

November
2024



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

People get ready...

I start with a word of thanks, which seems appropriate for November. Thank you to all who popped into the hospitality center two Sundays ago in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month. I honestly had no expectation for any kind of moment this year because of the fabulous celebration we shared for my twentieth anniversary in August. Thank you so much for how much love and care you've shown me these many years! And trust me, I feel the same way about all of you.

We are making a significant schedule change this November. We will **not** have a Thanksgiving Eve service this year. We will, however, focus on Thanksgiving on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Basically, we will follow the format of the Thanksgiving Eve service that Sunday morning. I am grateful for that because the Thanksgiving service is one of my favorites.

Arriving at this decision was easier than I expected. For the past couple of years, our special services, except for Christmas Eve, have struggled with attendance. On Ash Wednesday two years ago we had nine people plus the people who have to be there. So I did an unscientific, informal survey of all the folks who have anything to do with worship: choirs, worship committee, and the deacons (for those unaware, it takes the contributions of at least fifteen to twenty people to make a Sunday morning service happen, and at least a dozen for a special evening service). So, I consulted with the people who do the most work around our worship services.

I simply stated that I thought the Thanksgiving Service was really meaningful, and I was open to ideas for getting more people in attendance, and everything, including the schedule, was up for discussion. Overwhelmingly the sense was that celebrating Thanksgiving the Sunday before would involve more people in what all of us believe is a meaningful worship service. So, on Sunday, November 24, our focus will be on giving thanks for God, more so than usual.

I hope to also be able to give thanks for a peaceful election in the coming week. That depends on all of us. No matter what happens, if we profess faith in Christ, we must respond in love, kindness, and with patience. Above all, we must bring salt and light to a process steeped in acrimony and ugliness. That, my friends, will be a greater testimony to the love of Christ than how we vote.

Blessings,

Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

Attitude of Gratitude

“Count Your Blessings”



November is the month of Thanksgiving and Giving Thanks!

I give thanks for the hymns I learned in early childhood that taught me that there is joy in the Lord! Even when life gets tough. Those hymns grew my faith, provided comfort, taught me where I'm going and where my strength comes from.

“Count Your Blessings” is one of those formative hymns.

1 When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

*Refrain: Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

2 Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by. [Refrain]

3 When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high. [Refrain]

4 So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. [Refrain]

(Johnson Oatman, Jr., pub. 1897, © Public Domain, Scripture: Psalm 40:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 1:3)

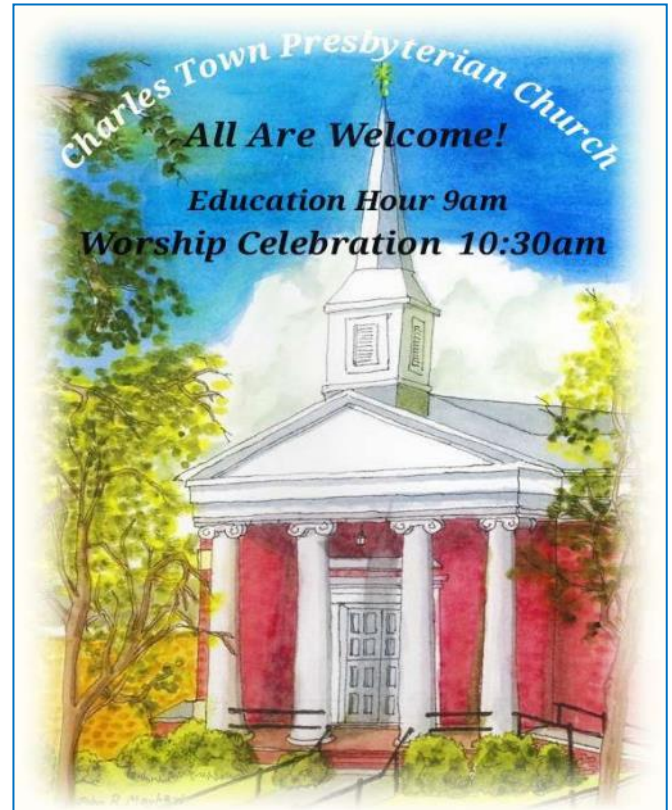
May you always “count your blessing each and every day!

Penny

Hospitality Center Current Needs



Hot chocolate packs & k-cups
Juice boxes orange & apple
Breakfast bars
Poptarts
Peanutbutter crackers



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



HOLY Serve the Lord by Serving at His Table! 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.



COMMUNION

"Prepare the Way"
Christmas Joy Service

THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

A Journey to the Newborn King

Sunday December 15th 2024
3pm

Charles Town Presbyterian Church

LLOYD LARSON

LORENZ



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)



Hear ye, hear ye, one and all

Advent Celebration



Sunday, December 1st, *for all ages*

Immediately following worship

Light lunch

Carol singing

Make Advent crafts

Trim the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree with Chrismons

ADULTS - decorate the sanctuary if able



The Yokefellows thanks all of our Church members and friends who contributed baked cakes, cookies, pies and other baked goods to the Yokefellows BBQ Dinner fundraiser, held on Saturday, September 28th. Also we would like thank all of our Church members, and friends of the Church who attended and enjoyed the fellowship of that event.



Session News

The session met in person for their regularly scheduled stated meeting on Tuesday, October 16. Here are the highlights from that meeting:

- Heard an update from the Discipleship and Family Ministries committee, including the upcoming Trunk or Treat activity we are doing with Charles Town Baptist on **Saturday, October 26**.
- The Finance committee presented an overview of the capital campaign finances. Due to the extraordinary number of significant this year, there was confusion about what was a capital campaign expense and what was general repair. That has been clarified to the satisfaction of the session.
- The session reviewed the proposed 2025 terms of call for the pastor and has called a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, November 3 to present the terms of call to the congregation.
- During the property report the session discussed the status of the overnight shelter and how our facility is equipped to meet the needs of the people we are helping.
- Stewardship and Vision reported that they are reviewing stewardship Sunday and looking forward to doing something highly creative in 2025. With the Mission and Outreach committee, Stewardship and Vision are hoping to host a chili cookoff in the winter.
- Approved a recommendation for Christmas Eve worship to be held at 5pm, with candle-lighting and communion. The committee also presented revised dates for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, which the session approved. The sacrament will be celebrated throughout advent.

CTPC Upcoming Events

November/December:

November 3rd: Congregational Meeting following worship
November 6th: Life Line Screening 8-5pm
November 10th: New Members Class 9:00am
November 17th: Reception of New Members during worship
November 28th: OFFICE CLOSED –Happy Thanksgiving
November 29th: OFFICE CLOSED



December 1st: Advent Celebration/Decorate Church following worship
December 7th: Charles Town Christmas parade 2pm
December 15th: Christmas Joy Service 3pm (snow date December 22nd)
December 21st: Longest Night Service 7pm
December 24th: Christmas Eve Service 5pm
December 25th: OFFICE CLOSED –Merry Christmas
December 26th: OFFICE CLOSED
December 29th: OFFICE CLOSED
January 1st: OFFICE CLOSED- Happy New Year

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

Matthew Henshaw
Jason White
Tracey Owens
Ruth Scott
Roberta Churchill
George Karos
Penny LaRue
Quentein LaVallee
Cy Staniec
June Adams



Betsy Wall
Sharon Harrell
Susie Moreland
Allen Peacher
Shirley Ferguson
Kylee Low
Mary Via



Anniversaries
Marty & Carol Kable
Dan & Linda Hart
Ken & Kathy Reim

The Session has called for a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 3rd, immediately following worship for the purpose of acting on the 2025 terms of call for the pastor. Copies of the terms of call are available in the narthex.



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.

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.

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.



Memorial poinsettias will be placed in our sanctuary this Advent and Christmas season. Call or email the church office by **Wednesday, December 4th**, to sign up (304-725-5316 or ctpres@ctpres.org). Cost is \$10.00, single stemmed. If you purchase a poinsettia, please remove it from the sanctuary after the 5:00 p.m. service on the 24th. Thank you.



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 Power-Point 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. We are open 8am-1pm.



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> .