

August 2023



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

My nineteenth anniversary as pastor of Charles Town Presbyterian is August 1. It's hard to believe I've been here almost twenty years. It feels much shorter than that. One of the things I like to do this time every year is look back at what's happened over that time, not to toot my own horn, but as a way of remembering what we've accomplished in light of what we still need to do. Most of all, it is to give thanks for the way God has worked in these past two decades. Here are a few examples:

I started at CTPC after an unusually long interim period. A long interim is demoralizing, so one of the first things we did was form a team to think about our core values and mission statement. That work was a way of remembering who we are and what defines us. Those core values are still our core values today, and our mission statement remains unchanged.

Missions has been a huge work for us. In nineteen years, we've had four mission trips, and increased our partnerships with missionaries from one missionary to three. And two of those missionaries visit us regularly, which is wonderful! We were instrumental in addressing the issue of homelessness in our community, and we are part of the regular rotation of churches helping to feed food-insecure people. For the past few years, we've done outreach during the annual Christmas parade. In 2022 we started participating in World Vision's Walk for Water. As the kids say, "Mission is fire!"

We've had some exciting financial moments during the same time. We completed three successful capital campaigns that allowed us to hire staff and make significant improvements to the physical plant. Two years ago, we received a massive gift that none of us was expecting. And though we still function with an annual deficit like most churches, our giving increases annually. All of this is a testament to our congregation's faithfulness. One of the most exciting things we learned about our congregation came out of the pandemic. We learned we are much more resilient than we ever realized. While most churches experienced dips in giving and ministry came to a standstill, we saw an *increase* in giving. Our help to the community went uninterrupted. At the end of the pandemic, we saw the largest number of new members join the congregation in over a decade.

None of this means we can rest on our laurels. Our church is aging quickly. We have fewer young families than I would like. Nationwide, church attendance is trending downward, and ministry and outreach are harder than ever. So, we have our work cut out for us.

We've come a long way, and the Lord has allowed us to accomplish so much. But there is much more still to work on.

Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny

Attitude of Gratitude

"When In Our Music God Is Glorified"

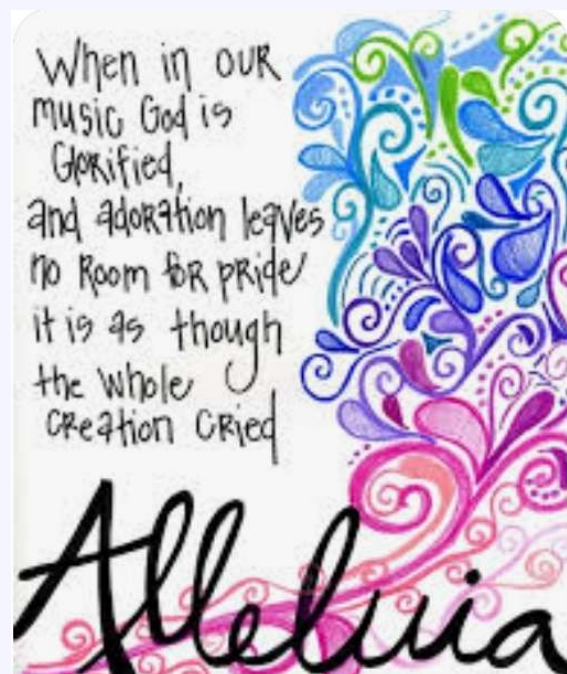
This hymn rates in my top 10 of favorites.

Verse 2—How often, making music, we have a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

This verse sings of our choir!, from practice on Wednesday evening to worship on Sunday morning!

Your worship can be moved to a more profound Alleluia! Singing with the choir.

I hope you hear and respond to God's call to a more profound Alleluia! All voices matter! Choir practice resumes on Wednesday, August 9th, at 7:15pm, in the choir room.



1 When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!

2 How oft, in making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound
as worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!

3 So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue,
Alleluia!

4 And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
Alleluia!

5 Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise,
let all rejoice who have a voice to raise,
and may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia!

Blessings, Penny

Charles Town Presbyterian Church

Children's Choir

AGES 12 AND YOUNGER



REHEARSALS 11:30AM SUNDAY MORNING
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2023
IN THE CHOIR ROOM

Invite a friend for singing & ringing fun !



Geneva Ringers

Fall- Winter Sign-up

Name_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Preferred Bell Position _____

Rehearsals begin Wednesday Sept 6th at 6:30pm

Contact Penny for more info
Penfvfarm@aol.com

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.



Our 2023 Vacation Bible School was in full swing! We had a total of 31 students joining us for a fantastical journey through the cosmos, exploring all of the places where the light of Jesus shines. By the end of the week, our intrepid cadets were fully equipped to go out into the world and shine the light of Christ's love with everyone they meet!





Celebrations this month

Birthdays

Jillian Donadio
Tommy Morgan

Linda Puster

Jimmy Burns

Kay Feldstein

Mike Kursey

Brittany Moreland

Debra Low

Jeannette Tabb

Ann Workman

Micaiah Noland

Mark Day

Brett Moreland

Lazan Rogers

Rebecca Karos

Mike Ishman

Jane Groves



Joe Hardy

Emily Rutherford

Lauren Fowler

Debbie Henshaw

Bill Whitacre

Anniversaries

Mike & Margaret Kursey

James & Amy Sheetz

Chris & Sherry Clark

Ray & Joyce Jamison

Mark & Debbie Stafford

Allen & Lazan Rogers

Peter & Signe Garms

Ron & Stephanie Rossi

Howard & Judy Miller

Tim & Connie Casserly

Thane & Laura Van

Zomeren

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



[Donate](#)



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.



Please join us at the Hospitality Station on the 3rd Sunday of each month, immediately after worship for a Bagel Bar Brunch! If you or your Sunday School class would like to sponsor a 3rd Sunday brunch, a sign-up

sheet is located on the piano in the sanctuary! May this time of fellowship give you an opportunity to discuss the sermon, upcoming activities, visit the library and take joy in the Lord! For more information see Penny Liston.

Worship Help Needed. We need help running the technology used in worship each week. We are seeking two or three people to help run the PowerPoint slides and the camera for our live broadcast. These are fairly simple tasks, and we provide training. Please speak with Pastor John or Roger Snook if you can help.



Know. Grow. Serve.



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/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

Looking for a place to serve? Have questions about a particular activity but not sure who to ask? Here are the list of committees and the people who serve on them:

Communicating with Technology – Roger Snook rogercsnook@gmail.com

Discipleship and Family Ministry - Marsha Dibbern marshadib@juno.com
- Beth Pugh bethandvincent@comcast.net

Finance and Budget - Kathy Donadio feebler8@gmail.com

Mission and Outreach - Doyle Criswell doyle.criswell@comcast.net

Personnel - Kathy Shue dashuka@msn.com

Property - Gary Scott gary3042795296@gmail.com

Stewardship and Vision - Kathy Donadio feebler8@gmail.com

Worship and Music - Lazan Rogers laзанrogers@yahoo.com
- Signe Garms signegarms@gmail.com

Fellowship - Lazan Rogers laзанrogers@yahoo.com
- Kathy Shue dashuka@msn.com