

March 2025



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

The season of Lent is upon us! Ash Wednesday is this coming Wednesday, March 5, and the season of Lent starts the next day. Not all Christian traditions celebrate Lent, so every year, I remind the congregation of Lent's origins.

The early church had a practice centered around *didache*, which was a year-long class that was essentially for new members. They would cover the scriptures and theology essential for understanding the gospel. For forty days from holy week (not counting Sundays), the *catechumens*, as they were called, would fast until Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday they would profess their faith in Christ, and on Resurrection Sunday, they were baptized and welcomed into the Church.

Several things came from this practice. Confirmation, catechesis, the idea of a church curriculum. The most well-known part of that is the fast, from which we have derived the idea of giving something up for the season.

This year, Ash Wednesday and Lent will be a little different at CTPC. We will not have any kind of formal Ash Wednesday worship. Since the pandemic, this service has struggled, despite our efforts to try different worship experiences to boost attendance. This year, at least, we are taking a break.

The season of Lent affords us a unique opportunity. It really is quite the journey this year, starting during the waning days of winter and concluding in the spring. We will literally go from cold to warm(er). More important is what could happen to us spiritually. Yes, it may be in order to give something up. We all have unhealthy habits that we do well to change. Lent gives us the chance to give those things up with God's help. We can also add a practice during Lent. Fasting one day a week, adding extra prayer time, reading a special devotional. I remember some years I would go to the same park every week for private prayer time. In addition to some great prayer, I also watched the park come to life in early spring. It was powerful!

I encourage everyone to spend some time in prayer in the days ahead. Ask God to reveal what needs work, what would be spiritually helpful. And then on Wednesday, begin the journey that delivers us from death to the light and life of God's promises in Christ Jesus in his resurrection!

Blessings,

Pastor John



Attitude of Gratitude

March 20th is Mr Rogers Day !

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,
A beautiful day for a neighbor,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?

It's a neighborly day in this beautywood,
A neighborly day for a beauty,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?

I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you,
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.

So let's make the most of this beautiful day,
Since we're together, we might as well say,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?
Won't you be my neighbor?

Won't you please,
Won't you please,
Please won't you be my neighbor?



Best Mister Rogers Quotes

"All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."

"When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong with the fearful, the true mixed in with the façade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way."

"As human beings, our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each of us has something that no one else has or ever will have something inside that is unique to all time. It's our job to encourage each other to discover that uniqueness and to provide ways of developing its expression."

From Wikipedia:

Fred McFeely Rogers (March 20, 1928 – February 27, 2003), better known as **Mister Rogers**, was an American television host, author, producer, and Presbyterian minister. He was the creator, showrunner, and host of the preschool television series *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, which ran from 1968 to 2001. Born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Rogers earned a bachelor's degree in music from Rollins College in 1951. He began his television career at NBC in New York City, returning to Pittsburgh in 1953 to work for children's programming at NET (later PBS) television station WQED. He graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with a bachelor's degree in divinity in 1962 and became a Presbyterian minister in 1963. He attended the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Child Development, where he began his thirty-year collaboration with child psychologist Margaret McFarland. He also helped develop the children's shows *The Children's Corner* (1955) for WQED in Pittsburgh and *Misterogers* (1963) in Canada for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In 1968, he returned to Pittsburgh and adapted the format of his Canadian series to create *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. It ran for 33 years and was critically acclaimed for focusing on children's emotional and physical concerns, such as death, sibling rivalry, school enrollment, and divorce. Rogers died of stomach cancer in 2003, aged 74. His work in children's television has been widely lauded, and he received more than forty honorary degrees and several awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Emmy in 1997 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002. He was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in 1999. Rogers influenced many writers and producers of children's television shows, and his broadcasts provided comfort during tragic events, even after his death.

We need more neighbors like Mr. Rogers to be a positive influence in our lives!

Blessings, Penny



*CTPC
Hospitality
Team
Members Wanted*


*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!

HOLY COMMUNION **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.





Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt: Get ready for this year's Easter Egg hunt, happening after worship of April 13th, rain or shine. Bring your family and try to find the most eggs, all of which will be filled with candy! Donations of candy—individually wrapped and not chocolate. Can be dropped off at church office. We hope to see you there. Any questions see Marsha Dibbern or Garth Stevens-Jennings.

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.

Session News

The session met in person for their stated meeting on Tuesday, February 18. Here are the highlights from that meeting:

- ◆ Finally installed Roger Snook to the session.
- ◆ Received with regret, Carol Stokes' resignation as bookkeeper, effective May 31. Carol recently moved to North Carolina and has decided to fully retire this spring.
- ◆ Received the statistical report for 2024.
- ◆ Received as presented, minutes for the January stated meeting of session.
- ◆ Pastor John led the session in round 2 of boundary training. Boundary training is a requirement for all elders and ministers.
- ◆ Heard verbal reports from committees.
- ◆ Approved recommendation from the stewardship committee to remove twenty-one people from membership. These individuals have moved away or lost touch with the church and have not been involved in years
- ◆ Rescheduled homebound communion for March 2.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Sunday, March 16, 2025

11:30am following worship

Are you new to Charles Town Presbyterian Church?

Do you want to learn more about your faith?

Would you like to consider uniting with CTPC in membership?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, then please consider attending the New Members Class on Sunday, March 16th, in Room 114 (parlor). During the class we will cover what it means to be a Christian, who we are as a church at CTPC, and why it's important to unite with a congregation. To sign up, please fill out the information below, and we'll plan on seeing you on the 16th of March.

Those wishing to unite in membership will be able to meet with church elders immediately following the class and will be introduced to the congregation during the worship service on Sunday, March 23rd, at 10:30am.

You may sign up by filling out below and placing in the offering plate, dropping off at church office, calling or emailing church office (304-725-5316 or ctpres@ctpres.org).

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## Celebrations this month

### Birthdays

Brooks Kursey  
 Russell Low  
 Joshua Amos  
 Jeremiah Clark  
 Sherry Clark  
 Joseph Farmer  
 Michael Thompson  
 David Van Vuuren  
 Vincent Pugh  
 Emily Rogers  
 Julia McDonough



Bethany Hollida  
 Payton LaVallee  
 Diane Mayhew  
 Chole Ruffner  
 Laura Van Vuuren  
 Donna Burns  
 Jane Ishman  
 Spencer Howard  
 Kenneth Reim



### Anniversaries

Howard & Kaz Feldstein

## 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](http://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).

## CTPC Upcoming Events

- March 4th Life Line Screening 8am-5pm  
 March 9th After-Church Soup/Sandwich/Salad Potluck Luncheon  
 March 16th New Members Class 11:30am, following Worship  
 March 23rd Welcome New Members during worship
- April 13th Palm Sunday—Easter Egg Hunt following worship  
 April 17th Maundy Thursday service 7:00pm  
 April 20th Resurrection Sunday  
 Community Sunrise Service at Jefferson Memorial Park 6:30am  
 April 21st OFFICE CLOSED



### **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.



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Debra Low who died on February 22, 2025. May God bless those who grieve.

Condolences may be sent to:  
 Russell Low,  
 1037 Jefferson Ave  
 Charles Town, WV 25414.

## ARE YOU STILL IMAGINING?

Back in September we had a worship service centered around stewardship!

Three members spoke about Time, Talent, and Treasure.

We are six months out from September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our committees have been busy working on friendship meals, the hospitality room, bowling, and celebrating Valentine's Day with cookies, cupcakes and cocoa.

Have you been imagining how you can get involved?

- See Roger Snook if you want to be involved with communicating with technology.
- See Marsha Dibbern and Chris Clarke if discipleship and family ministry interests you.
- See Diane Mayhew or Christian Pechuekonis if finance is your talent.
- See Doyle Crisswell if you want to help with mission and outreach.
- See Patsy White if you want to be involved with Stewardship and Vision.
- See Beth Pugh and Kathy Shue if you want to be involved with worship and music.

There is plenty of time to choose where your talents are.

There are three things that you can do now.

1. Pray
2. Plan
3. Participate

Hope you will decide to be a part of one of these groups.

Patsy

### 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               |



**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>).



[www.pcusa.org/hunger](http://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](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 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.