

December  
2024



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

## MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

The holidays are upon us, and as is my tradition, I want to highlight the upcoming activities of the busiest month at CTPC.

### **Advent Festival/Hanging of the Greens**

Following worship on Sunday, December 1, the Discipleship and Family Ministries committee will be hosting the annual advent festival. A light lunch will be provided. There will be activities and crafts for children and families. We will also be decorating the sanctuary for the season.

### **Charles Town/Ranson Christmas Parade**

On Saturday, December 7, the annual Christmas parade will pass by the church once again, and we will once again be giving out food – hot dogs, nachos, and hot beverages. There is more information in the newsletter about this outreach. It is always a fun day, and we can use everyone’s help.

### **Christmas Joy**

Sunday, December 15, the annual Christmas Joy service will be held at 3pm. This wonderful worship event features music from every part of our music ministry. The Christmas Joy service also allows us to collect a special offering, the Christmas Joy offering, which helps provide scholarships for minority students in PCUSA-related schools, as well as helping retired clergy facing financial emergencies.

### **Longest Night**

The holidays are not always festive for everyone. For some, it is the “first” holidays following a significant loss. That loss can be anything – a family member or friend, a pet, employment – anything that creates any kind of sense of grief. Grief and sadness are hard to work with when everyone is reflecting the joy of the season. The longest night service addresses the reality that the holidays are not cheerful for everyone, and that God is there amid that difficult journey. The service is held Saturday, December 21st, and begins at 7pm.

### **Christmas Eve**

Worship will be at 5pm and will contain many of the usual readings and songs we expect on Christmas Eve, along with a couple surprises! The service will conclude with candle lighting and “Joy to the World.”

December is a busy month, and I’m looking forward to celebrating the coming of Christ with all of you!

Seasons Greetings,

Pastor John



## Attitude of Gratitude



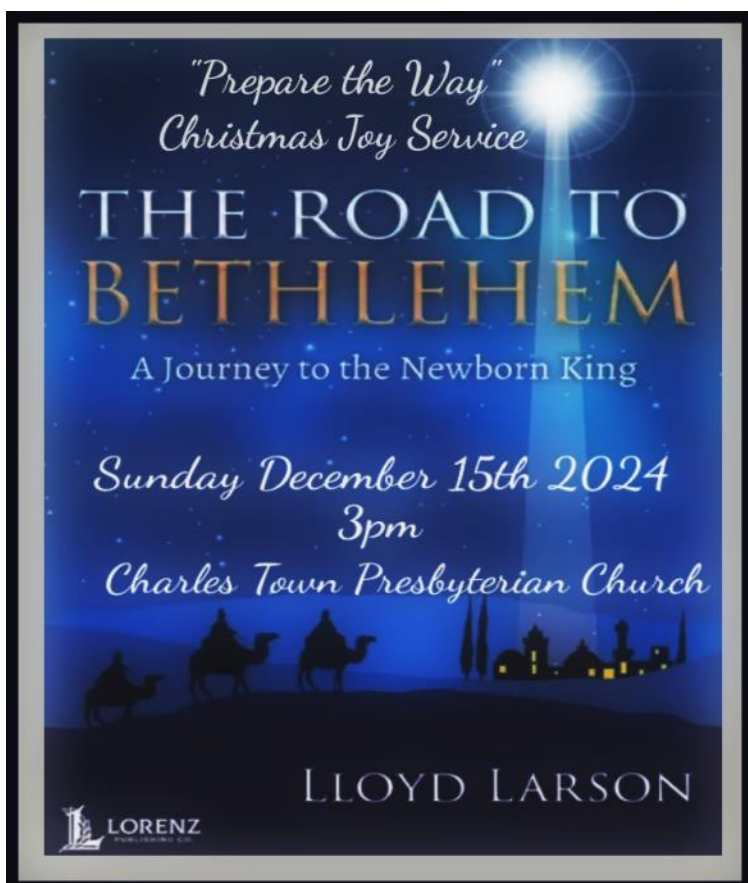
Blessings, Penny

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina G. Rossetti, pub. 1885  
© status is Public Domain  
Subjects: Love, Christmas  
Scripture: 1 John 4:7-11; John 13:35



Please join us for this special service ! All of our choirs have been hard at work in preparation. A reception will follow the service in the Hospitality Center.





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 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.



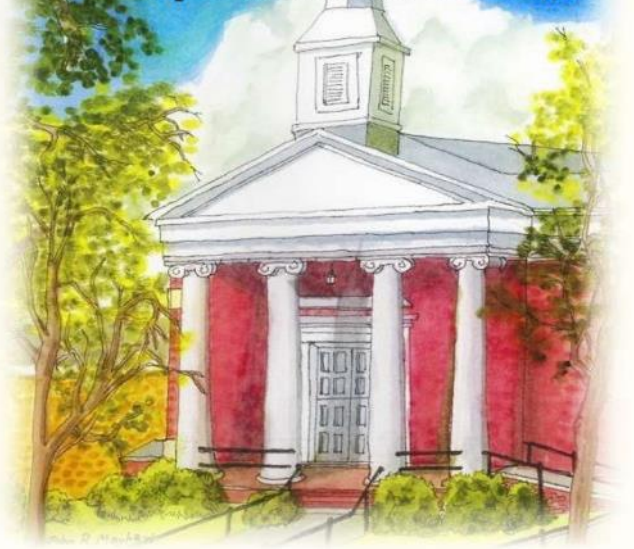
Activity Bags for children attending Worship services are now available. Deacons will be offering them to any child attending. Children who are visiting may take the Bag home with them. Children who are regular attenders will leave their bag in the Narthex to be used again the following Sunday.

Charles Town Presbyterian Church

All Are Welcome!

Education Hour 9am

Worship Celebration 10:30am



**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





Hear ye, hear ye, one and all



# *Advent Celebration*

Sunday, December 1st, *for all ages*

Immediately following worship

**Light lunch**

Carol singing

*Make a gingerbread nativity,  
games, crafts*



Trim the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree with Chrismons

**\*ADULTS\***— decorate the sanctuary if able



**Christmas Joy Offering**, will be collected on Sunday, December 15h. Because of your generous gifts the Presbyterian Mission Agency is able to help provide brighter educational opportunities for students at historically Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges, a longstanding tradition of the church. Gifts to the offering also supported the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, a fund that stands in the gap to assist retired church leaders and their survivors in difficult times. Together, they make the Christmas Joy Offering a tribute to the leaders of our church—past and present.

## Session News

The session met in person for their stated meeting on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Here are the highlights from that meeting:

- ◇ Examined offers elect. After some encouraging discussion, the examination was sustained by unanimous vote with ordination and installation set for Sunday, January 12.
- ◇ Received a letter from The Bridge Church in Ranson, letting us know that they are praying for our church during the month of November.
- ◇ Received as presented, minutes from the October stated meeting of session, the November 5 congregational meeting, and the called session meeting of November 12.
- ◇ Received the treasurer's report as presented.
- ◇ Heard updates from several committees.
- ◇ Pastor John updated the session on the Liberty Street sewer line repair. By unanimous vote, the session authorized payment of this repair to come from the Restoring God's House capital campaign.
- ◇ Approved the 2025 budget.
- ◇ Heard an update on the Capital Campaign.
- ◇ Pastor John and Kathy Shue reported on the Shenandoah Presbytery meeting
- ◇ Unanimously approved the baptism request of Jordan McClain.

## CTPC Upcoming Events December:

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



January 1st: OFFICE CLOSED- Happy New Year  
January 12th: Installation/Ordination of Officers during worship  
Annual Congregational Meeting following worship



## Celebrations this month

### **Birthdays**

Judy Holt  
Colon Ruffner  
Doug White  
George Tabb  
Jannette Beeson  
Megan Henshaw  
Meredith Hunt  
Rachel Tansill  
Kathy Reim  
Nathaniel Pugh



Kathy Donadio  
Jessica Donadio  
Janet Harner  
Amy Sheetz  
Amy Low



### **Anniversaries**

Frank & Kathy Donadio  
Dennis & Marsha Dibbern  
Marty & Katherine Hunt  
Bob & Rachel Tansill

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:gary3042795296@gmail.com) or James Mackenzie at email: [mackenzie48708@gmail.com](mailto:mackenzie48708@gmail.com).

**Mission and Outreach.** Our Mission and Outreach Committee is asking for donations of hotdogs, rolls and plain tortilla chips for the Charles Town Christmas parade on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. We welcome your help as our church serves food and drink to those attending the Charles Town Christmas Parade. This is a chance for us to greet the community and serve some free food. It is always a fun day! Please have donations to the church by Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Any questions please contact Doyle Criswell at 502.718.6411 or [doyle.criswell@att.net](mailto:doyle.criswell@att.net)



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

CHRISTMAS  
JOY

**Ordination and Installation** of deacons and elders for the class of 2027 will take place during worship on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Those to be ordained and installed are: Deacons: Tommy Morgan, Gary Scott, Ruth Scott; Elders: Christian Pechuekonis, Roger Snook, Kathy Shue.

**Congregational Meeting.** The annual congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. We will hear brief reports from committees, and review the 2025 budget.



**Save Lives By Giving** to the Blanket Offering for Church World Service will be collected on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Help fight hunger and malnutrition, meet emergency needs, nurture sustainable development, assist refugees and displaced persons, and help address the root causes of poverty and powerlessness.



**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) (<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

**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](mailto: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.



**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.



**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>.

**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.