

2026

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard



October, 2026

Fall is my favorite season and always has been. It reminds us that all of life is part of cycle that includes birth, growth, dying, and death. Now that my sixties are on the horizon (can you believe that??), it often feels like I'm in the fall of my own life. It is a sobering reality. I have more life behind me than ahead, and that's okay. Because this realization came when I was processing the diagnosis of a chronic condition that has decided to join the ride, I've had plenty of time to process what that means.

In the seasonal cycle, fall is a time when we are in transition. Things like lawn furniture and summer decorations are put away. While the weather is still warmer, we get ready for winter – replacing screens with storm windows, sealing cracks, and whatever else we need to get ready. The fall of our lives is like that, too. Not yet retired but need to learn about what's coming. And it is totally normal to “put things away” by downsizing and giving away what we don't need.

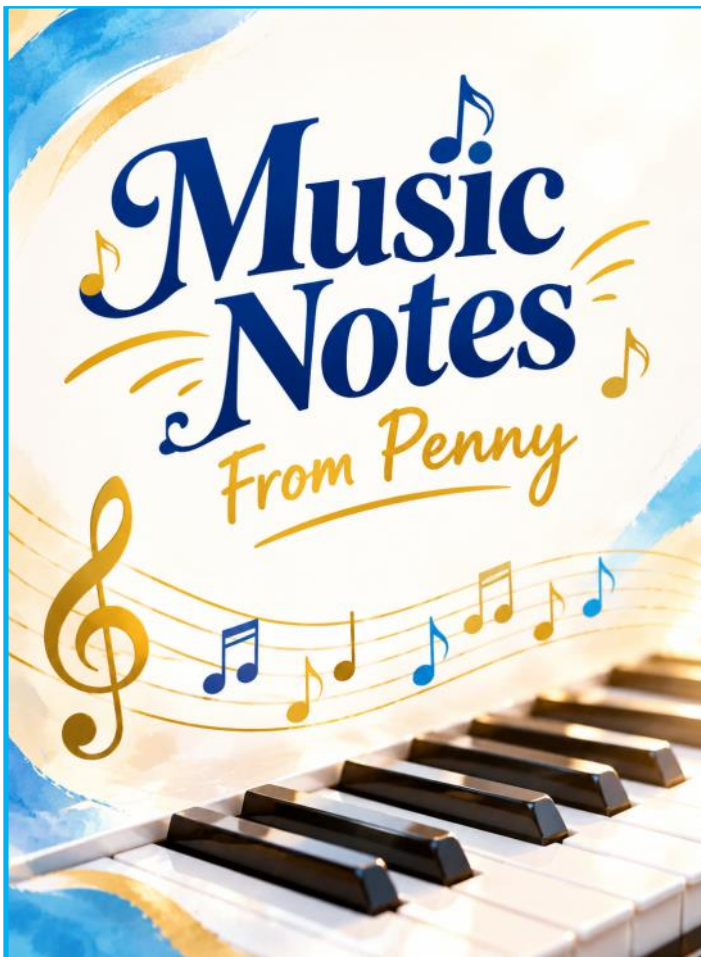
We do quite a bit of clean up in the fall, too. Most notably, we clear the leaves that have fallen around our property. We do this not only to keep up neat and tidy appearance, but also because in the late winter, early spring life will return, and that life needs sunlight and airflow. One thing I've noticed about the fall of my life is that it becomes easier to say no when someone asks about any kind of big commitment to a community group or board. We are well-acquainted with our shortcomings and limitations, so for the sake of the organizations and people we don't commit, we keep our lives simpler than they once were.

Of course, God is present in the fall. God is the author of life, and the transition marked by fall speaks volumes to us if we are listening and looking. The colors of the leaves are inspiring even though they are dying. The clean up is hard, but we are focused on what is coming, the hope of spring. This is not dissimilar to the hope we have in Christ, which is always critical when we are in the dry and dead seasons.

Fall is a wonderful season. We find God throughout as we look ahead, as we clean up, as we reflect on our lives. We need not fear the fall, rather, fall gives us an opportunity to trust in Christ, whether we are young and invincible or getting older and aware of what's coming. Enjoy the fall, friends, it is a meaningful and wonderful season!

Pastor John





Attitude of Gratitude

With the month of October comes my 7 year anniversary as Director of Music at CTPC. It's been 7 years of healing, growing, changing, challenges, building, nurturing, creativity, fun, fellowship, friendships loving and grace. That's what you (CTPC) have given me!

I am so blessed to be trusted with the music ministry of CTPC. My hands and their ability to play piano are a gift from God. I've always tried to use them to His Glory.

He has also blessed this church with some wonderful singers, ringers and musicians. We have room in our groups for anyone and everyone!

There is no greater sound to me and God on high, than the sound of the congregation singing on Sundy morning. There is no better way to praise the Lord, than lifting our voices in song.

Thank you CTPC for an amazing 7 years!

P.S. Christmas is just around the corner!

Blessings, Penny


**Charles Town
Presbyterian Church**

World Communion *Sunday*



*All Are Welcome
at the Lord's table!*

 **October 4th at 10:30am**

Charles Town Presbyterian Church
220 E Washington Str

THANK YOU

Thomas Keesecker

For a wonderful concert!



PIANO
Masterful music
that moved
our hearts.





POETRY
Words that
inspired and
gave us pause.



STORIES
Tales that
connected and
uplifted us all.

*The tapestry of piano, poetry,
and stories was inspiring
and beautiful.*

**Charles Town Presbyterian Church
was blessed by your gifts!**


Charles Town
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HOSPITALITY TEAM MEMBERS Needed!


 Share your gift of *Hospitality* with others on Sunday morning in the Hospitality Center!

KNOWing



Deepen faith.
Build community.
Grow together.

GROWing



Nurture relationships.
Encourage one another.
Become more like Christ.

SERVing



Use your gifts.
Love in action.
Make a difference.


 Contact *Lazan or Penny* for more info!

CHARLES TOWN
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 HOSPITALITY CENTER PRESENTS

Applefest 2026

EVERYTHING APPLE!

Sunday
 OCTOBER 18TH
 → AT 11:30 ←

Share your fav
 APPLE DISH WITH US!

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!


 All are Welcome!

Do you love apples? We apple-solutely have the event for you! Apple Fest 2026! Join us Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 11:30 am (after Worship) in the Hospitality Center. Apple everything! Apple cider, apple pie, apple bread, caramel and dips for apples and other apple goodies! Now is the time to start thinking of your favorite apple treat to make and share. Please watch for more information and


Charles Town
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

KNOWing **GROWing** **SERVing**

— All Are Welcome —



Hospitality Ministry

Current Needs

Assorted chips
 Goldfish
 Werthers Candy
 Cough drops
 Muffins and fresh fruit
 On Sunday morning
 Thank you!


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

JOY found in the little things!






Charles Town
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

KNOWing GROWing SERVing



Pastor Appreciation

MONTH

Thank you  Pastor John!



Tech Team members NEEDED!

To support the visual and streaming needs of our weekly worship celebration

KNOWing GROWing SERVing



Charles Town Presbyterian Church

Contact Pastor John for more info!

CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINISTRY + OPPORTUNITIES

KNOWing GROWing SERVing



MUSIC WORSHIP FAMILY MISSIONS

TECHNOLOGY HOSPITALITY STEWARDSHIP

— Together We Make a Difference —



Charles Town
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

KNOWing | GROWing | SERVing

Ministry Opportunity

Preparing the Communion elements is a Faith-Full service.



If you'd like to assist in preparing or cleanup, contact **Beth Pugh**



Music ministry in Motion preparing 1st Saturday of the month Friendship meal



The Yokefellows Sunday School Class would like to thank all of the members of the Charles Town Presbyterian Church and our friends who contributed to our BBQ Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, September 12th, with baked goods and those members and friends who contributed their time and efforts in decorating and setting the tables, assisted in serving the wonderful BBQ pulled pork, BBQ chicken and the many side dishes, and beverages. A special thanks to Doug and Julia McDonough who purchased and cooked the pork, chicken and side dishes, and the members of our Yokefellows Sunday School Class who worked Friday evening, overnight into Saturday afternoon assisting Doug at the big "Cooker" slow cooking the BBQ Pork and BBQ Chicken. These men, who go by the moniker of "Holy Smokers", were up all night tending the "Cooker". Finally the Yokefellows Sunday School Class would like to thank all of the Members of the Charles Town Presbyterian Church and our other friends and neighbors who attended the BBQ Dinner Fundraiser and broke bread together with us and enjoyed the fellowship.



Charles Town Presbyterian Church
Mission Team presents

SOCK *it to THEM*

campaign 2026

"Head to toe- Let Love Show"

October 11th thru October 31st

Socks, T-shirts, Hoodies, winter hats!
 For men, women and children
 New items only please!

Let's Share Comfort. Share Hope. Share Love.

Collection baskets in the sanctuary



Celebrations this month

Birthdays

Tim Casserly
Sharon Criswell
Brooklyn Farmer
Hoyle Fulbright
Jackson Smith
Reese Robison
Evan Longerbeam
Katherine Burns
Lillian Duncan
Margaret Kursey
Emily Mayhew
Blossom Harrison
Kaz Feldstein
Cheryl Fulbright
Austin Gregoryk



Mary Day
Dan Hart
Vicki Burns
Madison Henshaw
Roxanne Noland



Anniversaries

Jonathan & Vicki Burns
Harry & Linda Puster
Hoyle & Cheryl Fulbright
Daniel & Jannette Beeson

Session News

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

- ◆ Received as presented, the minutes of the August stated meeting of session and the August congregational meeting.
- ◆ Called a congregational meeting for Sunday, September 27 following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect an elder to fill a partial vacancy. Anne Portrey is nominated by the CNC. Nominations will be taken from the floor as usual.
- ◆ Heard a verbal report from the finance committee.
- ◆ The session was informed that the youth group has moved to monthly activities during the period during which we are searching for a staff person.
- ◆ The mission and outreach committee reported that providers for the monthly friendship meal in 2027 are already signing up and we have half the dates filled. The kickoff for sock it to me will be October 12.
- ◆ Heard a report on the August presbytery meeting.
- ◆ The elders examined elder-elect Margaret Kursey. After some questions, the examination was sustained and installation was scheduled for Sunday, September 20 as part of worship.



CTPC Upcoming Events

October 3rd	Friendship Ministry Meal
October 4th	World Communion Sunday
October 10th	LaRue fellowship hall 11-5:00pm
October 18th	Apple Fest following worship in the hospitality station
October 24th	CTP Women's Group 10:00am
November 7th	Friendship Ministry Meal
November 17th	Life Line Screening 8-5:00pm
November 21st	CTP Women's Group 10:00am at Panera
November 26th	Happy Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED
November 27th	OFFICE CLOSED





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.



Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will be here at Charles Town Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 offering safe, pain-

less, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. There is no time like the present to take action!

Three ways to register:

Call toll-free: 1-800-324-9458 promo code HABCO01

Online: LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC

Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607



Charles Town
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

KNOWing

GROWing

SERVing



Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



Donate



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).



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 or 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

