



2025

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

If you haven't worshiped with us in a couple of weeks, you need to be aware of something: It's on! A few weeks ago, my Sunday School class, the older youth, started memorizing scripture. I encouraged them to challenge the adults, so we did. For the duration of the school year, we are going to have a fun contest between the adults and the kids to see who can learn more scripture.

Here is how it works. Write the verse out on an index card. That is actually really important. We use at least three senses when we do that, which reinforces the learning. The written verse should include the address - the book, chapter, and verse location. Please also put your names on the cards. Then on a Sunday morning (or some other time), find me, hand me the card, and recite. If you get it right, I keep the card. If I hand it back you can try again in another week. We'll check in around Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. There will be one overall winner and two winners along the way.

The reality is that anyone who attempts this has won. Whether we memorize three verses or three hundred, the verses we memorize will stay with us, comfort us, equip us, or encourage us. There is nothing to lose in this exercise, and this is why we are doing it, to increase what we know about the Bible. I hope everyone will be part of this fun contest. And if memorization is something you struggle with, I am happy to work with you and find an alternative quizzing method.

New Members

Recently, some people have asked about joining the church. Currently, I am teaching the older youth Sunday School class, and with some planned upcoming interruptions, scheduling the new members class is more challenging than usual this fall. If you are interested in attending a new members class, please email me at jbethard@ctpres.org or speak with me personally, and we will work together to come up with a date for the next class. I'm open to even leading during a weekday if that works for people.

For the Kingdom,

Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

Attitude of Gratitude



November is my favorite month. Not only is it my birthday month but Thanksgiving is our reminder to give thanks to our God, which we should do every single day.

Now Thank We All Our God ★

Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices

Author: Martin Rinkart (1636); Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1858)

Tune: NUN DANKET

Published in 706 hymnals

- 1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
- 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills of this world in the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

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!*

Hospitality Center



Current Want List

*Individual servings of
Goldfish, Cookies, Pretzels*

*Snack bars, Pudding Cups
Individual coffee creamers
Assorted chips*



FEAST AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER CHURCH

Sunday November 16th

**Please bring a covered dish,
Salad or Dessert**

Fall Feast & Fellowship:

Please join the Fellowship Team on Sunday, November 16th, following worship for a time of Fellowship and Feasting. The Fellowship Team will provide fried chicken, ham and mashed potatoes. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert and a thankful heart. If you have any questions, please call Lazan Rogers (304) 886-5490 or the church office. The Fellowship Team welcomes any help cleaning up after the



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



CTPC Hospitality Center Apple Fest
following worship for all things APPLE! Was fun for all!



Session News

Highlights of the October 21 stated meeting:

- ◇ Approved as amended the minutes of the September 2025 stated meeting.
- ◇ Spent time working through the Operations Manual. After getting bogged down the session decided that they would take the relevant parts of the operations manual back to their committees and then the session will review the whole manual once each section is complete.
- ◇ Approved a motion from the Stewardship and Vision committee to start a new program focused on regular monthly stewardship in 2026. This program is called “Go Fourth!” and will happen on the fourth Sunday of each month. More information will be available as we get closer to the new year.
- ◇ Called for a congregational meeting following worship on November 2nd, for the purpose of electing a trustee.
- ◇ Discussed at length the status of the Liberty St project. This is a new venture for the church, and the project hit a significant snag. There are improvements we are required to have to host a day care center – such things as a sprinkler system and a hard-wired alarm system. These are not inexpensive improvements, but rather than throwing up our hands, the session is collecting information on what is required, what it will cost, and alternative sources of funding such as grants. We encourage the congregation to keep this project in prayer.
- ◇ Elected Kathy Shue to serve as elder commissioner for the meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery on November 15. The meeting will be at Covenant Church in Lexington.
- ◇ Approved hosting a parenting class called “Nurturing Parenting.” This class will be led by facilitators from the Jefferson Berkeley Alliance, and organization that works to reduce substance abuse. One of the tools that works to help strengthen families is Nurturing Parenting. This course is open to all parents and will provide some helpful ways to strengthen families. More information will be forthcoming.

Children’s Thanksgiving Offering. This Thanksgiving we ask you to remember children and families experiencing pain, hunger, hopelessness, separation from loved ones. The Apostle Paul teaches us that part of living together in community is reaching out to our brothers and sisters when they face hardships, temptation, or sorrow. Four ministries started by leaders in the Presbyterian Church serve our communities and address the needs of thousands of children each year. By participating in the Thanksgiving Offering Program, our congregation will sustain the valuable services provided by: Edmarc Hospice for Children; Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands; Presbyterian Home & Family Services and the Family Alliance. The Thanksgiving Offering will be collected on Sunday, November 23rd. Note memo line “Thanksgiving offering”. As always, thank you for your generosity.

The church office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th. Happy Thanksgiving and have a safe holiday.



Online giving helps you to bring your offering before God in a simple, and secure way.

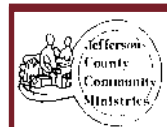
You can choose from The Presbyterian Foundation, Facebook, or PayPal, each of which have a nominal fee that you can include as part of your gift. The Presbyterian Foundation fee does help the organization's mission, and you can easily use a mobile app (Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement on Google Play/Apple 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 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



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