



the Chimes

February 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,

It is hard to believe, but in February, we enter another important season in the church. Christmas has barely passed where we celebrated the coming of Christ as Emmanuel and also the promise that Christ is coming again. No sooner than we celebrated that event, we enter the season of Lent. Once more, we travel through the difficulty and suffering of the cross. Once more, we are invited to pause and reflect on the depths of God's love for us.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency provides:

"Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church's peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the 'old self.' In dying, we live."

Lent is my favorite season of the church year. I know that sounds strange to say that about a season that focuses on death and sacrifice and generally thought of as a very somber season. Yet, this season gives me hope and moves me each year.



Amos 5:14-15 declares to all who will listen – "Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph."

This is what this season means to me. It is a time to recenter and refocus. It is a time to reflect and intentionally seek after good. This is not a vague, generic good. This is good as defined by God. This is God who is good who has come to us.

I find this difficult. Stereotypically, Christianity is quite capable of pointing out evil and labeling things and people as such. Stereotypically, Christianity is equated with all the things we are not supposed to do.

Amos reminds us all that true life in Christ is not simply about pointing out evil. In many ways, Christianity should be about seeking after the good. This is active. This is intentional. This leads us away from negativity and into a joyful living. Imagine if we lived life together
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- 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*

The month of February will start out with some upbeat and joyous music from the choirs!

The Cambridge Handbells are ringing a rhythmically exciting Ron Mallory arrangement of "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah".

Some fun facts about Ron Mallory: Outside of composing he has a strong interest in astronomy and science education, and has had one of his handbell arrangements featured as part of a 2017 Mormon Tabernacle Choir broadcast.

The Chancel Choir starts the month out singing, "The Servant Song" by English-born, New Zealander Richard Gillard. You will likely recognize the tune for this setting as "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (NETTLETON).

Following that, we have our Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday and then we are already into the Lenten

Season with Ash Wednesday on February 14. The music will be more reflective during this time, until we get to Palm Sunday when the West Virginia Brass Quintet will be joining us in worship! On Easter Sunday March 31 the Chancel Choir will be singing a cantata.

I look forward to sharing more information about the cantata with you in the March Chimes.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



Mark Your Calendars

- March Chimes deadline is **Friday, February 16** at noon.
- Session Meeting: February 20 at 6:30 p.m.
- Souper Bowl of Caring: February 11 after church
- Ash Wednesday: February 14
- Lenten Studies: Wednesdays on February 21, 28 & March 6, 13, 20
- 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.

Background forms need to be updated

After three years, we need to update background checks for anyone who helps with our youth and children.

Forms are by the main mailboxes. Please fill out the form and place it in the mailbox in the office door as soon as possible. Thanks!

Help Tackle Hunger on February 11

On February 11, we will participate in the national

Tackle Hunger: Home of The Souper Bowl of Caring. Tackle Hunger works to advocate for local food pantries. We will celebrate by collecting food items for the Marion County Food Pantry and gathering for lunch after church. Let's help provide for food security for our community. Wear your



favorite sports team insignia.

Also during the month of February, we will be collecting items for Scott Place Homeless Shelter. Their current needs list will be posted in the parking lot entrance. Generally, they can use toiletries, snack foods, pillow cases and cleaning supplies.

Another important date to put on your calendars – APPLE BUTTER! We will gather at the Police Reserve Building again on Saturday, September 28 for fellowship, a meal, and of course 3 – 4 kettles of Apple Butter. We hope everyone can join in.

Some Property Team updates

The elevator company has finally received all of the equipment and materials needed to replace the old elevator. The company was to start putting in the new lift the week of January 22.

The team is also looking at replacing the last of the two old boilers. This should help things run smoother with both boilers running in sync.



Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

seeking after the good and celebrating the good together. Lent is a time to remember and rejoice and prepare ourselves to hear the incredible, amazing love of God poured out for us and all the world.

This is Lent for me. I hope you can also find joy and hope in this season.

To the glory of God,
Rev. Evan Walker

The Chimes deadlines announced

Here are the tentative dates for the DEADLINES for The Chimes newsletter for 2024. It is greatly appreciated when the deadlines are met.

- January 19 (Friday) for February newsletter*
- February 16 (Friday) for March newsletter
- March 18 (Monday) for April newsletter
- April 19 (Friday) for May newsletter
- May 17 (Friday) for June newsletter
- June 21 (Friday) for July newsletter
- July 19 (Friday) for August newsletter
- August 16 (Friday) for September newsletter
- September 20 (Friday) for October newsletter
- October 18 (Friday) for November newsletter
- November 15 (Friday) for December newsletter
- December 16 (Monday) for January 2025 newsletter



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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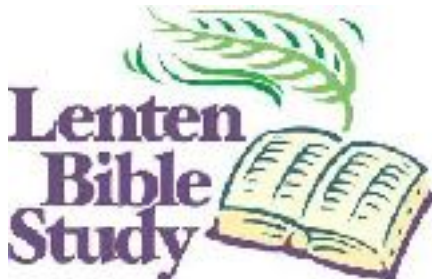


Hospitality announces February, March events

The Session and staff retreat was held Saturday, January 27 from 8:30 a.m. - noon. Hospitality host, who graciously prepared and served those present, were Janet Chittum, Martha Sweet, Pam Bunner and Betty Pat Lee. Thank you for a much appreciated and delicious breakfast!

The Souper Bowl of Caring is set for Sunday, February 11 immediately following worship. A variety of soups will be offered, along with cornbread muffins and crackers. Cookies and Ice cream will be served for dessert, as well as lemonade, coffee, hot tea, and water.

Ash Wednesday falls on Valentines Day, February 14. The Hospitality team will be offering a baked potato bar with all the fixings and salad. Dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. with service beginning at 7 p.m. A variety of cakes will be served along with lemonade, coffee, hot tea, and water.



During Lent, hospitality will be offering desserts prior to Wednesday evening Bible Study beginning at 5:30 p.m. Bible Study will begin at 6 p.m. and finish in time for 7 p.m. choir practice. Lenten Study dates are February 21, February 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20.

Easter Dinner is Sunday, March immediately following worship. The menu will include

ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable medley, Charlene's salad and dinner rolls. A variety of pies will be served for dessert. Drinks will include iced tea, lemonade, coffee, hot tea, and water.

If you would like to join the Hospitality committee, please mark your calendar for February 6. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the church parlor.

Deanna Kritzer

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Session

CLERK OF SESSION

Kathy Snider

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Amy Koon

Jennie Poling

PROPERTY

Rob Steele

Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Pam Stalnaker

Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jill Zundell

Meredith Knight

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer

Anne Schooley

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Jenna Renee Casto



February Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

February 4: Read Mark 1:29-39

As Jesus begins his ministry, his life takes on a rhythm of action (teaching and healing) and prayer and solitude. His time by himself in prayer perhaps confirms his calling: "This is why I have come." Reflect on your own life. How does it have a rhythm to it? Do you find time to be nurtured by God in solitude and silence so that you can engage with the world from a place of centered Presence?

February 11: Read Mark 9:2-9

Jesus orders the disciples to not tell anyone what they had seen. Reflect on why he would order this of the disciples. Why would he not want others to know about this experience? What is most important to Jesus? Have you ever had an amazing experience of God? Did you tell anyone about it? Why or why not?

February 18: Read Mark 1:9-15

Jesus' life and call are affirmed and confirmed through his experience of baptism. Reflect on what your baptism means to you. Every time you encounter water this week, perhaps as you wash dishes or pour yourself a drink, be reminded that you are God's beloved child. Hear God tell you, "With you I am well-pleased." Notice your feelings, both emotional and physical, as you rest in God's love for you.

February 25: Read Mark 8:31-38

Lose your life. That's what Jesus says here. We don't like to be "losers," but we do lose ourselves sometimes. We lose ourselves in our work, in our hobbies, in music, in a book or movie, and in other things we love. What does it mean for you to lose yourself in Christ? Say an honest prayer, asking God to help you lose yourself in Christ. Tell God what is hard about that, what scares you about it. Then sit in silence in God's presence.

BIRTHDAYS

February

2/2	Mike Stalnaker
2/3	Ken Miller
2/8	John Schooley
2/10	Margot Willis
2/18	Jim Nolan
2/20	Ella Harvey
	Oliva Harvey
2/21	Ed Cummings
2/27	Dave Roberts

PRAYER LIST

Jim DeLong
Carolyn Kerr
Paul Hines, Marilyn Morgan's brother-in-law
Joanne Whalen, Diane Floyd's sister
Tammy, Vicki Bostic's sister
Clint Skidmore

Judy Palmer
DD Meighen
Kenny Dean
Brad Dodd
Peggy Twyman
Ramona Baker
Linda Stoops

DECEMBER/JANUARY PLEDGES & GIFTS

December 17	\$1,350
December 24	\$245
December 31	\$4,181
Total:	\$5,776
Total to Date:	\$167,328.19

January 7	\$3,137
January 14	\$2,390
Total:	\$5,527

February Ministry
Volunteers

Liturgist: Austin Fatkin

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

NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on February 11 & 25.



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

the
February 2024 *Chimes*

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