



the Chimes

August 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



In many ways, August is a month of transition. Churches and other organizations have dropped regular or routine activities for the summer and special events such as picnics, Vacation Bible School and other outings occur. But as vacations end and both public and higher education schools open for the fall term, regular activities and possible new ventures begin.

Hopefully our personal devotions and spiritual preparations have not gone on vacation like other things. The times in which we are living challenge us to be faithful in worship both public and private.

The slow process of a Pastoral Search can keep us uneasy as we depend so much on guest preachers and others to keep our worship services positive, encouraging and supportive.

We have and need to keep in touch with those who may be shut-in at home or in facilities and with new persons and guests who have worshipped with us during the summer.

New challenges and opportunities confront us. The circumstances in personal lives and in society at large, call on us to be faithful in our worship, our spiritual nurture, and our financial and other support of our church

community.

May God continue to bless and use this congregation in valid and vital ministry.

Faith and I are deeply grateful for the prayers, cards, texts, calls and donations of gift cards and meals provided us during my health issues that have kept me out of the pulpit.

Dick Bowyer



- * 10 a.m. Worship Service
- * 8:30 a.m. Childcare begins
- * 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- * 9:30 Special Music Rehearsal

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





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

It was a joy to attend the Montreat Worship and Music Conference for the Week 1 session in North Carolina in June. The sessions were varied and inspiring and daily worship is an experience until to itself with much creative thought put into each service by the planning team.



The sessions I attended were, "Painting with the Pipe Organ" with David Hufford, Adult Choir with Eric Nelson, Worship Reflections, Handbell Seminar with Beth Judd, and the Routley Lecture with Mel Bringle. The organ session was focused on

discussions of registration (the stops you choose on the organ which change the color of the sound) and creative ways to approach registration in worship. The handbell seminar addressed topics such as all of the bell techniques that are out there and tips to do them effectively. Singing in the Adult Choir is a fun experience especially the selections with organ and brass accompaniment. The choir itself is made up of several hundred singers. The conductor, Eric Nelson approached rehearsals with great attention to detail and a good sense of humor. The Routley Lecture with Mel Bringle had the theme of "Hymns as Living Witnesses". She also led the Wednesday evening Hymn Festival and gave a beautiful narration in between each hymn that was sung.

I spent time at Jeffers Handbell Supply and Beethoven & Company throughout the week to plan music for the upcoming year for the choirs. I also had the chance to attend two reading sessions, one for choir music and one for handbell music. Overall the top two highlights of the week were hearing the Chamber Choir concert on Thursday evening and being a part of the Final Concert featuring various choirs and ending with the Adult Choir on Friday evening.

Here is the upcoming Summer Special Music schedule:

July 26 - Women's Chorus
August 2 - Stan Swihart, solo
August 9 - Amy Koon and Gary Jack, duet
August 16 - Betty Pat Lee and Blake Boggess, duet
August 23 - Linda O'Connor, solo
August 30 - Men's Chorus

Upcoming Special instrumental music:

August 16 - Amy Koon, handbell solo
August 23 - Mary Morrison, cello and Nina Morrison, horn
August 30 - Karen Mersinger, handbell solo

May the peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- Material for the **SEPTEMBER 2026** issue of *The Chimes* is due by **Friday, August 21 at noon. THANKS!**
- **Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.**
- **Women's Breakfast: August 13 at 9 a.m. McAteer's**
- **Session Meeting: August 18 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Camper Sunday: August 9**
- **Rally Day: September 13, East Marion Park (Wave-Tech), Pavilion 6 at 10:30 a.m.**
- **Apple Butter Day: Saturday, September 26 at Police Reserve Building**

Hospitality events for June

Please join us for our upcoming events:

August 2: Pastries in the social room after the church service.

August 4: Hospitality meeting in the parlor at 10 a.m.

August 9: Cake reception after the church service to welcome Gary Jack as a new member.

September 1: Hospitality meeting in the parlor at 10 a.m.

September 13: Rally Day, Wave-Tech Park (Pavilion. 6)

PNC selected on July 19

At the congregational meeting on July 19, the members approved the new Pastor Nominating Committee. This group will be responsible in searching for First Church's next pastor.

The members (PNC) include Pam Bunner, Reid Harvey, Roger Kritzer, Catie Blankenship-Snyder, and Stan Swihart. Keep them in your prayers as they begin the search.

Thank you from the Schooleys

Thank You Friends at First Presbyterian - Many of you sent greetings, e-mails, prayers, and phone calls following my surgery on June 22, so much appreciated. All of these messages brightened up the day at the Schooley Household. The cards are all different and beautiful: A Card Tree is in Order. The surgery was "A Day Like No Other". Thank you again, each and every one of you. *Anne Schooley*



Join us for some great fun!

Apple Butter Day

**Saturday, September 26
at the Police Reserve Bldg.**

*Proceeds support our
Shoes for Kids Project*



**Sunday, September 13
East Marion Park, Pavilion 6
10:30 a.m.**



CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

Our children had a wonderful time at camp this year and are excited to share their experiences during Camper Sunday August 9. We hope you'll join us to hear about all the fun, friendships, and faith-filled moments they experienced. We also had an incredible week at Vacation Bible School! A heartfelt thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers and supportive parents who helped make VBS such a success. We are thrilled to share that our church was interviewed about our VBS program and will be featured in the July issue of Magnify the Message, the newsletter of the Presbytery.

As we look ahead, please note an important change for Rally Day. On

September 13, we will gather at East Marion Park, Pavilion 6 (please note the new pavilion location) at 10:30 a.m. Be sure to bring your backpacks, purses, briefcases, or laptop bags for our special Backpack Blessing as we prepare for a new school year and season of learning.

Our Children's Church has also been filled with laughter, learning, and hands-on fun! Recently, the children enjoyed making mini bread loaves and decorating cookies while learning important Bible lessons. We would love to have more children join us, so don't miss out on all the fun and fellowship. We look forward to seeing everyone at these exciting upcoming events as we continue growing together in faith!



August Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

August 2: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - Read Matthew 14:13-21

When the disciples told him the crowds before him needed food, Jesus told the disciples to give them something to eat. From the five loaves and two fish, Jesus fed over five thousand people, all because he saw the need of many and felt compassion. There are still hungry people in our midst. This week, when you or your family go to the grocery, what might you contribute to the local food pantry as a way to show compassion to those who are hungry?

August 9: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost - Read Matthew 14:2-32

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on water, they were afraid, because they didn't know who/what it was. Peter got out of the boat and started walking toward Jesus, until he became frightened by the strong wind around him, and he started to sink; Jesus caught him. When have you been scared? Give thanks to God that Jesus is with us in scary times and situations.

August 16: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost - Read Genesis 45:1-15

Many years after Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, they came to Joseph seeking food in a time of famine. Joseph recognized them, thought they did not recognize Joseph. When Joseph told them who he was, he also told them that not to be distressed for God had been working in all that had happened. When/how, as you think back over your life, no matter how long it's been, has God worked in a surprising way? Give thanks to God for God's never-ending care.

August 23: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Read Matthew 16:13-20

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked the disciples who other people were saying that Jesus was. Then Jesus asked the disciples the same question – "Who do you say that I am?" Peter declared Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus asks that same question of his disciples today – "Who do you say that I am?" What is your response?

August 30: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Read Exodus 1:1-15

When God called to Moses through a bush that was on fire but not burning us, God told Moses to take off his sandals for he was standing on "holy ground." While we may not literally take off our shoes, what "ground" for you is "holy," that is set apart as a place where God meets you? It could be a special place or with special people or engaging in a special activity or something else.

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
8/12	Dave & Debbie Sleeth
8/19	John & Anne Schooley
8/25	John & Betty Pat Lee
8/27	Reid & Becky Harvey

Prayer List

Family of Cameron Lee
Family of David L. Zigmon, Ruth Martin's brother
WV Counties effected by flooding/
tornadoes
John Schooley
Florene Kendall, passing of her brother,
Harley Nottingham, Jr.
Family of Diane Ihrman
Family of Todd Phillips (friend of Tim
Mersinger)
Trina Crowder
Cheryl Peterson
Betty Lou Sheets
Abby Shuck
Sandy Underwood
Donna Dodd
Gary Jack
Steve Satterfield

Mike Simms
Dave Yazvak

May/July Pledges & Gifts

May 24	\$7,901
May 31	\$695
June 7	\$3,145
<i>Boot Sunday</i>	\$180
June 14	\$3,893
<i>Shoes for Kids</i>	\$500
June 21	\$1,815
June 28	\$1,800
July 5	\$4,795
July 12	\$1,635
July 19	\$2,073
Total:	\$28,432

Total to Date: \$141,331.36

*August Ministry
Volunteers*

Liturgist: Blake Boggess

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



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

the Chimes

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