

May 2025



CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CT Press

MUSINGS...

by Pastor John Bethard

The flowers are blooming. The days are warmer. It's sunny well into the evening. Spring is here! This season has a way of bringing renewal and hope as we emerge from the dark cold of winter.

Since January, I have led the congregation in a study of healthy habits that hopefully make a person's relationship with Christ deeper, stronger, and more meaningful. I know it is hard to start something new, so I decided to follow up with some encouragement for a few of those habits.

Prayer. Prayer is the most basic part of our relationship with Christ. Prayer is simply talking to God. For those who are not sure what to pray for, here are some suggestions: family, co-workers, friends; church staff, elders, deacons, and trustees; the overall mission of the congregation; world events and world leaders. The more we pray, the more we will find ourselves drawn to prayer.

Solitude. This was a new one for many when I preached about this. Solitude is intentional withdrawal from all the "noise" of the world. There really is not much that is quiet in our world, and sometimes all that activity makes it hard to hear God. Solitude is super easy to do once we do it; it's like going to the gym – the hardest step is the first one out the door. But once we take that step the rest is easy, especially since we live in such a beautiful area. In ten minutes, any direction we can find a place to walk, sit, and just listen for a while. That's all solitude is – listening for God with as little distraction as possible. To get started, put an appointment on your calendar and try it!

Fasting. This one is important to do properly. Fasting is going without food to have more time to pray while demonstrating dependence on God. Any person with any kind of autoimmune disorder should check with their medical provider before engaging. For first-time fasters, I recommend skipping one meal, and when that becomes manageable, move to two, and so on. Stay hydrated, that's important. Fasting is special; we fast when the need is great, as when we must make a decision with no clear good options.

There are many more habits than these. All of them are a little different, and all are meant to aid our spiritual journey. My hope and prayer for all of us is that we would grow more deeply in our knowledge of and love for Christ. Good spiritual habits are a fantastic way to experience a kind of springtime renewal of the soul.

May you find uncountable blessings on the journey!

-Pastor John



Attitude of Gratitude



We all have a favorite hymn or Christian song! Over the next couple weeks I invite you to share yours with me so that I can incorporate it into worship one Sunday.

I ask that you write the title on a piece of paper and please add your name in case I have any questions.

You may either personally hand it to me, leave on the sanctuary piano, or place it in the offering plate.

I hope to be overwhelmed with responses!

Blessings, Penny

FUNDRAISING EVENT

*The Hospitality Center Team
Has a vision for the room
To make it even more inviting!*

*Your help is needed
To turn the vision
Into reality*

*Any and all donations appreciated
Please submit to the church office
and earmark
Hospitality Fundraiser
Many Thanks!*

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Hospitality Center

Is in need of the following items

Juice boxes- apple, orange, fruit punch

Werthers Candy

Single serve bags of
Goldfish, chips, pretzels

Breakfast bars, Poptarts

Pudding cups & Snack cakes

All donations greatly appreciated!

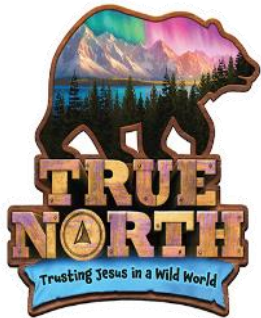


*Start the new year as a
Hospitality Team Member!
Contact: Penny or Lazan*



Serve the Lord by Serving at His Table! The central Sacrament of our faith is Holy Communion. Preparation for this holy experience requires the hands and hearts of those willing to serve at the Lord's Table by preparing it for celebration of the Sacrament. We need your help! If you feel called to Serve the Lord by Serving at His Table please contact Lazan Rogers or any member of the Worship Team or the church office.

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



Mark your calendars!

Vacation Bible School to be held Monday, July 7th—Thursday, July 10th, 9am to Noon. **True North, Trusting Jesus in a Wild World.** This VBS is written as an Alaskan Adventure and will include Northern

Lights, majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. **True North** focuses on Jesus as a guiding light, helping kids build a rock-solid foundation in their faith. Pass on these dates to your friends and relatives. Let us know if you would be willing to help.

Contact Marsha Dibbern (304-671-9715 or marshadib@juno.com) or Garth Stevens-Jennings (garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org.)

Charles Town Presbyterian Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

YOUTH GROUP!

Youth Group meets each Sunday from 2:30-4pm

KIDS GROUP!

Kid's Group meets each Sunday from 4-5:30pm-5:30pm.

I look forward to seeing you there!

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



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, May 26th
in observance of Memorial Day.
Have a safe holiday!



Know. Grow. Serve.

Property Update:

Anyone that owns a home understands the challenges and surprises that arise for the homeowner. A church is no different and no matter how we budget or try to anticipate, we are seemingly always trying to catch up. It was the hope that our Capital campaign/Restore our House wishes would get us caught up but that is not happening.

Already in 2025, we have had to replace one of the two AC units for the sanctuary. We were told last year that we were on borrowed time. Who knows when the other unit will die. The cost for the one we replaced was \$15,120.

We have had an issue with the thermostats in the kitchen area and that will be another \$1,100.

Gutters and downspouts are needing attention as we still have a water issue. Cost to be determined but obviously a necessary repair.

We still have some AC modular units that need replaced and that was delayed from 2024 due to the budget. One of the non-operational units is in the parlor. That may need to be delayed again due to budget deficits. The other units that need replaced involve the fellowship hall, senior high class and the Liberty street rooms downstairs. Obviously, we will not be replacing all those this year.

When we did the walk through for the Capital Campaign/Restore our House, we did not look outside. If you look outside, we can see that we desperately need some painting to not only refresh but to protect exposed wood. We will be contracting to do that in stages but again, that is not in the budget. We still need to be proactive to protect our home.

There are some repairs that also need to be completed at the manse. The back stairs are in a precarious state and that work was delayed due to contractor issues. There are some areas that desperately need paint with exposed wood.

Pursuant to the wishes of the Restore our House, in May we will be beginning the first project which is the restoration of the restrooms outside the sanctuary.

On a positive note, we are working with the City of Charles Town and with some grants to get some sidewalks redone. This will be an evolving project as drainage and road surfaces will need to be corrected first along with tree issues resolved.

The Property Team,

Diane Mayhew, Doug McDonough, Matthew Henshaw

Charles Town Presbyterian Church 2025 Elder Committee Assignments

Communicating with Technology	-Roger Snook
Discipleship and Family Ministry	-Marsha Dibbern / Chris Clark
Finance	-Diane Mayhew / Christian Pechuekonis
Mission and Outreach	-Doyle Criswell / Patsy White
Personnel	-Kathy Shue
Property	-Diane Mayhew
Stewardship and Vision	-Patsy White
Worship and Music	-Beth Pugh / Kathy Shue

Celebrations this month

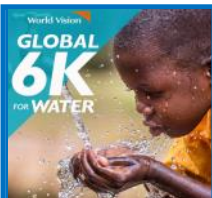
Birthdays

Ashley Pugh
Lena Camilletti
Connie Casserly
Camdyn Noland
Claire Smith
Karen Gregoryk
Dea Ping
J. P. Burns
John Fanjoy
Sara Fowler
Abby Duncan
John Karos
Jack Huyett
Jamie Hardy



Anniversaries

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



It's coming up fast! The annual **World Vision 6K Walk for Water** will occur on May 17! This year with the cutting of USAID funds, we feel it's even more important to support this cause for clean water. Doyle Criswell will be heading up this program, as

CTPC participates in it for the fourth year. If you feel that you can not walk, would you please consider supporting one of the individuals who have signed up or at least the team? Please go to <https://global6k.worldvision.org/>
1) Click on the "Sign up for 2025" to join the team and enter Charles Town Water Walkers for the team OR
2) Click on the "Donate" button and find Charles Town Water Walkers to donate
3) If you sign up, please consider contacting your friends/family and asking if they would support you. Just follow the same instructions as #2 and once you have signed up, they should be able to find your name in the dropdown menu.. Lastly walkers, don't forget to express your appreciation to your sponsors. It means so very much for them to hear the progress report. If they didn't care, they wouldn't have supported you!

CTPC Upcoming Events

May 17th	World Vision 6K Walk for Water
May 24th	Yokefellows BBQ Fundraiser Dinner 4:30-6:30pm
May 26th	OFFICE CLOSED—Memorial Day
May 7-10th	Vacation Bible School 9am-Noon

Sunday @ CTPC

10:30am-Worship Celebration FaceBook

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



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.



Yokefellows BBQ Pork dinner.

Get your tickets now from any Yokefellow and plan to join us on Saturday, May 24th, 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.



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 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

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



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.



The flower chart for 2025 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.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Capital Campaign Update:

Dear Congregation Family, thank you for participating in our shared Sunday

School Hour's facilities walkthrough which identified over 60 items that we could improve with your Capital Campaign contributions. There are a handful of items that don't cost us anything, and in 2024 you should look for some scheduled work days to help out in sharing your time to complete. For those wanting to make a difference sooner, you can contribute to the Capital Campaign now through your usual donation method or via the no-fee PayPal Giving Fund <https://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/3122728>.

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 Power-Point 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.