

March, 2026



Rev. Dr. John C. Minihan

Senior Pastor

pastor@christpreswv.org

304-412-0968

**75 East Pea Ridge Road
Huntington, WV 25705**

**Sunday Worship,
10:30 AM**

Sunday School, 9:30 AM

We are...

*A joyful community of
faith, celebrating life
together as Jesus' disciples.*

Patrick Hall

Director of Facilities
and Family Services

phallyouth@christpreswv.org

Jane Nicholas

Director of Children's Ministries

jane@christpreswv.org

Susan Adkins

Nursery Coordinator

nursery@christpreswv.org

Jill Adkins

Office Administrator

office@christpreswv.org

www.christpreswv.org

LENT

**RETURN TO ME WITH
YOUR WHOLE HEART**

JOEL 2:12

A message from Pastor John...

A LITTLE CONSISTENCY GOES A LONG WAY



Rev. Dr. John C. Minihan
Senior Pastor

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time
we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
Galatians 6:9*

I've taken a new approach to exercise over the last year or so.

Rather than chasing gains like I used to, I now strive for simple consistency. One reason for this change is purely physiological. My shoulders, knees, and back aren't as forgiving anymore. So I'd rather go lighter in the gym every day than injure myself and not be able to go at all. It's taken some getting used to, but I actually find that I'm enjoying myself more now, just doing the same simple routine rather than always thinking about how to do more. My joints appreciate it, too! I may not be as strong or as fast as I used to be, which I suppose is expected in your 60s, but I actually feel better than I have in a while!

My new routine has also been mentally rewarding! Getting the "monkey off my back," so to speak, has allowed me to step back and see the bigger picture. Whereas I used to work out with the idea of always doing better than the day before, now it's just about health and quality of life. My time in the half-marathon or how much I can bench press is a lot less important to me than just aging well and, one day, Lord willing, being able to get on the ground and play with my (future) grandchildren. So, my new approach is not to overdo things but just maintain a steady consistency each and every day. Thus far, the results have been encouraging!

A steady consistency is also important spiritually. I have always prayed and had a time of daily devotions. But, around this same time, I have also been focusing on a regular routine of Scripture memorization and reading for my own personal spiritual growth. Much of the reading I've done in the past has been church/ministry related – preparing for sermons, Sunday School lessons, Bible studies, and what-not. And this is necessary. But I've been taking more time to memorize Scripture and read devotionally to fill my own cup! Sometimes the reading is light. Sometimes it's more weighty. Sometimes I have to reread the same thing several times just to let it sink in. The key again is consistency. I'm not looking to finish a book a week or read a set amount of chapters in the Bible a day. But by constantly keeping at it, I feel better spiritually, just as my regular workout routine keeps me refreshed physically.

Consistency is an oft-overlooked discipline!

Maybe it's our impatience as Americans, but there's a lot to be said for that old adage, "Slow and steady wins the race!" I remember working on a drainage ditch on a mission trip to Honduras. Working alongside me was a Honduran man named Milton. Milton was not a large man. And you would think the 30 or 40 pounds I had on him would give me the advantage swinging that pickaxe as we dug the ditch together. But for every single blow of mine, it seemed like Milton was making 4 or 5 little scratches in the dirt. But Milton's consistency was far more efficient and effective than mine. And, while I was left winded and out of breath, Milton kept plugging along and carried the load that day until the ditch was completed.

My point is this...

A steady commitment to Jesus Christ is not as flashy as the occasional grand gesture, but it will do more for your soul in the end. There's nothing inherently spectacular about daily prayer time and Bible reading, or attending Sunday School, and worship, or quietly serving others in Jesus' Name, but it will strengthen you spiritually over time. Reflecting on his own life of faith and service, the late Eugene Peterson coined it as, "A Long Obedience In The Same Direction." That's where the growth comes! That's where the satisfaction comes! It comes through a slow and steady commitment to the God who has committed Himself to us in His Son, Jesus.

As we continue through the season of Lent, please give some thought to the spiritual consistency of your own lives. Lent is the traditional 40-day period of reflection and penance leading to the great celebration of Christ's Resurrection at Easter. Easter is the Big Day, of course! But it leaves 364 other days where just keeping at it, and not becoming weary in doing good, and following Jesus in that long, steady obedience will grow us, and bless us far more than we can imagine.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

Worship



THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Our next service of Communion will be on Sunday, March 1st.

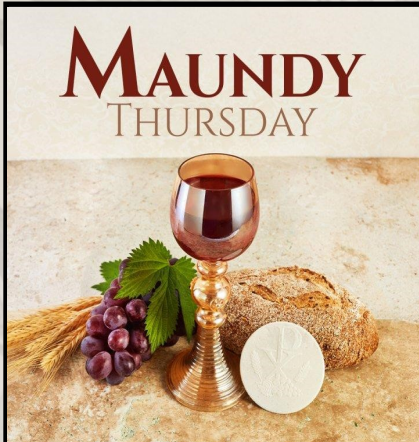
The Sacrament will be shared by pew service—emphasizing Christ's service to us and our service to one another.

As the Communion trays are passed, please hand the tray to your neighbor or the assisting elder or deacon. As they receive the tray, please take a piece of bread and the cup, and hold the elements until all are served.

Thank You!

As always, our Communion Bread will be gluten-free.

Many thanks to all of our Elders, Deacons, and members who assist in the service of The Lord's Table and by preparing and cleaning up after Communion. We appreciate you!



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE – April 2nd

Our Maundy Thursday service will be on Thursday, April 2nd, at 7:00 p.m.

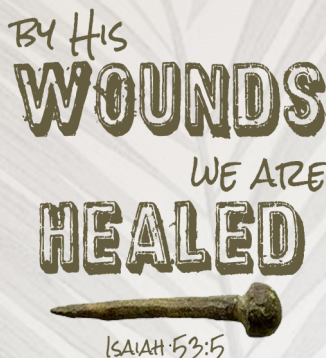
The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin “*mandatum*,” which means “mandate” or “command,” and refers to the command Jesus gave to His disciples at the Last Supper to “love one another.”

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35.

Please join us!

Good Friday Time of Prayer

The church will be open for meditative prayer on Good Friday from noon - 3:00.



Memorial/Honorary

Easter Flowers

Easter flowers orders are due by March 15th. The cost is \$16.50/each. This year we have lilies, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths available.



March Preaching Schedule

- March 1: Pastor John (Communion)
- March 8: Pastor John
- March 15: Pastor John
- March 22: Pastor John
- March 29: Patrick Hall (Palm Sunday)



A monthly praise service is held on the last Sunday of each month at 6:30. It is a very simple service with contemporary Christian music, some classical hymns, and a time of prayer. Contact Mikey Ashmore (606-547-6828) for more information.



Jane Nicholas
Director of
Children's
Ministries

Jane@christpreswv.
org

Next Generation Ministries

Next Generation Ministry is our intentional focus on discipling, equipping, and empowering children, youth, and young adults to mature into joy-filled and flourishing disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sunday School

We meet for Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. During March, the children will continue their journey through the Bible using The Gospel Project. Lessons are taught with love by Allison Farley.

Children's Worship



Preschool-Grade 5 meet in the children's classrooms after Jessie's Children.

"The Children's Chapel" downstairs is coming along! Stop by and see the stone walls and flooring. The murals of "stained glass" will be installed very soon.

The children's program is transitioning away from the concept of "Children's Church" to "Children's Worship." Currently, the children are learning about worship (who, what, when, where, why, and how) so that when our worship space is ready, they will have a better understanding of doing worship there.

We plan to follow a short Order of Worship that includes singing hymns of praise and engaging in Bible lessons through felt board story-telling and drama.

Our prayer is that this space will become the "Holy Ground" of spiritual formation for the children, where they will experience the presence of Jesus in a child-friendly and developmentally appropriate setting.

We extend a heart felt "Thank You" to Susan and Stuart Adkins for building the chancel area for our Children's Chapel!

If you are interested in learning more about how you can participate in this vital next-generation ministry, please contact Jane Nicholas.



Susan Adkins
Nursery Director
nursery@
christpreswv.org

Nursery

A fully staffed nursery is available for newborns – 3 years. If you are not familiar with our building, ask an usher for directions.

Next Generation Discipleship Groups – AKA “D-Groups”

DisciplingTHE

NEXTGeneration

D-Groups are meant to provide connection, support, and enrichment for our journey as disciples of Jesus Christ and will include programs for children, youth, and parents.

Parents, youth, and children, our next D-Groups meeting is on Sunday, **March 1st**, immediately following worship. Lunch is provided! (Take the day off from preparing lunch for your family!)

After sharing lunch as a large group, we break into D-Groups, which last from 12:45 p.m. until 1:30.

- ♦ Nursery - provided for infants and toddlers
- ♦ Children's D-Group - Games and activities with Pastor John
- ♦ Youth D-Group (Middle School and High School) - Activity and discussion, led by Emily Nicholas
- ♦ Parents' D-Group - Let's make some progress in our discussion of the five love languages of children and teens from Gary Chapman's book series! This month we will have an overview of all five love languages. Next month we will discuss how we identify the primary love language of each of our children.

G.I.F.T. = Growing in Faith Together

On February 15th, we made heart-shaped personal pizzas and played balloon volleyball. All who participated enjoyed the food and fellowship, love and laughter! Our next Gathering will be Sunday, March 15th. Middle School and High School, join us for food from Chipotle and games.

If you are interested in learning more about G.I.F.T., please contact Jane (jane@ChristPresWV.org).



Fellowship
CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN



Deacons/Outreach

A New Beginning Baby Bottle Campaign

During the season of Lent (Sunday, February 22nd through Palm Sunday, March 29th), Christ Presbyterian Church will be conducting our annual Baby Bottle Campaign for *A New Beginning Pregnancy Resource Center*.



A New Beginning is a pro-life and pro-eternal life ministry that seeks to care for expectant moms and dads, help equip them for parenthood, and assist the parents after their baby is born. One of the unique ministries that *A New Beginning* provides is that it continues to minister to families and offer encouragement and tangible support for up to 2 years after birth. The center has items needed for newborns and babies, and parents “earn” baby bucks by attending classes on labor and delivery, parenting skills, etc.

God’s people have always been called to protect society’s weakest of the weak. Throughout the pages of Scripture, God identifies Himself as the “Defender of the defenseless” and a “Father to the fatherless” and enjoins His people to especially

look after widows, orphans, and aliens. The biblical ethic of life is continuously expressed in standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves and giving voice to those who are silenced by the prevailing powers of the world.

Proverbs 31:8-9 says:

***“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly;”***

Our continued support of *A New Beginning* provides the necessary funds to help the center operate and serves as a witness to the sanctity of human life—created in the Image of God!

Baby bottles will be available in the narthex (by the front doors) each Sunday. Our “Baby Bottles of Blessing” will be collected and dedicated on Palm Sunday (March 29).

You may also write a check. Note “Baby Bottles” on the memo line.

More information about *ANB* can be found at anbprc.org, or see Pastor John.

The Huntington City Mission Auction was held on February 12th at New Baptist Church. Through the efforts of Karen Dickson and her team, we provided an Italian-themed basket for the auction. The contents were funded by our Outreach budget. The basket sold for \$280!



Volunteers Needed

Golden Girl Easter Party

On Saturday morning, March 28th, we will gather at the church at 10:00 to assemble 33 Easter baskets for the young ladies at the Golden Girl group home. We will host an Easter Party at the Church on the following Saturday, April 4th, from 11:00 – 1:00. We will be hosting 15 girls and 4 House Moms for lunch, games, and a presentation of the Easter story. Contact Monty Fulton at 304-634-7867 if you would like to help and be a part of this event.

City Mission Paint Party

May 9th

Barbara Tarter's class at Marshall University recently did a survey at the Huntington City Mission to help determine needs they may have. They discovered that the Mission lacked a child-friendly area to gather. They provided us with a list of materials they needed. The CPC Outreach Committee has adopted this project and is ready to proceed with it. The first thing we need to do is paint over the current gray walls. The Mission will be selecting the color they like, and we will be painting it. We will need volunteers at the Mission at 9:00 Saturday morning, May 9th. The paint, brushes, rollers, and everything we need will be there. Please come out, whether you're available for an hour or all day.



CPC is providing weekend Blessings in a Backpack meals for 20 students at Explorer Academy. On the last Sunday of each month, after worship, we need volunteers to meet in the Fellowship Hall to pack the items into 1-gallon ziplock bags. We pack 80 bags for the month. With enough help, this doesn't take more than about 10 minutes.



Don't forget, daylight savings time begins

March 8th.

We don't want you to miss Sunday School & Worship!



"Then the King will say to those on his right, ... 'I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ...

'When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers ... of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25: 34-40

Kairos Prison Ministry is a lay-led, interdenominational Christian ministry in which volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to prisoners and their families. David Frederick and Steve McDanald are actively involved and ask that you keep this ministry in your daily prayers.

The Kairos Ministry Team will be visiting Mount Olive Correctional Complex and Jail in Mt. Olive, WV, starting on the afternoon of April 16, 2026, and will depart after worship on Sunday, April 19. This facility is the state's only maximum-security correctional facility and has a current capacity of 1,030 male offenders. Twenty-five to thirty Kairos volunteers will offer to only 42 residents the opportunity to experience Christ's love and forgiveness by offering talks, discussion, time for reflection, meditation, prayer, and worship. We are calling on our congregation to support this meaningful outreach ministry in several ways.

Here are ways you can help:

- **Cookies**



Each team member must go to the facility with a minimum of 100 dozen cookies. This means that the CPC team needs to go to the facility with 200 dozen "home-baked" cookies. The cookies are offered to the residents each time we meet, each time they return to their cells, and they are offered to every resident in the facility as we leave. If you would like to contribute, please place each dozen cookies you bake in a zip-lock bag and bring them to the church **no later than Sunday, April 12th**. The most popular cookies are chocolate chip, oatmeal, and peanut butter, in that order. **It is very important not to use icing, sugar or any other type of coating on the outside of the cookie. Do not add any kind of fruit or nuts to the cookies.** A link for cookie guidelines is available in your weekly bulletin/announcement e-mail.

Financial Support



We are also seeking to raise \$500 to provide food for the volunteers over the weekend. Rather than have the church's two volunteers pay this themselves, or ask for it from our current Outreach budget, we are asking for a special offering from each of you who feel so led, in order to let you be a part of the ministry on a more personal basis.

To donate, please make checks payable to Kairos of WV or Christ Presbyterian Church and place them in the offering plate **by Sunday, April 12th**. If you make your check out to CPC, be sure to put "Kairos" in the memo section.

David & Steve express their heartfelt gratitude to the entire church family of CPC for their efforts in making this outreach mission a success. Your support is vital in spreading the love and hope that only Christ offers to those at Mt. Olive Correctional Complex.

If you have questions or would like to get involved, contact David Frederick (304-733-5773) or Steve McDanald (606-571-0350).

*Save
the
Date*

On Saturday, April 11th, the men of the church will gather at CPC to bake cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry. More information to follow.



Bible Studies

- **Journey Through the Bible** - This group of ladies meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 11:00–12:30 in the conference room at the church. In **March, we will meet on the 3rd and 17th**. For more info, contact Sarah Lance at sarah_lance@roadrunner.com or contact the church office.
- **Riverview Bible Study** - We encourage you to join us at The Village at Riverview Assisted Living on the last Tuesday of every month for Bible Study. The residents are so sweet, and we have a great time singing, listening to Pastor John's message, and chatting.

Are you looking for a fun, easy way to serve a lovely group of senior citizens in our community?

Riverview is located just one mile from Christ Presbyterian. We hope you'll join us on **March 31st at 2:00**. Just one hour of your time, and you are guaranteed to leave smiling!
- **Men's Bible Study** is studying the history of the Church. They meet Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the study room. Contact James Gibbs (304-638-5716) for more information.
- **S.A.L.T. (Sisters Abiding in Light & Truth)** - S.A.L.T. meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the conference room. We are currently studying *Developing A Servant's Heart* by Charles Stanley. In his book, Stanley says the Bible is, in many ways, God's "service manual" for life. It tells us how to live a godly life and clearly explains how to use our gifts, time, talents, money, and more for God's glory and His purposes. We hope you'll join us! Contact Linda Craig at lbccraig48@gmail.com for more information.
- **Soul Sisters** - This group of ladies meets every Thursday morning at 9:00 in the conference room. We are currently studying *Isaiah* by Melissa Spoelstra.

Isaiah was a prophet from around 700 BC. He prophesied the coming of John the Baptist and also Christ's birth, death, and resurrection, as well as Jesus' Second Coming and the Millennial Kingdom. We would love to have you join us.

For more information, contact Darlene Lowry at dlowry927@gmail.com or 304-544-9137.



Fellowship

"THE PRODIGAL BUN"



On the first Wednesday of each month, we meet for food, fellowship, and fun at The Prodigal Bun.*

We meet at 6:00 p.m., and we will continue grilling (hamburgers, hotdogs) and meeting together for fellowship. There is no need to bring anything. The church will provide all the food and drinks. We're looking forward to continuing this wonderful fellowship, so please join us!

*In the event of questionable weather, watch our Facebook page and for texts and e-mails from the church office for updates.

March
4th



The church is hosting our annual Spring-Cleaning Day on Saturday, March 21, from 9:00 am to noon.

Please join us as we spiffy up our beautiful church building and grounds in preparation for Easter! There will be indoor and outdoor projects. Everyone is welcome! Even if you can only stay for a short time, it will go a long way toward keeping everything fresh and up to date.

Many thanks to Scott Ramey for coordinating our Spring-Cleaning Day again!



Saturday Morning Men's Coffee - Please join us each Saturday morning at 8:30 as we gather at *Butter It Up in the food court at The Market on 3rd Ave., downtown*. Although there is no formal lesson, there is a lot to be learned each week. We usually have a very enlightened discussion of current events, church activities, or personal experiences. Feel free to join us and be a part of the Christian fellowship we enjoy each Saturday morning.



All musicians (vocalists and instrumentalists) are encouraged to join us for practice on *Sunday evenings at 6:30 and Wednesday evenings at 7:15* for rehearsal. Contact Mikey Ashmore (606-547-6828) for more information.





Dean Dickson	1-Mar	Madeline Kelsey	21-Mar
Mark Pinson	1-Mar	David Fox	27-Mar
Jacob Perry	4-Mar	Amelia Clark	30-Mar
Jack Alford	13-Mar		

If we are missing the birthday of you or a family member, please contact the church office so we can update our records.

Sabbatical

— refresh | rest | refocus —

In last month's newsletter, it was shared that the Session has approved a sabbatical for Pastor John this summer.

By this summer, Pastor John will have been serving as an ordained minister for 35 years (15 of those years in Huntington). This will be his first sabbatical. But it brings

up the question: "What is a pastoral sabbatical?"

A general definition is that a pastoral sabbatical is an extended leave of absence designed for rest, spiritual rejuvenation, and personal reflection. It serves as a preventive measure against burnout, enabling the pastor to return with renewed energy and focus for long-term ministry while also fostering leadership development within the congregation.

A Pastoral Sabbatical Planning Team of Elders - David Fox, David Nicholas, and Karen Dickson- has been formed and has been meeting with Pastor John to plan for this time. Personal goals have been discussed, and planning for pulpit supply and leadership while Pastor John is away has begun. As details are confirmed, they will be shared with the congregation.

Please look for updates and more information in upcoming newsletters. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor John or any member of the Pastoral Sabbatical Planning Team.



Congratulations to Darlene Lowry and her family upon the birth of her newest grandson, Benjamin Lowry Rutledge. Benjamin is the son of Katy (Lowry) and Geoff and little brother to Miles.

Benjamin was born on Wednesday, February 11th, and came into the world at 7lbs. 10 oz.

*"Sons are a heritage from the LORD,
children a reward from Him."
Psalm 127:3*

Ministry of Encouragement

The following friends appreciate prayers and enjoy cards of encouragement from our congregation. If you would like to send a card to let them know you're thinking about them, please send them to:

Becky & Jack Elliott

149 Midvale Drive
Huntington, WV 25705
Tom Ochala
147 Wyngate Drive
Barboursville, WV 25504



Inclement Weather Policy

As the weather gets colder, we want to remind everyone of the church's inclement weather policy.

In case of inclement weather, you can always check our Facebook page for the latest updates.

For midweek activities, please remember that we follow the Cabell County School schedule:

- If school is called off, church activities are called off.
- A morning delay means morning activities are cancelled.
- Early release due to weather means our afternoon and evening activities are cancelled.

Prayer Chain

•Submit a Prayer Request

If you would like to submit a prayer concern for CPC's prayer chain, the cards are located in the pew pads. Put your request in the offering plate. Confidentiality is an option on the form.

•Pray for Requests Received

Would you like to be a part of CPC's e-mail prayer chain to receive the requests submitted throughout the week? If so, please e-mail Jill Adkins at office@christpreswv.org.



Christ Presbyterian Church

75 East Pea Ridge Road
Huntington, WV 25705