

February
25—March 3,
2022



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Matthew 24:6-8

In Matthew 24, Jesus is speaking to his disciples about the events leading up to the final judgment and his return. One of the signs of the “end times,” as Christians like to call them, is war. And here Jesus tells us that war is inevitable, and that we should not be alarmed.

Honestly, that is a tough pill to swallow given the events in Eastern Europe on the morning I wrote this. By now, we all know that Russia has begun invading Ukraine, and the rest of the world is scrambling to respond and avoid all-out conflict that could lead to a third world war. Add to that the primary aggressor is a nation with a nuclear arsenal, who has also delivered thinly veiled threats to the rest of the world, and it's hard not to be worried. However this plays out, the rest of the world is in for a rocky ride. Russia's actions will have a ripple effect on the economy, and when Russia responds with sanctions of her own, the inflation we all hope is temporary will be even greater and last longer. And if the military conflict is drawn-out and pulls in other nations, there is plenty about which we could worry.

I used to worry about many things, and I internalized that worry. I had many sleepless nights when I was younger, and I would regularly get mouth ulcers because of the psychosomatic reaction my body was having to the mental stress. About eight years ago, though, I started collaborating with a mentor who taught me a particularly important principle: Know where you end, and others begin. In other words, if it's out of my control, I must learn to let it go. And let me be clear – that is hardly a straightforward process.

But this is what Jesus means when he tells us not to be alarmed about wars in Matthew 24 and not to worry in Matthew 6. He's not encouraging abdicating responsibility; far from it. What he is encouraging us to do is to not let things that are out of our control consume us. We can be informed, educated, and concerned, but adding anxiety and worry to our lives over things we have zero control over is not helpful.

What we can do is pray, and this is the main reason Jesus offers the directive to not worry. Prayer causes us to rely on God, and in this moment, it is one of the most important responses each of us can have. We must pray for peace individually and corporately. And to that end, I want to remind everyone that we have an ecumenical prayer service happening at our church on Sunday, March 6, at 4pm. Given the state of world events, I cannot imagine a greater response than to unite with our Christian sisters and brothers in prayer over this and other prominent issues.

“...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philipians 4:6,7

Blessings,

Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

Charles Town Presbyterian Children, Youth, and Family Ministries is excited to announce

Kid's Group!

Kid's Group is moving! We will now be meeting each Sunday from 3-5PM. I look forward to seeing you there! Here are some of our upcoming events:

Sunday, February 27th, 3-5PM: Mausritter. We will be starting a new game called Mausritter, where students will play the role of mice adventuring in a fantastical world. It is sure to be a lot of fun, and a great way for students to explore topics of ethics, identity, and worldview in a socially safe environment.

Sunday, March 6th, 5-7:00 PM: Movie Night. Come to the upstairs youth room for popcorn, snacks, and a viewing of The Hunchback of Notre Dame, a Disney classic chock full of Christian themes and imagery, with great lessons on justice and what it means to be a good Christian.

Garth Stevens-Jennings, Director of DFM
garthstevens-jennings@ctpres.org.

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny



“Attitude of Gratitude!”

The Bible commands us to Sing! There are as many Bible verses about singing as there are about love. No where does it say to sing only if you have a beautiful voice or only if you can read music. We are called to sing praises to our Lord ! Pray and sing, sing and pray!



Our Glory Singers practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm and we need your voice, especially tenors and altos! If you're interested in sharing your love of the Lord through singing, please contact me at: penfvm@aol.com or at church office 304-725-5316.

All God's children got a place in the choir!

Blessings, Penny



Ash Wednesday Service.

Please join us for our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 2nd, at 7:00pm. The offering received will be divided between Church World Services and the Mission and Outreach Committee.



Know. Grow. Serve.

Celebrations this week

Sunday @ CTPC

Birthdays

Marsha Dibbern
Angie LaVallee
Sharon Stevens
Brooks Kursey



Russell Low

Joshua Amos

Anniversaries

Jim & Stella Bovard

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



CTPC Zoom Meetings this week

To join any of the Zoom meetings listed below, please email the church office at ctpres.org for contact information.

- **The Faithweavers** is a blended Sunday School class with in person and virtual options led by Margaret Kursey.
- **Mission & Outreach Meeting** Tuesday at 7pm.

Tools for a Growing Faith

All are welcome to join us for this six-week study during Lent. Each week will focus on a different topic that is integral to personal discipleship and spiritual growth. This series will be led by Pastor John and Garth Stevens-Jennings. Participants are welcome to attend one, several, or all of the meetings. While the whole series will be of benefit to all who attend, if there are one or two topics that stand out, it is fine to attend only those weeks.

We will meet in the church parlor on Saturdays at 10am.

March 5	Worship
March 12	Scripture
March 19	Prayer and Fasting
March 26	Study, meditation, solitude
April 2	Spiritual Gifts and Service
April 9	Sharing Our Faith

Questions? Email Pastor John at jbethard@ctpres.org,
or Garth at garthstevens-jennings@ctpres.org.

We will follow the most recent pandemic guidelines adopted by the session.

CTPC Upcoming Events:

March 2nd: Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm
March 5th: Friendship Ministry Meal 5:30pm
March 6th: CTPC Hosting Community Prayer Service 4:00pm
March 8th: Life Line Screening 8-5:00pm
April 2nd: Friendship Ministry Meal 5:30pm
April 10th: Palm Sunday
April 14th: Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm
April 15th: Community Cross Walk at Asbury UMC 10:00am
April 17th: Resurrection Sunday—One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Community Sunrise Service at Jefferson Memorial Park 6:30am
April 18th: OFFICE CLOSED



Weekly Offering

Weekly Congregational Giving:

Needed to Meet

Expenses Budget: \$6,934

Sunday's Receipts: \$2,455;

Special Offerings: Loose—\$12; Sunday School—\$29; Souper Bowl of Caring—\$20; Fellowship Hall Roof—\$2,525.

Checks can be mailed to:

CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town,

WV 25414

For electronic giving, please scan here:



Online giving helps you to bring your offering before God. In addition to the no-fee Facebook dona-

tions 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.**

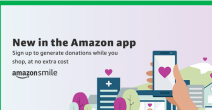
By going through the Foundation, the fee they charge actually helps the mission of their organization, which is to help Presbyterian churches to be excellent stewards of their gifts and resources. The exciting part about working with the foundation is that we are able to use a mobile app that is connected to our account. The app is called Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement on the Google Play or Apple App Store. You can set up for weekly, monthly or one time giving! Note: If you were previously using the "Give Plus" app, that has been superseded by the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement as of January 31, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you.



The flower chart 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.

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>



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, shelf stable/powdered milk, jelly, canned meats (spam, chicken, tuna, etc.), Mac & cheese, canned fruit, powdered coffee creamer, salt, sugar, cooking oil, dish soap, laundry detergent, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, paper towels, cat/dog food, copy paper. Thank you, Kari Dean, Food Pantry Coordinator, JCCM

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Charles Town Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered: **Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque), Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA), Atrial Fibrillation, Osteoporosis Risk.** An ultrasound is performed to measure the shin bone for abnormal bone mass density. This can help assess the risk of osteoporosis, a disease where bones become weak and brittle. These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$139 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. Informational flyers located in the narthex and bulletin boards. Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, text the word "circle" to 797979 or online at <https://llsa.social/HSC>.

