

July 2025

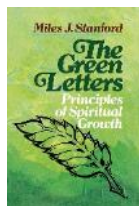


MUSINGS...

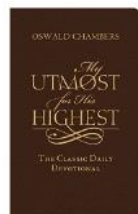
by Pastor John Bethard

For this month's newsletter article, I am highlighting several resources that have been meaningful in my Christian journey.

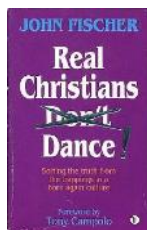
One of my absolute favorite books that I return to repeatedly is *The Green Letters* by Miles Stanford. In less than one hundred pages, Stanford presents eighteen principles that are important for Christians to understand. Each principle takes a chapter, but each chapter is only four or five pages, and Stanford spends much time quoting other pastors and theologians. I strongly recommend reading one chapter a day and then letting what was read roll around the brain for a little while (reflection). This would be a terrific book to read on the beach!



A devotional I used for many years is Oswald Chambers' classic, *My Utmost for His Highest*. Each day Chambers reflects on a verse of scripture. This devotional is direct, blunt, and to the point. I like that about it. It is also quite profound, which is why I used it faithfully for about five years. Anyone who has never used a daily devotional like this will find it to be extremely helpful.



The final book is one that transformed my understanding of God's grace. In the late 1980's John Fischer published *Real Christians Don't Dance*, which took a pointed look at some of the ways the Body of Christ measured a person's faith back in the day. The book takes a hard but fair look at behaviors that were considered unchristian in the late 1980's – dancing, alcohol consumption, and many other behaviors. I'm not sure the book is in print anymore, but if you can find it and tolerate the dated topics, the principles laid out in the book are still applicable.



Reading is an unbelievably valuable activity for all people, but Christians especially benefit from this practice. We are blessed to have a countless number of books and resources that seek to explain the faith in ways we understand. We don't have to go it alone!

Blessings,
Pastor John



A Season of Peace begins



September 7 - October 5, 2025

This season, which continues through World Communion Sunday, Oct. 5, provides an opportunity to recommit to peacemaking in our lives and at all levels of the church.

Every fall, the Presbyterian Church's Peacemaking Program extends an invitation to join with people of faith from around the country and the world for A Season of Peace, a month-long pilgrimage designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families and individuals. This season is a time of growth, encouragement, challenge, inspiration and education that invites you to consider your own relationship to peacemaking and justice.



A Season of *Peace*

Charles Town Presbyterian Church
Music Ministry
Presents

Sunday September 7th at 2pm
A Summer Concert that embraces
Peace, Love, and Hope
With secular and non-secular works
By our ringers and singers

Ice Cream social to follow
Love Offering to benefit
Jefferson County Community Ministries

FUNDRAISING EVENT

***The Hospitality Center Team
Has a vision for the room
To make it even more inviting!***

***Your help is needed
To turn the vision
Into reality***

***Any and all donations appreciated
Please submit to the church office
and earmark
Hospitality Fundraiser
Many Thanks!***

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!



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.

Please Join Us

Sunday

July 20th

Following Worship



On the front lawn

Fellowship Hall if inclement weather

**Brought to you by the
Hospitality Center**



Know. Grow. Serve.



Vacation Bible School to be held on Monday, July 7th—Thursday, July 10th, 9am to Noon. **True North, Trusting Jesus in a Wild World.** This VBS is written as an Alaskan Adventure and will include Northern Lights, majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. **True North** focuses on Jesus as a guiding light, helping kids build a rock-solid foundation in their faith. Pass on these dates to your friends and relatives. Let us know if you would be willing to help.

Contact Marsha Dibbern (304-671-9715 or marshadib@juno.com) or Garth Stevens-Jennings (garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org.)

Registration link and QR code can be found on the Charles Town Presbyterian Church Facebook page.

We are asking for donations of bottled water--at least 4 cases of small bottles will be needed.

Charles Town Presbyterian
Children, Youth,
and Family Ministries

YOUTH GROUP!
Youth Group meets each
Sunday from 2:30-4pm

KIDS GROUP!
Kid's Group meets each
Sunday from
4-5:30pm-5:30pm.
I look forward to seeing you
there!

Any questions, please feel free
to contact
Garth Steven-Jennings
garthstevens-jennings@ctpres.org.

Session News

The session met in person for their stated meeting on Tuesday, June 17. Here are the highlights of that meeting:

- Approved the minutes from the stated session meeting of May 13 and the called congregational meeting of June 1.
- Discussed who in the congregation the elders should be encouraging.
- Heard reports from the Communicating with Technology, Finance, Property, and Stewardship and Vision committees.
- Reviewed the written report submitted by Elder Dibbern on the May meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery.
- Reviewed the request of the financial review team for a full, professional audit in 2025. Because our bookkeeper is still getting acclimated and all the activity around the campaign and property expenses, the session agreed unanimously to take this question up in January and hope to schedule an audit in 2026.
- Discussed the city of Charles Town's decision to establish a PODA (public outdoor designated area for alcohol consumption), and the church building and manse are within the PODA district. The session discussed some minor concerns but decided that nothing needs to be addressed unless and until there is a clear problem.
- Review the shelter use agreement with JCCM. Because we have had little to no problems with this arrangement, the session unanimously voted to extend the relationship through October with review at the September stated meeting.
- Appointed Kathy Shue to serve as elder commissioner for the August meeting of Presbytery.

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

Jessica Wells
Cora Clark
Donna Staniec
Allsion Howard
Camden Wilson
Emroy Gehlsen
Jim Bovard
Martha Burns
Chris Clark
Samantha Fulbright
Jim Leathers
Alyse Low
Harry Puster
Robert Puster



Patsy White
Judy Hockman
Rosalyn LaVallee
Bryan LaVallee
Gary Scott
Doyle Criswell
Katherine Hunt
Debbie Stafford
Holston Smith
Bryce Van Zomeren



Anniversaries

Henry & Karen Christie
James & Lari MacKenzie
John & Diane Mayhew

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

July 1st	Life Line Screening 8-5:00pm
July 4th	OFFICE CLOSED—Fourth of July
July 7th-10th	Vacation Bible School 9am-Noon
July 20th	Hospitality Center Ice Cream Floats
	Social following worship
September 7th	A Season of Peace summer concert at 2pm
September 13th	Yokefellows BBQ fundraiser 4:30-6:30pm
September 21st	Stewardship Sunday





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/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.



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.



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



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. We are open 8am-1pm.

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