

May 6, 2022

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

As we are now several weeks removed from Easter Sunday, I've had some time to reflect on things. I am so grateful we were able to meet in person to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, something we had not done since 2019!

It has been a wild ride for all of us since the pandemic began, and this is obvious in worship. We were digital only for over a year. Unbelievably, I found this more exhausting than when we meet with people present in the sanctuary. I remember telling Henry Christie, who filled in for me one Sunday, that he had to prepare for how tiring he would be after worship, because something about the camera broadcasting to who knows who and how many would leave him more tired than usual. The following Sunday, he told me I was right! In the middle the pandemic, we tried coming back to in-person worship, and that lasted a couple of months until the Delta variant raged through the nation. We were back to digital only. Last summer, we finally resumed meeting in person, and with the pandemic entering the endemic stage, this looks to be a permanent change.

I have been pleased with our attendance. Most Sundays our attendance reaches or surpasses our pre-pandemic numbers! We have new people worshipping with us. There are fresh faces in the pews, in the choir, and in the bell choir. Children have come back to worship, and Sunday School is seeing growing numbers.

What concerns me most is the people I do not see. I look out each Sunday, and where people once faithfully sat, those pews are either empty or filled with new people. If you're one of those people and you're reading this, please know I miss you.

Worship is the one habit that, if we skip it once, becomes hard to resume. I get it -life is busy, and there are so many options for the weekend. Digital worship can conveniently work around our schedules. However, one of the most important parts of worship is the *together* aspect. Christianity is a faith lived in community; it is connectional. We need each other. We support one another. We do ministry together. It is extremely hard to connect with the Body of Christ if we are not connected to each other in some way. Digital worship is convenient, but it does not allow us that connection.

For those who are unable to get to in-person worship or are not yet ready to return, please keep participating in the digital service. For those who have not yet resumed the habit, I want to share a story from many years ago. I was a volunteer youth worker, and our team was meeting one evening, talking about why the spiritual growth of the kids in the church was so important. One of the volunteers who served with her husband, said, "When I was in high school, I told myself I'd get serious about my faith in college. In college, I told myself I'd get serious about it when I started my career. Then I told myself I'd get serious about it when I had kids. I'm in my mid-thirties now. I blinked and almost two decades have gone by." As your pastor, I don't want to see that happen to any of you. We all need worship; we all need one another. We miss you.

-Pastor John



Charles Town Presbyterian Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Kid's Group!

Sunday May 8th, 3-5PM: Chronicles of Narnia pt.3 and Jackbox Games!

At our second May meeting we will finish up The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe (which we did not finish last time), and play some games together from the Jacbox Party Packs. It is sure to be an exciting and dramatic finale to the movie!

Sunday May 15th: No Kids Group! (Garth is on vacation)

Any questions, please feel free to contact Garth Steven-Jennings (304-725-5316 or garthstevens-jennings@ctpres.org).

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Sunday, May 29th, 2022 at 9:00am

Are you new to Charles Town Presbyterian Church?

Do you want to learn more about your faith?

Would you like to consider uniting with CTPC in membership?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, then please consider attending the New Members Class on Sunday, May 29th, in Room 114 (parlor). During the class we will cover what it means to be a Christian, who we are as a church at CTPC, and why it's important to unite with a congregation. To sign up, please fill out the information below, and we'll plan on seeing you on the 29th of May.

Those wishing to unite in membership will be able to meet with church elders immediately following the class and will be introduced to the congregation during the worship service on Sunday, June 5th, at 10:30am.

You may sign up by filling out below and placing in the offering plate, dropping off at church office, calling or emailing church office (304-725-5316 or ctpres@ctpres.org).

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Celebrations this week

Sunday @ CTPC

Birthdays

Jennifer Morgan
Karen Gregoryk
Rebecca Stevens
Dea Ping



Anniversaries

Shaw & Tammy Connors
Jon & Karen Gregoryk
Corey & Brooke Smith
David & Jackie Weil

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



Donate



Yokefellows BBQ Pork dinner. Get your tickets now from any Yokefellow and plan to join us on Saturday, June 11th, 4:30-7:00 pm, for fresh pork BBQ, slaw, mac & cheese, baked bean, desserts, and drinks provided. Tickets: \$15.00 adults; \$7.00 children under 12 years; Free children under 3 years. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to offset repairs to the fellowship hall roof.

The Congregational Nominating Committee has begun work on securing nominees for elders, deacons, trustees, and at-large members for next year's nominating committee. If you have suggestions for persons the CNC might consider, please be sure to speak with Sue Flanagan, Hoyle Fulbright, Diane Mayhew, David Weil or Patsy White.

CTPC computer security advice from the Communicating with Technology Committee:

Be mindful of emails that may look like they come from our church (or someone else you know). You can practice safe computing with these tips:

1. Check the sender of the email. For example, the only emails you will ever get from the church are from staff: rkaetzel@ctpres.org, jbethard@ctpres.org, garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org, and our general office email, ctpres@ctpres.org.
2. Check for spelling and grammatical oddities -usually a good sign of a phishing email. Again, using the church as an example, if you get an email from one of the names in the first point, but it ends @ctpc.org, it's not from the church! When in doubt, delete without opening!
3. Does the email indicate some "urgency" to the request? This too is preying on those who at the stress of the moment reading the email, may click to resolve the issue - don't. Contact the person you know and verify the request is legitimate.
4. A recent scam in many communities is someone pretending to be the pastor asking for help on behalf of someone else, often in the form of gift cards. Pastor John NEVER does this. The originating email usually has a spelling error or domain name similar to ours, but isn't from us. For any of these situations, either delete the email or if your email has a "report spam" or "report phishing", select those options instead.

- Committee Chair, Roger Snook

World Vision
**GLOBAL
6K**
FOR WATER



MAY
21
2022

Charles Town Presbyterian Church is hosting the local walk for World Vision's "Global 6K for Water" at 9:00 am on Saturday, May 21 beginning at the church parking lot. Six kilometers is the average distance many people in the developing world must walk to obtain clean water. Their team name is

Charles Town Water Walkers with a motto of "We walk for water, not on water." World Vision's motto is "Every step you take is one they won't have to." If you would like to join the group for a good cause and get a little exercise at the same time, you can register at <https://global6k.worldvision.org>. Your \$50 registration (\$25 for children) provides water for one individual, FOR LIFE! If you personally are unable to walk but would like to sponsor someone, you can do that also at the website. Please consider joining the group to provide a pipeline for an entire village!

Mission and Outreach is looking for pictures to use on June the 18th for downtown Charles Town Days. We hope to have a table with a picture display of how we Know, Grow and Serve. We also will have a craft for kids as well as have a bag with candy kisses and a Bible verse. Please go through your pictures and send them to Diane Mayhew or Patsy White. This will be a fun day to be downtown as well as let the community know what we are doing at CTPC. Thanks!

Be the Light! Be sure to check out the updated bulletin board outside the sanctuary." Be the light" lightning bugs are all over the place!

The First Saturday of the month meal schedule for our Friendship meals is almost complete!

May 7th:	Signe Garms
June 4th:	Worship team
July 2nd:	Ruth and Gary Scott
August 6th:	Deacons
September 3rd:	Choirs
October 1st:	George Tabb and Jason Mullens
November 5th:	Yokefellow's Sunday school class
December 3rd:	???? Can you be the light this month?



Thanks to all who have contributed to cooking and helping serve. This is a local mission that would be impossible without so many hearts and hands.

Patsy White, Mission and Outreach Team



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, July 5, 2022. A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque). An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening. An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.¹

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA). An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation. A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

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 take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, text the word "circle" to 797979 or online at <https://llsa.social/HS>



Weekly Offering

Weekly Congregational Giving:

Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934
Sunday's Receipts: \$4,618;

On-Line Giving—\$1,128; Special Offerings: Loose—\$9; Sunday School—\$50; JCCM—\$5; Hunger—\$11; Help Fund—\$80.

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](#). 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 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.



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

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.



JCCM Food Pantry needs. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated: hot dogs, ground beef, eggs, shelf stable/powdered milk, jelly, powdered coffee creamer, salt, sugar, cooking oil, dish soap, laundry detergent, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, paper towels, cat and dog food. Thank you, Kari Dean, Food Pantry Coordinator, JCCM



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.