

October 2022

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard



The last month has been so exciting at Charles Town Presbyterian Church! Attendance is on the rise, and much of that is fresh faces! We began using the monitors in worship, and so far that is going well. We are gearing up for the holiday season in worship, education, and mission fronts. We are busy in a way we have not been in almost three years. I am extremely grateful for all of this.

The most exciting upcoming event is the 235th Homecoming Jubilee on Sunday, November 6th. That day will begin with special Sunday School classes. The adult classes will combine that morning, and all the children and older youth will meet together. Worship will feature special music, some personal testimonies, and the message will be delivered by the Reverend Bronwen Boswell, the general presbyter of Shenandoah Presbytery. Following worship, we will have a catered lunch. There is no cost for the lunch, but we do need a head count. If you plan to come, please be sure to turn in an RSVP, if you have not done so already. We hope to fill the fellowship hall.

This day of celebration requires massive preparation. I am grateful to Margaret Kursey, and the team she has assembled. They have done fantastic work already. However, there are still areas where we need help. On Saturday, October 8th, there will be an outdoor workday (rain date October 15th). We will meet in the church parking lot and divide up the work among those who are present. We hope to trim small bushes, pull weeds, sweep, and clean up all entrances, and dispose of any trash or debris around the property. Perhaps we will do more than that. Even if you can only spare an hour or two, the help will be appreciated. I hope to see many people there on October 8th.

We are still seeking table sponsors. We plan to have twelve tables, and we estimate the dinner will cost \$200 per table. We have had several verbal commitments, and so far, we have seven tables sponsored. There will be additional costs to make the Jubilee happen, so if we have more sponsors than tables, be assured those funds will be used to offset costs for the event. If you are interested in table sponsorship, please contact me, or call the church office.

What I want to be sure we don't miss is this: the current uptick in ministry activity is evidence of the Lord working in and through our congregation. The upcoming Homecoming Jubilee is evidence of the Lord's work for the last 235 years. At Charles Town Presbyterian Church the Lord has worked and continues working. We bear the fruit of Christ's blessing, and we are preparing to give thanks in a major way for all God has done for us over the years.

Blessings,
Pastor John



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

Kid's Group!

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

Hey all, as summer becomes fall we are quickly approaching the holiday season, and the first of these is Halloween! This holiday has been met with controversy in recent years among some within the Christian community who worry that it is of unsavory origin, but worry not! Halloween is a contraction of the longer name All Hallows Eve, which means "the night of all holy people". Traditionally this was a Christian feast day, where we remember loved ones and great examples of Christian living who came before us. Over time, folk practices of wearing scary costumes to scare away evil were added, and morphed into the for-fun costumes that we have today!

On this note, we are excited to announce that Charles Town Presbyterian will be holding a Trunk-Or-Treat event this October the 30th , from 3-5:00pm! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer your trunk, please contact Garth at garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org.

Session News

At the September stated meeting of the session, the elders took the following actions:

- After hearing a report from Margaret Kursey and the Financial Review Team, which found the church's finances to be in order for 2021, the session adopted the following recommendations:
 - ◇ Employ a checkbook-style report at the beginning of monthly financial reports to session, giving a snapshot of month-to-month activity in the operating fund.
 - ◇ Request that the treasurer to review monthly deposits as part of our financial safeguards.
 - ◇ Have the chairpersons for finance, personnel, and the bookkeeper work together to assure the financial aspects of the pastor's terms of call are in order and communicated clearly.
 - ◇ Ask the session to consider a professional audit in 2024.
- Accepted the minutes from the June stated meeting as presented.
- Heard reports from all committees – none of the committees had session action items.
- Pastor John and Kathy Shue reported on the August presbytery meeting. Of note is the approval of presbytery to transfer the property of Halltown Presbyterian Church to Jefferson County Community Ministries.
- Planned for homebound communion on October 2.
- Changed the date for the October 18 session meeting to October 20 as a personal favor to the pastor.

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny

Attitude of Gratitude

The Road Not Taken BY ROBERT FROST

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.



I woke up this morning and for some reason the "fork in the road" came to mind. That, of course, made me think about "The Road Less Traveled". I can assure you I had not been dreaming about forks or roads, but in recent weeks my life has seemed it's at the fork or where the two roads converged.

What do you do at "the fork in the road"?
I started thinking about the possibilities!

1. Make a list of the pros and cons.
2. Begin on one road, change your mind and go back to the other road.
Or my choice

JUST STOP AND GRAB HOLD OF THE FORK!

God waits for us all at the fork in the road, hoping we drop to our knees in prayer to Him asking for direction and patiently waiting for that direction to come!

Maybe staying at the fork in the road for a day, week, month or year, is the road less traveled.

Blessings and Love,
Penny

P.S. Please reach out to me if you're interested in singing or ringing! Music ministry will welcome you with open arms!

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

Tim Casserly
Sharon Criswell
Brooklyn Farmer
Hoyle Fulbright
Michelle Hart
Jackson Smith
Evan Longerbeam
Roger Snook
Conner Snook
Katherine Burns
Stephanie Rossi
Lillian Duncan
Margaret Kursey
Terri Mullens
Emily Mayhew
Blossom Harrison
Emma Damm
Kaz Feldstein



Cheryl Fulbright
Austin Gregoryk
Barbara Rose
Spencer Wells
Saige Bethard
Mary Day
Daniel Hart
Lari MacKenzie
Vicki Burns
Madison Henshaw
Roxanne Noland
Autumn Sword

Anniversaries

Jonathan & Vicki Burns
Harry & Linda Puster
Hoyle & Cheryl Fulbright
J.P. & Donna Burns

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration Facebook

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



Donate



The property committee has scheduled an outdoor work day for Saturday, October 8th, beginning at 8am. We will meet in the parking lot, and divide up the work that is needed. We will focus on general clean up - trash, weeding, sweeping, and other tasks. Please wear appropriate clothing, and bring some tools. Many hands make light work, and we hope to see many of you there. Rain date is the following Saturday.



CTPC Zoom Meetings

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.

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.



Know. Grow. Serve.



Sock It To Me

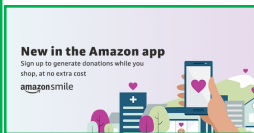
It is the time of year when we start to feel a chill in the air. As the days grow shorter, and the temperature starts to drop, we want to feel warm, and cared for. Cold hands and feet are the most miserable feeling. Yes, we can take care of it, but not everybody has the ways and means to do so. As in years past we have had the needed collection we call SOCK IT TO ME!!!. Starting on Sunday, October 9, the big basket will return in the front of sanctuary to be filled with warm socks and gloves to keep our friends feet and hands in need WARM. This includes both men and women. We have in the past also added t-shirts, the upper body needs help too. So, lets start gathering for our needy friends to once again keep them comfortable. Donations may also be dropped off in 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>

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.



Jefferson County Meals-on-wheels announces its annual fundraiser Soup and Sandwich sale on Saturday, October 15th, 9am until the soup is all sold, at Asbury United Methodist Church, 110 W. North St., Charles Town. Baked goods will also be available for sale. Don't miss this great event!