

CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025
10:30 AM

*Sung Response “God, We Honor You” No. 709

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Song “There Is Now a New Creation” No. 774

*Sending
Brothers and sisters, as the Church of Jesus Christ, go from this place...
Knowing Christ, growing in God’s love, and serving as the Holy Spirit leads.

Our sending is a recommitment to the mission of Charles Town Presbyterian

All songs used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-709478 Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE #A-736371 All rights reserved.

Glory to God the Presbyterian Hymnal © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.

Pastor
John Bethard
Family Ministries
Garth Stevens-Jennings
Music Director
Penny Liston
Church Secretary
Rebecca Kaetzel
Nursery Attendant
Jordan McLain

Staff
John Bethard
Garth Stevens-Jennings
Penny Liston
Rebecca Kaetzel
Jordan McLain

jbethard@ctpres.org
garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org
penfvfarm@aol.com
rkaetzel@ctpres.org

The Session
Chris Clark, Doyle Criswell, Marsha Dibbern, Lazan Rogers
Diane Mayhew, Beth Pugh, Patsy White
Christian Pechuekonis, Kathy Shue, Roger Snook

Class of 2025
Class of 2026
Class of 2027

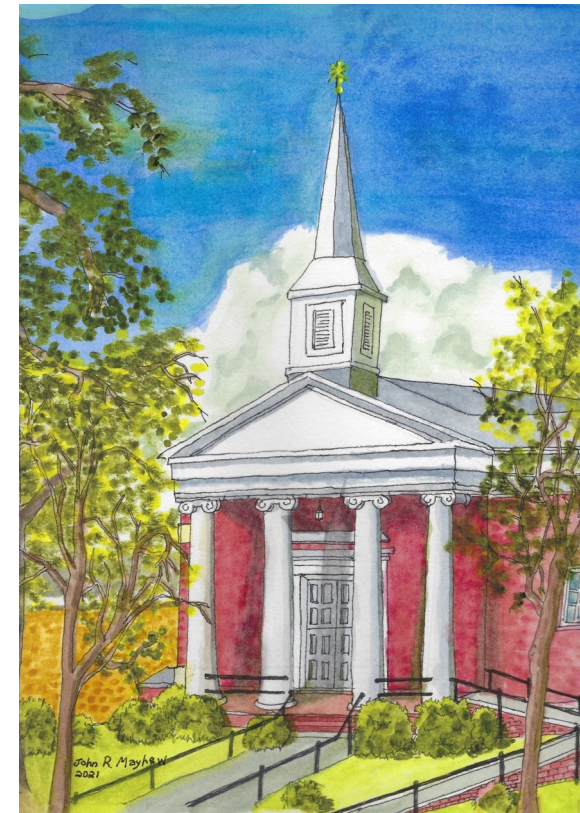
Board of Deacons
Judy Edwards, Sue Flanagan, Debbie Henshaw, Brooks Kursey
Matthew Henshaw, Anne Portrey, Bob Tansill
Tommy Morgan, Gary Scott, Ruth Scott

Class of 2025
Class of 2026
Class of 2027

Trustees
Steve Bossung, Thane Van Zomeren
Margaret Kursey
Marty Kable

Trustees

Class of 2025
Class of 2026
Class of 2027



Know. Grow. Serve.

www.ctpres.org

Please be sure to silence your cell phones

Please use this time to quietly prepare for worship.

Songs listed with "No." are found in the purple hymnal. Songs listed with "LUYH" are found in the light blue songbook.

When this symbol () precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

Confessing our sins brings us to a place of humility, allowing us to hear God more clearly as we worship.

Welcome and Announcement

Prelude "Grace Greater than Our Sin"
(© 2017 Lorenz Publishing) arr. Cindy Berry

Call to Worship Lamentations 3:22-23
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
**They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.**

*Songs "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" No. 39

Prayer of Confession (in unison)
Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks that Scripture invites us to approach the throne of grace BOLDLY-because you are so eager to forgive us. We are hesitant to come to you because we imagine you as an angry cosmic scrooge or grinch-like figure. Help us know that image of You is as out of place as that reference is during the month of March. Please take away our sins, our fears, our prejudices, our frailties so that we may see clearly enough to rely completely on Your mercy and grace. Please heal and empower us that we may be of maximum service to You and others. Jesus we are so grateful for You and your love. Help us joyfully live into it-and share it as freely as You give it. It is in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord that we pray, Amen.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon... (Responsive) Psalm 103:8-12
The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
He does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
**For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

*Sung Response to Confession "Glory Be to the Father" No. 581

Children's Moment Garth Stevens-Jennings

Special Music "I Love You, Lord" Laurie B. Klein
arr. Jay Rouse
(© 1978 and this arrangement © 2022 House Of Mercy Music (ASCAP) (adm. At CapitolCMGPublishing.com))
Glory Singers

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

*Song "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!" No. 839

Scripture Psalm 32 p. 546
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 p. 1039

Message "Good News" Rev. Dwight McCormick

Sharing of our Gifts and Offerings

Musical Offering "Blessed Assurance" Mark Patterson
(© 2020 Birnamwood Publication (ASCAP))

The congregation responds in song because God hears our prayer.

Prayer in worship connects us to God and to one another.

Please pass the offering plate to your neighbors in your pew.

Offering is our response to all that God has given us!

The musical offering allows us time to reflect on all that God has given us.

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable:

¹¹And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

The week ahead at Charles Town Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 30

9:00am Education Hour (all ages)
10:30am Worship Celebration
11:30am Informational Meeting
11:30am Geneva Ringers
2:30-4:00pm Youth Group
4:00-5:30pm Kids Group

Monday, March 31

5:30-1:00pm Meals on Wheels (Mon-Fri)
7:30am A.A. Meeting
7:30pm A.A. Meeting

Tuesday, April 1

12:00pm Basic Music
1:00pm Silver Bells
6:30pm A. A. District Meeting
7:00pm Mission & Outreach Meeting

Wednesday, April 2

7:00pm CAV Meeting
8:00pm A.A. Meeting

Thursday, April 3

2:30pm FCHC
5:30pm Friendship Meal Ministry

Friday, April 4

7:30am A.A. Meeting

Saturday, April 5

5:30pm Friendship Meal Ministry
8:00pm A.A. Meeting

Sunday, April 7

9:00am Education Hour (all ages)
10:30am Worship Celebration
11:30am Geneva Ringers
2:30-4:00pm Youth Group
4:00-5:30pm Kids Group

**Today’s Scripture Readings
Psalm 32**

- 32 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- ² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- ³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*
- ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*
- ⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
- ⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *Selah*
- ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- ⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.
- ¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
- ¹¹ Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

“I Love You, Lord” (today’s special music)

I love You, Lord,
and I lift my voice to worship You,
O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my king,
in what Your hear;

May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors in the name of our Lord. We invite you to tell us more about yourself by filling out a visitor's card, and placing it in the offering plate.

This morning we welcome Rev. Dwight McCormick to the pulpit. Dwight is the former pastor at Community Cup Coffee and More in Martinsburg, WV. He has served for a year and a half in that capacity and is now seeking God's call for the next part of ministry. For 25 years of his ordained ministry in the PC(USA) he served in traditional parishes. He and his wife Sarah (a massage therapist) have been married for 25 years as of April 15, 2025. They have two gifts to the world as daughters-Chloe who is 23 and Phoebe who is 20 who live in Springfield Ohio where Dwight got to serve a congregation for 16 years as their solo pastor. He truly has no idea what is next-but he is excited to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit into this next area of growth and ministry. He finds great joy in his family, in cycling, in spiritual disciplines, and in nutrition and fitness. He is thankful to get to worship with you today!

Informational Presentation David Weil, a member of our congregation and current (?) federal employee, is presenting an informal presentation following worship today. David will explain what the terms, "waste, fraud, and abuse" mean with respect to federal spending and how those issues are typically handled. This is not going to be any kind of political debate, it is simply information to help us clarify and understand words that are used frequently in the news.

All Ages Game Night. DFM is hosting a game night on Friday April 11, 2025 from 6:00- 8:00pm. Pizza will be served for a quick dinner. There will be a combination of board games for young and old, Corn Hole for all, and Garth will have some games from his laptop projected for anyone to play together. We encourage everyone to bring friends and gather. If you have a game that you find enjoyable, please bring that, too. Put April 11th on your calendar for some intergenerational fun!

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. This year we are adding a time of refreshments and fellowship for the entire congregation out on the lawn on the Mildred Street entrance. We will be able to snack, talk, and watch the Easter Egg Hunt. This year all ages of kids will be hunting from the same area so that we can all be together. Any questions see Marsha Dibbern or Garth Stevens-Jennings.

Maundy Thursday service. Please join us Thursday, April 17th, at 7:00pm, for our Maundy Thursday service. The offering will go the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Good Friday service. Please join us Friday, April 18th, at 7:00pm, for our Good Friday service. The offering will go to the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Community Sunrise Service to be held on Sunday, April 20th, at 6:30am, at Jefferson Memorial Park. Pastor John will be preaching this year.

One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Resurrection Sunday, April 20th. The OGHS offering is used to assist people in suffering and in need through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self Development of People program.

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.

A nursery is available for children ages 2-5. Please see an usher if you want more information.

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



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.

The Discipleship and Family Ministry Committee is seeking an additional attendant for our nursery. This is a paid position to be filled on Sunday mornings from 10:00AM-12:00 noon. We are looking for a Christian individual, 18 years or older, who loves and respects children and is able to provide for their care during the time that parents or caregivers are worshipping. Please contact the church office if you know of someone who would be a good fit for this position. ctpres@ctpres.org.

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>).

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 PowerPoint 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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Birthdays this week: Jane Ishman, Spencer Howard, Kenneth Reim, John Burns, Liz Kursey, Brooke Smith.

Prayer Concerns: U.S. troops serving worldwide. Please continue to pray for those who are sick. Missionaries supported by CTPC: Drake Williams, Mark Hare in Haiti, Michael & Cathy Sander in Eswatini. Please keep these faithful servants in prayer. **Those persons admitted to the hospital or nursing home seeking a visit from Pastor John must have a family member make contact with the church office. HIPAA law prohibits hospitals from divulging their patient roster.**

Last Sunday Worship : In-person –65; Nursery—5; Virtual Views—N/A.

Weekly Congregational Giving Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934.

General Offering —\$1,710; On-Line Offering—\$690; Designated Offering—Sunday School—\$67; Hunger—\$117.

Ushers for March: Brooks Kursey (head), Anne Portrey (counter), Debbie Henshaw

Ushers for April: Judy Edwards (head), Gary Scott (counter), Bob Tansill

CTPC Upcoming Events:

March 30th	Informational Meeting following worship
April 11th	All Ages Game Night 6-8:00pm
April 13th	Palm Sunday—Easter Egg Hunt following worship
April 17th	Maundy Thursday service 7:00pm
April 18th	Good Friday service 7:00pm
April 20th	Resurrection Sunday Community Sunrise Service at Jefferson Memorial Park 6:30am
April 21st	OFFICE CLOSED
May 17th	World Vision 6K Walk for Water

For electronic giving, please scan here:

