



the Chimes

July 2021

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,

Transitions have been on my mind lately.

I realize I am a bit early in this, but it's hard to believe nearly a year has passed since I was called to First Presbyterian Church. It has been a joy and an honor. COVID certainly made this the hardest transition in ministry I have had yet. Usually by this time, I know the congregation and have visited as many people as possible. Unfortunately, COVID has made that quite difficult. I beg your patience as I continue to learn, to grow, and partner in ministry with you.

As many of you know, Jennifer and I have also had a major personal transition as we became foster parents. Without a doubt, the learning curve on that is much steeper for us and we relish your prayers. We also ask and appreciate your understanding in this time as we are not allowed to say anything publicly concerning details. Please help us by refraining from posting any comments or questions in a public forum.

In addition, COVID restrictions are being removed and we must figure out individually, as a church, as a community, and as a nation how to move forward.



Those are just some things I have been thinking about, but I am sure each of you could add to this list.

Transitions.
Change. New.

Those words can bring fright, hope, joy, sadness, peace, and loss all at the same time.

I turned to Joshua 1. This is a major transition. In verse 2, God matter-of-factly states, "My servant Moses is dead." To anyone reading along and especially to those Israelites, this has to be a gut punch. This had to take all the wind out of the sails. Moses had brought the people out of Egypt. Moses led them for 40 years through the wilderness. Moses had commanded them in battles. Moses had been the mediator between God and the people. Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy – Moses had been the primary earthly character.

Now, Moses is gone. The people must figure out a new way forward. Joshua has been an apprentice under Moses for many years is tagged to step into leadership. I would hate to have Moses as my predecessor. (Continues to page 2)



Worship Schedule

- 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

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

Masks required at any in-person services/ functions at the church

Pastor's Message continues

There is no way I could live into that or be like he was.

Thankfully, Joshua is not called to fill Moses' shoes. Joshua is called to lead the people as God leads him.

God offers assurance and a promise: "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Transition and change can be difficult. The road ahead may seem strange, and we might not be able to see very far. What we do have is the greatest promise – the presence of God going with us. Ultimately, that is what is offered in Jesus – Emmanuel, God is with us, when Jesus is born. Then, Matthew's Gospel ends with the exact same promise – "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

What a blessing and a hope! What a promise and a joy!
Thanks be to God now and forever!

Rev. Evan Walker



Musical Notes from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist

Thank you to Stan Swihart, John O'Connor, Evan Walker, Anne and John Schooley, and Amy Koon for all the special music over the month of June. You may have noticed that Amy Koon's handbell solo was different from anything we've heard: a completed malted handbell arrangement of "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (Brethren We Have Met to Worship) arr. by Cathy and David Moglebust. What a great way to start worship!

Coming up on Thursday, July 1 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Fairmont State University College of Liberal Arts Summer Arts Series: Town and Gown: Here We Go Again Performers include: Dani Devito, Kathy Dunn, Steve McElroy, Chris Yost, Franchesca Aloï, Ashley Fink, Bailey Kershner, Shannon Yost, John Fallon, Troy Snyder, Greg Devito, Shawn Dunn, Courtney Shepherd LaFollette, Christian Cox, Susan Coffindaffer, Joshua Stubbs, Troy Snyder, and Jason Young.

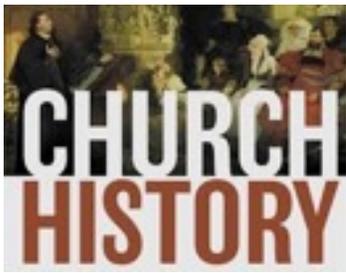


Accompanists: John Morrison and R.J. Nestor

For tickets, go to tvuw.us
Proceeds benefit the United Way, HOPE, and CASA. If you are unable to attend on July 1, as long as you have purchased tickets by 7 p.m. July 1, they will send a link for you to watch the concert afterward. (Or with a season ticket, they send all of the concerts at the end of the season.)

May the peace of Christ be with you and hope you are enjoying your summer!

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



1st CHURCH's HISTORY CORNER

by Jean Lambert

A look at First Church's 'Day on the River'

The hot and humid weather this Summer brings back memories of the Church Day on the River. Stan Swihart had his camera there to capture those joining in the activities.

Jim Thompson and his wife, Nancy, were our hosts at their lovely second home and co-hosts were Pam (Thompson) and Terri Bunner and family.

Boat rides provided by Jim Thompson and Stan Swihart were especially enjoyed.

Of course, good food was shared by those in attendance.



DAY ON THE RIVER: (above) Jim and Pam Nolan and son, Jimmy; (right) Nancy Thompson, Terri Bunner, Pam Bunner, and daughter Rachel Shaver; and (top right) attendees at the Thompson's river house enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and good food.

July Prayer List

Family of Fred Poling
Alisa Perdue
Doug Hauser, Eric's father
Ida Asher, Willa Hood's relative
Michele Miller
Rocky Cikovich
Rada Nye
Kim Steele
Penny Laine, daughter of Donna
Dodd

Cecil Corley
Joe Lambiotte
Alex Garrison, Jennifer Walker's
cousin
Marilyn McDougal

CONTACT INFORMATION

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John O'Connor

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Benita Jernigan
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OUTREACH

Penny Roberts
Diane Floyd

PROPERTY

Eric Hauser
Jason Burdette

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda O'Connor
Pam Stalnaker

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jenny Poling
Adam Ranson

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer
Kathy Snider

Treasurers

Roger Kritzer
David Floyd

Nursery Attendants

Christy Erickson



Sharing God's Love

Watch for signs of excitement in someone else. See what they are excited about. Get in touch with their feelings. Let yourself share in their excitement. Enjoy it together. Relish the occasion. God's love is for every day.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE ALL MONTH LONG!

Here are suggestions for sharing God's love with others. Take purposeful action during the month of July. Share with neighbors, friends, and family.

Sharing God's Love

"Let's be nice." Have you heard this parental request? One way to encourage others to be nice (to be pleasant or agreeable) is to model that behavior. This week, watch for times that you can be nice to children, your neighbors, and/or your parents. Speak with them pleasantly. Act and respond courteously. Use this action plan to share the love of God with people in your life.

Sharing God's Love

In the car or at home, listen to someone else's favorite music. Other people's taste may seem odd or extreme, but then, that's what your parents and other people think or thought of your music. Talk about what they like about their music/ such as the melody, sounds, rhythm, or words. Share God's love through music.

Sharing God's Love

Say "Yes!" It feels so good to be affirmed with a "yes" response. Look for times when you can say, "Yes!" to anyone you are with. What a great way to share God's love.



July Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

July 4 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 9: Read Mark 6:1-13

Jesus and his disciples go to his hometown of Nazareth where he preaches at the synagogue. The people were amazed; they couldn't figure out where the miracles and wisdom had come from. How could a carpenter heal all of these sick people? Where did he get this wisdom from? So why wasn't he well received by the people of Nazareth? How would you react if you saw his healing powers with your own eyes?

July 11 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 10: Read Ephesians 1: 3-14

God created us all in God's image. We have redemption through God's son, Jesus the Christ, having been forgiven for our sins because of God's grace! How does your life show your gratitude and thanks for this amazing gift of God?

July 18 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 11: Read Psalm 89:20-37

Today we read about God's covenant, or promise, to David. God promises to protect David from the enemy; God's love will forever be with, and show through, David. How do these promises affect us now? How do we live our lives in light of these promises?

July 25 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 12: Read Psalm 14

In this passage we read how human beings have turned away from God and God's teaching. We are reminded, when we become overwhelmed, all we have to do is be still and know God is with us. How does life change when we go against God? Have you felt distant and separated from God? How do you reconnect and get back on the right path?

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 7	Carly Satterfield
July 9	Mike Walker
July 24	Blake Boggess
July 26	Brianna Hauser Dalton Stalnaker
July 27	Martha Sweet

MAY PLEDGES & GIFTS

May 30	\$1,856
June 6	\$2,520
June 13	\$2,977
June 20	\$1,770

June Total: \$9,123
To Date Total: \$81,777

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 1	Terri & Pam Bunner
July 6	Jim & Becky Kettering
July 30	John & Linda O'Connor

*July Ministry
Volunteers*

USHERS

Jim Thompson (captain), Kim Steele, Bob & Lois Brummage

Raising money for Shoes for Kids

After much discussion it was decided not to do apple butter this year. Our congregation's response has been declining in recent years; it's a lot of work and fewer people are volunteering to do the work. Additionally, several churches in the area are now doing apple butter too. Hopefully we can revisit this in the future.

Without this source of funding, Outreach is looking at other ways to raise money for Shoes for Kids. For now we are encouraging everyone to purchase the Fair Trade items that are displayed and for sale in the narthex of the church (near the elevator).

Future dinners provided by the Hospitality committee will also provide opportunities to donate as each table will have something designated to make donations marked Shoes for Kids. Below is Amy Koon's list of items for Fair Trade. Make a plan to shop!

Why Equal Exchange?



Equal Exchange is a worker-owner cooperative that has built alternative trade supply chains for small-scale farmers around the world. It has an alternative for-profit structure based upon standard democratic economic principles. The founders believed that food should be traded in a way that is honest and fair; empowering both the farmers and the consumers. They began in 1986 with fairly traded coffee from Nicaragua

and have continued to grow and add new products for over 30 years. Through long-term trade partnerships with farmers and artisans, and the help of supporters like us, EE has proven that alternative trade works – for farmers, consumers and the planet we share. This past year of pandemic has been hard on both the suppliers and the consumers; threatening the livelihood of the farmer partners. The cooperatives that EE supports play a vital role for their members and surrounding communities. Some have used fair trade premium payments from EE to provide food, masks and cleaning supplies to co-op members. Another co-op used fair trade premiums to purchase PPE for medical workers and mobilized their co-op logistics resources to transport food, medicines and supplies to areas where transportation was significantly restricted because of COVID protocols. The EE alternative trade model has been a powerful resource for small-scale farmers.

Our support is needed more than ever to alleviate Pandemic related losses and to keep this vital economic supply chain going.

Purchasing Equal Exchange fair trade products provides needed income to small farmers and artisans around the world. Most products are certified organic and produced without the use of toxic and persistent pesticides. Farmers use shade farming to preserve forest cover and protect habitats of wildlife, as well as diversified crop planting to promote biodiversity and improve the health of the soil.

The products we currently stock include:

- Organic Roasted Cashews
- Organic Natural Cashews, Almonds and Pecans
- Organic Dried Mango
- Palestinian Medjoul Dates
- Organic Teas in many flavors
- Organic Coffee in several blends, both ground and whole bean
- Organic Dark Chocolate bars in several flavors and Cacao %
- Organic Mild Chocolate bars in plain and Caramel Crunch

All profits from our EE Fair Trade sales go directly into our Shoes for Kids Project fund.

Please consider purchasing these delicious products on Sunday or through the week during church office hours. You will be supporting farmers around the world and our own successful local project.



Church sponsors 'Shred Day' on July 8

First Church is sponsoring an on site "shred day," Thursday, July 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is open to the church and community. A limit of 4 boxes per person will be observed.

Mark Your Calendar

- August Chimes deadline is **Friday, July 23** at noon
- Session Meeting: July 20 at 6:30 p.m.
- Community COVID Memorial Service: July 18 at 3 p.m. at Windmill Park
- Building Bridges of Respect: July 24 from 10-4 p.m. at WaveTek Pavilions; July 25 from 2-7 p.m. at LIFE Methodist Church
- VBS Nature Camp: July 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Valley Falls State Park & August 11 at 6:30 at Valley Falls
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteers at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m.

*From lemonade & cookies in the garden to
VBS Nature Camp at Valley Falls*



ANNOUNCING...



Building Bridges of Respect

July 24, 2021, Saturday, 10AM – 4PM

at East Marion Park (WaveTek) Pavilions # 2, 3, 4

Includes: Resource Fair with Engaging & Informational Activities, Artisans & Crafters, Prizes, Food Trucks, Kids' Activities, and it's all FREE.

July 25, 2021, Sunday, 2PM – 7PM

at LIFE UMC on the NASA campus

Includes: Musical Performers, Labyrinth Walking, Yoga, Zumba, Tibetan Peace Flag Making, Food Trucks, for all ages, and it's all FREE.



More info at Marion County Communities of Shalom

*Accessible! All are welcome!

*It's happening, rain or shine! Bring a blanket, chair, comfy shoes if you like.

Sponsored by:

Communities of Shalom, Prevention Coalition,
PARTnerships Youth Coalition,
West Virginia Prevention Solutions,
LIFE United Methodist Church,
Fairmont Human Rights Commission,
SteppingStone, Inc.,
and Greater Fairmont Council of Churches

Celebrating diversity, inclusivity and representation in Marion County!



**COMMUNITY COVID
MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Sunday, July 18, 2021

3:00 PM

Windmill Park, Fairmont

Rain Location: First Presbyterian Church, 301 Jackson St.

MUSIC BY:

Anthony Horton
Charlotte Meade
Jenna Won't Sing



Bring mementos or pictures of loved ones lost to COVID.

To have a loved one recognized submit names at:

(304) 363-5205 by July 14.

Please bring a lawn chair

Sponsored by the Greater Fairmont Area Council of Churches,
The Pastoral Alliance for Social Justice and Change,
and Communities of Shalom, Inc.



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

the
July 2021 *Chimes*

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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