



# the Chimes

April 2026

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

## A Pastoral Message

**This year, April begins** with the experience of Holy Week and Easter. It provides the motive and the reason for all we do as a church and congregation. The Apostle Paul reminded the churches that we do everything, not only through Christ who strengthens us, but "whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus." (Colossians 3:7)

Easter can easily come and go and even be for some, limited primarily to personal spiritual experiences. But the resurrection was for all people.

Easter is not merely for the church, not this congregation, nor any of us merely personally. Again, St. Paul advises, in II Corinthians 1:3-4: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies and the God of all

consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God."

The challenge for each of us because of the spiritual growth we should have experienced through Lent, Holy Week and Easter is to be more

faithful in our worship, our giving, and in our daily living.

New days and new ways await us as we seek to live out of the joy of the Resurrection and find our Christian journey enriched and enhanced.

May the blessing of new life in Christ be our experience both personally and as a congregation.

Rev. Richard Bowyer

*The great gift of Easter is Hope.*



New opportunities await us as Spring has broken and occasions for fellowship expand. But even, with the benefit and blessing of more fellowship, there remain needs in our community. There are still the homeless, and hungry, those with health and personal needs. The news locally is that the cost of Meals on Wheels has doubled, and funds and other support are necessary. There are many ways to serve our community even though our offerings support the ministries of Presbytery and Synod and beyond.



- \* 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- \* 9 a.m. Sunday School & Handbell Choir
- \* 10 a.m. Children's Handbell Choir & Chancel Choir

Worship Service is in-person and online at [fpcfairmont.com](http://fpcfairmont.com) & Facebook





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

**Thanks to Alyssa Schwartz** for coming to play a flute-organ prelude on March 22! On the 5th Sunday in Lent, the Chancel Choir sang a powerful anthem, "Thy Will Be Done" by Craig Courtney and the Cambridge Handbell rang, "They Crucified My Lord" arr. Hart Morris for offertory.

This leads us into Palm Sunday when the Chancel Choir will sing with the WV Brass Quintet and piano, "Let the People Shout Hosanna" by Alex Gartner and the brass will provide music throughout the service. A big thanks to John Schooley for writing a brass quintet arrangement of this anthem.

And of course don't forget that the cantata is Sunday, April 5! The Chancel Choir will be singing "Praise the God of Resurrection: An Easter Cantata". Maria Potts is singing a solo in "In the Beginning Was the Word" and Diane Boso is the narrator.

Lloyd Larson who edited the cantata wrote this about it: "References to resurrections are often met with skepticism. The resurrection of Jesus is no exception, as it has encountered similar responses over the years. That the church's Easter message has withstood the test of time is a living testament to the hundreds of first-century eye-witnesses who saw Jesus in the days immediately following His resurrection and the hundreds of thousands of believers who, down through the centuries, have perpetuated the message of the risen Christ. Praise the God of Resurrection traverses the breadth of human emotion found in the passion story of our Lord. From joyous hosannas, to hours of solitude and rejection, to glorious alleluias, the pervading theme is that ultimately God is in



control. Walking through the last days of Jesus' earthly life, this cantata is a moving reminder of the power of the Living God."

### Here are some upcoming concerts in April:

Thursday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. Wallman Hall Theatre: Gerald Lee, guest piano recital

Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. Wallman Hall Theatre: Alyssa Schwartz and John Morrison, joint faculty recital.

May the peace of Christ be with you,  
John Morrison



**SHARING FAITH.** First Church women meet the second Thursday of every month for breakfast at McAteers. Come join them for fellowship.



**FAIRMONT COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

## COMMUNITY PICNIC

**Food • Fellowship • Community • Fun**

**Date:** Saturday, May 30, 2026, 5-7 PM

**Location:** Pavilion #2, East Marion Park

**Address:** 35 City View Terrace (Wave Pool)

Everyone in the community is welcome!  
Come enjoy a relaxed afternoon of food, friendship, and fellowship.

**Bring a Dish to Share! Hot Dogs and Drinks Provided**

Hosted by the Fairmont Council of Churches

# First Church's News & Notes

## Mark Your Calendars

- Material for the MAY 2026 issue of The Chimes is due by Friday, April 17 at noon. THANKS!
- Session Meeting: April 21 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Women's Breakfast: April 9 at 9 a.m. McAteer's
- April 5: Easter Cantata
- April 18: Date Night Event: hosted by Christian Ed.
- April 19: Youth Outing Marion Co. Animal Shelter

## Outreach

Outreach Team will be having a Yard Sale on May 16 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the church's main parking lot. Money will go towards our Shoe for Kids program.

The team also had a new sign made for the Street Store.

## Hospitality events for February

After supplying a variety of tasty dinners for the Lenten Studies, the Hospitality ladies were getting ready to prepare the delicious Easter Dinner on March 29.

### Upcoming events:

- April 7 Hospitality meeting at 10 a.m. in the parlor. We welcome anyone that would like to join us.
- May 3 Charcuterie Board reception in the social room after the church service
- May 5 Hospitality meeting at 10 a.m. in the parlor.
- June 2 Hospitality meeting at 10 a.m. in the parlor.
- June 7 Mother and Father's Day luncheon after the church service.

## The Guys' Weekend

April 24 - 26, 2026  
Bluestone Camp & Retreat



Email [mark@bluestonecamp.org](mailto:mark@bluestonecamp.org) for details or call (304) 397-5050 and leave a message!

The Registration Fee is \$100 per person for 2 nights and 4 meals. Dinner for early arrivals on Friday is \$13.

Meet our Weekend Chaplain/Keynote: [Craig Schaub >> Scan Here >>](#) 

This 17th Annual Men's Retreat is a weekend of reflection, service, and worship. Come ready to work, connect, and share in meaningful fellowship and camaraderie, experiencing God's goodness and wonder in a way that is uniquely Bluestone!

**Things to Note:**

- We welcome the help of anyone who can come a day early to get started on work projects.
- Youth are encouraged to attend as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

[bluestonecamp.org/guys-weekend](http://bluestonecamp.org/guys-weekend)  Friends of Bluestone

## SPRING GETAWAY RETREAT

MAY 1 - 3 @Bluestone

Adults \$100 (ages 12 & older) Youth \$60 (ages 4 - 11) Children FREE (ages 3 & under)

Registration deadline is Friday, April 24.

**This is an Open Weekend 😊 All are Welcome!**

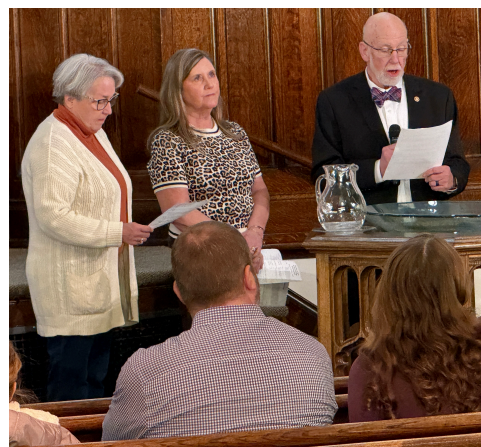
**There'll be plenty of good food and fellowship... plus**

- † trail hikes and games to play at your leisure †
- † optional service-gardening-beautification projects †
- † fireside chats, campfire, s'mores †
- † plenty of time and space to just simply be †

**Springtime is Beautiful at Bluestone!**

Email [mark@bluestonecamp.org](mailto:mark@bluestonecamp.org) for details or call (304) 397-5050 and leave a message.

[bluestonecamp.org/spring-getaway](http://bluestonecamp.org/spring-getaway)  Friends of Bluestone



**A SPECIAL MOMENT.** Deanna Kritzer (center) is ordained as an elder by Clerk of Session Kathy Snider and John Bolt, moderator.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**PHONE (304) 366-2628**

**Email: [office@fairmontfirst.net](mailto:office@fairmontfirst.net)**

**FAX (304) 366-2662**

**Web: [www.fpcfairmont.com](http://www.fpcfairmont.com)**

## Staff

**Pastor**

**Director of Music**

John Morrison  
[music@fairmontfirst.net](mailto:music@fairmontfirst.net)

**Discipleship Ministry Coordinator**

Jane Mead  
[discipleship@fairmontfirst.net](mailto:discipleship@fairmontfirst.net)

**Office Coordinator**

Karen Mersinger  
[office@fairmontfirst.net](mailto:office@fairmontfirst.net)

**Sexton**

Nancy Carnes  
[sexton@fairmontfirst.net](mailto:sexton@fairmontfirst.net)

**Nursery Attendants**

Pam Proctor  
Abby Shuck  
Hailey Hauser

**Sunday School**

Brigitte Gapen

**A/V Tech**

Chris Ward

## Session

**CLERK OF SESSION**

Kathy Snider

**ADMINISTRATION**

Pam Nolan  
Earl Sweet

**OUTREACH**

Terri Bunner

**PROPERTY**

Eric Hauser  
Rob Steele

**WORSHIP & MUSIC**

Penny Roberts  
Pam Stalnaker

**CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

Nancy Carnes

**HOSPITALITY**

Janet Miller  
Deanna Kritzer

## Treasurer

Joe Jernigan

## Youth & Children's Ministry

Spring has brought so many wonderful opportunities for fellowship, learning, and service within our church community, and we're excited to share a few highlights and upcoming events with you!

Our children had an amazing time on Palm Sunday hunting for Easter eggs and learning about the Lord's resurrection. It was such a joy to see their excitement as they celebrated and grew in their understanding of this special season.

Our youth group has also been busy spreading kindness and creativity. They made beautiful pipe cleaner flowers and gifted them to some of the guest pastors who have visited our church—a small but meaningful way to show appreciation and love. The flowers are being given to shut ins as well.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed Easter eggs, prizes, and donations for the animal shelter. Your generosity truly made a difference!

**Looking ahead**, we have several exciting events planned:

### Date Night Event – April 18

Parents will have the option to drop off their children and enjoy a night out or stay at the church and enjoy a movie together. We hope this provides a wonderful opportunity for relaxation and connection for everyone.

### Youth Service Project – April 19

Following the service, we will gather at the church for pizza before heading to the Marion County Animal Shelter to volunteer. This is a great opportunity for our youth to serve and make an impact in the community.

### Vacation Bible School (VBS)

This year's theme is Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God. We are looking forward to an exciting and meaningful experience for all the children who participate!

Thank you again for being such a supportive and loving church family. We are grateful for each of you and look forward to all that God has in store this month.



# April Nurturing Faith Ideas

## SCRIPTURE

### April 5: Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day - Read Matthew 28:1-10

On Sunday, you may have heard and/or said, "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed." The good news of Christ being raised from the dead is that he is alive, even today. Share with someone what Easter means to you.

### April 12: Second Sunday of Easter - 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 19: Third Sunday of Easter - Read Luke 24:13-25

It's easy to remember Jesus' words, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me," when we celebrate the Lord's Supper in worship. This week, each time you eat bread, remember those words again. With whom might you share a meal this week and experience the presence of Jesus, who loves us forever?

### April 26: Fourth Sunday of Easter - Read Psalm 23

The fourth Sunday of Easter is often called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Psalm 23 reminds us that God takes care of us as a shepherd takes care of their sheep, providing food and water, giving them time to rest, leading them in right paths, protecting them. God is our Good Shepherd; we are God's sheep. What does it mean to think of yourself as a sheep of God?

## APRIL

### Birthdays

4/1	Ellie Snyder
4/4	Max Stalnaker
4/15	Dave Sleeth
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

Family of Dennis Shuck, Abby Shuck's uncle  
Maika: Mother passed  
John Morgan, Jr.  
Steve Asher  
Rev. Richard & Faith Bowyer  
Cathy Woodson  
Family of Steve Bopp, Pam Nolan's cousin  
Joe Criss  
Jason Burdette  
Amy Koon  
Barb Starn  
Dave Yazvak  
Rev. James Morley  
Brad & Donna Dodd  
Ella Morris  
Steven Satterfield  
Judy Shaver  
Peggy Twyman

### March Pledges & Gifts

March 1:	\$3,020
March 8:	\$12,083
March 15:	\$1,779.34 (\$394.34 Compassion Child)
March 22:	\$1,860
Total:	\$18,742.34
Total to Date:	\$86,699.84

April Ministry  
Volunteers

Liturgist: Bill Laughlin

USHERS: Pam Nolan (captain), Debra Sleeth & David Sleeth



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

*the Chimes*  
*April 2026*

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.  
FAIRMONT, WV 26554