



the Chimes

August 2023

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,

Psalm 148 is a call for all creation to praise God, the maker of all things. I love the image of the sun, moon, mountains, cattle, creeping things, and flying birds all joining in a hymn of praise to God. The Psalm concludes in this way:

“Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!”

I write this from Montreat, NC while sitting on a porch overlooking Lake Susan and surrounded by mountains. Truly I see God’s handiwork everywhere I look. I listen as birds chirp. Even in the stillness and quiet, I hear a praise of God ring out. Creation sings and in many ways is inviting me to join into the age old, yet surprisingly new, hymn of praise.

I consider how wonderful it is to serve a church that values continuing education for its staff. I feel comfortable speaking for John Morrison in offering sincere gratitude for this opportunity to attend the Music and Worship Conference. In the learning and the personal growth, I am also fed spiritually and renewed in my own faith and love for Jesus Christ.



My heart sings praise to God for this place and for each of you reading this.

The theme this week is “Thirst No More”. Truly, there are so many ways to thirst. We all have experienced physical thirst.

There is also emotional thirst as we desire to love and be loved by others. There is mental thirst as we discover how little we truly understand. There is spiritual thirst as well. This one is more difficult sometimes to recognize.

Where do we go to quench our thirst? To whom do we go to quench our thirst?

To be honest, we don’t always go to the best places. We find ourselves drinking from wells that never satisfy or even leave us thirstier than before. There is only one who can truly satisfy. There is only one who knows the deepest longings of our hearts. There is only one who knows us completely and loves us unconditionally.

As a pastor, this is a good reminder. It is good for me to remember that I too must drink from that living water. I too need to stop and rest and listen to the still small

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Worship Schedule

- 10 a.m. Worship Service

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





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

I attended
Week 2 of
the
Montreat
Worship

and Music Conference this summer
and it was such an enriching and
renewing experience, as always.

The weather was beautiful
and sunny which was fortunate as it
had rained almost all of the first week
of the conference. The class and
ensemble offerings were varied, run
by wonderfully inspiring clinicians,
and it required making some difficult
decisions as to which one to pick.
This summer I opted to sing with the
adult choir directed by Jason Max
Ferdinand. Highlights of that
experience were singing "Thanks Be
to God" from Elijah by Felix
Mendelssohn during worship and
singing in the closing concert which
ended with a powerful rendition of
"Some Day" arr. by Nathan Carter.
Each conductor has his or her own
style and it's always fun to see how
they go about bringing the music to
life in their own unique way.

I signed up for a handbell
reading session run by Sandra Eithun
and Brian Childers. These sessions
involve ringing straight through pieces
without stopping to rehearse them in
order to give directors attending some
good ideas of handbell music they
can use for their choirs. The
Cambridge Handbells have rung
anthems by Sandra Eithun before so it
was great to see her in action
directing a choir. Fun fact: Sandra
has more than 600 pieces for
handbells in publication!
There was an organ concert as part of
the conference this summer (That
hasn't always been the case, but
usually there is one.) I always look
forward to hearing the featured organ
recitalist who this year was Nathaniel
Gumbs performing a program of

works by Sowande,
Mendelssohn, Reger,
Widor (the first
movement from the
Symphony No. 5
which is not as well
known for the final
movement typically
played at Easter),
Florence Price, Elgar
and more.
The venue for the
concert was at First
Presbyterian
Asheville which has
a Holtkamp pipe
organ.

I attended
a Global Drumming
class with James
Wells from the
Nashville area who
typically works with
children and youth,
but was also great
with adults. Eric
Wall led the service
playing class where
he shared his views
and experiences as
a church musician
and organist and
highlighted the
relationship between singing and
organ playing. The Routley lecturer
David Bjorlin talked a lot about the
hymn writing process, tools that hymn
writers use, and potential advantages
and disadvantages of these tools.

There was a bit of a surprise
one evening at the youth talent show
when an announcement was made
that a Momma bear and her cubs
were hanging out behind Anderson
Auditorium and everyone should go
out the front. (I never saw the bears,
but some others did.) Never a dull
moment at Montreat!



Being surrounded by such
natural beauty it is also important to
spend some time just enjoying the
outdoors. Pastor Evan, Jennifer, and I
did just that by hiking up the Lookout
Mountain Trail to take in the
breathtaking view. I would sum this
view up with simply one word, "Wow!"

May the peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist

First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- September Chimes deadline is **Friday, August 18** at noon.
- Gather in the Garden: August 6 after church service
- Black Bears game: August 11 at 4 p.m. (tailgate)
- Session Meeting: August 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m.



Scouts take advantage of various summer camps

The scouts continue to attend various camps this summer including Camp Mountaineer and the National Jamboree in southern West Virginia.

Troop 120B went to Heritage Reservation near Nemacolin, Pa. Fourteen scouts attended with close to 100 merit badges earned during the week. Adam Ranson completed the Iron Scout Challenge of swimming one mile, hiking five miles and canoeing 5 miles. He was the only adult along with five scouts to complete this feat. The troop won the Camp Freedom Cup for performing the most service to the camp throughout the week, which included providing grace at meals, raising and lowering flags and cleaning the shower houses.

Troop 120G attended Camp Mountaineer in Morgantown with three scouts. They worked on archery and shotgun merit badges along with several others. Scoutmaster Kim completed the mile swim.

A BIG WELCOME to First Church to new members Reid and Becky Harvey along with their children Owen, Ella, and Olivia.



Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

voice of God to speak.

I thank you for this time and that you value it for us who are called to lead. I thank God for the opportunity to stop from all the busyness and noise to simply sit, to rest, to enjoy the quiet and to rediscover the song of creation in praise of its maker.

May God bless you and may you also find the place and the time to rest and to drink the Living Water that is offered through Christ the Son.

To the glory of God,

Rev. Evan Walker



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Phone (304) 366-2628

Fax (304) 366-2662

Session Committee News

Property updates: window project, elevator

Here are a few updates from the Property Team. As most of you know, the restoration work on the stained glass windows facing the main parking lot has begun. Windows are being repaired and trim painted and then a new covering placed over the windows. We have exceeded our donations by \$2,017 (\$49,017). So a BIG thank you to everyone who supported this project.

The next major project is to replace the elevator near the office entrance. The project will be approximately \$60,000 and should be completed by the end of October. An elevator fund is in place with \$5,230 already donated.

Hospitality announces August/September events

August 6 will be our last "Gather in the Garden" for the summer. Please join us in the church parking lot immediately following service for lemonade and cookies. If inclement weather, we will gather in the church social room. Hospitality hosts will be Kathy Snider and BP Lee.

If you haven't already contacted Diane Floyd or Amy Koon to purchase your Black Bear Baseball game tickets for August 11, you need to do so ASAP! FPC will be tailgating from 4-6 p.m. prior to the game in the parking lot across from the baseball field. Hospitality will be providing hotdogs, Janet's hot dog sauce, condiments, drinks and all paper products/utensils. Be sure to bring a chair if you wish to sit for tailgating along with a covered dish to share. Looking forward to a wonderful evening of fellowship!

Our next hospitality meeting will be August 1st, at 10:00am in the church parlor. Come join us!

Looking ahead -

September 8: Parents' Night Out at 5:30 p.m.

September 10: Rally Day

September 30: Apple Butter Day



Apple Butter Day will be on Sept. 30

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 30 at the Police Reserve Building above the Wave Tek pool.

We will be having our apple butter making time at the park, so begin bringing your jars and sugar to the church. Check with Diane Floyd if you have any questions.

Proceeds from the sales of the apple butter will go to our "Shoes For Kids Project."

Don't Forget to sign up for tickets to the West Virginia Black Bears game on Friday, August 11. Tailgating begins at 4 p.m. Check with Diane Floyd or Amy Koon ASAP.



Staff

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Session

CLERK OF SESSION

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Amy Koon

Diane Floyd

PROPERTY

Eric Hauser

Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda O'Connor

Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jennie Poling

Meredith Knight

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer

Anne Schooley

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Jenna Renee Casto

Sophia Sammons

August Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

August 6: 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 5000 people. There are still hungry people in our midst. This week, when your family goes to the grocery, buy extra and share it with your community food pantry.

August 13: 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? Share what has scared you with a friend or family member. Give thanks to God that Jesus is with us in scary times and situations.

August 20: 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, and 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, as you think back over your life, whether long or short, has God worked in a surprising way? Give thanks to God for God's never ending care.

August 27: 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?

BIRTHDAYS

August 3	Caleigh Nielson
August 4	Deanna Kritzer
August 6	Earl Sweet
August 15	Kim Steele
August 20	Michele Miller
August 22	Judy Shaver
August 24	Joe Jernigan

Michelle Miller
Ralph Cummings
Peggy Twyman
Linda Stoops

MAY/JUNE PLEDGES & GIFTS

July 2	\$11,775
July 9	\$2,122
July 16	\$2,600

Total: \$16,497
Total to Date: \$103,813.46

ANNIVERSARIES

August 19	John & Anne Schooley
August 26	John & Betty Pat Lee
August 28	Reid & Becky Harvey

PRAYER LIST

Cathy Redding
Ramona Baker
Cathleen - friend of Linda Stoops
Paul Hines

August Ministry
Volunteers

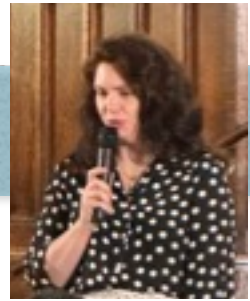
Liturgist: Eric Hauser

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

NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on August 13 & 27

Discipleship Ministry

Rev. Emily Harden, coordinator



This July we had a fantastic time at Vacation Bible School! For three nights, we traveled back to ancient Babylon to visit with the biblical Daniel and his friends to learn what life was like when Daniel and other Hebrew people were captured and forced to live in a strange and foreign land. We enjoyed wonderful meals from our absolutely fabulous hospitality team, had dedicated help from our adult volunteers and most importantly, our beloved students came ready to play and learn each night! We played games, made crafts and learned from Daniel himself! (We promise it was Daniel, it was NOT Miss Emily in a mustache.)

We learned that even though we may feel afraid, alone or experience changes, God is with us through it all. Like Daniel and his friends, we can

stand firm, knowing God will always be close by our side. Even when we are in new or unexpected places, when the thing we never thought would happen does – God is with us.

On Sunday, July 16, we gathered again for one final hour of VBS fun with the whole church at the park. We heard from Daniel! (Again, definitely Daniel and not Pastor Evan in a hat.)

We sang songs! We did crafts! Our children are so blessed to have the support and love of their church who will join them in learning silly song motions and stringing beaded bracelets.

For all those who participated in VBS this year – we are so happy you came! You are a joy. For all those who volunteered in any way, big or small – we are so thankful for your contributions. We could not do these kinds of things without you. We're already looking forward to next year!



More fun
at VBS!





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

the *June 2023* Chimes

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



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