

December
2025

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard



Happy December and welcome to advent!

It really feels like Christmas is coming quickly. Every December we have numerous extra activities, and 2025 is no different! Here is a list of special events for the month of December:

December 6 – Charles Town/Ranson Christmas parade. For several years now, we have been providing food. It's free for our guests, but many of them give donations anyway. To make this happen, we need donations of hot dogs, chips, and hot dog buns. Please feel free to drop off those items in the workroom. And on the day of the parade, come on out and help. It is a fun time for all!

December 14 – Christmas Joy Service. This year's Joy service will be different. A local church organist, Eric Bowman, who has served St. Thomas Lutheran Church since the resurrection, will present an organ recital and other holiday music. Eric is retiring at the end of the year from playing at the National Church in DC. He will be performing the recital first in DC, and then for us on December 14. Eric is talented organist who has jumped in and helped us many times over the years, and we are grateful he will share his gifts with us!

December 21 - Longest Night. This special worship service is for anyone struggling with grief of any kind. The holiday atmosphere is counterintuitive for anyone struggling with loss, and this service creates some space to acknowledge that. Everyone is invited, and the aim of the service is to provide hope for those who are struggling to find it.

Christmas Eve worship will be 5:30pm.

The advent and Christmas seasons are always very busy. I encourage all of us to remember the reason for the season, and to take advantage of these opportunities to serve and worship.

Merry Christmas,

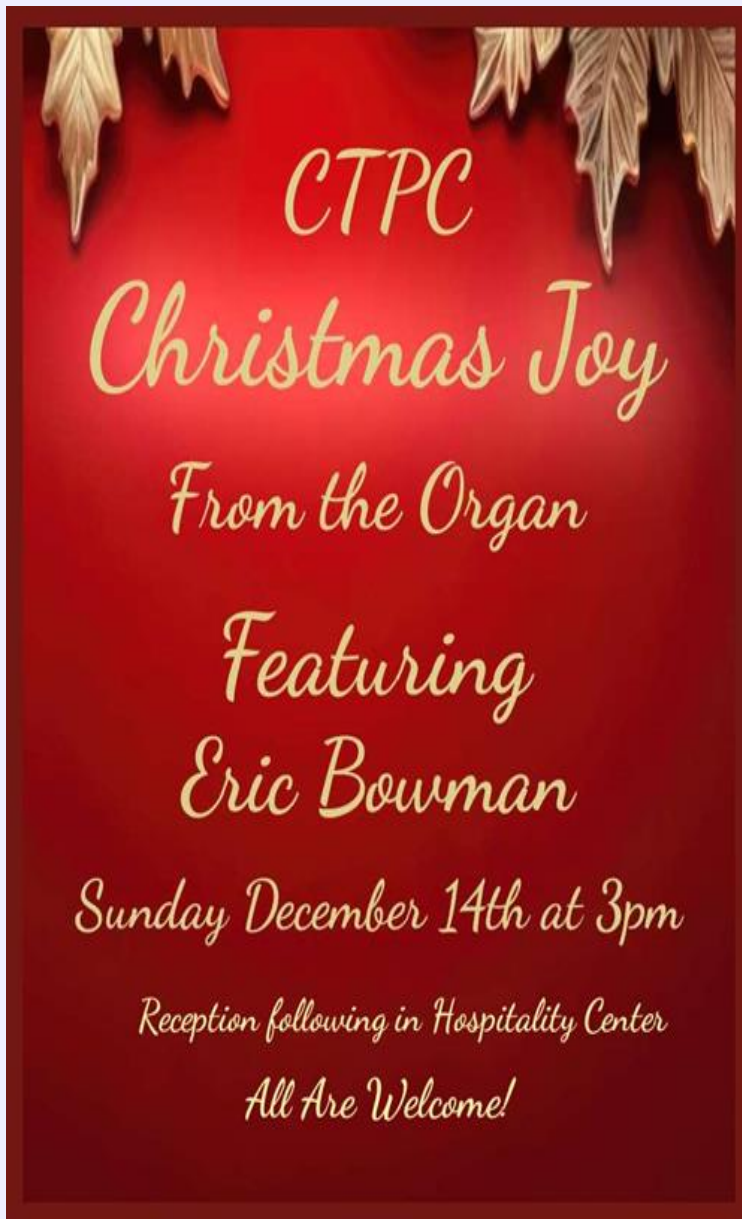
Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny

Attitude of Gratitude



JOY December 14th at 3pm
Reception Sign-up

Name	Item Bringing	Phone #
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A sign up sheet for reception donations is on the piano in the sanctuary or you can let Penny know what you are bringing.

Eric Bowman is currently the organist at St. Thomas Lutheran Church. He holds a Masters of Church Music degree in Organ Performance and Choral Conducting from Shenandoah University, where he was the winner of the 2002 Bach-Handel Festival. Mr. Bowman has performed throughout the United States at such places as The Washington National Cathedral and National City Christian Church in Washington, DC, Bruton Parish in Williamsburg, Va, St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. He has also performed in Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Missouri and New Orleans, Louisiana. He has had the distinct honor to work with such notable singing artists Judy Collins and country music star Phil Vassar.

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*

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



Know. Grow. Serve.



Christmas Joy Service will be on Sunday, December 14th, at 3pm. Please plan to join us.

Christmas Joy
Offering



Christmas Joy Offering, will be collected during the service. Because of your generous gifts the Presbyterian Mission Agency is able to help provide brighter educational opportunities for students at historically Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges, a longstanding tradition of the church. Gifts to the offering also supported the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, a fund that stands in the gap to assist retired church leaders and their survivors in difficult times. Together, they make the Christmas Joy Offering a tribute to the leaders of our church—past and present.

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

Judy Holt
Colon Ruffner
Doug White
George Tabb
Jannette Beeson
Megan Henshaw
Meredith Hunt
Rachel Tansill



Kathy Reim
Nathaniel Pugh
Janet Harner
Amy Low



Anniversaries

Dennis & Marsha Dibbern
Marty & Katherine Hunt
Bob & Rachel Tansill

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

For a complete listing of all of the church activities, please click [here](#).



Yokefellows Sunday School class is in need to two Sunday school teachers. Teachers are furnished with teaching materials from the Adult Bible Studies series. Teachers will only be asked to teach one Sunday per month. Please contact the church office if you are interested (304-725-5316 or ctpres@ctpres.org).

Be part of the blessing!

Join the Stewardship committee and help our church grow in faith, generosity and purpose. Help us inspire a spirit of giving in our church family. Stewardship and vision begin with you! Contact Patsy White 304 725 8058.

The Session has called for a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 14th, immediately following worship for the purpose of acting on the 2026 terms of call for the pastor. Copies of the terms of call are available in the narthex.

It is urgent that we create a list of people who would volunteer to keep the nursery with Jordan for the immediate future. There will be a signup sheet on the piano and in the narthex. If you have not had a background check with CTPC this will need to be done. Tara will be resigning her position in the nursery after Sunday, November 30. DFM will start taking resumes for this position right away. If you know someone who might be interested please call the church office: 304 725 5316.

Charles Town Presbyterian Church

December 7th- 2nd Sunday Advent
Worship celebration at 10:30am

December 13th- Sacred Spaces of the Season 2-7pm

December 14th- 3rd Sunday of Advent
Worship celebration at 10:30am
Christmas Joy Service at 3pm
Featuring Guest organist Eric Bowman

December 21st- 4th Sunday of Advent
Worship celebration at 10:30am
Longest Night Service at 7pm

December 24th- Christmas Eve service at 5:30pm
December 28th- Lessons and Carols
Worship celebration at 10:30am



Memorial Poinsettias

\$12 each

*Last day to order December 3rd
Contact Church office*



Session News

Highlights of the November 18 stated meeting:

- ◆ Approved as presented the minutes of the October 2025 stated meeting.
- ◆ Received with regret, the resignation of nursery worker Tara Buffet.
- ◆ Approved funding one third of David Weil's psychological review. David is okay (we think); this is part of the process of becoming a certified ruling elder. This will allow David to serve as a part time pastor for a small congregation.
- ◆ Approved the wedding request of Jessica Donadio and her fiancé for April 25, 2026.
- ◆ Officers-elect and sustained the examination by unanimous vote. Ordination and installation will happen during worship on January 11.
- ◆ Approved by unanimous vote the 2026 income and expenditure plan.
- ◆ Approved the 2026 terms of call for the pastor and called a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 14 , after worship for congregational vote.
- ◆ Approved a recommendation from the trustees to adopt new guidance on legacy gifts. This new guidance results in undesignated legacy gifts being used in the following way: 25% will be deposited in the church operating account, 50% will be deposited into our investments, 20% will be deposited into the trustees checking, which we now refer to as a building fund. 5% will be set aside for use by the mission and outreach committee. This practice, along with the anticipated income from renting out the Liberty Street rooms will put us in a much more stable financial position.
- ◆ Reviewed the deacon's ministry for 2025.
- ◆ Heard a report from the presbytery meeting. We were shocked to learn earlier Tuesday that Howard Boswell passed away. Howard is the husband of general presbyter Bronwen Boswell, and pastor of Buena Vista church.
- ◆ Heard a verbal report from the DFM committee, with emphasis on the need for further staffing.
- ◆ Received the treasurer's report with no questions or exceptions.

CTPC Upcoming Events

December 6th:	Charles Town Christmas parade 2:00pm
December 7th:	Pathfinders Youth Group—Caroling 4-6:00pm
December 13th:	Sacred Spaces of the Season 3-7pm
December 14th:	Congregational Meeting following worship 11:30am Christmas Joy Service 3:00pm
December 21st:	Longest Night Service 7:00pm
December 24th:	Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm
December 25th:	OFFICE CLOSED –Merry Christmas
December 26th:	OFFICE CLOSED
January 1st:	OFFICE CLOSED—Happy New Year
January 2nd:	OFFICE CLOSED



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.



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.



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.

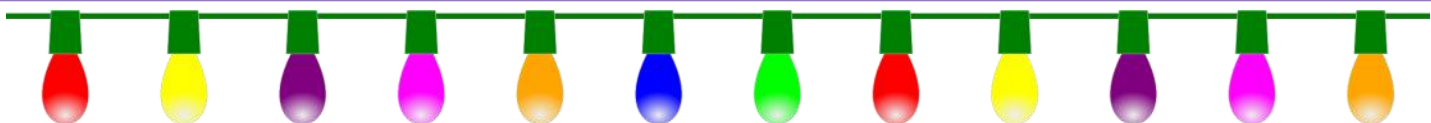


JCCM Food Pantry needs. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated: spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, canned meat (vienna sausage, spam, chicken, tuna), canned beans, canned vegetables (not green beans/corn), soups (hearty and condensed), canned chili, rice (small bags), instant mashed potatoes, jelly 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

Charles Town Presbyterian Church 2025 Elder Committee Assignments

Communicating with Technology
Discipleship and Family Ministry
Finance
Mission and Outreach
Personnel
Property
Stewardship and Vision
Worship and Music

-Roger Snook
-Marsha Dibbern /Chris Clark
-Diane Mayhew /Christian Pechuekonis
-Doyle Criswell / Patsy White
-Kathy Shue
-Diane Mayhew
-Patsy White
-Beth Pugh / Kathy Shue



The church office closed for Christmas Holiday
Thursday, December 25th
Friday, December 26th.

And New Year's Holiday
Thursday, January 1st.
Friday, January 2nd.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Have a safe holiday.

