

January 2025



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

It feels like the year 2000 wasn't all that long ago, and yet here we are on the eve of 2025. Twenty-five years ago, we wondered if our computers would stop functioning and create an outage that affected every part of our lives. Thankfully, it never materialized. But so much has happened in two and half decades. Life has changed.

2024 was the most challenging year of my life. The biggest scare for me was the Meniere's diagnosis in January. As most of you know, I had to take a leave of absence. Fortunately, it worked, and it's gone into remission. That experience was life-changing for me, and in a way that impacts my ministry. James 1:14 reminds us that no one knows what tomorrow will bring. My health crisis made me realize how important it is to value each good day God gives us, and to make the most of it.

When my 20th anniversary rolled around I realized that retirement will be here before I know it, possibly sooner if my health takes a bad turn. That got me thinking about time and how easily it slips past us. I was praying about all this and realized that I really shouldn't put anything off. I need to consider what I want for "today," for right now.

Beginning in the fall I decided to start preaching and teaching on the topics and issues I wanted to be sure the congregation is exposed to, and to do so in a way that does not assume we have an abundance of time. In January I will start a new sermon series called, "Living the Christian Life," and it will be a very practical sermon series, focused on balancing grace and obedience. I expect to tackle topics like faith, Bible study, prayer, fasting, and so on. In addition to preaching, I will also be leading the Faithweavers Sunday School class, which will allow us to get deeper with aspects of each topic.

I expect this series to be helpful to all. Of course all are invited to worship. I know Sunday School is not everyone's thing, but for this series I would encourage people to think seriously about attending Faithweavers. I am optimistic that the in-depth portion covered in Sunday School will be extremely useful.

My experience taught me something that is rather threatening. So much of our lives are truly beyond our control. It doesn't feel that way when we are making choices about time and priorities, and it's quite easy to forget that we aren't in charge of the world. When we learn how little control we do have, it can be terrifying. But thanks be to God, for God is in control, and in Christ we have every assurance that no matter how crazy life may get, God is still there, still in control, still watching over us. Nevertheless, each day we have is gift from God, and we should use it well. I hope to do just that with, "Living the Christian Life," and I hope to see many of you along that journey.

Warmly,

Pastor John



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

Attitude of Gratitude



Canticle of the Turning

Song by Gary Daigle, Rory Cooney, and Theresa Donohoo

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!
Though I am small, my God, my all, you
Work great things in me
And your mercy will last from the Depths
Of the past to the end of the age to be
Your very name puts the proud to shame
And to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might
Put the strong to flight
For the world is about to turn
My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears
For the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

Above are the first 2 verses of the Canticle of the Turning. I always turn to this song as a new year begins. It reminds that God is great. He can do all things for me, in me and through me and all my hope is in Him.

On behalf of everyone involved in music ministry at CTPC
Happiest New Year Blessings to all!

Blessings, Penny



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!

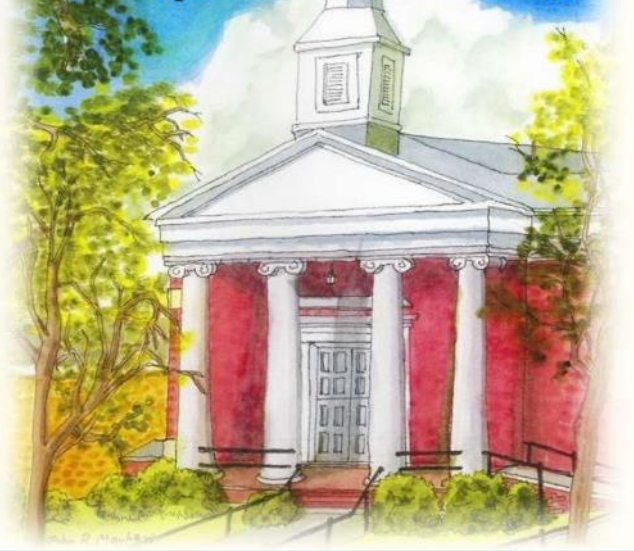


Charles Town Presbyterian Church

All Are Welcome!

Education Hour 9am

Worship Celebration 10:30am



HOLY Serve the Lord by Serving at His Table! 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



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 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

James MacKenzie
John Bethard
Larry Lloyd
Summer Burns
Noah Portrey
Carina Snook
Mason Noland
Georgie Wilson
Nancy Lloyd
Charley Amos



Signe Garms
Sydney Fulbright
Mark Stafford
Matthew Custer
Hollyn Rossi
Mary Burns
Judy Miller



Anniversaries

Dick & Denise 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.

CTPC Upcoming Events January

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

*Happy
New Year*

Ordination and Installation of deacons and elders for the class of 2027 will take place during worship on Sunday, January 12th. Those to be ordained and installed are: Deacons: Gary Scott, Ruth Scott, Tommy Morgan; Deacons 2026: Matthew Henshaw, Anne Portrey; Elders: Christian Pechuekonis, Kathy Shue, Roger Snook; Elder 2025: Chris Clark.

Congregational Meeting. The annual congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, January 12th. 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 12th. Help fight hunger and malnutrition, meet emergency needs, nurture 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>).



www.pcusa.org/hunger

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



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.