

December
2023



MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

'Tis the season. Already!

It is hard to believe that December is upon us. The season of advent will begin Sunday, December 3, and that weekend will kick off the busiest season of the year in the life of the congregation. Here are some of the upcoming activities next month (and many of these activities have more information in this newsletter):

12/2 - Parade outreach. Our now annual giveback to the community during the parade will happen once again. We give away hot dogs, hot drinks, nacho chips and cheese, and other food. We are looking for help both on the day of the event, and food donations. We need hot dogs, rolls, hot chocolate mix, and chips.

12/3 - Advent Festival and Sanctuary Decorating. Following worship, we will have a light lunch, followed by the advent festival. There will be advent-focused crafts and activities. We will also decorate the sanctuary following lunch.

12/10 - Christmas Joy Service, 3pm. This annual service collects the annual Joy offering while allowing us to celebrate Christmas through music and worship.

12/21 - Longest Night Service, 7pm. Last year we held this service that was well-received by all who attended. Longest night services focus on the grief and sadness some people feel during this season, for a variety of reasons. All are welcome, but those who are dealing with grief, sadness, and depression will find the service particularly meaningful.

12/24 - Christmas Eve. This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. We will worship our usual time in the morning, at 10:30am. Evening worship will be held at 5pm and will include communion and candle lighting.

On a final note, I have noticed a recent uptick in applause during worship. With so much extra music this season, I want to remind all of us that special music is no different than our monetary offerings. They are offerings to God and should be treated as such. Rather than applaud, which is something we do for performers, a hearty "Amen" or "Praise God" is more appropriate. After all, it is Christ alone who gets the glory.

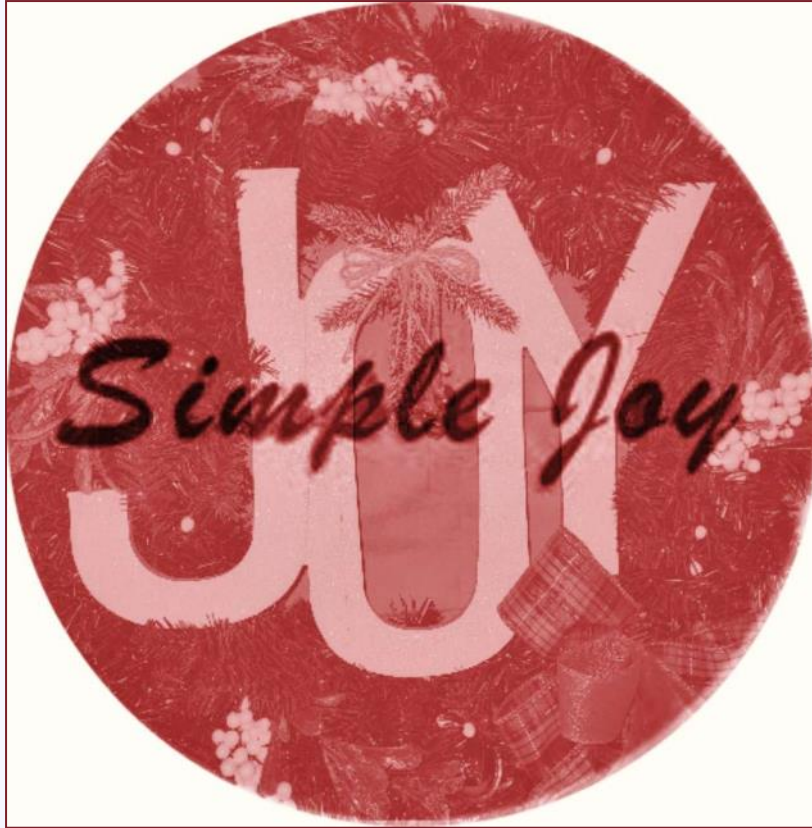
Blessings,
Pastor John



Know. Grow. Serve.

Attitude of Gratitude

“Simple Joy”



Wow! We are only a month away from our Christmas Joy Service, “A Journey to Joy”! The choirs have been hard at work learning and practicing music! **This is an in-person event** so we hope you can attend.

In looking past “A Journey to Joy”, I arrived at Simple Joy! (musically). It is easy for those in music ministry to get so involved in practicing and trying new things that it lessens our appreciation and the reason we do what we do.

Christmas Eve will be our “Simple Joy” of the season where we return to basics to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

The choirs will enjoy a couple weeks off after Christmas and then return to prepare for Lent and Easter.

I wish you Simple Joy this Christmas Season!

Penny

Christmas Schedule

**DECEMBER 3RD- 1ST SUNDAY ADVENT
WORSHIP AT 10:30AM
(COMMUNION SERVED)**

**DECEMBER 10TH - "A JOURNEY TO JOY"
JOY SERVICE AT 3PM**



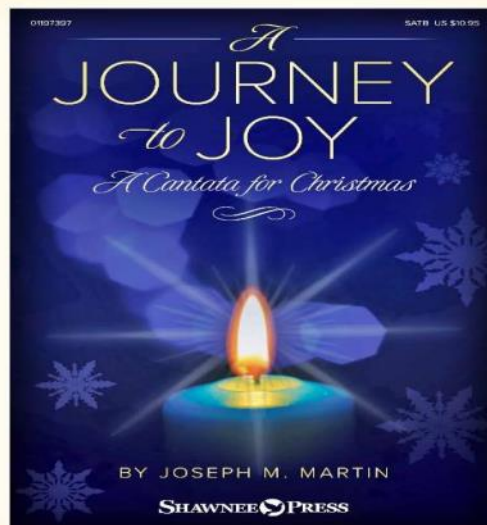
**DECEMBER 21ST- LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE 7PM
(COMMUNION SERVED)**

**DECEMBER 24TH- WORSHIP 10:30AM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 5PM
(COMMUNION SERVED)**



Charles Town Presbyterian Church

Charles Town Presbyterian Church Music Ministry Presents



**Please Join Us
Sunday, December 10th
At 3pm
For our Christmas Joy Service !
Featuring our vocal & handbell choirs**



Hear ye, hear ye, one and all

Advent Celebration



Sunday December 3rd

for all ages

Immediately following worship

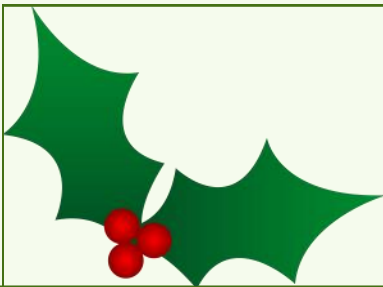
Light lunch

Carol singing

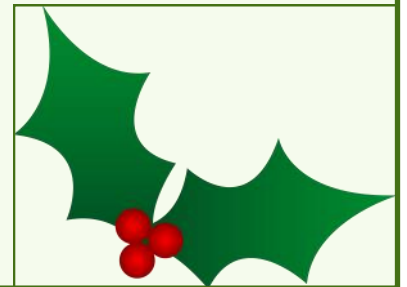
Ornament exchange

Make Advent crafts

Trim the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree with Chrismons



ADULTS— decorate the
sanctuary if able



Charles Town Presbyterian Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Kid's Group!

Kid's Group meets each Sunday
from 3-5PM.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Any questions, please feel free to contact Garth Steven-Jennings
304-725-5316 or garthstevens-jennings@ctpres.org.

Session News

The session met for its November stated meeting on Tuesday, November 21, and took the following actions:

- Examined officers elect. After sustaining the examination, the session set ordination and installation for worship on Sunday, January 17.
- As this was the last meeting of the year, the clerk advised the session to include in this meeting's minutes, notes that offerings are counted by two people, and that bank records are reviewed by two people. Per the clerk's request, the session received the annual statistical report for 2022, which was reviewed in February but never acted on.
- Heard a report from the November meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery. It was noted that Debbie Romano, a long-time member of Shepherdstown Church, was moved into candidacy for Ministry of Word and Sacrament at that meeting.
- Removed Judson and Jean Romine from the church rolls, per their request.
- Discussed the upcoming capital campaign, the advent and Christmas activities, the 2024 session committee assignments, and the annual congregational meeting on January 14.
- Closed in prayer and prayed for the needs of the congregation.

CTPC Upcoming Events December:

- December 2nd: Charles Town Christmas parade 2pm
December 3rd: Advent Celebration/Decorate Sanctuary following worship
December 10th: Christmas Joy Service 3pm (snow date December 17th)
December 21st: Longest Night Service 7pm
December 24th: Christmas Eve Service 5pm
December 25th: OFFICE CLOSED
December 26th: OFFICE CLOSED
December 29th: OFFICE CLOSED



- January 1st: Happy New Year!
OFFICE CLOSED



Christmas Joy Offering, will be collected on Sunday, December 10th. 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
Colton Ruffner
Doug White
George Tabb
Megan Henshaw
Meredith Hunt
Rachel Tansill
Kathy Reim
Glenn Moreland
Nathaniel Pugh
Andrew Rossi
Kathy Donadio



Jessica Donadio
Don Engle
Janet Harner
Justin Hardy
Briana Puzutti
Amy Sheetz
Amy Low



Anniversaries

Frank & Kathy Donadio
Dennis & Marsha Dibbern
Marty & Katherine Hunt
Bob & Rachel Tansill
Bill & Augusta Whitacre

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration Facebook

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



[Donate](#)



zoom

CTPC Zoom Meetings

To join any of the Zoom meetings listed below, please email the church office at ctpres.org for contact information.

The Faithweavers is a blended Sunday School class with in person and virtual options led by Margaret Kursey.

Yokefellows Sunday School Class. The Class will begin with a short business meeting from 8:45 am to 9:00 am at which time prayers will be offered for class members, family and friends who are ill or otherwise in distress. At 9:00am until 9:35 am a lesson will be taught by the class teacher from the Adult Bible Studies series. Anyone wishing to visit the class on ZOOM should contact the following class members to receive a ZOOM "invite": Gary Scott at email: gary3042795296@gmail.com or James Mackenzie at email: mackenzie48708@gmail.com.



Memorial poinsettias

will be placed in our sanctuary this Advent and Christmas season. Call or email the church office by **Wednesday, December 6th**, to sign up (304-725-5316 or ctpres@ctpres.org). Cost is \$10.00, single stemmed. If you purchase a poinsettia, please remove it from the sanctuary after the 5:00 p.m. service on the 24th.

Thank you.

**The Worship Team has volunteers
Signed up to water
And maintain the poinsettias
This Christmas Season**



Please Do Not Water





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/Apple 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 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

Worship Help Needed. We need help running the technology used in worship each week. We are seeking two or three people to help run the PowerPoint slides and the camera for our live broadcast. These are fairly simple tasks, and we provide training. Please speak with Pastor John or Roger Snook if you can help.

Seeking a nursery attendant:
 Where—CTPC
 When—every Sunday 10AM-noon
 What—an aide for our current nursery attendant, Jordan, as she cares for children infant- Kindergarten
 Why—to keep a safe environment for young children while parents (members or visitors) worship in our church sanctuary
 Who—We seek a Christian individual 18 years or older who loves and respects children. This person should be gentle, warm, trustworthy, responsible, playful, nurturing, patient, and punctual.
 This is a part time position. Hourly wage will be discussed when serious candidates apply. A background check will be required.
 Email a resume to Charles Town Presbyterian Church: ctpres@ctpres.org



The flower chart for 2024 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.



Meals-on-Wheels is in need of volunteers to help Monday—Friday for packing meals (8am-10am) and delivering meals (10am – Noon). We have five areas in Jefferson County that we deliver to and need drivers for all of them. Please call (304-725-1601) or stop by the kitchen of the Charles Town Presbyterian Church. We are open 8am-1pm.

