

**March
2023**



CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

Over the last few weeks, a unique event captured the attention of many people and was highlighted by many news outlets. Asbury University, a small Christian college in Wilmore, KY, held a typical chapel service on Wednesday, February 8 that unexpectedly blossomed into a twenty-four hour a day prayer and worship service that ended on Monday, February 20. The service was open to the public, and people from all over the United States and some people from other countries made the trek to Asbury to be part of what some were calling a "revival." The sheer volume of people led to a line to wait to get into the service. The reports coming out of this event tell of people publicly repenting, coming to faith in Christ, and engaging in prayer for one another. Countless moments of spontaneous worship erupted throughout the duration of the event.

The most exciting part of this is that none of it was planned. It just happened. This is how the Holy Spirit works. We cannot orchestrate renewal or revival, for we are not the Holy Spirit. We can desire it, hope for it, even try to plan services around it, but we can never make it happen. That alone belongs to the Holy Spirit.

Whether or not the events of Asbury University lit a fire in our nation are still unknown. There are reports of spontaneous prayer gatherings in other parts of our country. Perhaps this is the beginning of something exciting for the American Church, but only time will tell. For now, we must wait and see.

But there is something we can and will do: pray. Before the Asbury Renewal was even happening, I had an idea for something simple to add to our Sunday mornings – informal prayer between Sunday School and worship. I was praying about this for some time and then as news reports started coming in, I got the clear sense from the Holy Spirit that indeed, this was something we can and should do. Will it lead to renewal or revival? That's always possible, but that's not for us to decide. The point is to pray, particularly for morning worship. To that end, I'd like to invite anyone who is interested to join me in the church library on Sundays at about 10:10. We will pray for the upcoming worship service, every part of it, and for all who will be present. We will wrap up at 10:25 and then head into worship.

Perhaps this will lead to something amazing for us, but that does not necessarily mean something akin to what happened at Asbury University. We will be in prayer for one another, and that alone is enough of a reason to do this.

See you on Sunday!

Pastor John



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🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny

Attitude of Gratitude

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”



1 Spirit of God, who dwells within my heart,
wean it from sin, through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.

3 Did you not bid us love you, God and King,
love you with all our heart and strength and mind?
I see the cross there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek you and O let me find!

4 Teach me to feel that you are always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
teach me the patience of unceasing prayer.

5 Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the fullness of the heaven-descended Dove;
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

The verses of this hymn bring much comfort and is a beautiful prayer.

The recent death of my brother left me in an “oh no, not again!” state of mind and heart. In many ways I’ve been in a perpetual grieving mode since 2015. Grieving is exhausting, physically, mentally, and emotionally.

I would be lost without the Spirit of God. Ephesians 5:18-19 tells us—Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.

With an attitude of gratitude I thank the Spirit for filling my heart with song and using me as a vessel to direct others in singing and making music from their heart to the Lord.

Blessings, Penny

CTPC Does Have Talent!

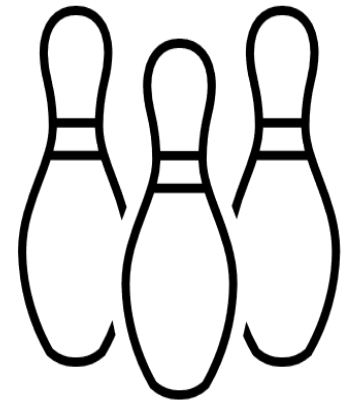
The Music Ministry & Fellowship Teams would like to thank everyone that attended the Soup and Sandwich Luncheon and Talent Show! Suffice to say, we did have great food, fun and fellowship! Till next time!







FAMILY BOWLING



CTPC presents:

The Discipleship
and Family Ministry
Committee is
sponsoring an
afternoon of
bowling.

Please join us.

There is no cost for
participation.

Shoes are provided.

The bowling alley
is located in the
Student Center,
210 N. King St.,
Shepherdstown.

Fun
Food
Fellowship
Free

Where?

Shepherd University

When?

Sunday March 26
3-5 PM

Who?

Youth/Families
Old/Young
Singles/couples
EVERYONE

Celebrations this month

Birthdays



Brooks Kursey

Russell Low

Joshua Amos

Jeremiah Clark

Sherry Clark

Jenna Hardy

Joseph Farmer

Michael Thompson

David VanVuuren

Vincent Pugh

Emily Rogers

Dale Baddoff

Julia McDonough

Bethany Hollida

Peyton LaVallee

Diane Mayhew

Chloe Ruffner

Laura VanVuuren

Donna Burns

Jane Ishman

Spencer Howard

Ken Reim

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



[Donate](#)



Thank You

The family of Rocky Mason wishes to express their sincere thank you for all the prayers, cards, flowers, love and support during this difficult time.



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.

CTPC Up Coming Events

- March 4th: Friendship Ministry Meal 5:30pm
- March 26th: Family Bowling at Shepherd Univ. 3-5pm
- March 30th: Life Line Screening 8-5pm
- April 1st: Friendship Ministry Meal 5:30pm
- April 2nd: Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt 11:30am
- April 6th: Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
- April 7th: Community Cross Walk at Asbury UMC 10am
- April 9th: Resurrection Sunday
Community Sunrise Service at Jefferson Memorial Park 6:30am
- April 10th: OFFICE CLOSED
- April 23rd: Spring Fling After-Church Potluck Luncheon 11:30am

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 Stevens-Jennings (304-725-5316 or garthstevens-jennings@ctpres.org).



Session News

The session met for its February stated meeting on Tuesday, February 21, and took the following actions:

- Received as presented, the minutes from the January 2022 stated meeting.
- By unanimous vote, approved a motion to allow the Discipleship and Family Ministries Committee to begin searching for an additional nursery attendant to work Sunday mornings 10am-noon. It is church policy to have two adults present for ministries working with minor children. In the past we have attempted to supplement the nursery with adult volunteers, but when people drop off the list or cannot serve the Sunday they are assigned, it makes staffing the nursery challenging. This action begins the process of rectifying this situation and making the nursery as secure as possible and in compliance with church policy. Until that person is hired, we will supplement the nursery with volunteers.
- Authorized observance of the Lord's Supper for the next quarter on the following dates, March 5, April 2, April 6 (Maundy Thursday), May 7.
- Approved a wedding request for Sara Fowler and Tanner Elliot, to be celebrated Saturday, October 7.
- Adjourned the meeting with prayer for the needs of the congregation.

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.

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.

The Congregational Nominating Committee has begun work on securing nominees for elders, deacons, trustees, and at-large members for next year's nominating committee. If you have suggestions for persons the CNC might consider, please be sure to speak with Henry Christie, Matthew Henshaw, Allen Peacher, Kathy Shue or Bob Tansill.

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.

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.



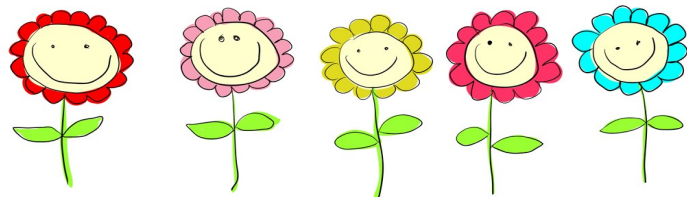
JCCM Food Pantry needs. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated: spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, canned meat (vienna sausage, spam, chicken, tuna), canned beans,

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



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>.



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