



2026 November

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard



CHARLES TOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT PRESSES

In just a few days, our nation will conclude voting in the 2026 midterm elections. This election has had the most money spent on midterm elections in history. Clearly this election is important to the people of the country. What do we do if the election results are challenged? What if the situation is deemed critical enough that the president imposes certain restrictions while it is sorted out? I've heard these questions and more in the last month. For Christians, how we respond is important, mostly because how we respond "today" makes room for sharing the gospel "tomorrow," as it were.

We serve something and someone greater than these United States. We are disciples of Jesus, citizens of God's kingdom. This is our first allegiance. As Christians in the United States, we have a civic responsibility to exercise our rights, but our behavior in the civil realm must be informed by how we learn and grow in the spiritual.

If our party loses and we end up at some protest that turns violent, not one of us wants our picture in the paper or on social media throwing a punch. Because of that behavior and picture, people will make assumptions about us that may or may not be true. Those assumptions will absolutely affect their reception to anything we say about our faith. But if, throughout the voting and recounting process (we know it's coming), we are consistently kind, thoughtful, and gracious, we may get a hearing.

In the upper room, in John 13, Jesus says this after washing the disciples' feet, "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another*" (13:33-34). Love one another. This command was originally spoken to the Twelve, but it is meant for all of us. If we want to be like Jesus, we turn the other cheek, we wash the feet, we love our enemies. Even if the politicians we vote for lose. Especially if they lose.

God is more concerned with how each person behaves than he is with political developments. God doesn't need our help, our faux outrage, and he especially does not want anger, destruction and violence to come from his people. When that happens, we hamper our own ability to share the message of Jesus.

Over the last decade, I've been asked numerous times why I am not more political in the pulpit. Trust me, politicians provide plenty of sermon fodder. But all politicians are temporary; faith is not. Jesus certainly isn't. My priority as a Christian is to let my faith inform my civic privilege, and to consistently point people to Jesus. As a pastor, I don't want people to trust in politicians or a political party more than God. So, I focus on what we can and should do instead of what some flavor of the moment politician is doing this news cycle. So friends, don't sweat the results and keep your eyes on Jesus!

All the best,
Pastor John





Attitude of Gratitude

Happy November!



Are you thinking
about Christmas?



Our Music ministry
is and hard at work.



Hope you will join us **DECEMBER 13TH**
for our *Christmas Joy* Service of music!

Worship Ministry



Charles Town
Presbyterian Church

Communion Preparation

SIGN-UP SHEET

IS ON THE SANCTUARY PIANO



*Do you
feel called?*



CHARLES TOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Join the
HOSPITALITY
Team!



See Lazan or Penny
for more info



CHARLES TOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Help us keep the
**HOSPITALITY
CENTER**
Stocked
WITH
goodies!

WELCOME
*We're glad
you're here!*



Your generosity
helps us welcome
and care for our
church family
and guests.



SHOP OUR AMAZON WISH LIST:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/df/56XQZL05515ACW77e2...>

Thank you!

EVERY ITEM MAKES A
difference!



Charles Town
Presbyterian Church

Check out our
WEBSITE!



NOW
CELL PHONE
FRIENDLY
SCROLLING!



www.ctpres.org



WORSHIP WITH US
EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT
10:30AM
IN-PERSON AND ONLINE!



All Are Welcome

All things Christmas

Christmas Joy

A special service of music



December 13, 2026
at 3pm

Featuring
Eric Bowman
Guest Organist

Geneva Ringers, Silverbells,
CTPC Ringers,
A special Christmas Choir
and more!



**Charles Town
Presbyterian Church**



Greening the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 5th at 10am

Kids welcome to decorate
the Chrismon tree!

Refreshments in the Hospitality Center

All Are Welcome!



Charles Town
Presbyterian Church

CHRISTMAS Choir Rehearsal!

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 18TH
AT 6:30PM**

**IN THE
MUSIC ROOM**

**THIS CHOIR WILL SING
FOR THE DECEMBER 13TH
JOY SERVICE**

If you like to sing, without
a big commitment,
please join us!



CHARLES TOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Memorial POINSETTIAS

will be placed in our sanctuary
this Advent and Christmas
season.

Call or email the
church office by
**Wednesday,
December 2nd,**
to sign up.

304-725-5316
 ctpres@ctpres.org

Cost is
\$12.00
single stems

If you purchase a poinsettia, please remove
it from the sanctuary after the service on the 24th.



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>).

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Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am–Worship Celebration
FaceBook

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



Donate



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.



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 22nd. Note memo line "Thanksgiving offering". As always, thank you for your generosity.



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

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



Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will be here at Charles Town Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 offering safe, painless, 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 HABC001



Online: [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://llsa.social/habc)



Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607





Applefest -2026- Highlights



Celebrations

THIS MONTH

Birthdays

Laurel Odell
Matthew Henshaw
Tracey Owens
Ruth Scott
George Karos
Penny Liston
Quentein LaVallee
Cy Staniec
Allen Peacher
Kylee Low
Mary Via

Anniversaries

Marty & Carol Kable
Dan & Linda Hart
Ken & Kathy Reim



Charles Town Presbyterian Church

-  Ministry Opportunities
-  Worship
-  Music
-  Hospitality
-  Missions
-  Technology
-  Fellowship
-  Stewardship

*Prayerfully consider
your calling*



CTPC Upcoming Events



October 29th

November 1st

November 7th

November 17th

November 21st

Rise & Shine bells and pizza 11:00am

Stewardship Sunday

Friendship Ministry Meal

Life-Line Screening 8-5:00pm

CTP Women's Group 10:00am at Panera



The church office will be closed for Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th. Happy Thanksgiving and have a safe holiday.

CHARLES TOWN
— PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH —
**STEWARDSHIP
SUNDAY**
November 1st

KNOWing



GROWing



SERVing

