

April 2025



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

Over the last ten years, political discussion in our country has become nasty. In that same time, Christians became more engaged politically, which has had a concerning impact on Christianity in this country. I watched in horror as Christian people were saying and posting things in the most unkind and hateful ways. This makes it difficult for all Christians to reach out with the message of Christ. I know some people will disagree with me on that last point, but the narrative of people outside the church is that Christians are unloving and unkind. That will absolutely make it harder to tell people about a love greater than they have ever known.

What I really did not understand was the whole “for/against” mentality that has hold of so many people. To think someone is not a Christian because they hold different views from us is extremely harsh. I didn’t want to berate people from the pulpit, nor did I wish to spend much time on politics. So, I prayed for a long time, asking God to show me a third way.

I have been unfolding that third way for some time, now. It began when we started through Acts a couple of years ago. I felt that recapturing a sense of how the early Christians organized and dealt with challenges would be helpful for us. I followed this with Galatians to reacquaint us with the grace of Christ. This was in response to the tendency for Christians to be so judgmental of the world and, sadly, one another.

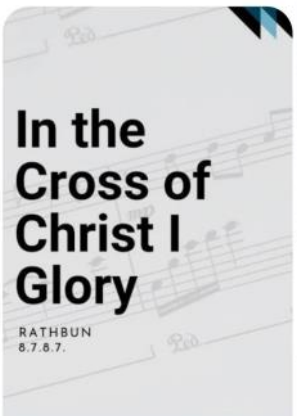
I followed that with our current study – which I’ve dubbed “Living the Christian Life.” In this series we’ve looked at the kinds of habits and activities that help us grow in our faith journey. More to the point these habits help us prioritize Christ in our lives. After all, he is more important than anyone or anything. I coupled my sermons with teaching Faithweavers to unpack the sermon topics further, which has been excellent and very practical.

That third way is Jesus. Plain and simple, back to the source. The great sin (and yes, it is a sin) we commit when something other than Christ has priority in our lives is that we are committing idolatry. Anything can be an idol – a person, an ideology, a political party, a television show, an influencer; but not a one of them has died on the cross for us. My third way is to gently and consistently push us toward Christ in a deep, meaningful, and rock solid way that will not let the news of the day or some other crisis derail us from our true mission: to know Christ, grow in God’s love, and serve as the Holy Spirit leads.

After Easter I will be out for a couple of weeks. My daughter Saige is getting married after Easter, and the following week she and her husband are moving to New Mexico. At that point I will begin a new series. I am still praying about what that should be, though some thoughts are coming together.

Blessings,
Pastor John





Attitude of Gratitude

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me.
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

5 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

(Author: John Bowring (1825) Tune: RATHBUN)

May you glory in the cross of Jesus!

Blessings, Penny

Charles Town Presbyterian Church

HOLY WEEK



Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday- April 13th at 10:30am

Maundy Thursday- April 17th at 7pm

Good Friday- April 18th at 7pm

Easter Sunday- April 20th at 10:30am



*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!

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.

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.



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.

Happy Spring from the Hospitality Center







Easter Memorial or Honorarium Lilies.

Typically at Easter we decorate the sanctuary with lilies, a traditional Easter flower. This year we are going a different direction. The economy is clearly entering a time of uncertainty as evidenced by increased demands from and decreased donations to the Pastor Help Fund, which currently has less than \$100. Because typically half the lilies are thrown out every year, the worship and music committee has decided that this year, in lieu of lilies, we will encourage people to make donations to the help fund. We will list these the same way that we list Easter lilies, in memory of or in honor of loved ones. It's understandable that some people will not be pleased with this. Friends, there will be lilies and other flowers decorating the sanctuary. At the moment, the worship committee feels called that the human need is greater. Please contact the church office (304-725-5316 or ctpres.org) for more information. The recommended minimum donation is the same as what we would charge for lilies, \$15.

Easter Memorial or Honorarium Lilies.



This year in lieu of lilies we donated to the pastor help fund due to increased local need.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____



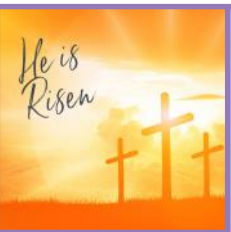
Maundy Thursday Service.

Please join us Thursday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m., for our Maundy Thursday Service. The offering will go to One Great Hour of Sharing.



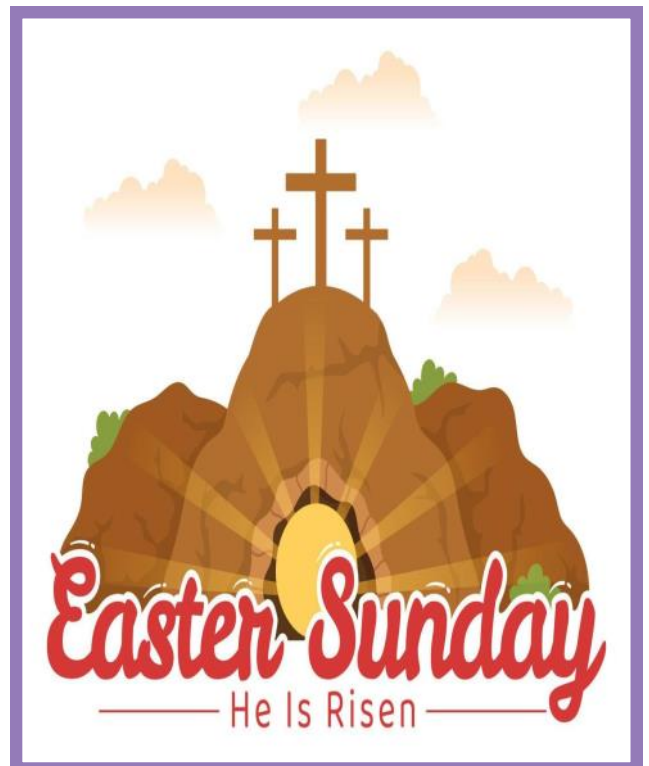
Good Friday service.

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.



Resurrection Sunday

Community Sunrise Service at Jefferson Memorial Park at 6:30am. Pastor John will be preaching this year.



Session News

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

- ◇ Completed boundary training per the *Book of Order* requirements
- ◇ The clerk reported an error in the January stated meeting minutes. The minutes omitted the approval of the celebration of the Lord's Supper for the year. That omission will be noted and the dates included in the March minutes.
- ◇ The finance committee reported the bookkeeper search is going well and they hope to have the search wrapped up in short order
- ◇ The property committee gave an update on campaign and property concerns. Bids have been secured to refurbish the upstairs bathrooms by the sanctuary. The campaign committee is still considering ways to secure other bids with which to compare. Few contractors want "small" projects in an historic building, so it has been a challenge. The property committee also reported that one of the sanctuary AC units needs replacement.
- ◇ Heard a report from the February presbytery meeting
- ◇ Elected Marsha Dibbern to serve as presbytery commissioner in May.

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

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

John Burns
Liz Kursey
Brooke Smith
Anne Portrey
Samantha Rutherford
Jason Mullens
Carol Kable
Bob Tansill
Janis Schindell
Laura Van Zomeren
Charlotte Kisner
Monica Pizzuti
Christian Pechuekonis
Karen Christie



Deborah Gregory
Judy Edwards
John Mayhew
Keating Amos
Dennis Dibbern
Marty Hunt



Anniversaries

Joe & Jamie Hardy
Steve & Shannon Bossung
Christian & Lynn Pechuekonis
Jason & Terri Mullens
David & Laura Van Vuuren
Wayne & Mona Thompson

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.



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Larry Lloyd who died on February 28th. May God bless

those who grieve.
Condolences may be sent to:
Nancy Lloyd
14819 Charles Town Road
Charles Town, WV 25414.



It's coming up fast! The annual **World Vision 6K Walk for Water** will occur on May 17! This year with the cutting of USAID funds, we feel it's even more important to support this cause for clean water. Doyle Criswell will be heading up this program, as CTPC participates

in it for the fourth year. If you feel that you can not walk, would you please consider supporting one of the individuals who have signed up or at least the team? Please go to <https://global6k.worldvision.org/>

- 1) Click on the "Sign up for 2025" to join the team and enter Charles Town Water Walkers for the team OR
- 2) Click on the "Donate" button and find Charles Town Water Walkers to donate
- 3) If you sign up, please consider contacting your friends/family and asking if they would support you. Just follow the same instructions as #2 and once you have signed up, they should be able to find your name in the dropdown menu..

Lastly walkers, don't forget to express your appreciation to your sponsors. It means so very much for them to hear the progress report. If they didn't care, they wouldn't have supported you!



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on Resurrection Sunday, March 31st. 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.



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>).



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 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.