

September
2022



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

Here we are at the last unofficial weekend of the summer. Like most things, lately, it has just flown by. This weekend also represents a change for us: as I mentioned last week, we are moving to a monthly format for the newsletter. With digital communication and social media at our fingertips, it makes sense and keeps us from being repetitive.

One blessing for me this summer has been preaching through Ecclesiastes. It is a hard book; and I know this because I wrestle all week with the passage I preach on Sunday mornings. It is very honest about the challenges of life, and that is what sets it apart from most of scripture. The Christian life is one of aspirations, that we would live focused on Jesus, with a rich prayer life, a deep knowledge of scripture, and a heart ready to worship. If only it were that easy. And that's the point of Ecclesiastes. There is always some trauma, some distraction, something that can move us away from the only thing that makes this crazy life make sense – a relationship with God.

We only have about one more month in Ecclesiastes, then we will be moving on to different passages in the scriptures. And then, before we know it, advent and Christmas will be here. But until then we will journey through the challenge and richness that is Ecclesiastes.

As we are moving to monthly newsletter format, I want to be sure the following events are on everyone's calendar:

September 11 – Christian Education Sunday. Our children's classes will have special activities during the education hour, and during worship we will have some special moments focused on our Sunday School and other programs through which we nurture one another in the faith.

September 14 – Wednesday Bible Study resumes, and we will start by studying 1 Timothy. We meet at 4pm via Zoom. If you'd like the Zoom link, please contact me.

November 6 – Homecoming Sunday, marking our congregation's 235th anniversary. There will be a special worship service that morning followed by a congregational lunch. There is more information under separate cover in this newsletter about how people can be involved. We are hoping to put together a planning team for this event. Please let me know if you are interested.

Surely there will be more to add to the calendar as we make our way into the fall. And remember, the newsletter deadline is the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Blessings,
Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

Kid's Group!

Kid's Group meets each Sunday from 3-5PM. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sunday, September 11th, is Christian Education Sunday.

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

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny



Sunday September 4th- Organ music for worship celebration!

Wednesday September 7th-

Bell practice resumes each Wednesday

6:30-7:15pm

If you're interested in ringing contact Penny. We welcome Rebecca Karos as our new bell conductor!

Wednesday September 7th-

Glory Singers practice every Wednesday

7:15-8pm

Please Join us!

Sunday September 4th-

Children's choir practices every Sunday at 9am!

Sunday September 11th, is Christian Education Sunday.

The Carol Choir will be joined by the Faithweaver's class for a special song!

May all we do in Music Ministry be to the Glory of God!

Blessings, 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.

Fellowship Hall Roof Update To date, we have raised \$17,325 through some generous gifts from the congregation. Thank you! This will go a long way to offset the costs of this project. We are still receiving donations, please note in memo line: fellowship hall roof.

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

Emily Pizzuti
Allen Rogers
Mary Rider Kline
Connor Howard
Ken Hetzinger
Ben Puster
Tiffany Pitcock
Louise Spitzer
Laurie Bethard
Tiffany Burns
Wayne Thompson
David Weil
Lucas Kropf
Ray Jamison
Margaret Damm
Susan Wall
Thane Van Zomeren
Violet Elliers



Anniversaries

Samuel & Rachel Wilson
Roger & Sandy Snook
Bryan & Angie LaVallee
Mike & Jane Ishman
George & Jeannette Tabb
Gary & Ruth Scott
Chris & Margaret Damm



The church office will be closed on Monday, September 5th, in observance of Labor Day. Blessings for a safe holiday weekend.

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



Friendship Ministry Meal

Several years ago, we changed the name of the meals served form "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 you 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. 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!



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.

235th Homecoming Celebration

On Sunday, November 6, we will have a Homecoming Celebration marking the 235th anniversary of the founding of Charles Town Presbyterian Church. We will begin the morning with special activities in our Sunday School classes at 9am. At 10:30, we will worship, and it will be an incredibly special service, with guest speakers and plenty of special music. Following worship, we will enjoy a catered lunch, followed by some fun activities together. As the date draws near, we will have more details about the event. I'm sure you will not want to miss this!

We are currently looking for help in two ways. First, we are putting together a planning team. This team will meet regular to shape the events of this special day. Anyone interested in helping to plan the event is welcome to contact Kathy Donadio, the chairperson for the stewardship and vision committee. Her email is feebler8@gmail.com, or she can be reached by phone at 703-403-9189. The more people providing input and helping with planning will certainly make this a memorable day!

Second, we are looking for table sponsors to the lunch. We estimate that it will cost about \$200 per table for the lunch. We are hoping to find sponsors for eight to ten tables. This will not be a typical table sponsorship. Table sponsors will be recognized, but no one will have to recruit people to their table, nor will sponsors be assigned a particular table. Anyone who would like to sponsor a table should contact Pastor John for specifics.



Charles Town Presbyterian Church Stewardship Pledge Card 2023



Your gift helps us plan effectively for a brighter future. Please help support the ministries and mission of Charles Town Presbyterian Church.

Thank you!

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Cor 9:7

(Name) _____ wishes to pledge for 202____:

\$ _____ Week Month Quarterly Annual (circle one)

It is my hope to increase my giving by _____%

I can support with my time and talents in these areas:

Pledge Cards. We will be collecting pledge cards through the end of the month. You are welcome to place them in the offering plate or in one of the gold boxes at the front of the sanctuary, drop off at the church office or mail to CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town, WV 25414. Thank you.



Monthly Congregational Giving:

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

Receipts: \$3,243; Special Offerings: Loose—\$128; Sunday School—\$24; Music Ministry—\$250; Scrubbies—\$20.

Checks can be mailed to:

CTPC, PO Box 89,
Charles Town, WV 25414

For electronic giving, please scan here:



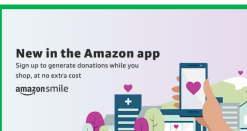
For those who wish to continue with the Bible reading plan in 2022, you can access or download the document [here](https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/navigators-bible-reading-plan.pdf). This plan is a little different than the 2021 plan. The 2021 plan had only five readings per week,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

These Days daily devotionals for October/November/December are available in the information racks located in the narthex and by the church office.



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