



the Chimes

April 2025

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

Message from the Pastor

Beloved of Christ,

Lent is my favorite time of the year. It is simultaneously somber and joyful. Somber because we remember the suffering of Jesus Christ. Joyful because through his passion we have salvation and new life.

There are things we do each year. We have rituals. We celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. There are so many other dates we remember – some for joyous occasions and others we remember in sorrow. I remember the day and the details when Jennifer and I got engaged and our wedding day. I can tell you all the details of my day for 9/11 down to what I was wearing.

This year, we will celebrate a Seder once again. This meal is a Jewish ritual that the gospel writers tell us Jesus shared as the Last Supper with his disciples. It's fascinating that the meal Jesus shared with his disciples, that we call the Last Supper, is the Passover. This is the meal described in Exodus 12. This is THE story of salvation for the Jewish people. So much that God commands that this commemoration be the beginning of each Jewish New Year. Every year begins with the promise of salvation from slavery. Every year begins



with the promise that God has freed God's people.

What a wonderful thought – regardless of what has been in the year prior or what may come in the year ahead, the promise is that in the Passover we remember that God is powerful and is not finished or

defeated. Evil will not have the final word. Death and destruction shall not prevail. God is able to provide. God is able to command. God is able to overcome. God is able. Which is why the story is expectant – they were to eat the meal clothed, shoes on, staff in hand (Ex. 12). In other words, be ready to leave and move at any moment because God is active.

The Seder Meal is a powerful service. We will have the chance to learn about another custom as well as experience how Jesus and his disciples might have shared the meal. The most fascinating part of the experience is the history of this meal. This is the night that God delivered the people from slavery and death in Egypt and the highest of celebrations, and it's not done in the context of a synagogue. It's a meal with a family. *(Continues on page 3)*



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

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





Musical Notes from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist

As we finish out the season of Lent we will be looking forward to having the West Virginia Brass Quintet with us on Palm Sunday, April 13. The brass will be playing an anthem with the Chancel Choir, "Hosanna to the King" by Eugene Butler as well as music throughout the service.

Then on Easter Sunday April 20, the Chancel Choir will be presenting the cantata, *A Journey to Hope* by Joseph M. Martin. The composer wrote the following about his cantata to help us prepare to experience it as a congregation:

"The journey begins. One step of devotion, and the waters clap their hands in worship, splashing joy on the hearts of the faithful.

Another step, and Christ calls His disciples to service and ministry.

A little further now, and Jesus calls to the sick, weary, and burdened. Together they begin a parade of life, marching across the dusty landscape of Galilee.

The road delivers the pilgrims to the walled city of Jerusalem, filled with palms and psalms and shouts of 'Hosanna!'.

Just beyond the city walls, the winding path finds an upper room. The road-wearied warriors of peace realize a moment to rest, refresh and reflect. In the hushed and mysterious chant of the ancient rituals of Passover, they learn of a new Way; a thoroughfare paved with grace and mercy that leads through the wilderness and to the Promised Land.



The road will not be easy for the Savior, for it rises to a walled garden where despair meets conviction. The inner battle won, the cup gripped and drained, He rises to walk another weary trail.

Walking, falling, stumbling and bleeding, the Savior takes the Way of

Sorrows, and the journey ends in gasps of forgiveness.

The path to a borrowed tomb is thought to be the final destination. But joy breaks free with the morning sun, and is greeted with rolling stones and rising hopes, as Jesus walks again, in the garden with His creation.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is the journey, and He is the journey's end. Amen!" - Joseph M. Martin

A Journey to Hope is based on spirituals and will feature the following soloists: Betty Pat Lee "The Call to Follow" and "Great Day! The Lord Is Risen", Maria Potts "Jesus Walked to Calvary" and "Come to the Welcome Table" descant and John Schooley "Come to the Welcome Table". There is a lot of variety to the cantata from the energetic opening and closing numbers and "Ride On, King Jesus" to the hauntingly beautiful "Gethsemane".

Come celebrate Easter with us and we hope you enjoy this wonderful cantata that the choir has prepared for worship! May the peace of Christ be with you, John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist

Youth fun at the Launch Pad!



First Church's News & Notes

Pastor's Message

continues from pg. 1



The framing of the whole Seder comes from the youngest child. Near the

beginning, the child stands and asks 4 questions: "Why is this night different from other nights? Why do we only eat unleavened bread tonight? Why do we eat bitter herbs? Why do we dip them twice? Why do we eat differently tonight from all other nights?" The rest of the meal answers those questions, but the father does say this in immediate response, "Tonight is different than other nights because we remember who we are, what God has done for us, and to tell our children the story of God's grace and deliverance." Tonight is different for us, because we have the chance to do the same thing – recall who we are and what God has done, and to share it.

We remember who we are. That is important - we all stand in great

need. This meal and the passion of Jesus frames who we are. We are people who often reject Jesus and what he stands for, and just like Judas, sometimes we betray him with our actions. Sometimes like Peter, we deny him with our words. Sometimes like the others we run away as fast as we can. Sometimes like the crowds, we simply go along with what everyone else is doing. Sometimes like the religious we try to stop the way of God. Sometimes like Pilate, we seek political expediency. Truly, we are a people who prefer our wills to God's.

Any yet, he shares this meal with us like he did with them. In this meal, we remember what God has done for us. As poorly as we celebrate and witness – the truth still matters, God is working out our salvation and freedom. God has saved us from ourselves. God has saved us from things that bind and imprison us. God has set us free with the blood of the lamb. God continues to be the God of second chances and forgiveness. God continues to provide a path for us. God will not leave nor forsake us.

In Jesus Christ, God has come close to redeem us. There is another line from the Seder that I love: "We cannot celebrate God's

deliverance for ourselves without longing that all God's children experience freedom from their bondage." Christ's passion is so much bigger than my salvation. Christ's death sets us free to love and serve each other. Until we see all people as our brothers and sisters, and until we seek to serve the image of God in all people, we do not fully recognize who Christ is and what Christ has done.

That is why we come. To hear it for ourselves once more and to claim and cling to the promises. We also come declaring that God is not done. Wherever suffering and heartache exists in this world, Christ is present. Wherever we can only see or imagine death and destruction, Christ is present. Wherever evil seems to reign, Christ is present. Wherever people are ignored and told their lives aren't important, Christ is present. We don't need to go looking for Christ, Christ is already there. The question really is, will we go where Christ already is.

I love that we will share this meal again. We are together. We are sharing. We are being formed by the story that first claimed us.

To the glory of God,
Rev. Evan Walker

Mark Your Calendars

- Material for the May issue of the Chimes is due by Friday, April 18 at noon. THANKS!!!
- Parents' Night Out: April 4 at 5:30 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday, Seder Meal April 17 5:30 p.m.
- Easter Sunday: April 20
- Session Meeting: April 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m.
- Choir rehearsal: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
- Handbell Choir rehearsals Sunday at 9 a.m.
- Children's Music Time: Sunday at 10 a.m.

Property: Doors being locked

We want to keep our church safe and secure as possible. During Sunday morning worship service the handicapped door and the upper main door on Jefferson Street are unlocked at 10 a.m. **only** if an usher is present at that door. At 10:30 Will is locking the Jefferson Street door and

traveling over to the handicapped door to monitor that door until 10:45 when it will be locked.

Also a reminder that the keyless access code policy states that no doors are to be propped open and left unattended. We have had several instances where someone has entered the church. Please be vigilant.

Hospitality: Seder Meal, April 17

The next Hospitality meeting will be April 1 in the church parlor at 10 a.m. We welcome anyone that is interested to join us at our meetings.

The Lenten Studies will be on Wednesdays, thru April 9. Hospitality will be serving dessert at each of the studies at 5:30. April 4 is our next Parent's Night Out and we will be providing a pizza party for the children at 5:30.

Come join us on April 17 for a Seder Meal at 5:30 in the Social Room. We will also be providing children's food.



CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM ON MONDAY THRU THURSDAY

Phone (304) 366-2628

Fax (304) 366-2662

Email: office@fairmontfirst.net

Web: www.fpcfairmont.com

Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker

pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net

Director of Music

John Morrison

music@fairmontfirst.net

Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

Jane Mead

discipleship@fairmontfirst.net

Office Coordinator

Karen Mersinger

office@fairmontfirst.net

Sexton

Will Shamblin

sexton@fairmontfirst.net

Session

CLERK OF SESSION

Kathy Snider

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Terri Bunner

Loren Hunt

PROPERTY

Rob Steele

Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Pam Stalnaker

Penny Roberts

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Amy Koon

Tim Mersinger

HOSPITALITY

Janet Miller

Nancy Carnes

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Pam Proctor

Abby Shuck

Discipleship Ministry Team

This month, our youth group had a blast, kicking off with an exciting trip to Launchpad, where we enjoyed fun activities and bonded with each other. We also began our Lenten study, diving deep into reflection and learning as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

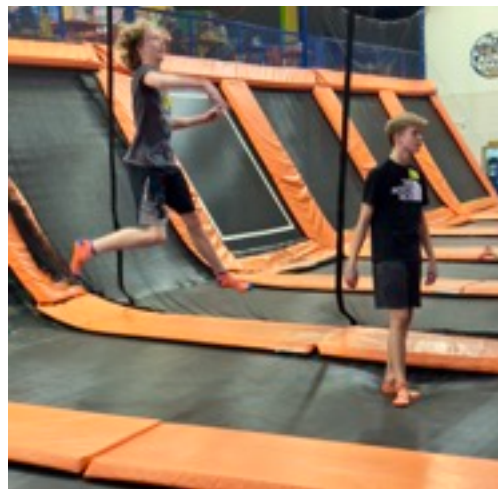
Looking ahead, we're eagerly anticipating our next youth group event on Earth Day, where we'll explore ways to care for God's creation. We're excited to learn and grow together in this important mission of stewardship.



Each Sunday, our Sunday school continues to be a place of joy and growth. The kids are having so much fun while learning more about God's love and teachings!

A highlight of the month was our Parents' Night Out, which took place on the first Friday of March. We had a wonderful time learning about Saint Patrick's Day, with a special focus on how Saint Patrick used the clover to explain the Holy Trinity and spread the Word of God. It was both fun and educational for everyone involved!

Don't forget, the next Parents' Night Out will be on April 4. Mark your calendars, and we look forward to seeing you there for another evening of fellowship and fun!



April Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Read *John 12:1-8*

Mary gave Jesus a costly gift as she anointed his feet with perfume. In this season of Lent, what gift would you offer Jesus to show your love for him? Share with a family member or friend.

April 13: Palm/Passion Sunday

Today begins Holy Week, when we remember the events between Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to this death of the cross before his resurrection. On Thursday, we celebrate Maundy Thursday, the night when Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment – to love one another. Make a list of ways you can show your love to your family members this week and do so.

April 20: Resurrection of the Lord Sunday

Read *Luke 24:1-12*

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the good news of the angel that Jesus' tomb was empty; Jesus had been raised and was alive! With your friends and family, share the ancient greeting: "Christ is risen!" to which they may respond, "He is risen indeed." Be prepared to share the response if others greet you this way. See how many know the response when you greet them.

April 27: Second Sunday of Easter

Read *John 20:19-31*

Thomas couldn't believe what the other disciples told him about having seen the risen Jesus; he needed to see him for himself. Jesus returned and Thomas believed. What causes you to doubt? Acknowledge your doubts before Christ and ask him to help you trust and believe.

APRIL

Birthdays

4/1	Ellie Snyder
4/4	Max Stalnaker
4/17	Pam Stalnaker
	Penny Roberts
	Owen Harvey
4/20	Kyle Hauser
4/21	Adam Ranson
4/22	Jennifer Poling
4/23	Cynthia Siegman
4/27	Jennifer Walker
	Caden Walker

Prayer List

Bennett Smith
Family of Charles "Rab" Snider
Family of Judy Palmer
Libby Fatkin
Mike Green
Aaron Morris
Ella Morris
Carlton Neely
Donna Dodd
Cathy Reed
Cindy Rex
Alisa Perdue
Stephen Satterfield
Judy Shaver
Paul Hines
DD Meighen
Brad Dodd
Peggy Twyman
Linda Stoops

February/March Pledges & Gifts

February 23	\$3,250
March 2	\$2,700
March 9	\$6,860
March 16	\$1,870
March 23	\$28,379
Total:	\$43,059
Total to Date:	\$72,207.25

April Ministry
Volunteers

Liturgist: Bill Laughlin

USHERS : Austin Fatkin (captain), Jess Fatkin, & Pam Nolan



The church with a  in the heart of the city!

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
301 JACKSON ST.
FAIRMONT, WV 26554

