



the Chimes

December 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Message from the Pastor



Beloved of Christ,
1 Peter 1:19-21 gives us hope and a purpose as the

people of God.

“So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

This passage highlights two important symbols in the official PC(USA) cross. We are commanded in many places to proclaim the word of God and teach each other what it means to be disciples of the servant Lord. The Protestant Reformation emphasized the Word in both written form (the Bible) and in proclamation (the

sermon) to help us understand the Word made flesh (Jesus).

Notice the elements of our cross:



The top line is intentionally not drawn straight and is meant to symbolize an open Bible resting on a pulpit. The Bible is intentionally open to remind us that God’s Word is open to us. God desires to be

known by us and we come to know and love God more by our study, sharing, and proclaiming of the good news of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

We believe that when and where the Word of God is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ, the Living Word, is present among us. Our Directory for Worship declares: “Therefore, reading, hearing, preaching, and affirming the Word are central to Christian worship and essential to the Service for the Lord’s Day” (W-3.0301).

(Continues on page 3)

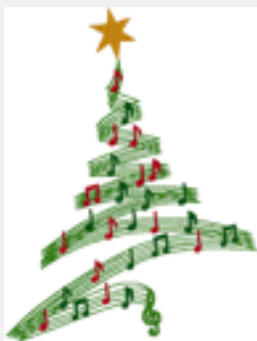


Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Childcare Begins
- 9 a.m. Sunday School & Handbell Rehearsal
- 10 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal & Children’s Music
- 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*

Mark your calendars, the Chancel Choir Cantata is coming up soon! On December 18, the choir will

present "What Sweeter Music: A Festival of Carols" by Mark Hayes. This cantata features our wonderful Chancel Choir singing fifteen English, German, and French carols, a soprano solo sung by Betty Pat Lee which is a setting of the Magnificat, and the children's choir singing Away in a Manger and Silent Night! You will hear beautiful arrangements of Angels We Have Heard on High, I Saw Three Ships, Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day, Promise of Peace, Song of Mary, Still, Still, Still, Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, The First Nowell, O Holy Night, We Three Kings of Orient Are, Good Christians All, Rejoice, Joy to the World, and O Come, All Ye Faithful. Thanks to the choir for all its hard work preparing this cantata!

After enjoying the cantata on December 18, you should also come

enjoy guest choir, Maestri Vocale, on Tuesday December 20 at 7:30 pm. They will be singing G.F. Handel's Messiah (the Christmas portion and the Hallelujah Chorus.) This choir is made up of singers from throughout north central West Virginia and is made up of a combination of choir directors, music teachers, and professional singers.

Other dates to note are the Vocal Tapestry concert December 4 and the WV Brass Quintet playing for the Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. Just as Julie Andrews sang in the Sound of Music, we can proclaim that our Fairmont, WV hills are alive with the sound of music! Praise be to God!

May the peace of Christ be with you always, and have a blessed Advent and Christmas season,

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



VITA
VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

United Way
Tygart Valley United Way

VITA TAX VOLUNTEER
HELP BUILD FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Do you enjoy helping others? Become a VITA volunteer and see how easy tax preparation can be!

VITA is currently looking for volunteers to serve as certified tax preparers for the 2023 tax season. You will receive training from an expert IRS agent and be equipped with the know-how to confidently prepare taxes for yourself and fellow community residents. Scheduling is flexible so you can volunteer during a time that is convenient for you!

WHO WE ARE

- Volunteers are certified through an IRS test
- Certified volunteers are protected from liability
- Both online and in-person trainings are offered
- New volunteers shadow experienced volunteers
- Quality review process assures that multiple volunteers review each return

CONTACT
Nathan Terry - Program Manager
nathant@unitedway.org
304-366-4550 Ext. 108

tvuw.us/taxes



The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

WAYS TO GIVE

Through your congregation

Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy

Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy



And the Word became flesh and lived among us...

— JOHN 1:14



THE PERFECT GIFT.

Mark Your Calendars

- January Chimes deadline is **Wednesday, December 21** at noon.
- Session/Staff Christmas Party: December 2 at 6 p.m. Muriales
- Vocal Tapestry Concert: December 4 at 3 p.m.
- Parents' Night Out: December 9 at 5:30 p.m.
- Children's Pageant: December 11
- Christmas Cantata: December 18 during service
- Christmas Joy Offering: December 18
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteers at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

A special Thank You

On behalf of the Soup Opera, we would like to thank you for helping us serve those in need. May God Bless You for all that you do for us, especially for the recent donation of \$125. Your support makes a difference in so many lives.

Sincerely,

Misty Tennant, director

Property's projects updated

Busy is an understatement as the Property Team, especially Joe Jernigan, has been working to complete projects as well as continue others.

The roof over the office has been replaced by 5 Star Roofing and Hendershot Heating & Cooling installed the new HVAC for the office/addition. There is still some electrical work to be done in the ceiling of the main office. Because we had the dumpster on site, we were able to do some house cleaning. Charles and Joe cleaned out the garage and the scout troops assisted in helping clear out their future rooms. Thanks to everyone who helped.

After months of meeting with various digital companies, Property submitted and Session approved for Tate Communications to install the new keyless entry (four doors) and security systems. Also, the original roofing company who did a temporary fix, backed out of repairing a section of the roof on the parking lot side of the building. Tri State Roofing of Morgantown will now be doing the roof work. This will require removing a section of tiles, repairing the area, and then replacing the tiles.

Work continues to fundraise and repair some of the stained glass windows on the parking lot side of the building. After recent bids were submitted to Charleston, Willett-Hauser was awarded the project. This is the same company that the church has worked with on all of the other window projects. Because the WV Archives & History Commission in Charleston let us know that there is still some additional state development money, we have submitted a letter asking for an additional \$13,000.

Property also approved the purchasing of four first aid kits. The kit in the handicap bathroom is one of those to be replaced.

Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

In honoring this tradition, we include this image into our cross.



The next image brings us to the Holy Spirit that empowers our reading and proclamation of God's word.

The top of the cross is shaped as a descending dove. The dove has long represented the presence of the Holy Spirit in Christianity. We firmly believe that we can only begin to understand the scriptures only by the grace of the Spirit. We also

believe that the Holy Spirit is the one who inspired the countless authors of scripture; we also believe that only by the Holy Spirit are we able to have faith. Faith itself is a gift from God.

The descending dove also reminds us of Jesus' own baptism when the Spirit of God descended on Jesus: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." In many ways, this reminds us that God is always the God that comes to us to save us. It is God who created us and worked through the prophets by the voice of the Holy Spirit. It is God that took on flesh and became human, born among us as we are yet without sin. Through the Spirit, God continues to come to us, to speak to us, and to transform our hearts.

As we study the elements of our cross, we begin with these two symbols because they undergird everything else that we do in the church. Our foundation is in the Word of God revealed and understood by the Holy Spirit. To leave this foundation is to verge away from being the church.

To the glory of God,
Rev. Evan Walker

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM MONDAY - THURSDAY
Phone (304) 366-2628 Fax (304) 366-2662
Email: office@fairmontfirst.net Web: www.fpcfairmont.com

Session Committee News

Hospitality announces upcoming events for Dec. & Jan.

The Session and Staff Christmas party is Friday, December 2, 6 p.m. at Muriales. Those wishing to participate in a fun gift exchange remember to bring your wrapped gift of \$10-15. Don't forget to wear your Ugly or Pretty Christmas attire!

December 9: (Friday) Parents' Night Out. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Hospitality Host: Janet Chittum.

December 11: (Sunday) Children's Christmas Pageant and Christmas Dinner immediately following service.
Menu: Ham, Nathan's potatoes, California medley, Waldorf salad and dinner rolls. Desserts: Variety of Cakes.

No Hospitality meeting in December.
January 10, (Tuesday) Hospitality meeting 10 a.m. church parlor.

January 13, (Friday) Parents' Night Out. Dinner at 5:30pm. Hospitality Host: Anne Schooley.

Outreach shops for over 400 pairs of shoes

Many thanks to all who helped shop for shoes. We received over 400 applications this year! A larger number than last year. The shoes will be distributed through the agency where the application was received.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on December 18 during the morning worship service.



The Street Store is in need of winter coats, hats and gloves. Please consider donating any of these you aren't using any more.

Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker
pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net

Director of Music

John Morrison
music@fairmontfirst.net

Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

Janel Nye
discipleship@fairmontfirst.net

Office Coordinator

Cathy Woodson
office@fairmontfirst.net

Sexton

Charles Lettrick
sexton@fairmontfirst.net

Session

CLERK OF SESSION

John O'Connor

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan
Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Penny Roberts
Diane Floyd

PROPERTY

Eric Hauser
Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda O'Connor
Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jennie Poling
Adam Ranson

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer
Anne Schooley

Treasurers

Roger Kritzer
David Floyd

Nursery Attendant



November Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent: Read Romans 15:4-13

The holiday season is often filled with occasions for hospitality and celebration. As we prepare to welcome the birth of our Lord, how are you also “welcoming one another” (verse 7)? How might we seek the sort of unity and reconciliation Paul encourages between the Jews and Gentiles in our own communities today?

December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent: Read James 5:7-10

Patience is consistently listed as one of the great virtues, and Paul calls it a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). Why is it so hard to be patient? What are you waiting for even now; how can you pray about that this week?

December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent: Read Isaiah 7:10-16

This prophecy from Isaiah likely referred to a young woman who was there before Ahaz, but Christians have long held the tradition that it also anticipates Jesus. Have you ever asked God for a sign? How might the Spirit use the same event to speak different messages to people? Where have you witnessed the Spirit speaking to you lately?

December 25 - Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day: Read Luke 2:1-20

Merry Christmas! What good news do you have to share with others this holy day? What treasures are you pondering in your heart? Let us pray together for peace and joy in our world!

DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

December 2	Mike Stalnaker
December 3	Pam Bunner
	Dave Cooper
December 6	Evan Walker
	William Wyckoff
December 9	Wren Knight
December 16	Chandler Urse
December 18	Amy Koon
	Lois Laughlin
December 21	Benita Jernigan
	Jean Lambert
	Liam Stalnaker
December 22	Linda Stoops
December 23	Taylor Downs

DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

December 7	Ben & Jennifer Poling
------------	-----------------------

PRAYER LIST

Family of Sarah Robertson
Danielle Wood
Michele Miller
Steven Satterfield
Linda Stoops
Ron Straight
Beverly Richards

OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER PLEDGES & GIFTS

October 23	\$4,957
October 30	\$965
November 6	\$1,966
November 12	\$1,205
November 20	\$3,140
Total:	\$12,233

Total to Date: \$133,637.85

*December Ministry
Volunteers*

USHERS

Marilyn Morgan (captain), Drew & Laura VanDyke
NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on December 11 & 25.



First Church's News & Notes

Packing foster care bags for teens

This month the kids at Parents Night Out will be packing bags for teens in foster care. We will be collecting new and gently used travel bags to pack. We will also be collecting toiletries and Christian books/devotions and Bibles to put into the bags.

Please leave any donations in the box outside the CD office. Please leave all donations prior to December 9.



Parents' Night Out

Parents' Night Out will be moved to December 9 this month. We will eat dinner at 5:30 and the night will be followed by some service projects and Christmas fun and activities.

Please RSVP to discipleship@fairmontfirst.net so we can have enough food and supplies for your children. You can also RSVP to the monthly evite sent via text. If you would like to be added to the evite list you can send your phone number to the email address above.

Christmas Pageant

Mark your calendars for the Christmas Pageant on December 11 during the regular worship service. The



church children are already busy memorizing their lines.

If your child did not sign up to participate but would like a silent role please be at the following practices: December 4 during children's church and after church/ December 11 at 9 a.m. during the Sunday school hour.

Cantata, Dec. 18

Look for the kids in this year's Cantata on December 18. If you would like your child to participate please come to children's music on Sundays at 10 a.m.



Sunday School, Children's Church

We will have no Sunday School or Children's Church the following dates: December 25 and January 1

There will be no Children's Church in the month of December due to all the special events during the worship service.

Children's Church Volunteers needed

Children's Church is held during the worship service. After time with young disciples the children leave to attend children's church. We are looking for volunteers to teach during the spring semester. If you would like to volunteer please contact discipleship@fairmontfirst.net. You will be provided your lesson and all required materials every time you volunteer. We would like to have a team of 4-6 volunteers so each volunteer can teach once per month.

Matthew 25/Thanksgiving Luncheon & Advent Festival



BEING A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH: From Friendship Fairmont Maggie Bracken and her daughter Jolynn, and Chuck Vankirk, Rev. Evan Walker, and CASA coordinator Amber Fancher answer questions from the congregation at the Matthew 25 luncheon in the social room. Special thanks to Hospitality who served an amazing Thanksgiving meal.





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

the
December 2022 *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