



## MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

I was really hoping that in 2026 less focus would be on maintenance and upgrades to the physical plant. We have put a ton of money and energy into the building over the last two years. Building projects have a very busy feel to them, and if we are not careful, they can trick us into thinking we are doing ministry.

Before I go any further, I want to be clear: I support every project, change, and upgrade we have made. They are necessary. I am not complaining, I am sharing observations. When multiple projects with multiple contractors are in the works it feels busy. And even though we outsource most of the projects, there is quite a bit of work for us. I am grateful for Doug McDonough, Marty and Carol Kable, Margaret Kursey, Diane Mayhew, Christian Pechekounis and the many members and friends of the congregation who contributed finances to these projects\*.

Taking care of our facility is but one thing we do. We are blessed to have such a building; and we have our forbears to thank for their vision and generosity. We must be good stewards of what they have left to us. But our work as a congregation is much broader than taking care of the building we love. A good, well-kept building allows our primary work and mission to continue. The mission of every Christian congregation is to love God and love others, and to go into the world and make disciples. We sum that up here in our mission statement, "Knowing Christ, Growing in God's Love, and Serving as the Holy Spirit leads." This is our primary calling as individuals and as a congregation. The reason I bring this up is simple: the busyness of building projects can easily distract us from the mission. Building projects use up resources, including energy, and when it's stressful, even more so. I would hate to get the building in great shape and have little to no ministry happening. I don't think that's going to happen, and I am doing everything I can to push us in the direction of our mission.

The mission belongs to every one of us, and to that end I want to challenge every single person to do one thing if they are not doing this already: Keep the church leadership in prayer. These folks give great amounts of their limited time to what we do as a congregation. It is not always the easiest work. Pray for the congregation, the leaders, the mission, and the physical plant issues. All of us can do this. That kind of intentional and connectional corporate praying will produce something in us, I believe. So please don't be dismissive; simply pray for the leaders.

Blessings,  
Pastor John

\*Later this month a letter outlining our projects and our financial status will be sent to the congregation.

## 🎵 MUSIC NOTES 🎵 from Miss Penny



### Attitude of Gratitude

It's time for planning, sharing, trying something new and exploring our gifts in music.

If you attended the March "Go Fourth", I shared a few ideas with you. If you haven't returned a sign-up slip, please do so! You can find them on the kids table near the Hospitality Center.

Each summer the Glory Singers and Geneva Ringers take a little well deserved time off. If you have any musical gifts you'd like to share in worship, PLEASE see me! Do not keep your light hidden under a bushel.

Always remember, lifting your voice in congregational singing each Sunday, is a musical gift given to everyone. Share that gift every Sunday you are able!



### ***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



## *Fellowship*

*Sunday May 24th*

*Following Worship  
In the Hospitality Center*



### *Current Needs*

*Juice Boxes*

*Werthers Candy*

*Pudding cups*

*Assorted chips*

*Fresh  
Fruit, cookies, muffins*

*Thank You*



*Well done, good & faithful servant!  
April 12th, 2026*



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



**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. Matthew Henshaw has BBQ Dinner Fundraiser tickets for sale. Proceeds from the dinner go to church ministries.

Anyone willing to bake cakes, pies and cookies to donate should contact Jeanette Tabb for the types of these bake goods that will be needed. We plan on a table in the Fellowship Hall with baked goods available thereon including some "gluten free" and "sugar free"



### 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)

This is just the start...so let's get started!



**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.

**Our Presbyterian Women's Bible** study group invites you to join us on Saturday, May 30th, at 10:00am, when Lynn Pechuekonis, a member of CTPC and local author of historical books about Harpers Ferry, will share about the Bible study she wrote: *The Gentle Savior: Seeing Him through the Eyes of the Women Who Met Him*. We will provide brunch. Although not essential, an RSVP will help us with planning. Please inform or email Sharon Criswell at [doyle.criswell@att.net](mailto:doyle.criswell@att.net).



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Ray Jamison who died on April 28th. May God bless those who grieve. Condolences can be sent to:

Joyce Jamison  
91 Devonshire Drive  
Charles Town, WV 25414



**Know. Grow. Serve.**

### CTPC Upcoming Events

|                          |                                                                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 16 <sup>th</sup>     | Kaetzel fellowship hall 1-4:00pm                                     |
| May 19 <sup>th</sup>     | CTPC hosts Shenandoah Presbyterian Meeting 8-4:00pm                  |
| May 23 <sup>rd</sup>     | Yokefellows BBQ Dinner 4:30-6:30pm                                   |
| May 25 <sup>th</sup>     | OFFICE CLOSED                                                        |
| May 30 <sup>th</sup>     | Hudson/children's piano recital/sanctuary & fellowship hall 1-6:00pm |
| June 19 <sup>th</sup>    | OFFICE CLOSED—Juneteenth                                             |
| July 1 <sup>st</sup>     | Life-Line Screening 8:00am-5:00pm                                    |
| July 3 <sup>rd</sup>     | OFFICE CLOSED—4th of July                                            |
| July 13-16 <sup>th</sup> | Vacation Bible School Rainforest Falls 9:00am-Noon                   |

## Celebrations this month

### **Birthdays**

Ashley Pugh  
 Connie Casserly  
 Camdyn Noland  
 Claire Smith  
 Karen Gregoryk  
 Jimmy Low  
 Sara Fowler  
 Abby Duncan  
 John Karos  
 Lauren Rossi  
 Jamie Hardy



### **Anniversaries**

John & Rebecca Karos  
 Jon & Karen Gregoryk  
 Corey & Brooke Smith  
 David & Jackie Weil  
 Vincent & Beth Pugh  
 Mike & Debbie Gregory  
 Mark & Mary Day  
 Michael & Heather Duncan



## **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](mailto: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.

### **ONLINE GIVING**

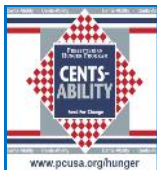
**Online giving** helps you to bring your offering before God in a simple, and secure way. You can choose from The Presbyterian Foundation, Facebook, or PayPal, each of which have a nominal fee that you can include as part of your gift. The Presbyterian Foundation fee does help the organization's mission, 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) (<http://www.ctpres.org>).



**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.



**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



**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.

### **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