



the Chimes

April 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Message from the Pastor

Beloved of Christ,

Luke 24:5-8 recounts the greatest news ever told:

"The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest."

March Madness is happening right now. People always love filling out brackets and trying to figure out who will win it all in the end. There has never been a perfect bracket. Part of the madness are the upsets and the Cinderella teams that make it way farther than they should. It's madness, but the unexpected is what makes it fun!

We encounter the unexpected in Easter, but unfortunately, we have made it quite normal. Nothing is normal that first Easter morning. The women travel to the tomb, not with shouts of "Alleluia", but with deep and profound sadness.

The question from the strangers at the tomb is always intriguing, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" They didn't go looking for the living. They go as a last gesture of love to dear friend. These



women watched as Jesus was arrested, beaten, mocked, killed, and buried. When they go out to the tomb, they go searching for a dead body in need of a proper burial.

When suddenly they receive the news of resurrection. This

whole thing seems like madness! The women quickly turn and hightail it back to the rest of the group with the same words.

The story is strange. Have we lost the surprise? Does this message still astound us? Are we numb to it by now or has it become second hat? Easter is dependable as our morning routine.

We can learn from our women in this passage. They have no clue what is going on, everything is unexpected. When they tell their story, they are accused of being mad, but something happens in those few moments when they bow their faces to the ground in silence before the angels.

Do we let this story unsettle us anymore? It should. To quote Anna Carter Florence – "If the dead don't stay dead, what can you count on? Resurrection breaks all the rules. Most of our rules aren't perfect, but at least we know what they are."
(Continues on page 3)



Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Childcare Begins
- 9 a.m. Sunday School & Handbell Rehearsal
- 10 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal & Children's Music
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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





Musical Notes from John Morrison

There's a lot of music happening in April in the life of First Presbyterian music ministry. We will begin the month with the West Virginia Brass Quintet joining us for Palm Sunday worship!

Also for that service, the bells are ringing "The Holy City" arranged by Stephen Adams and the choir is singing "A Celtic Hosanna" arranged by Joseph Martin. For the Maundy Thursday seder meal the choir will be singing a selection in Hebrew, "Dayeinu." Then on Easter, the choir is presenting the cantata, *The Easter Story* by Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi. Selections for the cantata include "Sing of Christ, Proclaim His Glory," "Ride On, King Jesus" with Betty Pat Lee as soloist, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "What a Savior," "Dimensions of Love," "My Redeemer Lives-Glory, Hallelujah!" with Maria Potts as soloist, "I Cannot Tell" with Charlene Sullivan as soloist, and "Sing of Christ, Proclaim His Glory."

Amy Turluck will be the narrator for the cantata. The bells will ring on April 2, April 9, and April 23.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison, *Director of Music and Organist*



Mark Your Calendars

- May Chimes deadline is **Friday, April 21** at noon.
- Parents' Night Out: May 5 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday: April 6 Seder Meal at 5:30 p.m.
- Palm Sunday: WV Brass Quintet at 10:30 a.m.
- Session Meeting: April 18 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.



Four move up to Boy Scouts

Cub Scouts - The crossover weekend, where the oldest cubs move up to the troop, was cold but fun. We had four boys move up to the troop on March 18. New Boy Scouts (top photo) include Liam Shaffer, Noah Board, George Pigott, and Joseph Wilson.

Boy Troop - the boys have had two merit badge universities, where 20 or so merit badges are offered at one time. Crossover weekend, they welcomed the four new boys to the troop. We also retired about 400 flags for the Fairmont Rotary.

Girl Troop - Troop 120G had its Court of Honor. The Scouts were awarded 20 Merit Badges, six ranks, and several adventure patches. In the above picture scoutmaster Kim Colbert honors Marley Rider.

Christmas Toy Shop grateful for donation

Thank you for your donation to the Christmas Toy Shop. You helped kids have a nice Christmas.
Christmas Toy Shop Committee

Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

They are predictable. They are known. And, in that sense they at least give comfort. Then comes the empty tomb, and what can stay the same?"

Theologian John S. Whale explained, "The Gospels don't explain the resurrection; the resurrection explains the gospels." The boundless gift of the resurrection connects us to the whole of Christ's life – to life and love as Christ did because not even death itself could contain him. It truly is madness! But only in the madness of God, can we find true joy, true life, and true hope.



Resurrection is never meant to be explained, but experienced. We don't explain the resurrection; the resurrection explains us. How else do you explain Christians throughout history literally putting their lives and their livelihoods and their very safety at risk? How else do you explain Christians standing up against oppression and injustice calling for all people to practice God's justice with each other? Why else do we share with the poor and the lonely? Why else would we even consider praying for our enemies and blessing those who persecute us? How else do you explain Peter the coward and denier turned into Peter the rock or the church. Or, the other disciples turned from fearful hiders to boldly proclaiming Jesus name before councils and kings? Or Saul, the ardent persecutor of the church transformed into Paul who wrote the majority of the New Testament and welcomed us, the non-Jewish, into the faith. How else do you explain going into prisons to preach Jesus or entering the slums to bring good news or standing with the marginalized and oppressed?

I believe Jesus Christ has bodily been raised from the dead. I cannot prove it. I wasn't there to see him get up and take his first breath. I haven't seen the angels. I have the witness of those who have gone before and each day I remember the things Jesus taught, and it changes my life again. Each Easter, I come to hear the same words because I need to hear them over and over again. Jesus Christ broke the deafening silence of this world when on a somber, sleepy Sunday morning he walked from that tomb alive. Death does not have the final word. Love is stronger than hate. Faith has conquered fear.

With the resurrection, the madness of God turns our questions from what is possible to the truth that with God all things are possible. Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed. To the glory of God,

Rev. Evan Walker

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
9 AM - 12 PM ON TUESDAY

Phone (304) 366-2628

Fax (304) 366-2662

Session Committee News

Property updates on window project, keyless entry

The stained glass renovation project has received \$29,550 in donations of the \$47,000 needed to match the church's grant award. The church received \$11,740.63, our first payment in our grant award from the State Dept. in Charleston.

Also the new keyless access system is almost complete. Joe Jernigan and Eric Hauser have policy forms that need to be completed before a code is issued. Completed forms are to be returned to either of them. All members may have a code.

Outreach collecting items for Hope, Inc.

Through the end of April, First Church will be collecting items that Hope, Inc. has in its "Needs List." The list includes both food and nonfood items. There is a plastic container in the handicapped entrance room for you donations.

Their list includes; FOOD - bread, canned pastas, cheese & peanut butter crackers, coffee, condiments canned food with pop tops (no fruit), syrup, spaghetti sauce, bacon, coffee creamer, salad dressings, peanut butter, instant mashed potatoes, jello, frozen foods (especially pizza) & anything non-perishable; NON-FOOD needs - cleaning supplies, bath towels, paper towels, toilet paper, pillows, and adult coloring books.

Also a reminder that One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Remember that 40 percent of what we receive will be sent to CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates. These advocates give a voice to every child in the West Virginia court system who experienced abuse or neglect.

**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**

**MEETING COLD WEATHER
NEEDS: The Street Store
offers colorful hand crocheted
scarves.**



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Session

CLERK OF SESSION

John O'Connor

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Amy Koon

Diane Floyd

PROPERTY

Eric Hauser

Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda O'Connor

Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jennie Poling

Meredith Knight

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer

Anne Schooley

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

April Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

April 2: Proclaiming “Jesus is Lord!” feels right and good – especially on Sunday when we worship together. “You are our King; we are your servants.” But week days are harder. The quest for good grades, promotions at work, or for getting ahead can cause us to do things that we know we should not. Friends can influence us to do or say things that are unloving or wrong. Pray using the following or your own prayer: *Forgive us, Lord. Help us to remember that you are King of all our lives every day and wherever we go. Help us to be guided by you today.*

April 9: Celebrate! Christ is risen! We know for certain that God loves us enough to KEEP loving us.

Read, or sing, the words to Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! (Hymn 248 in *Glory to God*; Hymn 104 in The Presbyterian Hymnal) or another Easter hymn of your choosing. Share with a friend or family member what words from it are most meaningful to you.

April 16: Read John 20:19-31. When the disciples told Thomas that Jesus had appeared to them, Thomas struggled to believe until he saw Jesus himself. What causes you to question or doubt? Do you think you would have responded like Thomas? Why or why not?

April 23: Read Luke 24:13-35. As you eat bread this week, remember the words of Jesus: “This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” With whom might you share a meal this week and experience the presence of Jesus, who loves us forever?

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 6	Abby Nolan
April 17	Penny Roberts
	Pam Stalnaker
April 20	Kyle Hauser
April 22	Jennifer Poling
April 23	Cynthia Siegman
April 27	Jennifer Walker

PRAYER LIST

Beverly Sandy
Mary Boso
Paul Hines
The Williams Family
Tina Crowder, Joan Krause-Smith's stepdaughter
Heather Letrick
Family of Mary Woodward
Peter & Sue Koch
Amy Koon
Peggy Twyman
Nancy Jones
Linda Stoops

FEBRUARY/MARCH PLEDGES & GIFTS

February 19	\$1,535
February 26	\$1,599
March 5	\$3,575.46
March 12	\$1,640
March 19	\$2,030

Total: \$10,379.46

Total to Date: \$45,268.46

April Ministry
Volunteers

Liturgist: Bill Laughlin

USHERS : Eric Hauser (captain), Erin Hauser & Pam Nolan

NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on April 9 & 23



***Compassion Sunday event April 30;
encouraging to sponsor a child***

First Church will host a Compassion Sunday event on April 30 to encourage members to sponsor a child.

Showing a child that they are precious and valuable to God is one of the greatest weapons against poverty. Compassion International works with churches around the world to help children and their families meet basic needs so they can reach their God-given potential. Your support empowers local church staff and volunteers to personally get to know the child and individually care for them physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually through Compassion Centers. Children learn of God's deep love for them. They hear the gospel and experience His unconditional love through committed people who display Jesus' care in their lives every day.

Compassion International works to release children from poverty and keep them safe. By sponsoring a child, you join a community of child advocates who believe in the example Jesus set. Choose to love with actions and in truth.

Matthew 10:42 "And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

***Hospitality: events set for April
include Seder meal, two receptions***

Please join us in welcoming our new CE Director, Rev. Emily Harden by joining us in the Social Room immediately following the service on Sunday, April 2.

With our Lenten dinners behind us, we are now focused on preparing a Seder meal for April 6, Maundy Thursday. If you haven't made your reservations, please call Deanna at 304-694-2379. The service will get underway at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will begin at approximately 6:15 - 6:30 p.m. The Hospitality Team will be preparing the traditional Seder elements along with a dinner to be enjoyed by all during a break in the program.

- Seder menu: chazeret (parsley), matzah (unleavened bread or cracker), haroset (walnut, raisins, and apple salad seasoned with wine, orange zest, and honey), hard-boiled egg, romaine lettuce, and lamb.

- Dinner menu: beef tips, rice, vegetable medley, salad, dinner rolls, and desserts haroset, and matzah toffee.



We will be having a reception immediately following Easter Sunday's service, April 9, to honor our four Confirmands: Robert Ranson, Haley Hauser, Conner Sullivan and Addison Thomas. Addison will also be baptized. Please join us after the service to congratulate and welcome our youth.

The Hospitality team's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, at 10 a.m., in the church parlor.





Christian Ed to welcome new DCM; next Parents' Night Out will be May 5

It's been an exciting month for the Christian Ed team. Back on February 21, the Session met with Rev. Emily Harden, a candidate for the Director of Christian Ministry (DCM) position. Session members had the opportunity to ask her questions and talk about her experience with Christian education. The Session then voted to offer her the job as DCM. We believe she will be a wonderful addition to our ministry family at First Fairmont. Emily and her children, Jesse (10) and Madison (3), will be joining us on Sunday, April 2 for worship with a reception in her honor following in the social room. We hope you will join us in welcoming Emily and her family. Her first day on the job will be Monday, April 3. Over the next few weeks, she'll be getting acquainted with the church, the congregation, and staff.

We will not be hosting Parent's Night Out in April. However, we have it on the schedule for May 5.

The Presbytery is offering a wide array of events this spring for all ages. Consider attending one (or more) of these events.

- Spring Youth Retreat/April 14-16 – for those in grades 6-12 at Jackson's Mill (Weston). Registration: www.wvpresbytery.org.
- "Still Seeking to Be Faithful: Creative Conflict Transformation in a Divided Age" with Carl Horton/ April 20 – in-person at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church (Charleston) and on Zoom. Registration: www.wvpresbytery.org.
- All Women of Faith Gathering/April 22 – Worship, Song, Fellowship at Beckley Presbyterian Church. For more info: Nancy Hageman 304-575-7491.
- Bluestone Spring Getaway/April 28-30 – all ages welcome. For more info: www.bluestonecamp.org.
- The Guy's Weekend/May 5-7 – Bluestone Conference Center. For info and registration: www.bluestonecamp.org/guys-weekend.

For children who would like to attend church camp this summer, there are scholarships available. Bluestone offers camps for rising 4th graders through senior high. If a child wants to attend, we will find a way to get them there and back.

Week one: June 11-17

Week two: June 18-24

Week three: June 25-July 1

Week four: July 2-8

Jennifer Poling



HELPING OTHERS: Church members Deanna Kritzer, Terri Bunner, Janet Chittum (above), and Diana Floyd (right) prepare and serve meals at the Soup Opera.





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

the
April 2023 *Chimes*

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
301 JACKSON ST.
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