



# the Chimes

January 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Message from the Pastor

### Beloved of Christ,

2 Timothy 3:16-17 declares that "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."

We continue to examine the PC (USA) cross and what it tells us about what we believe. We come to an important portion, and one that became central to the Reformation: the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Martin Luther and others believed that the proclamation should be central to the worship of God. The scriptures are not just for personal study or private piety. They shape our communal life together by the Word of God inspired by the Spirit of God.

If you look at this design, you'll notice that the top is shaped like an open book resting on a pulpit. The Word of God born among us is revealed in the Word of God written and proclaimed in the Word of God spoken. John Calvin held the proclamation of the Word in highest regard, not for the pastor's sake, but for the upbuilding of the Church and as the



primary way to enact social change according to the grounding of God. The flames on each side of our cross remind us of the fire that descended on the first apostles in Acts 2. The Spirit enlivened and changed these first disciples into proclaimers of the word

of God. The flames also recall Christ's own baptism when the Spirit descended onto Jesus. That very same Spirit still speaks and still guides and still challenges us to go forth with faith.

It is the Spirit that guides and leads the one speaking the words of God. The sermon should never be the will or intention of a person or a specific ideology or political persuasion. The preacher or teacher should only speak what is given by God. This will no doubt challenge and upset us at times. There are times I wrestle with the scriptures and become quite uncomfortable. I believe that is the Spirit of God at work transforming us. If we are never uncomfortable or challenged, we are not growing in our faith nor are we open

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## 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](http://fpcfairmont.com) & Facebook



# Musical Notes *from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist*

What a joyous and eventful Advent and Christmas season we have experienced together as the body of Christ!

The Chancel Choir did a beautiful job on their Christmas Cantata, *What Sweeter Music: A Festival of Carols* by Mark Hayes which was made extra special by the children joining in to sing *Silent Night* and *Away in a Manger* with the adult choir. Betty Pat Lee sang a beautiful solo in the cantata before directing the children and Maria Potts did a wonderful job singing the solo for "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings of Zion" from G.F. Handel's *Messiah*. Thanks also to Tom McClure who played guitar with me for a violin-guitar Advent duet.

Christmas Eve was glorious with the WV Brass Quintet being a part of the service and the Cambridge Handbells added so much to worship throughout the month by ringing arrangements of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," "Ding Dong Merrily on High" with "Ukrainian Bel Carol" and "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming". Kudos to both choirs for all their hard work rehearsing and preparing all of this music.



First Presbyterian hosted two different choir concerts: Vocal Tapestry gave a crowd pleasing Christmas Concert filling the pews with members of the community and church.

Maestri Vocale also performed a concert consisting of the Christmas portion of *Messiah* plus works by R. Vaughan Williams and Joshua Stubbs. And Christmas fell on a Sunday this year, so we even gathered more informally Christmas morning to sing carols and worship together, which does not happen very often on Christmas Day itself.

As we head into 2023, I invite you to read through and reflect on the text of the choir anthem for Christmas Eve and the wonder of the Christmas story. "A Winter's Song" by Joseph M. Martin: "'Tis now the moon of wintertime and snow is on the ground. When will heaven send the gift of love to kiss the frozen ground?"

Awaking in the barren earth, the seeds of hope and our rebirth. Come, O Promised One. Come, Lord Jesus come.

Come, Lord Jesus come. From ancient times the prophets spoke against the winter's moan. When will God send forth His Morning Star to melt our hearts of stone? When will truth shine forth with guiding light and chase the shadows of the night? Come, O Promised One.

Come, Lord Jesus come. Come, Lord Jesus come! Day is dying in the west. Shadows soon will fall. As winter sings her solemn song,



we long to hear Love's call. Arise, awake, the time is here. Christ will come to dry each tear. Rise and shine! Your time has come.

God's gift of grace is drawing near! 'Tis winter now. The falling snow has left the heavens clear. Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow. All the earth lied dead and drear; and yet God's love is not withdrawn for beauty paints the crimson dawn! Come, O Promised One. Come, Lord Jesus come! Come, Lord Jesus, come!"

May the peace of Christ be with you and wishing you a Happy New Year 2023!

John Morrison





# First Church's News & Notes

## Mark Your Calendars

- February Chimes deadline is **Friday, January 20** at noon.
- Parents' Night Out: January 13 at 5:30 p.m.
- Matthew 25 Luncheon: January 15 after service
- Session Meeting: January 17 at 6:30 p.m.
- Session Retreat: January 28 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteers at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

## Puzzles, books available in social room

Now that colder weather is here, just a reminder that if you need some indoor entertainment there are books and puzzles in the social room that can be checked out.

## Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

to the voice of the Spirit.

As 2023 dawns, may we go deeper into the scriptures and may the Spirit of God work in our hearts individually and corporately to fashion us anew by the Spirit of God.

To the glory of God,  
Rev. Evan Walker

## Sights & Sounds of Christmas





# 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.**

The Hospitality Team wishes to share the many joys it has had throughout 2022. It was wonderful to finally be able to return to church and worship in God's house. Being together in fellowship has truly been a blessing.

Events/activities taking place this year include: Parents' Night Out every month, sharing our church with visitors with "cookies in a bag," the Session retreat, Souper Bowl Sunday, Ash Wednesday dinner, Lenten dinners and study, Mother's Day/Father's Day Luncheon, Gather in the Garden May thru August, Black Bear game outing, VBS, Rally Day, Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving Dinner, Advent and Christmas Dinner. We have more to share in 2023!

Hospitality is just one of the many committees at First Presbyterian Church. If you're not involved in a committee, please consider giving of your time and joining one. The committees are: Outreach, Property, Worship and Music, Administration, Christian Discipleship and Hospitality. Being involved is rewarding in so many ways!

### **January important dates:**

Tuesday, January 10: Hospitality meeting 10 a.m. in the church parlor.  
Friday, January 13: Parents' Night Out 5:30 p.m. Hospitality host Anne Schooley.

Sunday, January 15: Matthew 25 Luncheon immediately following service. Menu: Hot Chicken Salad, green beans, Charlene's salad, dinner rolls and dessert.

Saturday, January 28: Session Retreat 9 a.m. - 1p.m. in the church social room.

Deanna Kritzer



## *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**

Amy Kuhn  
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  
David Floyd

## *Sights & Sounds of Christmas cont.*



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 14	Nancy Jones
January 16	Roger Kritzer Anne Schooley
January 20	Kathy Snider
January 21	Matt Stalker
January 25	John O'Connor

### PRAYER LIST

Mary Cummings  
Nancy Jones  
Mitch Martin  
Family of William Wyckoff  
Danielle Wood  
Michele Miller  
Steven Satterfield  
Linda Stoops  
Ron Straight  
Beverly Richards

### NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER PLEDGES & GIFTS

November 27	\$255
December 4	\$1,774
December 11	\$2,090
December 18	\$1,697
Total:	\$5,816

Total to Date: \$139,453.85

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 9	Jim & Pam Nolan
January 22	Evan & Jennifer Walker

*January Ministry  
Volunteers*

### USHERS

John & Betty Pat Lee

*NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on January 1, 15, 29*



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

*the*  
*January 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  
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