

**July 15-28,
2022**



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

Vacation Bible School kicks off this weekend.

This is one of the most important ministries of any congregation. The sole purpose of VBS is to help children learn that the Bible is interesting, and through it, God speaks to us about his love for us, particularly his love for us in Christ Jesus. Children love to play, and they love to be creative. Vacation Bible School allows us to do both. This is the reason every year there is vastly different curricula. In my tenure as a minister, I've seen VBS happen, metaphorically, of course, in the desert, on islands, in the first century, in the future, on a farm, in medieval times, in the sea, in the mountains and so on. Of course, the publishing companies who create VBS curriculum profit from so doing, and therefore any given year it can seem like many churches are doing the same thing. If you're traveling, you'll no doubt see VBS signs at other churches advertising the same curriculum our church is doing any given year.

This year, Vacation Bible School is significant for two reasons. First, it's the first VBS since before the pandemic began. It's been three years since we held VBS, and that automatically makes this year special. It's yet another piece of our ministry program that helps us feel "normal." We are also shifting from doing VBS in the evening to holding it during the day. VBS will be held next week Monday through Friday 9am-noon.

There is also an outreach component to Vacation Bible School. With fewer and fewer people attending church or identifying with any spirituality or religion, VBS allows for the opportunity to expose children from our community to the gospel. They will hear about Jesus, and perhaps the program will spark something that leads to a commitment to Christ. I cannot overstate how important this program is for our congregation, or any congregation, really. Though we have fewer children than in years past, and even though VBS hasn't grown the church, those are not reasons to stop the program. Children are important to God. On many occasions, Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." VBS is one of the ways we share Jesus with our children and children in the community.

There are two ways all of us can help. First, pray for VBS. We have a good group of volunteers this year, and they are excited about the program. Pray that we can clearly share the gospel in a clear and exciting way. Second, help spread the word. In addition to in-person sharing, we can also hit the "share" button on Facebook when the advertisement from the church pops up in our feed.

It's going to be a fun week! I can't wait!

-Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.



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 garthstevens-jennings@ctpres.org).

Celebrations this week

Birthdays

Samantha Fulbright

Jim Leathers

Alyse Low



Harry Puster

Robert Puster

Anniversaries

John & Diane Mayhew

Sunday @ CTPC

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.
- **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" Christmas in July



While July is a month of vacations, rest and renewal for our music ministry groups, I've been busy contemplating Christmas in July.

I love thinking about Christmas in July and listing to new music for our choirs. The best part about being your director of music is my extended season of Advent and a constant hope in the coming of our Savior!

While I can't give full details on our annual Christmas Joy service, I can tell you to prepare yourselves for solos, duets and trios to contribute to our service of "Comfort and Joy".

If you are one of those people that thinks about Christmas in July, I invite and encourage you to think about ways to participate in music ministry.

Merry Christmas in July Blessings!

Penny

Sport Your Faith

We just participated in the WV Fest in downtown Charles Town. During which we reached out to Fest goers to let them know about our church family. It would have been fantastic if our members had matching logo shirts to highlight our pride in our church family. The Stewardship committee extends an invitation to you to purchase a polo shirt with our logo KNOW GROW SERVE and our church name so that during such functions or just sporting about town we can promote our church family. This will be a one-time order, so we need to know numbers and sizes. The shirt is a performance mesh polo in a slate gray. Cost will be \$28.00. (2XL +2.00 3XL/4XL +3.00). Final order will be placed August 23. Please contact Diane Mayhew for questions and orders. dcmayhew@hotmail.com or 304-676-2807. Make sure I confirm your order please. If you can't reach me leave message in the church office.



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Color: slate gray

Cost: \$28.00

Orders: due by August 23rd

Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____ Total _____

2XL _____ 3XL _____ 4XL _____ Total _____

(additional charge each - 2XL +\$2.00; 3XL/4XL +\$3.00)

_____ at \$28 each \$ _____; _____ at +\$2.00 \$ _____; _____ at +\$3.00 \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

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: \$1,933; Special Offerings: Loose—\$60; Sunday School—\$26; Scrubbies—\$4 Checks can be mailed to:

CTPC, PO Box 89,
Charles Town, WV 25414

For electronic giving, please scan here:



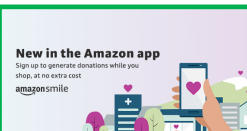
For those who wish to continue with the Bible reading plan in 2022, you can access or download the document [here](https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/navigators-bible-reading-plan.pdf). This plan is a little different than the 2021 plan. The 2021 plan had only five readings per week, 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 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



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.



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