

December
2022



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

It's hard to believe this is the last newsletter of 2022!

By all accounts Charles Town Presbyterian Church has had a pretty good year. The usual metrics are pretty good. Weekly worship attendance continues to creep upward. It's not growing by leaps and bounds, but it is moving in a favorable direction. Overall membership is up significantly. We welcomed fifteen new members this year, and there are still some people that would like to join. And then there is everyone's favorite metric, finances. Giving is higher than expected, too.

Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the congregation's 235th anniversary with a Homecoming Jubilee that was well-attended and great fun. For the first time in years, we had a meal after worship! We got to see some old friends and make new ones. Margaret Kursey and her team put together a wonderful celebration.

On the missions front, we had a great year. We staffed the friendship meal every month, adapting to the high numbers that come to that meal. When inflation is high it is especially dreadful for people who are food insecure. I am so glad this wonderful ministry continues. We also started a new event, the Walk for Water. A number of people participated in this, and we are excited to participate again in 2023! In the fall, we shifted away from Operation Christmas Child to focus more locally, helping two single-parent families have a better Christmas.

Under Garth's leadership the children's ministry continues to grow, and this is critical. Covid all but obliterated our children's program, and he basically had to start from the ground up. It's wonderful to have new children in the church family and we are excited that this ministry shows signs of continued growth.

Earlier in the year, one of our elders, David Weil, was approved by the presbytery to enter the commissioned ruling elder program. And while on the one hand this means that eventually David will be commissioned to lead another congregation, it is also a sign of spiritual growth for us – it is the norm that churches send people to other places to engage in ministry.

Worship saw growth, as well. We added monitors to the sanctuary to aid in worship. And while this addition is not wholly loved by all, this technology is the norm in most churches, and all seminaries now train students to use this tech in worship. Penny welcomed new people into the vocal and bell choirs and has young children singing regularly as part of worship.

As we enter the advent season, we have great cause to be hopeful as a congregation. God is moving, and there is quite a bit going on. Glory be to God!

-Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.



Christmas Mission Project

For 2022, the Mission and Outreach committee decided to shift direction with our Christmas mission project. For decades, we have participated with the Shoebox ministry run by Samaritan's Purse. Support for that has waned over recent years, so the committee decided to take a break and do something different.

For 2022, the committee has decided to help two families headed by single parents. One family has three children, the other two. Both families struggle to make ends meet, and they have a particularly challenging time at the holidays. Additionally, both parents have had medical issues, making it hard for them to work consistently and provide for their children as they would like.

We are going to raise money for both families, and give them gift cards to stores the parents would like to shop at. Last year, we did all the shopping for one family that had an emergency need. And while that is fun for us, giving the parents gift cards empowers the parents to have more control over the situation. Plus, they know their children better than we do. They get to shop for their children, which is an immense joy for many parents. In addition to the gift cards, we'd like to give each family Christmas-themed gift baskets with small gifts that will brighten their Christmas. My family will be contributing wrapping paper for both families, so we don't end up giving them forty rolls of wrapping paper. We want to give them things that might go into stockings, or make the season more fun – candy canes, small chocolates, hot chocolate mix, etc. You get the idea.

The goal for this project is ambitious: \$2000, which we will split between the families. That may seem like a lot of money, but many of us spend far more than that on just our own household at Christmas. The baskets are in the sanctuary. Checks for this project should be marked "Christmas Mission" in the memo.

What I love about this year's project is that it is local. We are making an impact on people in our community. It builds relationships and demonstrates the love of Christ in a practical way that will bless people in big ways.

Sunday, November 27th is the final day for collection.

For the Mission and Outreach Committee,
Pastor John

Session News

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

- Sustained the examinations of elder-elect Doyle Criswell and deacon-elect Sue Flanagan. Ordination and installation will be held as part of worship on Sunday, January 8.
- Received the minutes of the October 20 stated meeting as presented.
- Heard a verbal report from the Discipleship and Family Ministries committee focused on all the upcoming events. Of note was the consensus among the session that most closets and classrooms throughout the building need a thorough cleaning out and an up-to-date inventory of supplies and equipment.
- Heard a report from the pastor on the stated meeting of presbyter held earlier in the day.
- Authorized the baptisms of Jeremiah, Cora, and Wesley Clark, children of Chris and Sherry Clark, at a date to be determined later.
- Upon recommendation of the trustees, authorized changing the name of the "Charles Town Housing Fund" held with the Shenandoah Presbytery Corporation, to "Charles Town Presbyterian Church – Bethard Housing Fund," and assigned two new signatories. As part of the pastors' terms of call in Shenandoah Presbytery, ministers living in a manse are provided an annual amount to be invested to make up for the lack of equity that comes from living in a manse. The presbytery requires that such investments include the pastor's name so there is no question what the fund is for. This change puts us in compliance with that policy.
- Upcoming events: Thanksgiving Eve worship 11/23, Advent festival and decorating 11/27, Parade 12/3, Comfort and Joy Service 12/11, Christmas Eve worship at 5pm, Christmas Day worship at 11am (No Sunday School).

Get ready for a wonderful

Advent Celebration

You are invited to celebrate the start of the Advent season with our church family and yours.

Join us for a light lunch.

for kids and families: Advent crafts and activities

for adults who are able: Decorate the sanctuary

November 27, 2022

IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 11TH
WORSHIP CELEBRATION 10:30AM
COMFORT AND JOY SERVICE 4PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 5PM

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 11AM
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

NEW YEAR'S DAY 11AM
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny

Attitude of Gratitude

Are You Planning to Stay in the Moment?

I'm chuckling to myself as I try to stay in today's moment and plan the music for the future.

If you live in anxiety or struggle with addictions, you are taught to stay in the moment. In other words, don't worry about getting through tomorrow until tomorrow happens.

So here I am "planning to stay in the moment"!

In this moment I'd like to thank our entire music ministry team for their hard work and beautiful music at our 235th Homecoming Jubilee! A special thank you to Rebecca Karos for joining our Geneva Ringers as conductor! We are blessed!

In this moment I'd like to tell you to expect some great music from our team for the Advent and Christmas season!

In this moment I'd like to announce that our Silver Bells ringing group for the retired and older crowd will be starting back up in January! More details later.

In this moment I'd like to tell you that something involving fun with food and fellowship may be happening in February!

In this moment I'd like to thank you for your wonderful support of our music ministry program and remember we have a place for you to share your musical gifts!

Plan to stay in the moment! And have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Blessings, Penny

Please Join Us!

*A special service of
Music, prayer and scripture*



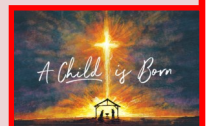
*Charles Town Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 11th at 4pm*



A huge Thank You from the Geneva Ringers to Doug McDonough for the new music stands !! They are awesome and very much needed!

Upcoming in December

December 3rd: Charles Town Christmas parade
December 11th: Comfort and Joy Service at 4:00pm (snow date December 18th)
December 23rd: Office Closed
December 24th: Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm
December 25th: No Sunday School, Worship 11:00am Merry Christmas
December 26th: Office Closed
December 30th: Office Closed
January 1st: No Sunday School, Worship 11:00am Happy New Year!



Celebrations this month

Birthdays



Judy Holt
Colton Ruffner
Doug White
George Tabb
Megan Henshaw
Meredith Hunt
Rachel Tansill
Kathy Reim
Glenn Moreland
Nathaniel Pugh
Andrew Rossi
Kathy Donadio
Jessica Donadio

Don Engle
Janet Harner
Justin Hardy
Briana Pizzuti
Amy Sheetz
Amy Low
Anniversaries
Frank & Kathy Donadio
Dennis & Marsha Dibbern
Marty & Katherine Hunt
Bob & Rachel Tansill
Michael & Sharon Stevens
Bill & Augusta Whitacre

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



Donate



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Pat Hetzinger, who died on November 20th. May God bless those who grieve.

Ken Hetzinger
44 Veronica Lane
Charles Town, WV 25414



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.

Mission and Outreach News! The Friendship meals are covered except for May 6th, June 3rd, September 2nd, and December 2nd. Think about pairing up with some friends and serving a meal to the many in need of a nice meal. Serving starts at 5:30, and it only takes about an hour. If you need help and would like to serve please call Patsy White at 304-725-8058. Preparations for the annual Christmas parade are underway. Sign up to help. There is a list on the piano in the front of the church. Come and join us that day. It is really a lot of fun. Also we will be manning the Cheer Booth downtown on December 8th, from 12pm-2pm. Donations will go to Community Ministries. This is also fun to participate in. It is a great way to fellowship with the town as well as church members. See Kathy Shue or Patsy White.

Charles Town Presbyterian Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Kid's Group!

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

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



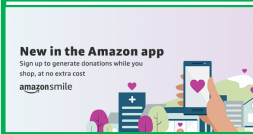
Christmas Joy Offering. Because of your generous gifts of \$1,045 in 2021, the Presbyterian Mission Agency was able to help provide brighter educational opportunities for students at historically Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges, a longstanding tradition of the church. Gifts to the offering also supported the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, a fund that stands in the gap to assist retired church leaders and their survivors in difficult times. Together, they make the Christmas Joy Offering a tribute to the leaders of our church—past and present.

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 2023 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.

2023 Giving Envelopes are now available in the narthex. 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.

These Days daily devotionals for January/February/March are available in the information racks located in the narthex and by the church office.