

April 2024

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard



This Sunday, we celebrate the most important holiday for Christians: the resurrection of Christ. Like Christmas, we know the story, we know what we're used to singing and hearing preached. I'm sure with some accuracy, everyone can predict at least one of the songs we will sing on Sunday morning.

What was not predictable is that we have this to celebrate at all. Think about it this way. When I am honest with myself, I am the worst sinner I know. All of us are. We know our rough edges, bad habits, and struggles better than anyone, and we can hide them well. I'm fine, you're fine, we're all fine, right? No, we are not.

Humans were created by God to be in relationship with God. But as is true in every relationship, no one can force another to love, and God did not force people to live for him or love him. But with that choice, people will always choose themselves. Since the beginning, humanity has been saying, "What about me??" The Bible calls this sin, and a holy God cannot be attached to sin. Therefore, we are separated from God. To make matters worse, our sin is so great that we cannot ever hope to pay the debt out of our own resources.

So, God himself took care of the problem. Jesus offered his life in our place to make it possible for all people to have a relationship with God. And because death is a result of sin, and a perfect God offering his perfect life perfectly takes care of our sin. So, we no longer need fear death, for in his resurrection, Christ offers us the gift of eternal life.

And even though each of us is likely the worst sinner we know, the grace of God is more than ample to cover every sin we've committed and every way we have disappointed God. That's the point of the resurrection: What God has done for us, no one can ever take away.

And that, my friends, is worth celebrating every single day!

On a personal note

Sunday is Easter Sunday, and my preference is to not gum up the morning with announcements and extraneous matters. The focus is on Jesus and his resurrection. Therefore, I am not addressing my upcoming leave, which begins on Monday. There are not enough words to thank the congregation for the love and support and the leave of absence you've given to allow me to focus on health concerns. I am getting away – visiting friends and family in Maine, Pennsylvania, and other places. Six weeks is short, but I know I will still miss you. I love you all and I am grateful for the grace and support you've given me. I can't wait to come back on May 13!

Blessings,
Pastor John

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny

Attitude of Gratitude

Spring has sprung and I'm already thinking about summer!

Planning has begun for summer music programs at CTPC to engage children and adults in the community.

I need you to, first and foremost, pray for this endeavor. Pray for the planning. Pray for the activities, Pray for the community and their response to our music ministry. Pray that faith will be nurtured by music.

Secondly, pray that some of our members may be led to assist me in some way.

Look for finalized plans in the May newsletter.

Blessings, Penny



Sunday April 28th
10:30AM WORSHIP CELEBRATION
CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Bells

Adult-advanced small group ____
Adult-beginner small group ____
Youth-ages 10-15 ____
Child-ages 6-10 ____

Basic Music Skills

Adult ____
Youth ____
Child ____

Piano

Adult ____
Youth ____
Child ____



I'd prefer weekday _____ weekend _____

I'd prefer morning _____ afternoon _____ evening _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Worship & Music



Know. Grow. Serve.

Charles Town Presbyterian Church

WEEKLY NEEDS

FRESH FRUIT AND MUFFINS

*Goldfish, pretzels, cookies, cheezits,
Breakfast bars*

Gluten free / Dairy free items

*Sydnor-Lewis
Library
Hospitality Center*



Session News

The session met in person for their monthly stated meeting on Tuesday, March 19 and took the following actions:

- Received the 2023 statistical report.
- Received as presented, the minutes of the February 20 stated meeting of the session and the March 3 called congregational meeting.
- Heard brief oral reports from the committee chairs, with no session action needed
- Heard a report on the February meeting of Shenandoah presbytery from ruling elder Kathy Shue and teaching elder John Bethard.
- Discussed issues related to the pastor's upcoming leave of absence. The pulpit is scheduled for the duration, and emergency pastoral care will be handled by the elders, Henry Christie, and the Rev. John Cushwa.
- Adopted a motion authorizing the session to vote by electronic mail for the following reasons: baptism requests, repairs done by a contractor with whom we already have a relationship, and facility use requests.

The meeting was closed with prayer.



PROPERTY!! The excitement is beginning to build. The Capital Campaign is still in the beginning stages but why wait when there are obvious needs. Yes, there will be a priority list, but some items just need to be done.

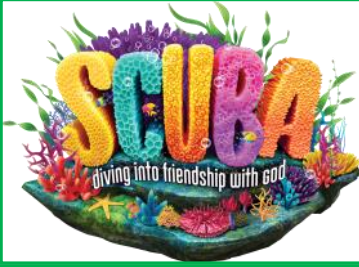
We have found a vendor to refinish our dull and neglected tile floors. We have done the main hall floors, and they shine and sparkle. They even reflect the lights and make the halls brighter. We will continue to do sections at a time. The ladies from Meals on Wheels have tried all kinds of products on the floor and they are excited to have their section on the list to do.

Doug McDonough has been collaborating with a plumber to address some of our plumbing needs. The leaks under the kitchen were from a cracked pipe so that problem has been remedied. Doug had to cut out more of the ceiling below to gain access, but his handiwork was a wonderful example of sharing his time and talents. A great blessing to our church and budget.

Doug White has been working on the downstairs men's bathroom by Yokefellows. It too needed his expertise. Rusted partitions were sanded and repainted and the walls are getting a makeover. A work in progress and again what a blessing to share his time and talent.

Plans are underway for some clean out. Closets have been overstuffed and need care. We are scheduled for a dumpster day in April for clean out.

So, you can see, we have great anticipation for preparing our church home for the future. If you have some thoughts, time, talent or wish to jump start the Capital Campaign, let Diane Mayhew or Gary Scott, know. This is exciting and we hope you will be part of the plan.



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).

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make a splash this summer!

Charles Town Presbyterian Church
VBS

July 15-18, 2024

9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Rising Kindergarten-Rising 6th grade

Get ready to splash into fun!

contact the church office 304-725-5316

or @garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org



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.

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

John Burns
Liz Kursey
Brooke Smith
Anne Portrey
Samantha Rutherford
Jason Mullens
Carol Kable
Bob Tansill
Laura Van Zomeren
Charlotte Kisner
Christian Pechuekonis
Karen Christie
Deborah Gregory



Judy Edwards
John Mayhew
Keating Amos
Dennis Dibbern



Anniversaries

Russell & Debra Low
Joe & Jamie Hardy
Steve & Shannon Bossung
Christian & Lynn Pechuekonis
Jason & Terri Mullens
David & Laura VanVuuren
Wayne & Mona Thompson

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



Donate



zoom

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.



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>.



Yokefellows BBQ Pork dinner.

Get your tickets now from any Yokefellow and plan to join us on Saturday, June 8th, 4:30-7:00 pm, for fresh pork BBQ,

slaw, mac & cheese, baked bean, desserts, and drinks provided. Tickets: \$15.00 adults; \$7.00 children under 12 years; Free children under 3 years. Proceeds from the dinner go to church ministries.



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.



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.

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



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.

**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 and Diane Mayhew |
| Stewardship and Vision | - | Beth Pugh and Patsy White |
| Worship and Music | — | Signe Garms and Lazan Rogers |

