

August 2025

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard



“Seminary did not prepare me for this!”

Every minister says this phrase, and typically in the early years of ministry. There is a misconception that seminary prepares you for every aspect of ministry. The purpose of seminary is to help students discern and prepare for their call to serve Christ in a specific way. Most seminaries cover original languages, how to interpret and do proper biblical scholarship, how to develop a personal theology, and how to preach, counsel (barely), and lead. Seminary does not teach things like tax law, fundraising, budgeting, human resources, or dealing with staff.

I recently found myself reflecting on another area seminary did not prepare me for: The consequences of a long tenure. 2025 marks my twenty-first year as pastor of this congregation. And while certain aspects of ministry have gotten easier during my tenure, one thing has become particularly more challenging is funerals. Funerals are always tiring for me (as they usually are for most pastors), but something new has entered my life: emotions.

When I came here in 2004, funerals were fairly easy for me. I preformed 36 funerals in 36 months in Texas. So, I had a kind of rhythm for getting through the process. Funerals are something I could easily manage until this year. The last few funerals have been very emotional for me because I know the congregation and they know me. We know each other's stories, life history, etc. We are family, and that makes the grief even harder.

As a pastor, it is my calling to lead people through grief, and I have no intention of discontinuing that. For me, what I do now is compartmentalize my feelings so that I can do the best job possible with the service, and once that is finished, I process my loss in my way. I do not keep them buried. I never expected this to happen, and I actually love it.

Seminary does not prepare a minister for everything. No one told me what would happen the longer a pastor is with a congregation. In the case of funerals, it is a joy to experience these emotions, and I consider this a positive. Grief is always tricky, even for ministers. And I cannot even begin to share how much it means to me to still be the pastor of this congregation. I love the congregation and the community, and I am so grateful to walk through these seasons of life with you.

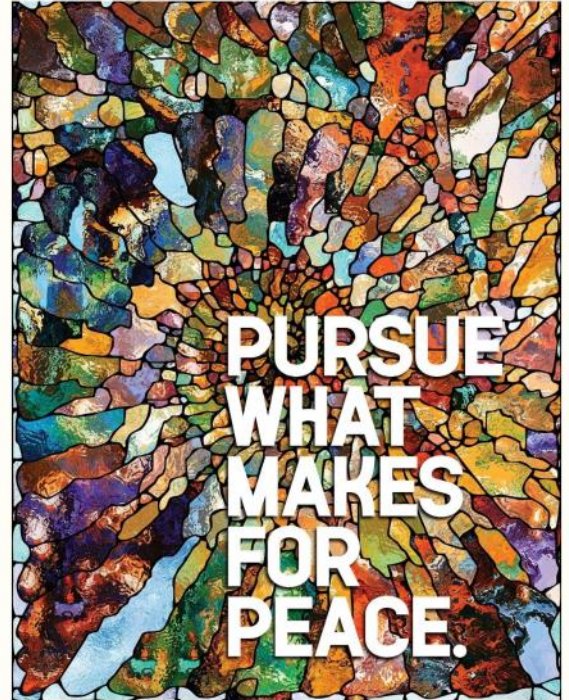
Blessings,
Pastor John

PS – The annual WV Firefighters Association is having their annual convention in Jefferson County next week, and I was asked to lead a memorial service for fallen firefighters on Friday, August 8 at 10am. It will be at our church. It will be brief, but all are welcome.

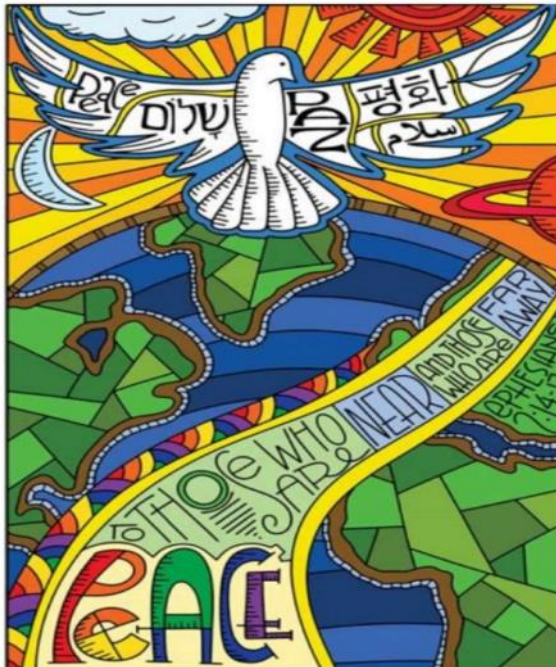
🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny



Attitude
of
Gratitude



As Pastor John finishes his series on what love is and is not on August 31st, we can prepare for a season of peace.



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*

Please join us Sunday September 7th at 2pm as our music ministry kicks off a season of peace with secular and non-secular music!

Blessings, Penny

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!



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.

Worship Assistants



Help Wanted. We are currently seeking people to assist with worship as worship assistants. We used to call these "lay readers." Worship assistants will help lead worship on the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays, covering the call to worship, prayer of confession and possibly other responsibilities, depending on the comfort level of the individual. If we can find six people to fill this role, it will be a quarterly commitment at most. Please contact Pastor John if you are interested. Training will be provided.

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.





Hospitality Center
Ice Cream Float social
on Sunday, July 20th,
was a fun time for all.





CTPC Directory 2025

Please update your directory with these changes and/or additions:

- Mikie Anderson** 20 New Peach Tree Ct., #401, Charles Town, WV 25414
- Kaz Feldstein** 171 Red Bird Lane, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
- Jim Leathers** 196 Jakob Lederer Lane, Kearneysville, WV 25430,
304-671-1529 / jaslederer@aol.com
- Judith Miller** 603-738-9403
- Laurel Odell** 545 S. Church St., Charles Town, WV 25414
540-686-6155/laurelrizzetta@me.com

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

Tommy Morgan
Linda Puster
Kay Felstein
Mike Kursey
Bennet Beeson
Jeannette Tabb
Ann Workman
Daniel Beeson
Michiah Robison
Mark Day
Lazan Rogers
Rebecca Karos
Mike Ishman
Joe Hardy



Lauren Fowler
Debbie Henshaw



Anniversaries

Mike & Margaret Kursey
Jim & Donna Warbel
Chris & Sherry Clark
Ray & Joyce Jamison
Mark & Debbie Stafford
Allen & Lazan Rogers
Peter & Signe Garms
Ron & Stephanie Rossi
Tim & Connie Casserly
Thane & Laura
Van Zomeren

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

August 8th	WV Fire Fighters Memorial Service 10:00am
August 23rd	LaRue—fellowship hall 11am-6pm
September 7th	A Season of Peace summer concert at 2pm
September 13th	Yokefellows BBQ fundraiser 4:30-6:30pm
September 21st	Stewardship Sunday



Yokefellows BBQ Pork dinner. Get your tickets now from any Yokefellow and plan to join us on Saturday, September 13, 2025, 4:30-6:30pm, for fresh pork BBQ, slaw, mac & cheese, baked bean, desserts, and drink provided. Tickets: \$15.00 adults; \$7.00 children under 12 years; Free children under 3 years. Proceeds from the dinner go to church ministries.



Our Christian Sympathy is extended to:

the family of Jack Huyett, who died on July 13, 2025;
and Shirley Ferguson, who died on July 17, 2025.

May God bless those who grieve.

ONLINE GIVING

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>).



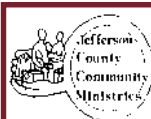
The flower chart for 2025 is available for sign up. It is located on the bulletin board by the church office or call at 304-725-5316. If you would like to donate your flowers for the deacons to deliver to a shut-in or someone in the hospital, please call the church office.



Know. Grow. Serve.



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 (heartly 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



URGENT NEED:

Meals-on-Wheels needs drivers.

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