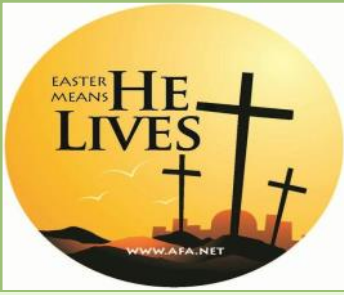


March
2024



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

One of my favorite things about the season Lent is that it often feels like a journey. We hopefully go deeper in our faith journey, and that is always an interesting experience, one I hope many of you have experienced.

“Discipleship” is the word we use to describe our faith journey, and it is catch all term for how we as followers of Christ choose to grow through disciplines like worship, prayer, Bible study, fasting, etc. The world we live in, however, provides constant distraction from these things.

We “have” to check our social media feeds; “have” to watch our television shows; “have” to play our game. I get it – I do those things. When I was starting in youth ministry I remember watching in awe as the high schoolers in my youth group pulled out their calendars when we were talking about upcoming events. I was watching in real time as our young people were learning how to be busy. What I feared then has come to pass – these young people are all in their forties now, and still just as busy, if not busier.

Many of the things we think we have to do are things that we want to do. We characterize those choices as obligations because we don’t want to miss out. But by making ourselves so busy and distracted, the things we truly must do get pushed down the list, including our discipleship.

That is where Lent comes in. Lent gives us a regular, annual time to pause. The six-week season gives us more than enough time to establish new habits, and I would hope that they would be habits that help us grow in Christ. In what remains of this Lenten season, I encourage all of us to spend more time at the feet of Jesus, and less time on things that ultimately matter very little.

-Pastor John

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42

CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press



Attitude of Gratitude “Let Your Light Shine”

Sometimes it's hard to let your light shine when your surroundings are dim. It's easy to fall into the trap of letting the darkness (negativity) eclipse all that is good.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven!

For quite sometime it's been hard for our choirs to let their light shine when being surrounded by the darkness, but with many thanks to you the light shines brighter than ever in the music room!

On April 13th, some members of the choir will be doing some painting and I'm sure they wouldn't mind a few extra hands. After the painting is completed we'll be giving the room a good spring cleaning!

The beautiful music that leads others to glorify God in worship starts in the music room. Thank you for helping us “Shine Our Light”!

Blessings, Penny



Silver Bells Sign-up

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

1st Practice March 12th at 1pm

No music or ringing skill required!

Please contact Penny for more info

Or to Sign-up

Penfvfarm@aol.com

304-725-5316 Church office



Charles Town Presbyterian Church

Charles Town Presbyterian Church



Supplies Needed

SPRING WATER-GAL MUFFINS, BREAKFAST BARS, COOKIES
SPRING WATER- SMALL BOTTLES GOLDFISH, PRETZELS, WERTHERS CANDY
JUICE BOXES, HOT CHOCOLATE LOLLIPOPS, FRUIT SNACKS
COFFEE PODS, CREAMER, SUGAR FRESH FRUIT, COFFEE CAKE
GLUTEN FREE AND DAIRY FREE ITEMS!



Know. Grow. Serve.

Charles Town Presbyterian Children, Youth,
and Family Ministries

Youth Group!

Youth Group meets each Sunday
from 2:30-4:00pm.

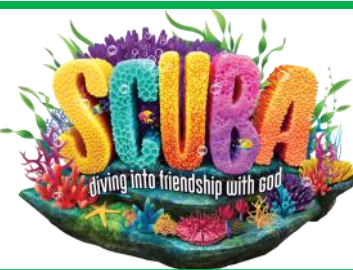
Kid's Group!

Kid's Group meets each Sunday
from 4:00-5:30pm.

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.

February 11th Hot Chocolate Bar



Mark your calendars! VBS will be Monday, July 15-Thursday, July 18, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon. The theme will be "SCUBA- diving into friendship with God". Scuba will take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Any questions, please feel free to contact Garth Stevens-Jennings (304-725-5316 or garthstevens-jennings@ctpres.org) or Marsha Dibbern (304-728-2278 or marshadib@juno.com).

Session News

The session met in person for their monthly stated meeting on Tuesday, February 20 and took the following actions:

- Received as presented, minutes from the January stated meeting of the session.
- Heard a verbal report from the Discipleship and Family Ministries committee of their upcoming events, including family bowling, Palms Sunday, and the Easter egg hunt.
- The Finance committee shared the treasurer's report, and that the overall financial picture is positive.
- The personnel committee recommended that the session call a congregational meeting to amend the pastor's terms of call for 2024 to allow him six weeks of leave beginning April 1 to address some unexpected health concerns. The meeting will be March 3 after worship, and Pastor John will send information to the congregation explaining this action.
- In light of this, the session approved a pulpit supply list for the six weeks and agreed to manage pastoral concerns among themselves and the congregation. The pastor shared that Henry Christie will be available for funerals, if needed.
- The pastor shared that the training planned for him to learn QuickBooks will be taken by the finance chair, who will bring the pastor up to speed after his break. With our bookkeeper moving away and working for us remotely, we need someone "on site" who can serve as administrator. The pastor shared that there is wisdom and accountability in having two people with access. The session, by consensus, agreed that having two people is wise and supported the idea of annually changing the shared login information for the pastor and finance chairperson.
- Approved a motion by the property committee to engage the services of Sure Shine, to strip, clean, wax and finish the floor from the McCurdy entrance to the Mildred entrance. If the result is satisfactory, we will consider restoring the rest of the tile floors.

Charles Town Presbyterian Church 2024 Elder Committee Assignments

Communicating with Technology	-	Beth Pugh
Discipleship and Family Ministry	-	Marsha Dibbern
Finance	-	Diane Mayhew
Mission and Outreach	-	Doyle Criswell
Personnel	-	Kathy Shue
Property	-	Gary Scott Diane Mayhew
Stewardship and Vision	-	Beth Pugh Patsy White
Worship and Music	-	Signe Garms Lazan Rogers

The session has called a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, March 3. The personnel committee will be recommending that four weeks of the pastor's planned sabbatical for 2026 be granted for 2024, and used as part of an extended leave to allow the pastor to address some health concerns. Pastor John sent a letter to the congregation outlining the details and reasons for this recommendation.

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

Brooks Kursey
 Russell Low
 Joshua Amos
 Jeremiah Clark
 Sherry Clark
 Jenna Hardy
 Joseph Farmer
 Michael Thompson
 David Van Vuuren
 Vincent Pugh



Emily Rogers
 Julia McDonough
 Bethany Hollida
 Peyton LaVallee
 Diane Mayhew
 Chloe Ruffner
 Laura Van Vuuren
 Donna Burns
 Jae 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



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 2nd: Friendship Ministry Meal 5:30pm
 March 3rd: Congregational Meeting following worship
 March 5th: Life Line Screening



March 24th: Palm Sunday
 Easter Egg Hunt 11:30am



March 28th: Maundy Thursday
 Service 7pm



March 31st: Resurrection Sunday
 Community Sunrise Service at
 Jefferson Memorial Park
 6:30am

April 1st: OFFICE CLOSED
 April 6th: Friendship Ministry Meal 5:30pm
 April 14th: Spring Fling After-Church Luncheon 11:30am



Know. Grow. Serve.



Memorial or Honorarium Lilies. Lilies are available this year to be placed in the sanctuary on Resurrection Sunday, March 31st. Please call or email the church office (304-725-5316 or ctpres@ctpres.org) by Wednesday, March 13th, to place an order. Cost is \$15.

Please take your lily home following Easter worship service.



Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt: Get ready for this year's Easter Egg hunt, happening after worship of March 24th, rain or shine. Bring your family and try to

find the most eggs, all of which will be filled with candy! We hope to see you there. Any questions see Marsha Dibbern or Garth Stevens-Jennings.



Maundy Thursday Service. Please join us Thursday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m., for our Maundy Thursday Service. The offering will go to One Great Hour of Sharing.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on Resurrection Sunday, March 31st. The OGHs offering is used to assist people in suffering and in need through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian

Hunger Program and the Self Development of People program.



Celebrate Spring with us!!!

The Fellowship Team will host a Spring Fling Potluck on **Sunday, April 14th**, immediately following worship. Please bring a dish to share (main dish, side or dessert). Fried chicken and drinks will be provided. Please mark your calendar.

Contact Lazan Rogers 304-886-5490 or church office with questions.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Capital Campaign Update:

Dear Congregation Family, thank you for participating in our

shared Sunday School Hour's facilities walkthrough which identified over 60 items that we could improve with your Capital Campaign contributions. There are a handful of items that don't cost us anything, and in 2024 you should look for some scheduled work days to help out in sharing your time to complete. For those wanting to make a difference sooner, you can contribute to the Capital Campaign now through your usual donation method or via the no-fee PayPal Giving Fund <https://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/3122728>.



Know. Grow. Serve.



Online giving helps you to bring your offering before God in a simple, and secure way. You can choose from The Presbyterian Foundation, Facebook, or PayPal, each of which have a nominal fee that you can include as part of your gift. 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 (<http://www.ctpres.org>).



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

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.

Seeking a nursery attendant:
 Where—CTPC
 When—every Sunday 10AM-noon
 What—an aide for our current nursery attendant, Jordan, as she cares for children infant- Kindergarten
 Why—to keep a safe environment for young children while parents (members or visitors) worship in our church sanctuary
 Who—We seek a Christian individual 18 years or older who loves and respects children. This person should be gentle, warm, trustworthy, responsible, playful, nurturing, patient, and punctual.
 This is a part time position. Hourly wage will be discussed when serious candidates apply. A background check will be required.
 Email a resume to Charles Town Presbyterian Church: ctpres@ctpres.org



The flower chart for 2024 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.



Meals-on-Wheels is in need of volunteers to help Monday—Friday for packing meals (8am-10am) and delivering meals (10am –Noon). We have five areas in Jefferson County that we deliver to and need drivers for all of them. Please call (304-725-1601) or stop by the kitchen of the Charles Town Presbyterian Church. We are open 8am-1pm.



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 Tuesday, March 5, 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>.