



the Chimes

August 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,

It has truly been my honor and blessing to serve with you. We have had ups and downs, joys and struggles. Together, God has been with us and brought us through. This church and each one of you will remain in my heart and in my prayers.

I am grateful for every baptism I have been a part of and for every time we gathered at the font to welcome new members. I am humbled by the times I have sat in sacred spaces of grief and hurt with you.

As I conclude my time with you, I want to leave you with words from Colossians 3: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

These words have become dear to my heart over the last year. What a list Paul offers us and what joy we find as we share in these together. My prayer for this church going forward is that you find ways to deepen and encourage these sentiments in each other.

Before all things, remember that



each of you—individually and corporately—are chosen and beloved by God because God loves you. Period. Full stop. Nothing you can do will ever change that. God has called you by name and declared you holy through the Son, Jesus Christ.

Let's examine

each characteristic briefly:

Compassion: sympathetic consciousness of others' distress combined with a desire to alleviate it.

Kindness: the quality of friendliness and generosity towards others without expecting or demanding anything in return.

Humility: here I will quote C.S. Lewis: "True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less."

Meekness: this does not mean weakness. Instead, this speaks to a gentle strength and teachableness. It is the act of checking power and not being easily provoked.

Patience: the ability to accept delay, suffering, or annoyance without becoming upset or angry. It is a steadfast choice in the face of opposition or adversity.

Forgiveness: the release of resentment, anger, or grudges. It is not forgetting the

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- 10 a.m. Worship Service
through September 7

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





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

Thanks to everyone who provided special music for the month of July: soloist Stan Swihart, our SATB pick up choir the "First Presbyterian Summer Singers", the Men's Chorus, the Women's Chorus, piano-organ duet and piano 4-hands with Jennifer Walker, and a handbell duet with Kim Steele and Amy Koon!

Here's a preview of some music for the coming month:

July 27 – Handbell Duet: Amy Koon and Karen Mersinger

Women's Chorus

August 3 – Gary Jack and Stan Swihart, duet

August 10 – Amy Koon, handbell solo
Maria Potts, solo

August 17 – Betty Pat and Blake Boggess, duet

August 24 - Karen Mersinger, handbell solo and SATB Pick up Choir

July 20 was the last Sunday for Pastor Evan, Jennifer, and Marley and I am saddened to say goodbye to the Walker family. It has been a joy to have them at the church over the past five

years and I wish them the best on their new adventure in Massachusetts!

Sending prayers also for the family and friends of former First Presbyterian interim pastor Rev. D.D. Meighen who passed away. I had the honor of playing for D.D.'s funeral and was truly moved by the beautiful eulogy and witness from Rev. Dick Bowyer and Eddie Parker at the service.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- **Material for the SEPTEMBER issue of The Chimes is due by Friday, August 22 at noon. THANKS!!!**
- **Black Bears Baseball/ Tailgating: August 15**
- **Rally Day: September 7 at Wave Tek, Pavilion 2**
- **Session Meeting: August 19 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.**
- **Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m. through Sept. 7**

Property Team: some new updates

A locksmith worked on the problems with the upper Jefferson Street door and Charles has been working on trimming in the gardens. Many Thanks!

After having church in the Social Room, Murray HVAC fixed the problem with AC. The team also received a quote to replace

the control panel on chiller. Included in the quote was to replace the chiller. Due to the age of the chiller and the cost to replace components that are at the end of their life cycle, the team decided to have it totally replaced. Session approved the request at a cost of \$79,845.00.

A member of the congregation requested that the gutter system above the office porch be replaced because of the poor gutter and downspout. Joe received two quotes from Murray Roofing. The first was \$10,515 using 24 gauge aluminum. Second quote was for \$17,995 using copper to match the gutter and downspouts on the rest of the church. The member offered to pay the \$10,515 if the church would pay the difference to use the copper. Session approved the quote using the copper.

Property team approved purchase of ice maker for the Hospitality Team to use in the kitchen. Will be working with Hospitality on the details.

Joe has been interviewing candidates for the sexton position and is in the process of doing background checks.

Thank you to Charles for filling in over the summer.

Pastor's Message

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wrong or explaining it away. Instead, it frees the wronged from negative emotions.

Imagine if we all truly lived this way. My prayer for this church going forward is that you work towards these values. We have all seen times when patience is quickly lost with each other and compassion is thrown out the window. We have each chosen control over meekness and have overreacted to minor events. I encourage listening actively to each other and humbly accepting each other's strengths and weaknesses. I pray for patience as people offer what they can to God and to this church, even (and particularly) if it's done in ways that you may do it yourselves. This church has so many strengths, but sometimes we let certain attitudes guide our discussions and our decisions.

The session meetings are times for us to practice and hone these characteristics and to be able to model them for the church. May every meeting be described using these characteristics provided by Paul in such a way that the church knows that "They might not agree, but they modeled Christ-like living."

In all things, be clothed in love. Love is before all things. Love is in all things. Love will outlast all things. Love is a choice. Love is a verb. Love is action. When we put all those characteristics described above into practice, what we get is love. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Cling to God with all your being. Love each other as we love ourselves. When difficulties or stresses arise, love all the more. When we become tired or frustrated, love all the more. When I just don't feel like it, love all the more. Love because "love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8).

Do these things and give thanks to God knowing that God offers infinitely more to each one of you and me each and every day.

May God bless the congregation of First Presbyterian Church and clothe you in love this day and always.

To the glory of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Rev. Evan Walker

A GREAT TIME TO GATHER.
Men's Breakfast group meets on Tuesdays at McAteers across the street from Fairmont State University.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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Session

CLERK OF SESSION

Kathy Snider

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Terri Bunner

PROPERTY

Joe Jernigan

Rob Steele

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Brigitte Gapen

Children & Youth Ministry Update

We're excited to share some wonderful news and upcoming events with you!

Baptism Celebration

Congratulations to Jack and Ellie Snyder on their recent baptism! It was a beautiful moment for their family and our church community.

Tygart Adventure Lake Trip

Our recent trip to Tygart Adventure Lake was a huge success! The kids had an amazing time, and we're so grateful for the fun and fellowship that was shared.



Rally Day Is Coming!

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at Rally Day! It's always a joyful time as we kick off a new year of faith formation and reconnect after the summer break. We will gather and worship on Sunday, September 7 at Wave Tek, Pav. 2.

Donations Needed

We are currently accepting donations of gender-neutral children's clothing,

specifically for our nursery. Thank you in advance for helping us care for our youngest members.

Camper Sunday

Join us for Camper Sunday, August 10, where we'll hear from youth who

attended Triennium and summer camps. It's always inspiring to hear how these experiences have shaped their faith and friendships.

Sunday School Shepherds

We will soon be reaching out to recruit volunteers for Sunday School Shepherd slots. If you're interested in helping out, we'd love to have you!

Emergency Contact Info

We are updating emergency contact information for all children in our programs. If you need a blank form, please see Jane. Additional copies are posted on the door of the CE Office.

THANK YOU Pastor Evan Walker for all of your spiritual leadership/guidance the past 5 years at First Church. Wishing the Walkers the very best on their new adventures.

August Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

August 10: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Hebrews 11:1-3

Hebrew 11:1 defines faith as the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

The rest of Hebrews 11 lifts up how faith can be seen in the lives of some of our ancestors in faith. What in our lives lets other know of our faith in God?

August 17: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Hebrews 11:29-12:2

A great cloud of witnesses, people of faith from the time of Abraham to the present surround us, cheering us on as we live our lives of faith. Some of them include parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors who have nurtured and guided us in our faith. We are not alone on our life's journey.

Give thanks for some of the people who have shared the story of Jesus with you. Share their names with a friend or family member.

August 24: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 13:10-17

How wonderful it was that a woman who had been bent over, unable to stand up straight for eighteen years, at the words of Jesus, could stand again. It's easy to understand why she began praising God! What has God done in your life that you would praise him for? Share with someone and say a prayer of thanks to God.

August 31: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 14:1, 7-11

Jesus warns his disciples about thinking too highly of themselves and assuming the best places at the party table are for them. He also told them that when they threw a party to invite those who are poor, blind, lame, not their friends and relatives who would invite them in return. What would happen if we followed these instructions? How would your party be different?

AUGUST

Birthdays

8/4	Deanna Kritzer
8/6	Earl Sweet
8/10	Tim Mersinger
8/14	Loren Hunt
8/15	Kim Steele
8/22	Judy Shaver
8/24	Joe Jernigan

Anniversaries

8/1	Catie & Matt Snyder
8/19	John & Anne Schooley
8/25	John & Betty Pat Lee
8/27	Reid & Becky Harvey

Prayer List

Barbara Priestler Lucas
Marissa Meadows
The family of Nancy Smith Francis, Barb
Smith's sister
The family of Erin Bunner
The family of Joanne Whalen, Diane
Floyd's sister
Beverly Sandy
Glenn Mersinger
Ken Miller
Rev. James Morley
Susan May
Brad & Donna Dodd
Ella Morris
Stephen Satterfield
Judy Shaver
Paul Hines
Peggy Twyman
Linda Stoops

June/July Pledges & Gifts

June 29	\$2,855
July 6	\$4,112
Shoes For Kids	\$114.12
July 13	\$8,735
July 20	\$1,880
Total:	\$17,696.12

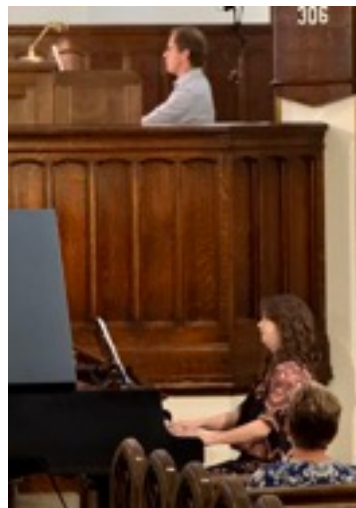
Total to Date: \$131,009.75

*August Ministry
Volunteers*

Liturgist: Loren Hunt

USHERS : Ed Snider (captain), Kathy Snider, Joe &
Benita Jernigan

Farewell Celebration FOR EVAN, JENNIFER, & MARLEY WALKER





Celebrating Jack's & Ellie's Baptism



MEET THE SNYDERS. Ellie and Jack Snider (front row) with their parents, Catie Blankenship Snyder and Matt Snyder.





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

the Chimes

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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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