



the Chimes

January 2022

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

Matthew 25:37-40

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

As we welcome a new year, we are invited into a challenge – living into Matthew 25. The Presbyterian Church (USA) encourages individual churches to become Matthew 25 Churches. This means taking seriously the call to see "the least of these" as Christ himself among us.

First Presbyterian certainly undertakes this calling in several ways: Shoes for Kids, Fair Trade, and the Street Store. This initiative encourages and calls us to celebrate these and share these missions with other churches, but also invites a deeper reflection and understanding of what it means to live our faith each day as individuals and as a church in our life together.

The Session has examined several items and is greatly interested in



partnering with this initiative and seeks congregational support. To aid in this, sermons in January and February will examine different portions of this initiative and things that we can consider as a church together.

This initiative is divided into three main focal points: Building Congregational Vitality, Dismantling Structural Racism, and Eradicating Systemic Poverty.

Building Congregational Vitality is not about numbers and statistics. This is a commitment to re-energizing and living our faith visibly in this community in love and service of others.

Dismantling Structural Racism is about helping strangers and those who are different from us in ways that have long-term effects.

Eradicating Systemic Poverty is more than a handout. It is good to feed and clothe people in need. But it is just as important to discover why people are hungry and ill-clothed to begin with and to prayerfully consider what we can do to help with that.

Desmond Tutu provides a wonderful quote as we contemplate this initiative: (Continues to page 3)



Worship Schedule

- 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School: Social Room
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

Worship Service is in-person based on the color rubric (pg. 3) and online at fpcfairmont.com & Facebook



Musical Notes

from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist

Congratulations to both the Chancel Choir and the Cambridge Handbell Choir for doing such a beautiful job on Cantata Sunday, December 19! Both choirs started rehearsing again just in the past month. It was remarkable what they were able to accomplish in this time frame, providing a handbell prelude and a virtual cantata, *Appalachian Winter* by Joseph M. Martin with Ken Miller as the narrator. The Cantata singers were Meredith Knight, Anne Schooley, Pam Bunner, Betty Pat Lee, Kim Steele, Amy Koon, Blake Boggess, Rev. Evan Walker, and Stan Swihart. The bell ringers this month were Linda Swihart, Pam Stalnaker, Penny Roberts, Betty Pat Lee, Jennifer Smith Poling, Pam Nolan, Kim Steele, Jill Zundell, Amy Koon, Roger Kritzer, and Amy Turluck. If you missed it, be sure to

check out this service on the church website or on Facebook. One frequent comment I heard from choir members was what a joy it was to be singing and ringing together again.

Thanks to Jennifer Walker who collaborated with me in December on both a violin/piano and an organ/piano special music selection. On Christmas Eve, the West Virginia Brass Quintet played for the service (with choir member John Schooley playing tuba) and the bells and Chancel Choir were also featured.

And there's nothing like singing "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve with the handbells and chimes accompanying.

The choirs will be off after Christmas and will be starting rehearsal again in January 2022 with the first Chancel Choir rehearsal taking place Wednesday, January 5 at 7 p.m.

and the first handbell rehearsal happening on Sunday, January 9. On Sunday December 26, the Schooley family provided music with Anne on piano, John singing, and Jonathan playing a guitar prelude. On Sunday, January 2, John O'Connor is singing solo for worship.



Thanks to all for your dedication and your uplifting musical contributions to the services at First Presbyterian!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas, John Morrison

Celebrating the Christmas season at First Church



First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- February Chimes deadline is **Friday, January 21** at noon.
- Session Meeting: Tuesday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteers at 8 a.m.
- Adult Sunday School at 9 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
- Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 9
- Parents Night Out: January 7 at 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Boy Scouts: January 2, 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Special 'thank you' to Sunshine

Sunshine "Angels", thank you for all the cards and notes. Surgery went well. Miss you all a lot. Hope your holidays are good ones. Love you. Patty Priester

Congregational Meeting January 9

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 9. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the report of the Officer Nominating Committee and to elect officers for the class of 2024, to present the approved 2022 operating budget, to approve the terms of call for Rev. Evan Walker, and to elect trustees for 2022.

Hospitality Meeting on January 11

The Hospitality Ministry Team will be meeting Tuesday, January 11 at 10 a.m. in the church parlor. If you wish to be a part of this team, please join us! If you are unable to attend our meeting, but wish to be on the team, please contact Deanna Kritzer at 304-694-2379 / dpkritzer@aol.com. Being prayerful and positive, we will be planning our 2022 calendar. Deanna Kritzer, chair & Anne Schooley, co-chair

394 pairs of shoes purchased

A special thanks to all those that helped with the Shoes For Kids Project. We purchased 394 pairs of shoes for children in Marion County.



Pastor's Message continues from pg. 1

"There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."

Sermons and worship in the new year will help us understand each focus and how to engage in them. We will really focus on putting our faith into action as a church. How can we make a positive impact within our community and local politics for the furthering of the gospel of Jesus Christ? This question should always be before us as a church and every time we worship anyway, but this invitation provides the opportunity to seriously contemplate this calling.

I invite you to read and reread Matthew 25 several times over the next couple of months. Let it upset you. Let it disturb you. Think about it when you go to work or the store or as you drive around town. Let the Spirit speak to you and let us imagine together what we can be in Christ. When the Spirit speaks, listen. When the Spirit speaks, share it with others. There are certainly so many gifts, strengths, and talents within this church that God can use for the kingdom.

I pray this initiative will invigorate and excite you as much as it does the Session.

May God bless and watch over you in the New Year!

Rev. Evan Walker

The updated rubric approved by Session for opening the church and facilities is as follows:

GREEN, YELLOW, GOLD, and ORANGE All programs proceed normally and outside groups are allowed to utilize the facilities as approved.

RED – All members are strongly encouraged to worship virtually. Masks are required at all times for those who enter the premises. There will be no corporate singing during worship. Extra social distancing will be required. No outside groups may utilize the facilities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM MONDAY - THURSDAY
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Session

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John O'Connor

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan
Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Penny Roberts
Diane Floyd

PROPERTY

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Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda O'Connor
Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jenny Poling
Adam Ranson

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer
Anne Schooley

Treasurers

Roger Kritzer
David Floyd

Nursery Attendants

Christy Erickson

Daily Prayer with Matthew 25

Morning Prayer

Opening Sentences *Matt. 5:14, 16*

Jesus says: You are the light of the world.
Let your light shine before others.

Prayer

Water may be poured.
Come, Holy Spirit —
pour out your blessing
in our lives this day. Amen.

Psalm

Pray a morning psalm, such as 5, 19, 51,
63, 95, 100 or 150. Silence may follow.

Scripture

Read one chapter of Matthew each day of the
month. On the 29th–31st, read other Scriptures.

Prayer *Matt. 25:31–46*

Lord Jesus Christ,
as this new day begins
help us to recognize you
when our neighbors say:
Sun I am present ...
Mon I am hungry ...
Tue I am thirsty ...
Wed I am a stranger ...
Thu I am vulnerable ...
Fri I am sick ...
Sat I am in prison ...

Give us minds to know you,
hearts to love you,
and strength to serve you,
this day and always. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may follow.

Dismissal *Matt. 1:23*

God is with us in Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Bless the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

A sign of peace may be exchanged by all.

Evening Prayer

Opening Sentences *Matt. 14:27*

Jesus says: Take heart, I am here.
Do not be afraid.

Prayer

A candle may be lighted.
Come, Holy Spirit —
kindle the fire of faith
in our hearts this night. Amen.

Psalm

Pray an evening psalm, such as 1, 8, 27,
65, 104, 113 or 141. Silence may follow.

Scripture

Read one chapter of Matthew each day of the
month. On the 29th–31st, read other Scriptures.

Prayer *Matt. 25:31–46*

Lord Jesus Christ,
at the close of this day
we remember our neighbors
and we ask ourselves:
Sun When did I recognize you?
Mon When did I give you food?
Tue When did I give you drink?
Wed When did I welcome you?
Thu When did I protect you?
Fri When did I care for you?
Sat When did I visit you?

Bless what we have done,
forgive what we have failed to do,
and make us ready to meet you
when you come in glory. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may follow.

Dismissal *Matt. 28:20*

Jesus says: I am with you always.
Thanks be to God.

Bless the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

A sign of peace may be exchanged by all.



January Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

January 2 - Second Sunday of Christmas: Read John 1: 10-18

“The Word was in the world. And the world was made through him. But the world did not recognize him.” As you go through your days, do your words and actions reflect a recognition of Jesus?

January 9 - Baptism of the Lord: Read Isaiah 43: 1-7

“Do not be afraid. I will set you free. I will send for you by name. You belong to me.” God’s promise is that God will be with us when we face difficult times. What makes you afraid? Give thanks to God that God is with you in your fear.

January 16 - Second Sunday after Epiphany: Read Psalm 36: 5-10

“We are filled with light because you give us light.” Light brings hope as it makes the dark places less scary. How many you share your light with those you encounter this week?

January 23 - Third Sunday after Epiphany: Read 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

“There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ.” Each of us has an appointed role as part of the body of Christ. This week, consider the role you have and how you carry out its responsibilities.

January 30 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany: Read Jeremiah 1: 4-10

“Before I formed you in your mother’s body, I chose you.” God chose Jeremiah to be God’s messenger to the nations. Though Jeremiah insisted he was too young, God gave him the words to say. What has God called you to speak to others about God’s way? What excuses keep you from sharing God’s word with them?

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 14 Nancy Jones
January 16 Roger Kritzer
Anne Schooley
January 20 Kathy Snider
January 21 Matthew Stalnaker
January 25 John O’Connor

December 19 \$1,320
November/December Total: \$8,082

To Date Total: \$144,667.38

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 9 Jim & Pam Nolan

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PLEDGES & GIFTS

November 28 \$2,173
December 5 \$2,817
December 12 \$1,772

January Prayer List

Lauren Ranson’s younger sister
Brad Dodd
Dr. Jeriel Gilmer, Schooley’s friend
Boyd Shaw, Eric Hauser’s grandfather
Family of Patty Snider
Steven Satterfield, Pam Stalnaker & Penny Roberts nephew
Marilyn McDougal

January Ministry Volunteers

USHERS

Roger Kritzer (captain), Deanna Kritzer, John & Betty Pat Lee



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

the
January 2022 *Chimes*

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