



the Chimes

January 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

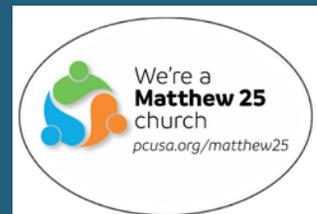


Christmas Sights & Sounds



- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 9 a.m. Sunday School, Handbell Choir
- 10 a.m. Children's Handbell Choir & Chancel Choir

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





Musical Notes from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist

Thank you to the choirs for all your joyous singing and ringing during

the Advent and Christmas season!

A special acknowledgement goes to the Chancel Choir in presenting the cantata December 21 and the handbells for making Christmas Eve special ringing two prelude selections and ringing along with Silent Night. A lot of rehearsal time and dedication goes into preparing for these services. But most importantly it is fun and good fellowship!

Other highlights of the month of December included the Youth Pageant with carol singing, members of the of Chancel Choir singing at Veteran's Square for the Community Council of Churches event "Walk+ Talk in Unity + Peace", guest musicians Alyssa Schwartz on flute for the cantata and Neil King on trumpet for Christmas Eve, and the

John and Anne Schooley duo to finish out the month of December.

With all the joys of the season, we did also experience a loss from the choirs this year with the passing of Linda Stoops, a long time choir member of both the Chancel Choir and Cambridge Handbell Choir. Linda was in fact one of the original members of the handbell choir when it started in 1971. I had the honor of playing for Linda's funeral service with Betty Pat Lee singing beautifully for it. I would like to dedicate the Cantata this year to the memory of Linda Stoops.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the music ministry of First Presbyterian!

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist

PICTURES: Below the Handbell ringer flashback to 2011, Linda Stoops was second on the left. Linda was a faithful member of both choirs. Chancel Choir members performed at the Council of Churches event at Veteran's Square and their special cantata on December 21.



First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- **Material for the FEBRUARY 2026 issue of The Chimes is due by Friday, January 23 at noon. THANKS!**
- **Session Meeting: January 20 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: January 18 before worship**
- **Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.**
- **Women's Breakfast: January 8 at 9 a.m. McAteer's**

Winter office hours could change

Office hours may be affected by winter weather. On days the Marion County schools enact a 2-hour delay, the office will be open from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. School closings will likely result in a full closure of the office. Please call the office before heading in.

If you have an urgent need for pastoral care and you are not able to reach someone in the office, please contact a session member for assistance.

Congregational Meeting January 18

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 18 at 10:30 a.m. before our worship service for the purpose of electing new session members.

In the absence of a minister, we have to have someone present who can moderate our meeting. George Lilley, our session moderator will be doing our service that morning so it's the best time for a congregational meeting. Then during the service those persons will be installed. They will then be able to take part in our session meeting on January 20.

Hospitality events for January, February

Looking back at 2025, we had a wonderful year of events including many delicious dinners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Hospitality ladies for their dedication and hard work to make these events happen.

That being said, we would also like to thank our congregation for pitching in and helping us whether it be washing dishes, cleaning up, or bringing desserts for a dinner. Everyone's help is very much appreciated. We are looking forward to a great 2026!

Upcoming Events:

January 4: Cookies in the Social Room after church service

January 6: Hospitality meeting in the parlor at 10 a.m.

January 24: Session Retreat-Hospitality will be serving breakfast for the Session

February 1: Cookies in the Social Room after church service

February 2: Hospitality meeting in the parlor at 10 a.m.

SHOES FOR KIDS PROGRAM: We were able to help 511 kids in Marion County this year with a new pair of shoes - THANK YOU!!!



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Phone (304) 366-2628

Fax (304) 366-2662

Email: office@fairmontfirst.net

Web: www.fpcfairmont.com

Children & Youth Ministry

The Christmas season was full of joy, creativity, and meaningful moments for all ages in our church family. One special highlight was our unique retelling of the Nativity story—shared from the viewpoint of the stable animals. Seeing this familiar story through fresh eyes reminded us that God often speaks in unexpected ways and that every part of creation had a role in welcoming Jesus into the world.

Our children's ministries were especially busy spreading Christmas cheer. Children's Church hosted a Polar Express-themed experience, where kids learned about faith, trust, and God's plans while enjoying hot cocoa and watching the beloved Christmas classic. It was a cozy and memorable way to connect important spiritual lessons with fun holiday traditions.

During Sunday School, there was lots of excitement as children decorated cookies together, filling the morning with laughter, creativity, and fellowship. The Sunday School class also enjoyed making Nativity slime, using this hands-on activity to learn about the different parts of the Christmas story and what makes the season so meaningful. These engaging activities reminded us that learning about God can be both fun and memorable.



As we move into January, we have several exciting things coming up! The youth group will be hosting a virtual game night, where we'll be playing Jackbox games together. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

We also have a few important reminders for parents and caregivers. Please take a moment to review your emergency contact information and ensure it is accurate and up to date. We will also be passing around a clipboard during service to fill shepherd slots for the coming months. If you are available, we encourage everyone to consider signing up and supporting our ministry in this way.

Looking ahead to the new year, beginning in January the youth group will be joining the adult Sunday School class once a month for shared wisdom, fellowship, and meaningful conversations across generations.

Thank you for being part of such a joyful and caring church community. We look forward to all that God has planned in the months ahead. - Jane Mead, *Discipleship Ministry Coordinator*



Staff

Pastor

Director of Music

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Nursery Attendants

Pam Proctor
Abby Shuck

Sunday School

Brigitte Gapen

Session

CLERK OF SESSION

Kathy Snider

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan
Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Terri Bunner

PROPERTY

Joe Jernigan
Rob Steele

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Pam Stalnaker
Penny Roberts

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Amy Koon
Tim Mersinger

HOSPITALITY

Janet Miller
Nancy Carnes

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

January Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

January 4: Second Sunday of Christmas - Read John 1:1-18

John's gospel does not have a story of Jesus' birth. Instead, it identifies Jesus as the Word who has been active since the beginning and who began human and lived among humans showing them God's grace. Some didn't recognize him or accept him. How does your life show that you recognize Jesus? How do you reflect Jesus' gift of grace to the world?

January 6: Epiphany - Read Matthew 2:1-12

Following a star three Magi journey to Bethlehem bearing gifts fit for a king. Finding the child, they knelt and proclaimed God's praise. What gifts might you bring for the young Jesus? What might you praise God for this week?

January 11: Baptism of the Lord - Read Matthew 3:13-17

As we celebrate Jesus' baptism, we also remember our own baptism. We are baptized into the body of Christ, and we are also empowered by the same Spirit of God that descended upon Jesus. What do you remember, or have you been told about your baptism? What does your baptism mean to you? Share with someone and ask them about their baptism.

January 18: Second Sunday after Epiphany - Read John 1:29-42

This is a story about introducing others to Jesus. John pointed out Jesus to two of his disciples, and they followed Jesus to where he was staying. One of them, Andrew found his brother, Simon Peter," and brought him to Jesus, the Messiah. Who have you told Jesus about? What did you tell them?

January 25: Third Sunday after Epiphany - Read Matthew 4:12-23

This is Matthew's story of Jesus calling his first disciples, somewhat different from John's story last week. Here, Jesus invites Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow him and do something different – fish for people. They left behind their boats and their work, the way of life they were used to, and followed him. What makes your life different as you follow Jesus?

JANUARY

Birthdays

1/11	Rowan Hunt
1/16	Roger Kritzer Anne Schooley
1/20	Kathy Snider
1/21	Matt Stalnaker
1/24	Corey Hunt
1/27	Cathy Woodson

Anniversaries

1/9	Jim & Pam Nolan
1/22	Evan & Jennifer Walker

Prayer List

Family of Linda Stoops
The Hines Family
Family of Doloris Hughes
Charles Bopp
Roger Bopp
Doris Cain
Lauren Hunt
Steve Asher
Ed Cummings Jr.
Dave Yazvak
Rev. James Morley
Brad & Donna Dodd
Ella Morris
Steven Satterfield
Judy Shaver
Peggy Twyman

November/December Pledges & Gifts

November 23	\$990
November 30	\$260
December 7	\$3,279
Linda Stoops Memory	\$175
December 21	\$5,215
New AC	\$8,000
Apple Butter	\$102
Total:	\$18,021
Total to Date:	\$214,416.50

January Ministry
Volunteers

Liturgist: Marilyn Morgan

USHERS : Diane Boso (captain), & Nancy Carnes



The church with a  in the heart of the city!

the **Chimes**
January 2026

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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