

the Chimes

February 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Message from the Pastor

Beloved of Christ,

John 14:15-16 reads: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you."

As we continue to examine the PC (USA) cross, we come to a very difficult symbol—the Trinity. Jesus speaks to this in the passage cited above. The basic understanding of the Trinity is that God is one revealed in three persons. We do not worship three gods but instead a single God that exists in three persons. A traditional rendering looks like this:



Confused yet? Don't worry. You are not alone. Theologians have been trying to



understand this concept for 2000 years.

Ultimately, the essence and being of God is a mystery. It should be that way. God would not be much of a God if we could fully understand the divine.

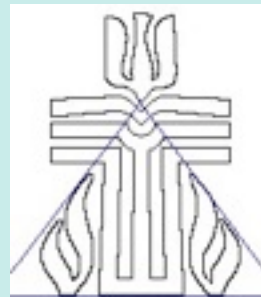
This brings us to our cross. This symbol is hard to see in

our cross, but it is vitally important.

Notice the triangle shape that recalls the ancient description of the Trinity.

What does this mean and why is this important? This is the very way God that has chosen to be known and has self-revealed in the scriptures. We attribute certain aspects of the divine with certain persons of the Trinity, but each person is still fully God. Therefore, an action of one person of the Trinity is an action of God in God's entirety.

For example, we attribute creation to God the Father. God the Father holds all things together and watches over all things. We attribute the sending of the Son to God the Father. *(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*



conditions called for a Session and Worship recommendation of virtual attendance for that service. Hope you enjoyed hearing the fruits of their hard work on those pieces.

Sunday, April 9 (more info to come in the March newsletter). Tom McClure will also be playing guitar soon on February 5 as a special communion music for violin-guitar duet.

May the peace of Christ be with you,
John Morrison

The month of January in the music ministry started out with the Chancel Choir singing on New Years Day, ringing in 2023 with much joy! Guest flutist Alyssa Schwartz came to play a beautiful Bach prelude, and the Cambridge Handbells played both a prelude (“Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming”) and an offertory (“Go Tell It on the Mountain”) which were originally planned for Christmas Eve before the extreme cold and icy

Of note, the Sandra Eithun arrangement of “Go Tell It on the Mountain” was just published in 2022, so you are likely one of the first congregations to hear this wonderful arrangement which featured a variety of bell techniques and also made use of the chimes. Coming up in the music ministry, the choir has begun rehearsing the cantata to take place on Easter



EXPLORING OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS: During worship service, Debbie Stevenski (left) from Celebrate Recovery, and Lois Martin (right) from Connecting Link share information with First Church's congregation about their organizations and how they assist people in Marion County.

Mark Your Calendars

- March Chimes deadline is **Friday, February 17** at noon.
- Parents' Night Out: February 3 at 5:30 p.m.
- Scouts Lock-In: February 11 Social Room
- Souper Bowl Sunday: February 12
- Congregational Meeting: February 26
- Session Meeting: February 21 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteers at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.



Salt Shakers returning; sign up!

It's been a long time, but we're starting Salt Shakers again and hope to make this the best year ever!!!

Here's how it works. Salt Shakers is like a supper club, but you'll be with different people each

month. One person (or couple) serves as the host and provides a main dish. Three other people (or couples) are responsible for bringing a salad, vegetable, and a dessert. Dinners do NOT have to be formal. Don't worry if you don't have a large dining room. Dinners are held once a month. Everyone is assigned a number and those are matched up randomly to put groups together. Each month, you'll be in a different group. The host will contact the others in the group for that month to schedule the dinner and to coordinate the meal. The date of the dinner is up to the host. What a great way to visit and get to know each other!!! REMEMBER, you DON'T have to be a couple!!! A single person can do it alone or team up with another single person, or even bring a guest.

If you're interested, call or email Kathy Snider (304-376-7558), ksnider514@msn.com or Betty Pat Lee (304-363-8476, bplee36@hotmail.com). We'd like to have everyone signed up by Feb. 10 and start the dinners in March. Because we're starting this in the spring, we'll plan to do the months of March, April, May, September, and October. We hope you plan to join us!

The Soup Opera needs meal crews

The Soup Opera is in need of people to help prepare meals. They are asking for "crews" of 4-6 people to volunteer once a month from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on the first and fifth Saturday and on the fourth Friday.

Janet Chittum has been doing this for many years and is a good source of information if you are interested. Please contact Janet at 304-366-0065 or Diane Floyd, 304-282-0729.

Session asks for attendance info

Session is asking those who attend worship virtually every Sunday, to please e-mail or call the office at office@fairmontfirst.net or 304 366-2628. Session would like to know how many worship with us outside the church.

Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

We attribute our salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus to God the Son who took on flesh as one of us to reveal the heart of God to us.

We attribute the newness of life, our remaking, the forgiveness of sins, the God who is with us guiding us each day to God the Holy Spirit. The Spirit helps us pray. The Spirit helps us know and understand the scriptures. The Spirit helps us understand better the Son. The Spirit is the one who guides the church. The Spirit is the one who raised Christ from the dead and who will raise us to eternal life. The Spirit is sent by the Father and the Son.

Yet there is only one God that we know in three persons. Though we attribute these things to each of the distinct persons, an action of one is an action of the whole of God.

We celebrate this fact with 2,000 years of Christians who have lived into this mystery and trusted in this mystery. We are firmly grounded in the faith that the Triune God has done, is doing, and will do all things for us and for our salvation. We remember this great mystery of faith as we look at our cross. May God grant us grace to live into this mystery.

To the glory of God,

Rev. Evan Walker



**The Fairmont
Soup Opera**

Serving one hot
meal every day for
365 days of the
year since 1983.

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 Jan.

Hospitality is excited for the return of "Salt Shakers". Be sure to read the article in this month's *Chimes*. Participating is an opportunity to get to know one another in fellowship outside of the church. A fun time is guaranteed! Kathy Snider and BP Lee are the hospitality members to contact if you have any questions. Hospitality will also be working with Outreach and Christian Discipleship in planning some family outings in the coming months. If you have any ideas we would love to hear from you.

Thank you to all the hospitality members who prepared the meal for the January 15, Matthew 25 luncheon and to those who helped in the kitchen with cleanup. A special "Thank you" to Kyle Hauser and Thomas Ranson for clearing the tables and preparing the dishes for the dishwasher. We are blessed with willing workers.

At the February hospitality meeting we will be dividing into teams and planning the Lenten meals which will begin on March 1 at 6 p.m. Menus will be in the weekly bulletin as well as *The Chimes*.

Dates to remember:

Friday, February 3, First Friday. Hospitality host will be Anne Schooley. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 12, immediately following service will be combining our last **Matthew 25 Luncheon** along with "**Souper Bowl of Caring**". A variety of soups, breads and pies will be provided by the hospitality team and session members.

Tuesday, February 14, Hospitality meeting 10 a.m. Church Parlor.

Property Updates

Property is still asking people to make donates towards the stained glass window repairs/restoration on the main parking lot side of the church.

We have paid \$23,481.75 to get the project started. So far, we have had over \$25,000 donated to the fund so the first payment was covered. We will get reimbursed 50 percent of our payment by the state grant award. The State approved an additional funding of \$6,963.50. Since this is a matching grant, this reflects 50 percent of our request of \$13,927.

Work on the office ceiling and new lighting is completed. Thanks Eric and ESolutions. Tate Communications has begun installing the new security and keyless entry systems around the church. The team is now getting bids to replace the elevator.

The team would like to especially thank Ken Miller for all the countless hours and work he has given to keep the church building and facilities in shape and working. Ken is stepping down from the team after serving many years.

Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker
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Director of Music

John Morrison
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Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

Janel Nye
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Office Coordinator

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Charles Lettrick
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Session

CLERK OF SESSION

John O'Connor

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

Treasurers

Roger Kritzer



February Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

February 5: Matthew 5:13-20 says you are the light of the world and lights are not meant to be hidden. We must let our light shine so that others will see our good works. What can you do to shine your light and help make someone's day better?

February 12: In the text from 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, we are told that we are all God's servants working together. What are ways that you can work with God's servants? Gather a group of people and volunteer at a food pantry or visit a nursing home together or help someone with their chores.

February 19: In Matthew 17:1-9 we hear the story of Jesus' transfiguration, or transformation, as Peter, James and John watched. And then they heard a voice from heaven say, "This is my beloved Son." They had a "mountaintop experience." How do you think the disciples felt when they heard the voice? How might we hear God's voice today? What might God say to you?

February 26: Matthew 4:1-11 tells us the temptations the devil presented to Jesus. We meet temptations each day at work, at home, and in life. Jesus resisted these temptations to do other than what God wanted. This week consider some of the things that cause you temptation to not follow God. Try to resist one for this week.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 2	Mike Stalnaker
3	Ken Miller
7	Cayden Cooper
8	John Schooley
10	Margot Willis
12	Judy Cooper
18	Jim Nolan
27	David Roberts

DECEMBER/JANUARY

PEDGES & GIFTS

December 25	\$792
Total to Date:	\$140,245.85
January 1	\$1,615
January 8	\$2,589
January 15	\$21,797
Total:	\$26,001

PRAYER LIST

Jenny Stafford
Peggy Twyman
Family of Janice Stemple
Tom Temple: Family of Deanna Kritzer
& Ben Poling
Nancy Jones
Michele Miller
Steven Satterfield
Linda Stoops
Ron Straight (surgery)
Kirk Gullede, Rev. Walker's uncle

*February Ministry
Volunteers*

Liturgist: Ken Miller

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

NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on February 12 & 26



Lenten Study will begin March 1

It seems like the Christmas season is hardly passed but it is

already time to start thinking about Lent! The Lenten Study will be every Wednesday in March from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The night will begin with a delicious dinner. The adults will remain in the social room for a study and the children will go upstairs for their own study. The children will be reading and diving deep into the Chronicles of Narnia. Stay tuned for the adult study topic. Wednesday studies will be on March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29.

We hope you will be able to join us for this great event!

Super Bowl of Caring

set for Feb. 12 following worship

When then-seminary intern Brad Smith led a prayer with a youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC in 1990, he wanted to make sure the kids received a lesson about food insecurity. "Lord even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." That was the inspiration for a nationally-focused nonprofit he would go on to establish called Souper Bowl of Caring.



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That was the inspiration for a nationally-focused nonprofit he would go on to establish called Souper Bowl of Caring.

We will celebrate Super Bowl Sunday with this message in mind. We will fellowship together and help out the needy on February 12 immediately following the worship service. Hospitality Team will provide soups, bread and pies for lunch. This year we are asking for donations of toiletries for men and women to be given to the Friendship Room peer recovery center.



Thank you for volunteering

A big thank you to all the volunteers who will be helping with different children's programming in the coming months! The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few and your service is greatly needed and appreciated.

We still need more volunteers. If anyone would like to be added to the rotation to teach the youth Sunday school class, at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings or teach children's church, during the church service, your time would be greatly appreciated. We also need helpers for all the Sunday school classes and children's church. If you have a heart for children but you are not interested in teaching this is a great way to be involved in the children's ministry. Please contact: discipleship@fairmontfirst.net with any questions.

Next Parents' Night Out on Feb. 3

Parents' Night Out will be February 3 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. We will start the night with a pizza dinner and then spend the rest of the evening playing games and doing activities while we deepen our understanding of the Christian life!

Please remember to RSVP to this event. A text e-vite is sent out the week prior to the event. If you are not on the e-vite list and would like to be added, or know someone who would like to be added, please send your phone number to: discipleship@fairmontfirst.net.



This event is designed for children ages 5-12 years old.



Let's Go Camping!

It may be freezing right now, but summer is right around the corner! It's time to start thinking about summer camp. Bluestone Camp and Retreat has a variety of camping options for all ages. As a former Bluestone camp counselor, I can promise you will come home with amazing memories. However, the best part of a week at Bluestone is the relationship you build with Christ. Whether it's devotions around the campfire, daily Bible study or time spent talking about your faith journey one on one, you will feel the Spirit all around you. If you've never been to Bluestone, consider going this summer. Carve out a week for your children or the whole family to breathe in fresh air, canoe on the lake, sleep in a hogan, cook over a campfire, sing silly songs, hike a trail, make new friends and spend quality time with God. Thirty years after my time at Bluestone, I remain friends with my fellow counselors and many of my campers. Bluestone changed my life. Let it change yours! – Jennifer Poling

Summer Camp:

June 11-17

June 18-24

June 25- July 1

July 2-8

Retreat Dates:

Guy's Retreat – April 21-23

Spring Retreat – April 28-30

Women's Retreat – August 11-13

Fall Retreat – October 20-22

Youth Retreat – November 10-12



Spring Youth Retreat

Following a successful Fall Youth Retreat in 2022 at Bluestone, there will be

a Spring Youth Retreat for grades 6-12 at WVU Jackson's Mill, April 14-16. The retreat will be led by members of the Presbytery Youth Council. The theme is "A More Loving World." Complete details, including registration, will be available in late March/early April.

Christian Education: New Beginnings

New beginnings can be exciting and, in some cases, a little bit daunting. That's how I feel as I take over as Chair of the Christian Education Committee. I want to begin by saying a BIG thank you to outgoing Chairman Adam Ransom and CE Director Janel Nye. They had the unenviable task of steering the CE committee through COVID. They did a marvelous job of providing programming for youth and adults alike.

Now that we're on the other side of COVID (fingers crossed!), we hope to expand our programs to not only reach our church family, but those who may have never walked through our doors before. In order to do that, I need your help! While we continue our search for childcare workers to assist with the nursery and children's church, we need volunteers to staff those programs, plus other events we have on our schedule like Parent's Night Out, our Lenten study and VBS. That means we'll be asking you to volunteer. I hope you will prayerfully consider offering your time and talents. Many of you have already raised families and moved on from assisting with our children's programs. However, I'm asking you to think about the future of our church, and our children who will one day lead it. They need you now! If we are to grow our congregation, it will take everyone working together.

If you see me sliding into the pew next to you or notice my name pop on your caller ID, chances are I'll be asking you to help the CE committee in some way. I hope you'll say, "Yes!"

- Jennifer Poling

Upcoming Events: Parent's Night Out – Feb. 3 (5:30-8:30 p.m.)

MARION MEALS ON WHEELS

Need a meal?

Marion Meals On Wheels, Inc. provide home delivered luncheon meals five days a week for those unable to stop or prepare food with a priority for 65 or older. For more information contact: East Fairmont - 304 366-2943

West Fairmont 304 366-0771





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

the
February 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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
301 JACKSON ST.
FAIRMONT, WV 26554