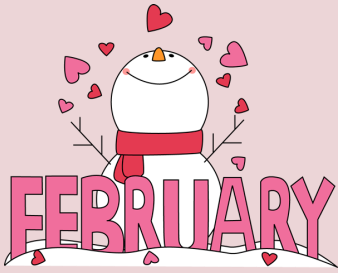


February
2023



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

My favorite time of the year is almost here – Lent.

In the early Church, Christians went through a rigorous process of preparation to join the church. It took a year, and culminated in baptism and admission into the Church on Easter Sunday. For the forty days prior to Palm Sunday (minus Sundays), those intending to join were expected to fast, and devote more time to prayer and spiritual disciplines.

Fast-forward to the present, where the idea of the forty day Lenten fast has morphed into “giving up something for Lent.” When one considers that people give up for Lent those things they can clearly live without, it’s clear the idea of penitence and humility seem lost on most people.

A couple weeks ago, I preached on John 12 where Jesus says that to live for him means dying to self. This is exactly what the focus of Lent should be. The purpose of giving up something, like food when we are fasting, is that we would learn to rely on God more. We can also spend lent *adding to* our lives by engaging in more prayer and Bible reading.

Lent begins on February 22, and that evening we will have our annual Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00pm. During Lent, we will be collecting the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering, but in addition to that, the session approved a request for two special offerings this season – one for our missionaries in Eswatini, and the other for relief aid in Ukraine (there is more info on the Missions page of the newsletter). If it’s hard to consider participating in two special offerings, I suggest tying it to the discipline of sacrifice during Lent. Forego that daily Starbucks. Eliminate one or two streaming services for a couple months. Give up something that regularly costs money, and divert those funds to these important and timely offerings.

The whole point of Lent is to grow closer to God, and it is something that should last well past this important six-week season. A deeper relationship with God centered on our reliance of him is beautiful thing, and it is what makes me thankful for a season that causes people to pause, examine, and hopefully grow closer to Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

Blessings, Penny

CTPC's Got Talent

Sunday February 19th

Immediately Following Worship

Soup n Sandwich Luncheon
Followed by

Talent Show

Silver Bells Sign-up

*If you are 60 + please join us for
Fun ringing fellowship!*

Our 1st practice will be Tuesday, January 17th at 1pm

No music or ringing skill required!

Please contact Penny for more info

Or to Sign-up

Penfylvfarm@aol.com

304-725-5316 Church office



Charles Town Presbyterian Church

Celebrations this month

Birthdays



Heather Duncan

Luella Mullens

Nicholas Pizzuti

Linda Snyder

Mason Fowler

Jeralene Tetro

Molly Blue

Ceil Frazier

Doug McDonough

Marty Kable

Joe Polvinale

Vera Reid

Ron Rossi

Stephen Bossung

Beth Pugh

Eleanor Puster

Kathy Shue

Marsha Dibbern

Angie LaVallee

Sharon Stevens

Anniversaries

Jim & Stella Bovard

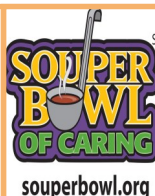
Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



[Donate](#)



Souper Bowl of Caring!

On Sunday, February 12, the children/youth will be stationed by the sanctuary exit following worship to collect donations for the annual Souper Bowl of Caring special offering. All of this offering will be given to JCCM food pantry.



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.

Important TAX NOTICE: To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2022 income tax return until you have accessed your on-line giving statement. If you need the office to print a hard copy of your contribution statement please call (304-725-5316) or email (ctpres@ctpres.org) the church office. Giving statements will be mailed to those without email by the end of January. To access your giving statement go to servantkeeper.com/member-portal/ctpres/login#/, go to giving history, under "overview" click on the drop down dates and choose year (2022), and the option to print your statement needed for tax purposes.

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).

Session News

At an uncharacteristically short meeting, the elders took the following actions at the January meeting:

- Made the following annual appointments:
 - ◇ Clerk of Session – Diane Mayhew
 - ◇ Treasurer – Gordon Myers
 - ◇ Session nominating committee representative – Kathy Shue
- Received as presented, minutes from the November 15 stated meeting, the called session meeting of December 6, the called congregational meeting of November 20, and the annual congregational meeting of January 8.
- Approved a recommendation from the mission and outreach committee to collect additional special offerings. One is for missionaries Mick and Cathy Sander, who need to replace their car after blowing a head gasket. Repair costs are greater than the value of the car. The second offering will be for World Vision's "Multiply Your Blessings" effort to raise money to help people in Ukraine. More information will be forthcoming on these offerings.
- Appointed Kathy Shue to serve as commissioner to the February 28 meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery.

Worship Committee Would Like Volunteers. The Worship Committee is looking for volunteers to help with two tasks. The first task is to help set up communion around 9 am on the first Sunday of each month. If you volunteer, there will be someone to train and help you learn the procedure. The second task is to help set up the hospitality station by the library each Sunday. We would love to have you join us with your service to CTPC.

If you are able to help please contact Lazan Roger at: lazanrogers@yahoo.com, or Signe Garms at: signegarms@gmail.com.



Ash Wednesday Service. Please join us for our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 22, at 7:00pm. The offering received will be divided between Church World Services and the Mission and Outreach Committee.

Librarian needed!

The DFM Team is looking for someone who would volunteer as our church librarian. No experience or training is needed; we would just like an individual who would take the library under his/her care. We need you to maintain order when books are off the shelf, encourage use of the library by highlighting books in the newsletter, or in a Ministry Moment (do this for kids books, too), add to our collection by buying or adopting new books while using an amount of quality control (is this a book that points to Knowing Christ, Growing in God's love, and Serving as the Holy Spirit leads?) This is an area where you can use initiative and creativity! If you are interested in this opportunity, or would like to ask questions, please contact Marsha Dibbern marshadib@juno.com.

Mission and Outreach

The session recently approved two special offerings proposed by the mission and outreach committee. Mike and Cathy Sander, the missionaries we support in Eswatini, need a new vehicle. Their 13 year old Toyota is no long cost-effective to keep repairing. The missions committee seeks to help them. If you wish to help with this special offering, please make a note on your check, "Sander car offering" and place in the offering plate.

The second special offering is for Ukraine, and we are calling it, "Multiply Your Blessings." Cy Staniec wrote the following:

The giving season of Christmas is behind us, and the New Year just begun. Many think of this as a time for new beginnings, and resolution – perhaps to lose weight, to get organized, or to maintain a better budget. These laudable goals are an effort to bestow blessings on ourselves. That is not bad, but perhaps we could also resolve to multiple our blessings to others.

Last year, the Missions Committee stated that we would like to maintain a continuing focus on the plight of the people of the Ukraine. It takes only a little focus on the news to realize that literally millions of people are already displaced, and many more face shortage of food, lack of heat in a harsh winter environment, and general insecurity in their own homes, even a daily potential to lose their lives.

So, we want to present the idea of resolving to "**Multiply Your Blessings**" for Charles Town Presbyterian Church to provide further financial aid to the people of Ukraine. For example, if you and your family have been blessed with a safe and secure place to live, you might consider donating \$10. And if you are also blessed with adequate clothing and a warm place to live, you might multiply that blessing to \$100. Finally, if you are safe, warm, and eat well every night, you might even multiply your blessing to others to \$1000. Of course, the amount is not as important in this case as your resolution to honor God by bestowing blessings on others, so you can make this "mathematics of blessings" personal.

To enact "Multiply Your Blessings," you can simply make a cash or check donation labeled as "My blessings to Ukraine" and place it in the offering plate. At the end of March, these Blessings will be delivered to World Vision, which is supporting Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees from its operating base in neighboring Romania.

Ukraine faces a cold winter and a fierce war, but we can help alleviate some of their suffering as we "**Multiply our Blessings**" to the Ukrainian people.

Isaiah chapter six verse eight says, I heard the voice of the Lord saying whom shall I send. And who will go for us? And I said, "Here I am, send me."

Last year Mission and Outreach challenged each of you to "Be the Light" We are early into 2023. How quickly time flies by!

Dr. Charles Stanley recently suggested that Christians ask themselves these four questions when considering mission and outreach.

What can I do? What should I do? What is God telling me to do? What am I going to do?

We can all do something. Each of us has a special gift. We should use that gift or talent in some way whether it is big or small. We need to pray and listen for what God is telling us to do. Then we need to decide what we are going to do. The hard part is just not giving it lip service, but acting on what you can do.

Life is sort of like a puzzle. Each one of us is a piece of the big puzzle. This year challenge yourself to find out where God wants to put your piece of the puzzle. Contact one of the deacons or elders if you need help with your piece of the puzzle. There are many different committees to join and many ways to reach out. Happy New Year!



ONLINE GIVING

Online giving helps you to bring your offering before God. Money donated

via any of the services listed here gets deposited to our church bank account. You can donate fee-free via Facebook or for a nominal fee, use the Presbyterian Foundation or PayPal. The Presbyterian Foundation fee does help the organization's mission, and you can easily use a mobile app (Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement on Google Play/Apple AppStore) to set up for repeating or one time giving. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Donation options and tax information at www.ctpres.org. Thank you.



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.



Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Charles Town Presbyterian Church on Thursday, March 30, 2023. A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered: **Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque), Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA), Atrial Fibrillation, Osteoporosis Risk.** An ultrasound is performed to measure the shin bone for abnormal bone mass density. This can help assess the risk of osteoporosis, a disease where bones become weak and brittle. These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$139 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. Informational flyers located in the narthex and bulletin boards. Register by calling toll free 11-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>.

The Six-cents-a-meal offering, is collected on the 4th Sunday each month, and goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program. To contribute to this offering please note on memo line: hunger offering. Thank you.

Jefferson County Community Ministries is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2023. A black-tie optional gala event will be held on Saturday, May 13, at the Ranson Civic Center. This is a massive undertaking, and JCCM is asking covenant member churches to ask their congregations for help. They plan on having a silent auction committee who is collecting, coordinating, and staffing the silent auction table at the gala event. The next meeting of the silent auction committee is **Thursday, February 2nd at 10 AM here JCCM.** Members of CTPC are welcome to attend that planning meeting and help. The gala planning committee is meeting on **Friday February 24th at 4 PM at JCCM.** They really need our congregation's volunteers for this effort too. There is set up, parking, ushering, serving, and other duties needed filling. There will be opportunities for youth 16-18 to serve at the event. Anyone interested in helping the planning committee is invited to attend the February 24 meeting. Here is a link to the gala page from the JCCM website: <https://www.jccm.us/40th-anniversary-love-thy-neighbor-gala/>.



JCCM Food Pantry needs. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated: spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, canned meat (vienna sausage, spam, chicken, tuna), canned beans, canned vegetables (not green beans/corn), soups (hearty and condensed), canned chili, rice (small bags), instant mashed potatoes, jelly and peanut butter, syrup, instant oatmeal, crackers, boxed pancake mix, cooking oil, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, laundry detergent. Thank you, Kari Dean, Food Pantry Coordinator, JCCM



Know. Grow. Serve.