

February 2025



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

After the holidays, I started a message series on living the Christian life. I did this for two reasons. First, a year ago I was diagnosed with likely Meniere's Syndrome. I haven't had a full-on attack since last April, though my left ear hearing has diminished. But that experience last year made it very real that the only thing I know I have for certain, is now. I decided then that I need to make sure I'm intentional about teaching and preaching what I believe is best for the congregation (with guidance from the Holy Spirit, of course!). The other reason I did this is that these truths, habits, and topics are fundamental to our faith in Christ. It is important to review them from time to time.

I will be the first to say that Sunday mornings are not nearly enough time to get in-depth on these matters. That is why I decided to teach the Faithweavers Sunday School class while I'm preaching this series. It allows us the chance to go deeper into each of these topics.

So far, I've covered faith, worship, prayer, and Christian friendship. Each one of these builds on the others. They are intertwined in our lives, and all of them function to help us know Christ better. I've attempted to answer the same question each week: Why? Why is faith necessary? Why do we worship? Why do we pray? Why do we need the Church (Christian friendship)? My hope with this series, as is the case with everything I teach and preach, is to impart some practical ways we can get more out of these topics.

Next month I will be covering the Holy Spirit, Spiritual Gifts, Study, and Discipleship. Hopefully, you can see the logic as each week builds on the other. That doesn't mean, however, if we miss a Sunday we will be lost the rest of the series. Far from it. It is always important for us to try and get to worship every week, but if you must miss, I promise you will not be lost in this series. Plus, the Sunday Service videos are posted on Facebook for a month.

If we have been following Christ for some time, the temptation is very real to be dismissive of this series. We may feel like we know this already. In those moments, it is important for us to ask God what he wants us to learn. We should do that every Sunday no matter what.

My hope for the congregation is that they would – ready? Know Christ, Grow in God's Love, and Serve as the Holy Spirit leads. Those are great words, but they must be accompanied by the living out of what we believe. I hope that I can help show what that looks like and how it works!

Blessings,

John



Attitude of Gratitude

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise
high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun
of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod,
bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat,
have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past,
till now we stand at last
where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,
thou who hast by thy might
led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand,
may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

(Arthur-James Weldon Johnson (1900) Published in 48 Hymnals)

With February being Black History month, today's hymn to share is "Lift Every Voice and Sing".
One line in this song speaks strongly to me,
"Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies, "

God made us to glorify Him and to rejoice in Him! No matter what we've been through or are going through, we still glorify Him!

For Black History month I did a little research and found that our Glory to God hymnal includes approximately 4.2% African-American spirituals. Sunday, February 16th, all of our congregational singing will be from these sections.

Lift Every Voice and Sing!
Blessings, Penny





*Start the new year as a Hospitality Team Member!
Contact: Penny or Lazan*

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Hospitality Center

Is in need of the following items

- Juice boxes- apple, orange, fruit punch
- Werthers Candy
- Single serve bags of Goldfish, chips, pretzels
- Breakfast bars, Poptarts
- Pudding cups & Snack cakes

All donations greatly appreciated!

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



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 Beginners Handbell Workshop



Saturday February 8th, 2025

11am-1pm

Limited space available

Contact Penny at penfvfarm@aol.com



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.

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 by Zoom for their stated meeting on Tuesday, January 21. Here are the highlights from that meeting:

- ◆ After opening the meeting with prayer, the following annual appointments were made by the session: Clerk of Session: Diane Mayhew; Alternate Clerk: Patsy White; Treasurer: Gordon Myers; Session CNC representative: Kathy Shue.
- ◆ The minutes from the November stated session meeting and the annual congregational meeting of January 12 were received as presented.
- ◆ Pastor John led the session in boundary training. Boundary training is new *Book of Order* requirement for all teaching elders and ruling elders.
- ◆ Several of the elders provided brief updates about the work of their committees.
- ◆ Approved the schedule for the Lord's Supper and special offerings for 2025.
- ◆ Elected Marsha Dibbern to serve as elder commissioner for the February meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery.
- ◆ Scheduled Homebound Communion for Sunday, February 16.

Don't Forget: The Discipleship and Family Ministry committee is hosting bowling at the Shepherd University Ram's Den student center on Sunday, February 2 from 3pm-5pm. Even if you don't bowl, please join us!

Charles Town Presbyterian Church 2025 Elder Committee Assignments

Communicating with Technology	-	Roger Snook
Discipleship and Family Ministry	-	Marsha Dibbern, Chris Clark
Finance	-	Diane Mayhew, Christian Pechuekonis
Mission and Outreach	-	Doyle Criswell, Patsy White
Personnel	-	Kathy Shue
Property	-	Diane Mayhew
Stewardship and Vision	-	Patsy White
Worship and Music	—	Beth Pugh, Kathy Shue

CTPC Presents:



The Discipleship and Family Ministry Committee is sponsoring an afternoon of bowling.

Please join us.

There is no cost for participation.

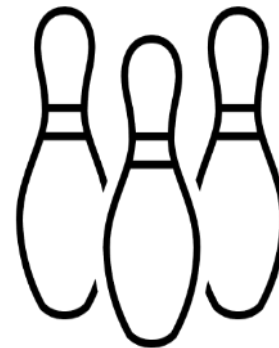
Bowling shoes are Provided by the Game Zone (must wear socks).

The bowling alley is located in the Student Center, 210 N. King St., Shepherdstown.

Come for fun and Fellowship!

FAMILY BOWLING

at the Game Zone, Shepherd University



Fun
Food
Fellowship
Free

Where?

Shepherd University

When?

Sunday, February 2nd
3-5 PM

Who?

Youth/Families
Old/Young
Singles/couples

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

Heather Duncan
Luella Mullens
Nicholas Pizzuti
Linda Snyder
Mason Fowler
Brooks Robison
Jeralene Tetro
Molly Blue
Ceil Fraizer
Rose Ann Glover
Doug McDonough
Marty Kable



Joe Polvinale
Ron Rossi
Bud Glover
Steve Bossung
Beth Pugh
Eleanor Puster
Kathy Shue
Marsha Dibbern
Angie LaVallee



Anniversaries

Jim & Stella Bovard

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.

CTPC Upcoming Events

February 2nd DFM Family Bowling in Shepherdstown 3-5pm
February 8th Beginners Handbell Workshop 11-1pm LaRue—fellowship hall noon-5pm
February 9th Souper Bowl of Caring offering
March 4th Life Line Screening 8am-5pm
March 9th After-Church Soup/Sandwich/Salad Potluck Luncheon



Souper Bowl of Caring!

The children/youth will be stationed by the sanctuary exit following worship on Sunday, February 9th, to collect donations for the annual Souper Bowl of Caring special offering. All of this offering will be given to Jefferson County Community Ministries' food pantry.

Important TAX NOTICE: To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2024 income tax return until you have accessed your on-line giving statement. If you need the office to print a hard copy of your contribution statement please call (304-725-5316) or email (ctpres@ctpres.org) the church office. Giving statements will be mailed to those without email by the end of January. To access your giving statement go to servantkeeper.com/member-portal/ctpres/login#/, go to giving history, under "overview" click on the drop down dates and choose year (2024), and the option to print your statement needed for tax purposes.



Let's Fellowship!

The Fellowship Team will host a Soup/Sandwich/Salad potluck on Sunday, March 9th, immediately following worship. Please bring a dish to share (soup, sandwiches, or salad). The Fellowship Team will provide drinks and desserts.

Please mark your calendar. Contact Lazan Rogers 304-886-5490 or church office with questions.



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 2025 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.