



the Chimes

February 2025

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,

We have been examining the “Great Ends of the Church” as written and included in our Book of Order. As a reminder, “ends” in this sense means something akin to aspirations and targets at which to aim rather than a conclusion. In other words, ideally, these summarize what the Church should look like and what we should strive for in our personal life.

The first end is “The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.”

The second is “The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God.”

The third is – “The maintenance of divine worship.”

The fourth end is – “The promotion of the truth.”

We arrive at the fifth end – “the promotion of social righteousness.”

All of the prophets in our Bible have things to say on this topic. Ezekiel gives us a different picture than usual for God’s judgment in 16:49 – “This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but they did not aid the poor and needy.”

Remember, the Presbyterian Church wrote the Great Ends of the



Church in 1910. This is not some new “woke” agenda. The Church, reading the biblical witness, saw the importance of living and serving and offering. The way of the cross is a re-envisioning of our culture and society. St. Augustine in the 4th Century wrote in a sermon: “You give

bread to a hungry person; but it would be better were no one hungry, and you could give it to no one. You clothe the naked person. Would that all were clothed and this necessity did not exist.” This he saw as central to the gospel.

John Calvin put a huge emphasis on promotion of social righteousness. He wrote, “The poor are chosen to represent God upon the earth.” In his pastoral ministry, he encouraged all churches to devote at least half of their resources to the poor and needy. He viewed this not as acts of charity, but as a witness to God’s justice and advocating of the reign of Christ in the church.

Modern prophet, Shane Claiborne, wrote, “If our gospel is not good news to the poor and the oppressed, it is not the gospel.”

Obviously, “the promotion of social righteousness” is central and has *(Continues on page 3)*



- 8:30 a.m. Childcare begins
- 9 a.m. Sunday School & Handbell Rehearsal
- 10 a.m. Children’s Music Time & Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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





Musical Notes from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist

As we have been

experiencing a very cold and snowy winter this year, one of the things that strikes me about snowfall is the stillness and quietness that follows. We live busy lives with agendas, to do lists, and responsibilities. Do we really take time to enjoy stillness? How long can we go before looking for the next distraction? While we are now past the Christmas season, I invite you to turn to Hymn 144 and read through the text of "In the Bleak Midwinter". Then sing through the tune. The words of wonder for the manger scene resonate differently now. What could be perceived as an inconvenience is also an opportunity and a gift. When our lives and schedules are upended by acts of God, maybe it is time for us to spend more time with God in prayer. To take time to be thankful for our four seasons and beautiful Earth. To be thankful for those who are in our lives: family and friends. To be thankful for a wonderful church community.

I am thankful for such a wonderful Chancel Choir and handbell choir members who are joy to work with each week.

The handbells are ringing for the prelude on February 2 and February 16. For this month's *Chimes* we're going to look at some background



information on the arrangers of the pieces they are ringing: "Holy, Holy, Holy", arr. Kevin McChesney and "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name", arr. Julie Turner.

Julie Turner is an Associate Conductor, Composer in Residence, and Board member of Music City Bronze, an advanced community handbell group in Nashville, TN. She is also a ringing member of a handbell quartet called MLB-4, which is a sub group of Music City Bronze. Julie has 40 published handbell arrangements and was named Composer of the Year in 2009 by Jeffers Handbell Supply.

Kevin McChesney lives in Colorado Springs, CO and has over 450 titles in print. He has won the American

Guild of English Handbell Ringers Composition Contests and Jeffers Composer of the Year. Kevin is a handbell catalogue editor, directs the Pike Peak ringers, an auditioned community handbell choir, and is a workshop clinician and festival conductor.

One of the aspects of Montreat I always enjoy is seeing and meeting composers and arrangers in person whose music we ring or sing in church. I believe finding out more about them adds an additional layer of appreciation to the music both for those making the music and those listening.

May the peace of Christ be with you! John Morrison *Director of Music and Organist*

Youth Confirmation Sunday



CONGRATULATIONS to First Church's four newest members, (right) Thomas Ranson, Brady Hutson, Beth Sullivan, and Cara Zundell. Kyle Hauser and Celia Knight will be received at a later date.



First Church's News & Notes

Pastor's Message

continues from pg. 1

been central to the understanding of the church since its inception. In modern understandings, we have focused much more heavily on personal righteousness, which is good. Who we are and how we live matters. However, the gospel is never "Me and Jesus". The gospel is, and always has been, a countercultural movement that seeks to reshape and reimagine our life together.

One of my favorite complaints against the church was written by Julian Julian the Apostate (331-363). Writing to a pagan high priest, he orders Arsacius:

"...to build in each city, frequent hostels in order that strangers may profit by our philanthropy; I do not mean for our own people only, but for others also who are in

need of money. . . . For it is disgraceful that, when no Jew ever has to beg, and the impious Galileans [Christians] support not only their own poor but ours as well, all men see our people lack aid from us."

Basically he is complaining to his pagan priests that they need to be better at caring for people because the Christians are making them look bad. How absolutely wonderful it would be if someone could lob that kind of accusation at the Church today! Friends, "the promotion of social righteousness" is not some twisted and perverse ideal, but central to the heart of God and central to what we should be doing as a congregation of our Lord and Savior. This should make us squirm a bit. The Gospel never was about making me feel comfortable and happy. The Gospel has always been about the kingdom of God coming to

earth in the person, the work, the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus, the Christ.

Jesus did not come into this world that we would have more and better religion. Jesus came that we might have life and have it abundantly. That begins in us and with us and through us. The way things are and always have been do not provide that much interest to our Lord and Savior. Instead, Jesus is much more interested in what we may become and what is blossoming now.

I invite you to prayerfully consider where and how God is inviting us, pushing us, calling us to participate in this wonderful mission of social righteousness.

To the glory of God,

Rev. Evan Walker

Mark Your Calendars

- Material for the March issue of the Chimes is due by Friday, **February 21** at noon. THANKS!!!
- Parents' Night Out: February 7 at 5:30 p.m.
- Scout Sunday: February 9
- Souper Bowl Sunday: February 9 after church service
- Youth Group: Monday, February 17
- Session Meeting: February 18 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m.
- Choir rehearsal: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
- Handbell Choir rehearsals Sunday at 9 a.m.
- Children's Music Time: Sunday at 10 a.m.

Discipleship: Looking at February events

Exciting Upcoming Events for February!

January was a blast with our Youth Group Game Night!

We had a great time together and are so grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of our youth.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our Valentine's Day themed Parents' Night Out on February 7 at 5:30 p.m.. Parents, this is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some time for yourselves while we take care of the kids! We'll have plenty of fun activities planned for the children, so be sure to mark your calendars.

A quick reminder to all parents: please take a moment to update your child's emergency form for the new year. These



forms are very important for the safety of all our children and can be found in the nursery.

On

Monday, February

17, we will be hosting another Youth Group event featuring a game and movie night. It's sure to be a great time, so make sure to invite your friends and join us for an evening of fun!

Lastly, if you have any questions about Triennium, please feel free to reach out to Evan or Jane. They'll be happy to provide you with all the details you need.

Looking forward to all the wonderful moments February will bring!



CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM ON MONDAY THRU THURSDAY

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Session

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Kathy Snider

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Terri Bunner

Loren Hunt

PROPERTY

Rob Steele

Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Pam Stalnaker

Penny Roberts

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Amy Koon

Tim Mersinger

HOSPITALITY

Janet Miller

Nancy Carnes

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Pam Proctor

Abby Shuck

Hospitality 2025 events

The Hospitality Team would like to welcome anyone interested in either becoming a member of our team, attending any of our meetings, or even just helping out occasionally at events when you can. We have a great 2025 planned, and the people on the team are a lot of fun and enjoy serving food!

If you are interested or have any questions, please talk to one of our team members.

Upcoming Events:

February 4 Hospitality Meeting
at 10 a.m. in the church parlor

February 7 Parents' Night Out
5:30 p.m. Pizza, veggie tray and dessert

February 9 Souper Bowl Luncheon will immediately follow the church service. Hospitality members, Session members, and the Boy Scouts will be providing crock pots of different soups. We will also be having cornbread, oyster crackers and cookies. What better way to get ready for the Super Bowl Game!

March 4 Hospitality Meeting
at 10 a.m. in the church parlor

March 5 Ash Wednesday Pot Luck Dinner. Mark your calendars and details will follow.

Outreach Team

Outreach will have a Scott's Place collection tub and a list of needs in the office entrance for the month of February.

Plans for Apple Butter are being made for the fall.



Especially with the much colder weather, please continue to bring your unwanted coats, hats, gloves, and scarfs to the church for the Street Store. Souper Bowl Sunday collection plate will be out during lunch on February 9. Money will be distributed to local charity.

The Chimes Deadlines

- * February 21 for March issue
- * March 21 for April issue
- * April 18 for May issue
- * May 23 for June issue
- * June 20 for July issue
- * July 18 for August issue
- * August 22 for September issue
- * September 19 for October issue
- * October 24 for November issue
- * November 21 for December issue
- * December 19 for January 2026 issue

All dates are tentative.



February Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

February 2: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Read *Jeremiah 1:4-10*

God chose Jeremiah to be God's messenger, to speak God's word. Though Jeremiah insisted that he was too young and didn't know how, God promised to go with him and give him the words to speak. What has God called you to say about God to others? What excuses keep you from speaking with others about God?

February 9: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Read *Luke 5:1-11*

When Jesus called his first disciples, they were washing their nets after a long night of fishing when they caught nothing. Jesus invited them to follow him, and they did so, leaving everything behind them. We, too, have been called to follow Jesus. What did you, might you, have to leave behind to follow?

February 16: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Read *Luke 6:17-19*

Crowds of people came to hear Jesus, hoping that he would heal them, and Jesus did so. How has Jesus healed you? How might you help share Jesus' healing ministry this week?

February 23: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Read *Luke 6:27-38*

Do you have any "enemies"? How do you treat them? Jesus taught those who would listen to him to love their enemies and do good to those that hate them. Imagine what it would be like in our schools, workplaces, homes, communities, nation, and world if we did so. Reach out to an "enemy" with love this week.

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

| | |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 2/2 | Mike Stalnaker |
| 2/3 | Ken Miller |
| 2/8 | John Schooley |
| 2/10 | Margot Willis Nancy Carnes |
| 2/18 | Jim Nolan |
| 2/20 | Ella Harvey Oliva Harvey |
| 2/21 | Ed Cummings |
| 2/26 | Patty Priester |
| 2/27 | Dave Roberts |

Anniversaries

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| 2/2 | Sarah Armstrong & Thomas |
| McClure | |

Prayer List

Family of Ruth Focht, Karen
 Messenger's great aunt
 Family of Rich Kuzman
 Family of Bradley Morrison
 Family of Steve Smigocki
 Kyle Hauser
 John Morgan, Jr.
 Rab Snider
 Cathy Reed
 Judy Palmer
 Karen Burgess
 Alisa Perdue
 Stephen Satterfield
 Judy Shaver
 Paul Hines
 DD Meighen
 Brad Dodd
 Peggy Twyman
 Linda Stoops

December/January Pledges & Gifts

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| December 22 | \$1,826 |
| December 29 | \$1,417 |
| Christmas Joy Offering | \$1,095 |
| | Total: \$4,338 |

Total to Date: \$174,396.45

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| January 5 | \$3,170 |
| January 12 | \$1,560.25 |
| January 19 | \$2,095 |
| | Total: \$6,825.25 |

February Ministry
Volunteers

Liturgist: Austin Fatkin

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



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

the **Chimes**
February 2025

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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