

April 2026

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard



Inevitably, the season of Lent always brings us to the resurrection of Christ. Resurrection Sunday, or Easter, which is the central event of our faith. Without the resurrection, Jesus was simply a guy who died for his principles. The resurrection proves for us the divinity of Christ and clears away the chasm sin created between us and God.

Resurrection, thus, has become a central theme in how we talk about our faith. People of faith characterize their conversion with similar imagery, "I was lost and now I'm found, I was dead in sin now I am alive in Christ." We sing resurrection in hymns and songs, and it shows up in casual conversation. The resurrection is about life, and if God is real and at work, we should be thriving in our faith.

One of the ways Jesus takes care of his followers is through the establishment of the Church. The Church is the Gathered of God, followers of Christ who worship, pray, grow, and serve together. The Church is unique in that we are constantly in a state of nurturing new believers and new leaders to serve Christ and the mission of the Church. That kind of training, replication, and multiplication should be a regular part of healthy congregations. One thing that works against congregations is quantifying our work. In the United States, the average congregation sees less than 100 worshippers each week. When we consider that seven out of ten churches are what is known as "Prosperity Gospel" congregations and are likely mega churches, it makes that statistic kind of frightening.

When a congregation can look back to the recent past and remember when there were more people, more ministry, more everything, there is tendency to panic, and to be afraid of the future. Instead of staying focused on the ministry of salvation, we start trying to save the Church. When we get into that mode, we start making less decisions by faith; we talk about the glory days, and we inadvertently say that we are great church, but we used to be greater. Often, we aren't even aware of it happening, we just go on auto pilot. It's not a healthy place for any congregation to be.

As we move into Holy Week and start focusing on resurrection, we do well to remember that the Church is already saved. Instead of trying to save the Body of Christ, I think we should focus on **being** the Body of Christ. Serving Christ, sharing his love and message, and helping one another grow has always been the work of the Church, and always will be until Christ returns. Our energy should continue to focus on those things with the expectation that God will do what God will do. The future of Church has never been determined by looking backward. While we embrace and celebrate our legacy, we are working toward a future kingdom and reward.

The Church of Jesus Christ isn't going anywhere. He promised that upon our confession of Christ as Lord and Messiah, Christ will build his Church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it. There may be seasons of growth and seasons of retraction. But in all things, our Lord is working his will through the power of his love and resurrection.

Happy Easter,

Pastor John



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny

Attitude of Gratitude

Ephesians 5: 19-20

[19] speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, [20] always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we get ready to celebrate our risen Savior and his sacrifice on the cross, we are afforded the opportunity to serve Him in many ways.

One of those ways is through music ministry. Our Music ministry program lets us not only serve Him in worship, but we serve Him through the fellowship of just being together, learning and growing in music.



I'm interested in

Learning to ring handbells

Joining the singing choir

Joining a handbell choir

Being a music assistant

Basic Music class

***A future study of the Glory to God
From cover to cover***

Name _____

Phone _____ ***email*** _____

Let's Go Forth in music!

Blessings,

Penny



Discipleship & Family Ministry

Sunday, April 22nd

Following Worship

*In the
Hospitality Center*



Current Needs

Juice Boxes

Werthers Candy

Pudding cups

Assorted chips

*Fresh
Fruit, cookies, muffins*



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



Know. Grow. Serve.

CTPC Upcoming Events

March 25th—April 1st	Lent Bible Study 12:00pm
March 23rd	Life-Line Screening 8-5:00pm
March 28th	CTP Women's Group 10:00am
March 29th	Palm Sunday—Easter Egg Hunt following worship
April 3rd	Good Friday service 7:00pm
April 5th	Easter Sunday Community Sunrise service 6:30am, at Jefferson Memorial Park
April 6th	OFFICE CLOSED
April 17th	DFM Family Game/with dinner 6-8:00pm
April 24th	Meals-on-Wheels Volunteer Luncheon 11-2pm
April 25th	Donadio/Springstead rehearsal Donadio/Springstead wedding
May 19th	CTPC hosts Presbytery Meeting 9:30am-4:00pm
May 23rd	Yokefellows BBQ Dinner 4:30-6:30pm
May 25th	OFFICE CLOSED—Memorial Day
June 19th	OFFICE CLOSED—Juneteenth

Session News

The session of Charles Town Presbyterian Church met for their March 2026 stated meeting. Here are the highlights:

After approving the amended docket and the minutes from the last stated meeting, the clerk shared two pieces of communication. The first was the 2025 statistical report, which was unanimously received as presented. The second piece was information about elder training information that will be forthcoming in an email.

The Discipleship and Family Ministries Committee provided an update on the employee searches currently underway. Please keep the DFM committee in prayer as they seek a second nursery worker and a Director of Youth and Emerging Ministries.

The finance committee presented an updated process for filing expense vouchers with the office and bookkeeper.

The property committee gave an extensive report, which included several motions. First, the session unanimously recognized the service Dwayne Wolfe for his years of helping maintain the exterior of the property. After an extensive review of the Day Care Center project, the session unanimously approved the report moving forward. Finally, the session unanimously approved the recommendation to enter a ten-month contract with Roberts Lawn and Landscaping for mowing, fall and spring cleanup, bush and tree trimming, and mulching. The cost will be \$1,090 per month. The session was also brought up to date on outstanding projects in the main building and the manse, including surprise HVAC work for which the committee is seeking additional bids. One of the units for the sanctuary must be replaced, and since we use two that are “ganged” together, this replacement along with planned replacement for several other units is excessive in cost.

Pastor John and Elder Shue gave a report on the February meeting of Shenandoah presbytery. The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the moderator.

The session agreed to hosting the May 19 meeting of Shenandoah presbytery. Presbytery meetings are very involved and require a good deal of people to help pull it off. If you are interested in helping here are the opportunities:

Additional jobs include greeters 3-4 people especially 8-9:30am; parking team 4-5 people; kitchen help 6-8; set up and clean up (all hands).

We will need to provide a meal of some kind, and some continental breakfast style food and drink as commissioners arrive.

Presbytery Meeting Task Force – There will be a meeting on Sunday, April 19th, following worship for all persons who can help prior to or on the day of the presbytery meeting.

Please contact pastor John if you are able to help.



Easter Memorial or Honorarium Lilies.

Just like last year, in lieu of lilies, we will encourage people to make donations to the Pastor's 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. Please call or email church office by Wednesday, April 1st.

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: _____



Good Friday service. Please join us Friday, April 3rd, 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, Sunday, April 5th.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on Resurrection Sunday, April 5th. 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.



VBS Rainforest Falls *Exploring the Nature of God*
July 13-16, 2026 ; 9:00 AM-12:00PM
SAVE THE DATE!

To set up this jungle scene we will need many hands. Here's how you can help.

Save these items and bring them to the church--we need to start now on decorations:

brown packing paper found in Amazon shipments--any length (when twisted, they will make great jungle vines)

brown cardboard boxes--the bigger the better (any size except very small- refrigerator boxes welcome)
cylindrical containers used for shipping or at the center of carpet rolls--any length the longer the better)



Yokefellows BBQ Pork dinner. Get your tickets now from any Yokefellow and plan to join us on Saturday, May 23rd, 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.



Pathfinders Youth will continue meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 4-6pm for regular youth group. Special activities to be announced.



All Ages Game Night. DFM is hosting a game night on Friday April 17th, from 6:00- 8:00pm. Dinner will be provided. There will be a combination of board games for young and old. 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!

Celebrations this month

Birthdays

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



Judy Edwards
John Mayhew
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](#).



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.



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.

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 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 & 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

CTPC 2026 Elder Committee Assignments

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

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