



the Chimes

April 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Message from the Pastor

Beloved of Christ,

We draw closer to the holiest of times in the church—the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have been examining those people standing close to the cross this Lent. I'd like us to consider one phrase that Jesus cries from the cross.



Matthew 27:45-46 recounts: "From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"

There are many thoughts as to why Jesus would utter these words. There is one that I want to point out. Jesus is quoting the first verse of Psalm 22. I urge you to go and read this entire psalm. I struggle with the idea that God the Father truly abandoned Jesus on the cross. It might have felt that way, but I cannot fathom that God the Father would ever truly forsake any of His children.

I instead prefer Amy-Jill Levine's take: "To pray a 'lament' is to be in communication with the divine; faith and hope are not lost.

To the contrary, lament psalms reinforce faith, hope, and relationship. A lament means that even though the divine presence feels absent, we know God is listening... There is nothing sinful or shameful in speaking out about pain or injustice."

In many cases, being able to voice such concerns helps even if the situation doesn't immediately change. We could easily apply that thought to many things right now both globally and personally.

What is important, however, is that Jesus constantly promises that his cross will never be the end of the story. I think it would be a shame if relegated Psalm 22 to only pain. The resurrection is coming. Promise is coming. Hope is coming. Truth is coming. Near the end of the psalm, the author takes a turn. Suddenly, we hear words of assurance in the midst of pain: "To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, (Continues on page 3)



Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Child Care
- 9 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School: Social Room
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

Worship Service is in-person and online at fpcfairmont.com & Facebook

Musical Notes *from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist*



The pandemic has been a long and windy road, but we are seeing some signs of "normalcy" more recently. The good news on the music ministry front is that Session has approved the return of choirs and congregational singing! We are excited to have the West Virginia Brass Quintet on Palm Sunday and choirs providing music in April, just in time for

Easter. Thanks to Anne and John Schooley, Charlene Sullivan, John Lee, and Amy Koon for providing special music during the month of March.

There are several concerts happening in April that I want to share with you:

April 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Mozart Requiem with the West Virginia Symphony at the Clay Center in Charleston. This will include choirs from around the state, including members of the Collegiate Singers from Fairmont State.

April 4 at 7 p.m. Bailey Phillips, senior flute recital with John Morrison, piano in Wallman Hall Theatre

April 9 at 8 p.m. Katie James, senior flute recital with John Morrison, piano in Wallman Hall Rm. 229

April 10 at 5 p.m. Joint Faculty Recital: Alyssa Schwartz, flute John Morrison, piano. This program will feature

music for flute and piano duo as well solo piano and solo flute selections.

April 20 at 7:30 p.m. Jazz Ensemble Concert in the Wallman Hall Theatre

April 21 at 7:30 p.m. Wind Ensemble Concert in the Wallman Hall Theatre

April 22 at 7:30 p.m. Collegiate Singers Concert in the Wallman Hall Theatre

Most of the concerts are also live streamed at the FSU Community Arts page at www.facebook.com/FairmontSoFA

May the peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- May Chimes deadline is **Friday, April 22** at noon.
- Session Meeting: Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteers at 8 a.m.
- Adult Sunday School at 9 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
- Parents' Night Out: Friday, April 1 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Boy Scouts: April 3, 10, 24 at 6:30 p.m. Social Room
- Maundy Thursday Service: April 14 at 7 p.m.
- Palm Sunday: April 10 at 10:30 p.m. with West Virginia Brass
- Easter Service: April 17 at 10:30 p.m.

Thank you from the Shaver family

I would like to thank the congregation for all the prayers and cards when I had my recent surgery.

A very special thank you to the Hospitality Team for bringing us several meals over the past few months.

Douglas Shaver and Family.

Outreach

Apple Butter

Save the date! On Saturday, September 24 we will be making apple butter!

This is a fun activity that helps fund our Shoes for Kids ministry. In the past, canning jars and lids have been sometimes hard to find. If you would like to donate jars and lids please purchase them now before canning season starts. We will be looking for a source for apples if you know where we can get some. And, we will need donated sugar too.



Kiva

More than 1.7 billion people in 76 countries around the world can't access the financial services they need. Kiva is an international nonprofit, founded in 2005, with a mission to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive.

First Presbyterian Church has been making loans

(most loans are \$25) through Kiva for the past few years. We are helping people in Jordan, Rwanda, Guatemala, Vietnam, Kenya, Philippines and Ecuador to name a few.

These loans are repaid and then we are able to loan to others. Our total investment is about \$1,000.

CHRIST IS RISEN



Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

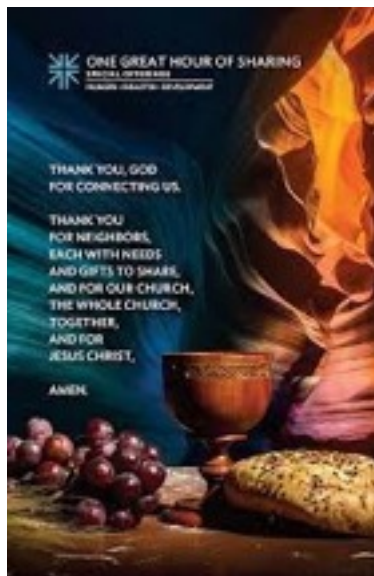
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it."

Even from the cross, I believe we are meant to hear the rest of the psalm (as Paul Harvey would say). Even in the midst of the troubles of the world, Jesus beckons us to continue reading and continue going and continue trusting in the one who has overcome for us.

Can we continue through the lament to the praise? Can we hold to the rock of our salvation even while the storms blow? Can we trust that even when we cannot see it, Easter resurrection is coming?

In the peace and blessings of God,
Rev. Evan Walker

Amy-Jill Levine, *Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2021), 11–12.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

We are receiving offerings from now through Easter, April 17.

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM MONDAY - THURSDAY
Phone (304) 366-2628 Fax (304) 366-2662
Email: office@fairmontfirst.net Web: www.fpcfairmont.com

Session Committee News

Donations raised to support Fairmont Friendship Room

Ash Wednesday, March 2, marked almost two years since we last gathered in the church social room to enjoy a meal and fellowship as a church family. It has truly been a blessing to gather in fellowship in God's house.

Following Session's COVID protocol, a total of 41 members were served March 2 and we are averaging 35 members attending the Lenten dinner and study. Just a reminder that Lenten dinner reservations are suggested by Monday of each week prior to the Wednesday evening's meal. The contact person is Deanna Kritzer (304-694-2379). Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday through the month of March with the last meal being

prepared on April 6. It's never too late to join us!

Members of the hospitality committee, along with Pastor Evan Walker, presented Reverend D.D. Meighen with a check in the amount of \$191 for the Fairmont Friendship Room. Monetary donations, along with cleaning supplies, were collected during the Souper Bowl of Caring held on February 13.

The cleaning supplies

were delivered to the Fairmont Friendship Room after the March 8 meeting by committee members.

Gift bags have been prepared by committee member Charlene Walker. The bags are to be given to those visiting the church and are located on the usher's table in the back of the sanctuary. Inside the bag, each visitor will find "Cookies in a Jar," graciously prepared by Charlene, along with a trifold designed and updated by Kathy Snider and Pastor Evan which shares the church information. "It's exciting to see this ministry taking place," says Pastor Evan, as he has observed our church family greeting visitors and presenting them with a gift bag.

First Friday is held the first Friday of each month, September thru June. The hospitality team has respectfully agreed upon serving the same meal each month for First Friday. This enable CE Director Janel Nye to communicate with parents in order for them to plan accordingly if their child has special dietary needs. Cauliflower crust along with regular crust pizza will be purchased from locally owned Foxes Pizza. Toppings will be cheese and cheese pepperoni. Fresh vegetables, dip, and fresh fruit will also be provided.



Staff

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Director of Music

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Session

CLERK OF SESSION

John O'Connor

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan
Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Penny Roberts
Diane Floyd

PROPERTY

Eric Hauser
Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda O'Connor
Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jennie Poling
Adam Ranson

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer
Anne Schooley

Treasurers

Roger Kritzer
David Floyd

Nursery Attendant



April Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

April 3 - Fifth Sunday in Lent: Read John 12: 1-8

John's gospel makes sure we do not misinterpret Judas' thinly veiled concern for the poor. John lets us know, in no uncertain terms, that Judas puts his faith in money and not in things of God. Can you imagine Judas' red face and angry, tense tone as he asks, "Why was this perfume wasted and the money not given to the poor?" From a purely practical perspective, Judas was right. What was Jesus' message concerning the anointing with oil?

April 10 - Palm/Passion Sunday: Read Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Palm Sunday is all about praise. Psalm 118, verse 21 says, "I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation." But Psalm 22:3-5 takes this a bit further, saying, "But you are holy, O you that inhabit the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in you: they trusted, and you did deliver them" (KJV). God deserves praise in the here and now. Why might some say it's hypocritical or foolish to praise God in times of trouble?

April 17- Easter Sunday: Read Luke 24:1-12

In the passage from Luke 24, the angels ask the women, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." For the women, the angels, and us, "it's a matter of life and death." When we use this idiom, it normally means something is very important. Why do you think the disciples "did not believe the women" and that "their words seemed to them like nonsense" in spite of everything Jesus had told them?

April 24 - Second Sunday of Easter: Read Acts 5:27-32

In Acts 5, Peter and the apostles have taken up the mission Christ gives to them at the Ascension, when he says in Mark 16, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." When questioned, Peter says, "And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." Peter can only speak the truth about what he has seen. How can we do likewise?

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 17	Penny Roberts
	Pam Stalnaker
April 20	Kyle Hauser
April 22	Jennifer Poling
April 23	Cynthia Siegman
April 27	Jennifer Walker
April 30	Carter Cooper

Family of Bert Davis, father of Linda O'Connor
Family of Christian Desilets
Pam DeFazio, Mike Stalnaker's sister
Joslyn Morris, niece of Ruth Martin
June Spiker
Patty Kisner, sister-in-law of Linda Stoops

PRAYER LIST

Peter Koch
Steven Satterfield, nephew of Pam Stalnaker & Penny Robert
Dr. Jeriel Gilmer
Marilyn McDougal
Linda Stoops
Family of William Siegman, Cynthia's father

FEBRUARY/MARCH PLEDGES & GIFTS

February 20	\$1,751
February 27	\$1,552.23
March 6	\$3,015
March 13	\$2,048
March 20	\$2,585
Total:	\$10,951.23

Total to Date: \$37,529.23
Presbyterian Relief Fund: \$1,470

*April Ministry
Volunteers*

USHERS

Eric Hauser (captain), Erin Hauser, Jim & Pam Nolan



Parents' Night Out April 1

Parents' Night Out will be April 1 from 5:30 to 8:30. An evite will be

sent out for the event. If you are not on the evite list and would like to be please email a number to text to:

discipleship@fairmontfirst.net.

Please RSVP so we have a head count for food and supplies. The event will begin with dinner and is designed for children ages kindergarten to sixth grade. The event is open to any child, but an RSVP is required.

Sunday School sessions back

Sunday School is back in session and the children, youth and adults are very happy to be back in their Sunday school rooms. ***Sunday school is from 9:30 to 10:20 until children's bells and music resumes.*** When music resumes the schedule will be as follows: 9 -10 a.m.: Sunday school and 10 -10:20 a.m. Childrens' bells and music

Session updates COVID protocols

On Tuesday, March 15, the Session met in a stated meeting. COVID protocols were changed as thus:

- Masks are now optional within the church building. Please feel free to continue wearing masks as you feel necessary.



- Chancel Choir and Cambridge Ringers may begin. Again, those who feel uncomfortable are encouraged to refrain without judgment.

- Children's singing and bells may begin as well.

- Congregational singing is now allowed.

- Social distancing is still in place and encouraged as we move about the building.

- Cathy Woodson has discretion within the church office to mandate masks.

Eight cub scouts move up

Cub Scouts have had a busy month, with a few meetings, a campout, and Crossover. The campout started great with 65 degrees Friday night, but by 3 a.m. it was 20 degrees and blowing snow. We ended up with six inches, so they ate breakfast and headed home. On March 20, eight scouts move up from Cubs to the Troop. They included Armani Islam, Colton Cale, Kyle Hauser, Mason Hanshaw, Sawyer Ammons, Tyler Mick, Tyler Sharps, and Thomas Ranson.

Troop 120G has also been busy with several meetings. Scouts attended a merit badge university and many of them earned one or two merit badges of over 60 offered. They then had an Introduction to Leadership Training course and hosted a merit badge for Disability Awareness.

Troop 120B has also been busy with meetings. They also attended the merit badge university. Some of the merit badges included Citizenship in the Nation to Nuclear Science. They too camped out with the pack in the snow.



A BIG STEP.
The Cub Scouts that moved up include; front: Thomas Ranson; second row: Mason Hanshaw, Sawyer Ammons, Colton Cale, and Tyler Sharps; and back row: Armani Islam, Kyle Hauser, and Tyler Mick.





Emergency response to Ukraine war



As the violence in Ukraine continues, the number of people being displaced internally and fleeing to neighboring countries increases by the day. And in the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. Our first priority is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is not, which means we have trusted, established partners with the knowledge and expertise to carry out this important work. Our response will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

GIVE: To support emergency relief for those fleeing Ukraine, designate gifts to DR000156. You can also text PDAUKR to 41444 to donate. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/UK22, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check using the below reply device.

ACT: Urge the U.S. government to support generous aid for refugees and civilians suffering in Ukraine, and call for engaging a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

PRAY: May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help.

May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome extravagantly.

May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy.

May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace.

And in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death and resurrection, repent our complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.

—Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



☐ \$500 ☐ \$125 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



UK22-B



GOOD FOOD. A few shots from the Wednesday Lenten studies.





The church with a heart in the heart of the city!

the
April 2022 *Chimes*

F I R S T P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H



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