



the Chimes

April 2024

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,

Isaiah 42:8-9 declares this promise: "I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them." (NRSV)

This is a great time of year. I love watching the earth bud and burst back into life. There are two beautiful pink buds on some small trees in my front yard. The interstate is lined with white buds on trees. Flowers are beginning to break through the ground once more. I imagine creation is singing its own version of the doxology and is praising God who made all things and turns the seasons.

There is another reason I love this time of year: Easter. In reality, I love the entirety of Holy Week. We begin on Palm Sunday with the somewhat ironically named "Triumphal Entry" of Jesus into Jerusalem. We move quickly into the week's gathering storm. Maundy Thursday, we typically remember how Jesus knelt at the feet of his disciples (even Peter and Judas) and washed their feet. Good Friday is a day for us to remember the agony of Christ's passion and what it cost God to fully show us his love and to offer us the gift of salvation



and new life. On Holy Saturday, we pause in the silence of death and the tomb and in the unknown of what has happened and what is yet to come. This is where I imagine most of us spend our lives in a metaphorical sense.

Finally, we arrive at the glory of

Easter! Christians are Easter people. The church exists because Christ lives. We proclaim Christ's Lordship because he is victorious over the grave. We have a purpose in this world because the Christ who lived and died now lives forever and is making all things new. This is our message. This is our life. This is the center of all that we do, say, and live.

Every year, we walk this week. Every year, we hear the same story. Every year...and yet it never gets old. In fact, every year God speaks of new things that are coming and of the new ways that life is being renewed. There is a great hymn entitled "I Love to Tell the Story." The last verse proclaims: "I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long."

(Continues on page 3)



- 9 a.m. Sunday School & Handbell Choir
- 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*

Thanks to the Chancel Choir for its hard work in

preparing this year's Easter Cantata: Hallelujah! What a Savior! The Crucified and Risen Christ! Thanks also to Ken Miller for being the cantata narrator and to Maria Potts for singing a solo in the cantata. The Cambridge Handbells have been busy too ringing three times during the month of March.

And it is always a treat to have the West Virginia Brass Quintet here in worship on Palm Sunday. As part of their Palm Sunday selections, John Schooley has a piece for WV Brass Quintet and piano which I am joining them on. Earlier in the month, Sarah Armstrong played flute and Tom McClure played guitar for worship. Jennifer Walker and I are closing out the Easter service with an exciting piano-organ duet arrangement of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today". Thanks to Amy Koon for directing the kids' bells for the service which always brings a smile to peoples' faces.

First Presbyterian is saddened to learn of the passing of former choir director, Carolyn Kerr,



who served this church many years ago. Several of the current choir members worked with her and I had the chance to meet her when she used to sing in the Fairmont State Community Choir.

Mark your calendars for an upcoming concert: I will be performing a joint faculty recital with colleague Alyssa Schwartz on Friday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Wallman Hall Theatre featuring works for flute and piano, solo flute, and solo piano. May the peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



WELCOME new members Tim and Karen Mersinger and their children Mia and Adam to First Presbyterian Church.

Mark Your Calendars

- May Chimes deadline is **Friday, April 19** at noon.
- Session Meeting: April 16 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Chancel Choir rehearsal: Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
- Community Yard Sale: April 13 7-2 p.m.

Hospitality Team

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter Dinner on March 10. Kitchen Helpers, decorators, table set ups etc. and a special "shout out" to Charles for all of his attention to the Social Room during the Easter Dinner and other events.

Hospitality is looking forward to everyone enjoying "Gather in the Garden" which begins Sunday, May 5 following the morning service and continuing the first Sunday of every month up to and including the month of August. Cookies and punch will be served during "Gather in the Garden" which is held outside in the side parking lot. Come join in fellowship and delicious treats. In case of rain, it will be held in the Social Room.

Hospitality Team: On Feb. 29. Hospitality Team spent a morning "cleaning and reviving" all of the cupboards in the social room. Thanks Deanna Kritzer for bringing us together for this much needed "organization". We all enjoyed the time getting this done...and the team got a lot done in just a few short hours.

Anyone who would enjoy helping with events associated with the Hospitality Team is invited to come to meetings the first Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Parlor. Contact any member of the Hospitality Team if you need information..Team members are: Pam Bunner, Deanna Kritzer, Betty Pat Lee, Janet Chittum, Martha Sweet, Charlene Walker, Kathy Snider and Anne Schooley. We have fellowship, cooking, shopping for menu needs, and planning for events that need a menu at First Presbyterian.

Wednesday Lenten Study Night: Thank you to Hospitality Team for delicious desserts during the Lenten Wednesday Night Bible Studies.

Respectfully Submitted: Anne Schooley

Property Team

At the last Property Team meeting, members welcomed new member Austin Fatkin. They discussed the completion of the new elevator and tearing down the cement block curtain wall to provide a full 3-foot box. Additional \$1,500 expense was approved by committee. That work has been completed. A broken drain pipe near the outside elevator entrance was also repaired.

Other discussions include the boiler replacement by Murray Sheet Metal, a church inventory video by Rebecca Moran, and the purchase of a new self-propelled lawn mower.



Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

I hear these same words in Isaiah 42 as God promises that former things have come to pass and new things are being declared. They are new and yet somehow, and surprisingly, they are that which we have known all along: that God is love and has come to save us, to heal us, to walk with us, to help us die to ourselves, and to rise in new life with Christ.

Just as the earth bursts forth into life, Easter invites new life to burst forth in our hearts and lives. It may start small. It may not be what we expected. It will be what God desires. Let us listen to the old, old story once more this year and learn the truth springing new among us.

May this Easter bless you and challenge you and strengthen you to love and serve in the name of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Rev. Evan Walker

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Phone (304) 366-2628

Fax (304) 366-2662

Email: office@fairmontfirst.net

Web: www.fpcfairmont.com

Outreach Team

Thanks to all who generously donated items for Scott Place Shelter. The donations were delivered to a very grateful staff.

The Community Yard Sale is **SATURDAY, APRIL 13!** Joe Jernigan has cleaned out the garage for temporary storage, so start bringing your contributions. We need help that Saturday morning loading items from our garage to take to the city parking garage, set up our tables, and work the sale. We need people to work until 2 p.m. Please let Janet Chittum or Jennie Poling know what time you can help. We will start at 6:45 a.m. to set up, and then can work shifts. This is a much needed fundraiser for our Shoes for Kids Project.



The Street Store clients have slowed down with the move of the Soup Opera and nice weather. We are still taking warm clothing items to prepare for fall/winter. We will continue to put out windbreakers, shirts and rain gear. Thanks for contributing.

Christian Discipleship Ministry Team

We are pleased to announce the hiring of two new nursery workers: Abby Shuck and Maddie Edwards. Jenna Casto resigned effective February 25 and we are very fortunate to get Abby and Maddie to replace her.



Abby is a junior at Fairmont Senior High School and is in the nursing program at the Marion County Technical Center. She plays softball and basketball. Maddie is a sophomore at FSHS, loves gymnastics and dance and is in the culinary program at the Marion County VoTech Center. They both have experience working with children and look forward to working for our church.

We have posted the Christian Discipleship Ministry Coordinator position on Indeed and Handshake, but have had no qualified applicants. We are asking the congregation to please help us recruit a new coordinator. We have 19 children participating in our children's ministries and hope to hire a coordinator before the beginning of the next church school year. If you know of someone, please see Rev. Evan Walker, Amy Koon or Lauren Ranson.

Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker

pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net

Director of Music

John Morrison

music@fairmontfirst.net

Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

discipleship@fairmontfirst.net

Office Coordinator

Cathy Woodson

office@fairmontfirst.net

Sexton

Charles Lettrick

sexton@fairmontfirst.net

Session

CLERK OF SESSION

Kathy Snider

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

PROPERTY

Rob Steele

Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Pam Stalnaker

Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Amy Koon

HOSPITALITY

Anne Schooley

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Abby Shuck

Maddie Edwards



April Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

April 7: Read John 20:19-31

Thomas has gotten a bad rap through the centuries, often being referred to as “Doubting Thomas” because he wouldn’t believe it when the other disciples told him Jesus was alive and had visited them. When he did see Jesus, Thomas believed. We all have our doubts at times, but that doesn’t stop Jesus from coming to us. Jesus meets us where we are and invites us to believe. What doubts make it hard for you believe that Jesus is alive and with you, meeting you where you are? Celebrate the good news that God in Christ meets and accepts us where we are.

April 14: Read 1 John 3:1-7

The children’s song “If Anybody Asks You Who I Am” contains the words, “If anybody asks you who I am, tell ‘em I am a child of God.” The concluding verse changes it a little bit to “If anybody asks you who are you, tell ‘em you’re a child of God.” The author of the first letter of John reminds us that we are all children of God, not because we are always good and loving, but because God loves us. As God’s child, how might you share God’s love with others?

April 21: Read Psalm 23

Shepherds take care of their sheep by seeing that the sheep have the food and water they need. When the sheep are threatened or are in danger, the shepherd uses a staff and rod to protect and rescue them. The psalmist sings of God as the shepherd of the psalmist. Think of yourself as one of God’s sheep; how has God cared for you?

April 28: Read 1 John 4:7-21

God is love and commands us to love one another. We live in love rather than fear because God abides in us. Are there fears or anxieties that hinder you from loving freely and boldly? In what specific ways are you called to show the love of God to someone else this week?

BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

4/1	Ellie Snyder
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

Addie Neely
Sarah Jane
Alisa Purdue
Family of Jim Furbee
Family of Sheryl Barnes Beck
Buck Thompson

Judy Shaver
Nick, Donna Dodd’s friend
Family of Carolyn Kerr
Paul Hines, Marilyn Morgan’s brother-in-law
Judy Palmer
DD Meighen
Brad Dodd
Peggy Twyman
Ramona Baker
Linda Stoops

JANUARY/FEBRUARY PLEDGES & GIFTS

February 18	\$10,400
February 25	\$1,680
March 3	\$3,970
March 10	\$8,164
Total:	\$24,214
Total to Date:	\$41,035.00

*April Ministry
Volunteers*

Liturgist: Bill Laughlin

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

NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on April 14 & 28.

Upcoming Camps & Retreats

SPRING GETAWAY RETREAT MAY 3 - 5 @Bluestone

Adults \$85
(ages 12 & older)

Youth \$50
(ages 4 - 11)

Children FREE
(ages 3 & under)

Registration deadline is May 1.

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

- † trail hike or craft you can do at your leisure †
- † study track w/weekend chaplain TBA †
- † games, campfires, devotions †
- † plenty of time and space to just simply be †

**Join us for a fun and relaxing
low key weekend!**

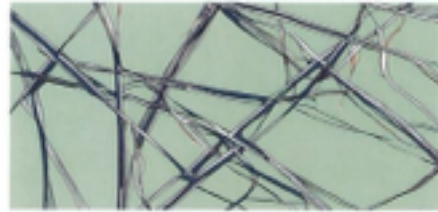
Get Registration and Medical Release Forms
online at

bluestonecamp.com/spring-getaway

The Youth Council of the Presbytery of West Virginia presents:

The 2024 SPRING YOUTH RETREAT (for youth in grades 6-12 and adults who work with them)

"Crossing Paths"



April 12-14, 2024

at

Jackson's Mill, Weston, WV

FOCUS: Each of us is on a journey, and our paths often cross.
This retreat will explore how God helps us on our journeys together.

LEADER: Rev. Joseph Jumper is a graduate of Presbyterian College and Columbia Theological Seminary. Originally from Myrtle Beach, SC, Joseph was ordained in September 2023, and serves as a Resident Pastor at Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte NC. Joseph and his wife Emily were married in April of 2023 and currently have a dog and a cat.

Cost per person is \$65. The registration deadline is Monday, March 25.
Contact your pastor, clerk of session, youth leader, or Christian education contact
for more information.

Questions? Contact Susan Sharp Campbell at susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com or 304-667-9428.

High School Summer Mission Opportunity 2024 for Youth in grades 8-12



Sunday, July 14-Saturday, July 20

Colcord, WV

WV Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW) is a Christian non-profit organization created for long-term recovery from disaster and the disaster of poverty in West Virginia. Since 2002, church groups have done flood recovery, built handicap ramps, repaired porches, flooring, rebuilt walls, and roofing among other repairs, according to the skills of participants. A skilled Project Manager leads, teaches, or gets out of the way according to the skills of the team, guiding volunteers, managing the project, and keeping needed materials on site during the week. Funding for materials is in part from the fees paid by the volunteers as well as from donations and grants.

Registration Deadline is Monday, April 22.

Cost per youth is \$300.

At least 3 adults are also needed.

Information was emailed to church leaders in late January/early February. Interested youth and adults, ask your Pastor, Christian Educator, Youth Minister, or Clerk of Session for registration information or check out www.wvpresbytery.org. You may also want to check out the information found at <https://wvministry.org/>.

Questions? Contact Susan Sharp Campbell at susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com or 304-667-9428.

75
YEARS



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

the *April 2024* 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.
FAIRMONT, WV 26554