

October 2024



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

On Monday, September 16, we hosted one of the denomination's peacekeepers. Peacekeepers are missionaries of the PC(USA) who work in countries with unrest and poverty, and most of them work to alleviate the conditions that make the conflicts and disagreements worse. About a dozen people from the congregation attended that conversation, and we found it incredibly illuminating.

Peter, who works in Nigeria, shared with us that the results of decades and decades of unrest are vast. Inflation is 350%. There are few jobs – a person can finish high school and never work the rest of their life. Education is a mess. The teachers aren't paid, so the kids go to school and sit, because the teachers won't teach. Boko Haram, which made the news in the mid-2010's for kidnapping girls in Africa, is still active in northern Nigeria, and they target Christians in the country. Almost everyone carries a gun, even though it is illegal, because no one knows who else might be carrying and decides to shoot. Other nations provide aid, but that aid never reaches the people because it is embezzled at the state and federal levels.

We have much to be thankful for as American Christians. We live in a nation where we are free to engage our faith anyway we want. We have modern amenities like electricity, light, paved roads, and countless modern conveniences that we often take for granted. For the most part, our government is one of the least corrupt in the world.

And while we are not perfect by any stretch, we are incredibly blessed to live here.

I mention this because in about five weeks we will elect a new president. I realized the other day that the thing I hate most about being an adult is the federal election cycle (I'm not kidding). By the time our new president is inaugurated, it is likely other people will be talking about their 2028 campaigns. It never, ever seems to end.

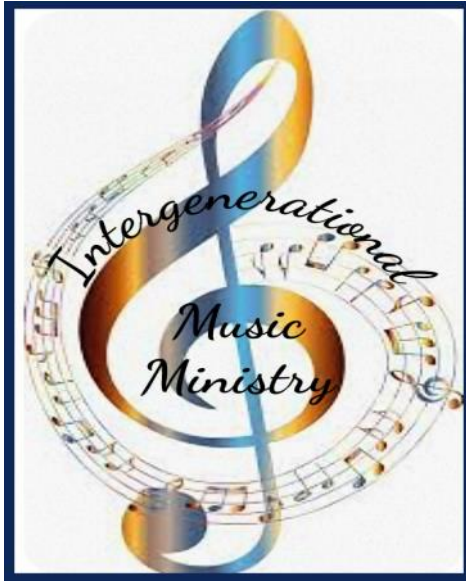
Length of campaign aside, what I really dislike is the tactic that almost every candidate uses: what's wrong with the country, what's wrong with the other candidate. It is always negative, negative, negative. When we allow constant negative messaging into our lives, it tends to make us negative. Friends, I know this election could be worse than the last one. The threat of violence is very real. But when the dust settles, regardless of who wins, we will be fine. We belong to Christ, and thought things may not be the way we want in the moment, it is temporary. We have a civic duty to vote, but we have a spiritual duty to be as much like Christ as possible, even when we don't like what's happening in the moment, even when we don't like what other people are saying.

But more than that, we should look to Christ and consider all the many ways he has blessed us. We must let that shape our attitude and mindset, so that we are always pointing others to Christ.

God bless,

Pastor John





Attitude of Gratitude

Intergenerational Music Ministry

When I was a kid growing up in Summit Point, we had what was lovingly referred to as the family compound. I was surrounded in love by a great-grandparent, 3 grandparents, mom & dad, 2 brothers, a sister-in-law, and a niece & nephew. For a time there were 5 generations living, loving and learning together.

A family dynamic like this is just like our church family. We worship, learn, and love together.

There's been a new Intergenerational shift in our music ministry. Cora Clark, Violet Eilers, and George Karos our Alleluia Singers have been adding their voices with the Glory Singers. It's wonderful to watch different generations singing together to glorify God.

As our young people grow in their faith, I encourage all church ministries to be Intergenerational. Titus 2:1-2 calls older men and women to intentionally build relationships with the younger generation. Every generation has gifts to share with each other that can intentionally be used to glory God.

Blessings, Penny



*Basic Music & Silverbells
Resume Tuesday
October 1st*

*Boomerangs
Resume
Tuesday October 8th*

**Basic music 12pm
Silverbells 1pm
Boomerangs 2pm**



October 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

November 3rd, 17th, 24th

December 1st, 8th

December 15th is Christmas Joy Service at 3pm

**Practice following worship
In the choir room**

(Extra rehearsals will be added if needed)



The Hospitality Center Needs Your Support!

Snacks, coffee pods, bottled water
Fruit, OJ, apple juice
Monetary donations

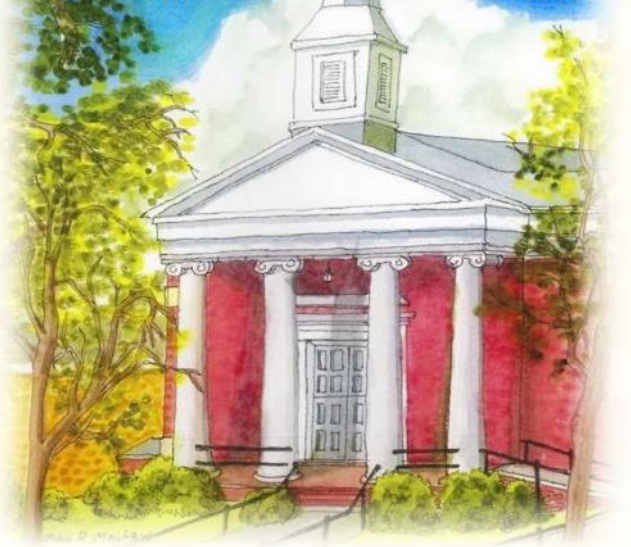
Contact Lazan or Penny for more info

The CTPC Hospitality Center has created this wish list to assist in maintenance and growth. All donations greatly appreciated!



Charles Town Presbyterian Church
All Are Welcome!

Education Hour 9am
Worship Celebration 10:30am



HOLY Serve the Lord by Serving at His Table!



COMMUNION

The central Sacrament of our faith is Holy Communion. Preparation for this holy experience requires the hands and hearts of those willing to serve at the Lord's Table by preparing it for celebration of the Sacrament. We need your help! If you feel called to Serve the Lord by Serving at His Table please contact Lazan Rogers or any member of the Worship Team or the church office.

OCTOBER is Pastor

APPRECIATION

Month

THANK YOU!

For all you do!

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.



Session News

The session met in person for their regularly scheduled stated meeting on Tuesday, September 17 and in addition to the usual perfunctory tasks, took the following actions:

- Discussed a memo of concern from the trustees which led to a discussion of the financial report, which included a first read of the 2025 budget. Overall, there is great concern that the costs of our expenses will be so much greater than our income that we will be forced to deplete our investment holdings in a matter of years just to keep operating at the current level. Part of the issue has been the surprising number of unplanned repairs, none of which have been insignificant in cost. On the heels of Stewardship Sunday and the launch of the capital campaign, the session encourages everyone to review their giving carefully and prayerfully with the hope that we can all increase, even if just a little.
- The mission and outreach committee and the discipleship and family ministry committee shared upcoming events. The rest of the committees had written reports.
- Heard a report from the September 14 meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery.
- Heard an update from the capital campaign. The additional pledges are significant (\$37K so far), but the number of pledges is quite low. Please turn in your pledges to the church office as soon as possible.
- The pastor updated the session on Garth Stevens-Jennings upcoming parental leave. Garth will be off eight weeks. Two of those weeks will be vacation and six are FMLA leave. During the six weeks of FMLA, Garth plans to be here on Sundays.
- Authorized the baptism of Asher Grayson Touvell, infant son of Madison Henshaw.

CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JUNIOR USHER

Let's Imagine Together was the theme from our Stewardship Sunday. As part of Stewardship our youth were presented with Junior Usher pins from the Deacons for their participation in worship every Sunday.





George Karos



Jeremiah Clark



Cora Clark



Violet Eilers

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

Tim Casserly
Sharon Criswell
Brooklyn Farmer
Hoyle Fulbright
Michelle Hart
Jackson Smith
Evan Longerbeam
Conner Snook
Roger Snook
Katherine Burns
Stephanie Rossi
Lillian Duncan
Margaret Kursey
Terri Mullens
Emily Mayhew
Blossom Harrison
Emma Damm



Kaz Feldstein
Cheryl Fulbright
Austin Gregoryk
Spencer Wells
Saige Bethard
Mary Day
Daniel Hart
Lari MacKenzie
Vicki Burns
Madison Henshaw
Roxanne Noland



Anniversaries

Jonathan & Vicki Burns
Harry & Linda Puster
Hoyle & Cheryl Fulbright
J. P. & Donna Burns

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



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.



Activity Bags for children attending Worship services are now available. Deacons will be offering them to any child attending. Children who are visiting may take the Activity Bag home with them. Children who are regular attenders will leave their bag in the Narthex to be used again the following Sunday.



Know. Grow. Serve.

Charles Town Presbyterian Church 2024 Elder Committee Assignments

Communicating with Technology
Discipleship and Family Ministry
Finance
Mission and Outreach
Personnel
Property
Stewardship and Vision
Worship and Music

- Beth Pugh
- Marsha Dibbern
- Diane Mayhew
- Doyle Criswell
- Kathy Shue
- Gary Scott and Diane Mayhew
- Beth Pugh and Patsy White
- Signe Garms and Lazan Rogers

ONLINE GIVING

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>).

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.

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 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



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.



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 prove 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