

July 8-14, 2022

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard



Pastors are occasionally asked how to live the Christian life. This is always a tricky question. We are people saved by the grace of God in Christ, and that means we need to be careful. The things we do to please God and grow in our faith are important to do, but they can easily fool us into thinking they are “musts,” that our salvation is somehow affected by what we do. The key is finding balance.

This past Wednesday, the weekly Bible Study wrapped up our study of 1 Thessalonians. Toward the end of chapter five, the apostle Paul gives a list to the Thessalonian Christians; a list of effective ways to be the Church of Jesus Christ. Here it is:

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thess. 5:14ff)

To put it more in the vernacular, the things a local congregation need do to be healthy is to respect the leadership, be peaceful, challenge those who are not growing in their faith, encourage those who are dealing with despair, help the weak, and do all of that very patiently. Additionally, Christians should not seek vengeance, but do good to all. We must be joyful, prayerful, and thankful. If we do not excel at these, we quench the work of the Spirit among us. By doing these things, the Spirit is better able to work among us, including when someone has a Word from God, which should always be evaluated against scripture. And, of course, we should hang on to the good and avoid evil.

That is a lengthy list. We must keep in mind that this was not for individual Christians, but rather, the Body of Christ. All of us. We work on these things together. That certainly makes this more manageable. And if we are struggling to yet figure out how this works, like many things, it boils down to this: Love God and love one another. That is the best way to live the faith and show the faith to others. And right now, our world desperately needs to see us living this way.

Blessings,

Pastor John

P.S. All are welcome at the Wednesday Bible Study, which meets at 4pm via Zoom. Please contact me for the Zoom info.



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press



Quest for the Armor of God
with the
Knights of North Castle
Vacation Bible School!
July 18-22nd, 9AM-12PM

Charles Town Presbyterian Church
220 E. Washington Street
Charles Town, WV 25414

Email garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org for
information or 304-725-5316

Ages 3-Rising 6th grade, no registration fee

Charles Town Presbyterian Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Kid's Group!

Bring out your Bricks: DFM Lego drive!

Do you or someone you know have any old Legos collecting dust in an attic or storage room? Donate them to the Youth and Children's Ministry, where they will be used for a number of upcoming events, including the creation of model of Charles Town Presbyterian Church and contests to recreate iconic Bible scenes! Contact Garth for more info, or drop your donations by his office.'

Vacation Bible School! Monday, July 18th -- Friday, July 22nd, 9-Noon

The theme for our Bible School this year is the Knights of North castle. Come join us for a week of learning fun, knights, and dragons! We are still looking for volunteers to run the program, if you are interested in helping contact Garth Stevens-Jennings at garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org.

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

Celebrations this week

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration Facebook

Birthdays

Jim Bovard
Martha Burns
Frank Donadio



Anniversaries

Ken & Pat Hetzinger
James & Lari MacKenzie

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



Donate



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.
- **Yokefellows Sunday School Class.** The Class will begin with a short business meeting from 8:45 am to 9:00 am at which time prayers will be offered for class members, family and friends who are ill or otherwise in distress. At 9:00am until 9:35 am a lesson will be taught by the class teacher from the Adult Bible Studies series. Anyone wishing to visit the class on ZOOM should contact the following class members to receive a ZOOM "invite": Gary Scott at email: gary3042795296@gmail.com or James Mackenzie at email: mackenzie48708@gmail.com

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny



"Attitude of Gratitude"

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven
Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets
To look upon the One who bled to save me
And walk with Him for all eternity
There will be a day when all will bow before Him
There will be a day when death will be no more
Standing face to face with He who died and rose again
Holy, holy is the Lord
And every prayer we prayed in desperation
The songs of faith we sang through doubt and fear
In the end, we'll see that it was worth it
When He returns to wipe away our tears
Oh, there will be a day when all will bow before Him
There will be a day when death will be no more
Standing face to face with He who died and rose again
Holy, holy is the Lord
And on that day, we join the resurrection
And stand beside the heroes of the faith
With one voice, a thousand generations
Sing, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain"
And on that day, we join the resurrection
And stand beside the heroes of the faith
With one voice, a thousand generations
Sing, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain"
"Forever He shall reign"
So let it be today we shout the hymn of Heaven
With angels and the saints, we raise a mighty roar
Glory to our God who gave us life beyond the grave
Holy, holy is the Lord

Blessings and Love ! Penny

Pastor's Help Fund. During the pandemic, there were few requests for help. That has changed with the winding down of the pandemic phase of Covid and the dramatic increase to the cost of living. The help fund provides assistance for people who are in danger of eviction or have gotten behind in their utilities. The fund is now significantly low, and we need some donations to build it back up. Donations to the help fund can be given through the regular Sunday offering or mailed to the office. Note on memo line: help fund.



Friendship Ministry Meal

Several years ago, we changed the name of the meals served from "Homeless Meals" to "Friendship Ministry Meals." We did this because we realized that many who were coming for a meal were not homeless, but they were hungry. For many of our guests it is the only meal they will have that day. Some of our guests live in a single hotel room with their entire family with no ability to cook a hot meal.

Matthew 25:35 says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in." Feeding the hungry is an expectation Jesus has of his followers. Now more than ever our Christian family needs to step up to help with this community mission. Everything is extremely expensive right now. I wonder as I pay for our weekly groceries how others who are less fortunate are able to buy food for their family. You can help by volunteering your time and monies. We serve meals only twelve times a year. We serve the first Saturday of each month at 5:30pm. Our servers plan the meal and arrive at 4:30pm to begin packing the meals in carry out containers.

These are the servers for the rest of this year. August 6th, the Deacons. September 3rd, the choirs. October 1, George Tabb and Jason Mullens. November 5th, the Yokefellow's Sunday school class. December 3rd, the Mission and Outreach committee. Each and everyone of these groups could use help. It might be just bringing a case of water or bringing cookies. Of course, you could stop by and donate your time by helping to fix carryout containers. It only takes about an hour. Pray about how you can help and then volunteer. Many hands make fast work!

Missionary News

Drake Williams is in North Wales, PA
Drake's daughter Abby Williams graduated with a bachelor degree in English from Emory University. She will be working with a campus ministry at Emory called Bread. This ministry reaches out to non-Christians. Drake has asked for prayers for Abby as she begins this ministry. Drake continues to work with preparing others for ministry. He has also asked for prayers for David Bosworth his friend as David gets ready to defend his thesis. He also wants us to pray for the 13 million Ukrainians' who have fled their country and for the Romanian commentary blog that will be a blessing for Romanian Christians.

Mick and Cathy Sander in Eswatini
Mick and Cathy are working with the Deaf church. On May 26th they celebrated the Lord's Supper together for the first time. Mick and Cathy are learning about Symbolic Universal Notation (SUN). This is a new kind of writing for Deaf people using pictures. They participated in a four-day training program to learn more. They hope to use SUN in training non-literate Deaf people who have not had the opportunity to attend school.

Their Trauma Healing program is training indigenous facilitators who can bring the program to Eswatini in their own languages. (si Swati and ESL).

Mick has an inguinal hernia and will need surgery. They hope to schedule surgery in July. They are planning on a visit in October and hope to visit many of the churches supporting their ministry. They just celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary.

Mark Hare and Jenny Bent are in Costa Rica
Mark and Jenny are part of the Latin American Biblical University. The university is committed to producing up to 80 per cent of their electrical needs with an extensive set of solar panels. The UBI Green Team put together worship services that celebrate the connection between their actions and faith in word and song. They are also gardening and producing compost and are harvesting rainwater for watering the garden. They suggested that if you are interested to join Earth Care (<https://presbyearthcare.org>).

Mission and Outreach will be contacting our missionaries to let them know that we are praying for them as well as letting them know what we are doing here at CTPC .



Weekly Congregational Giving:

Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934.

Sunday's Receipts: \$6,275; On-Line Donations—\$610; Special Offerings: Loose—\$191; Sunday School—\$47; Help Fund—\$950; Hunger—\$61; JCCM—\$5; Fellowship Hall Roof—\$5,250

Checks can be mailed to:

CTPC, PO Box 89,
Charles Town, WV 25414

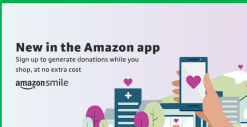
For electronic giving, please scan here:



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>

Fellowship Hall Roof Update: with the addition of the gift from the Yokefellows total donations to date are \$17,325!



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



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.



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.