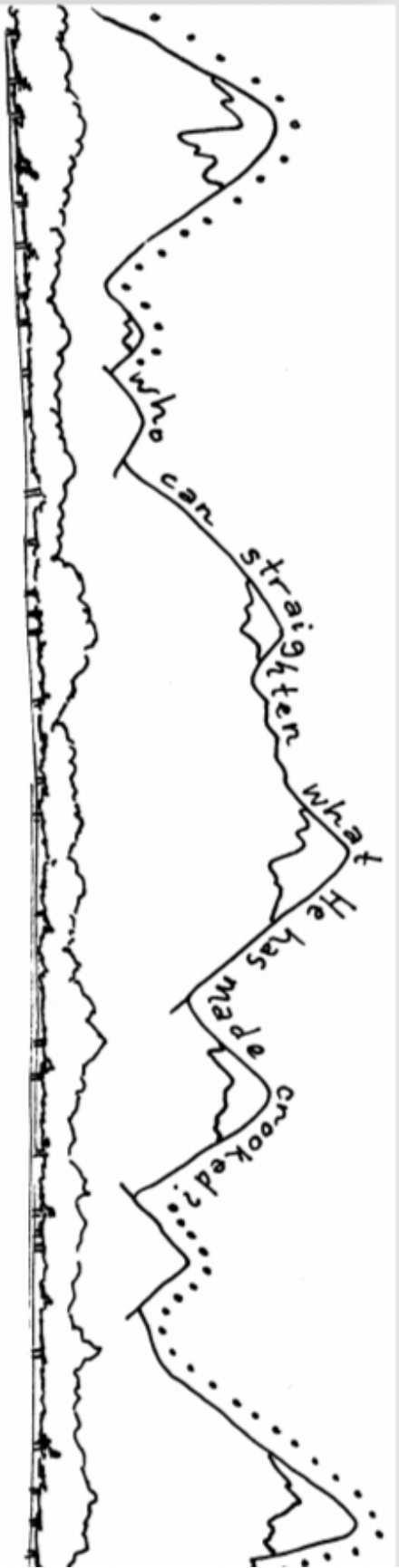
- select "Charles Town Presbyterian Church" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us. How it works:
1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
 2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
 3. 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) 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.



REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR



IN THE DAYS OF YOUR YOUTH...

Mandy Grace '14