



the Chimes

July 2025

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 has been my honor and privilege to serve alongside each of you for these last five years. As I look back over my time here, I offer sincere gratitude to God and to you. I will always hold First Presbyterian Church in Fairmont in my heart and in my prayers.

I cherish all the baptisms I was honored to participate in and the ways I watched our students grow. I relish each time we broke bread and shared the cup. I am honored for all the times I sat with you in the sacred spaces of great celebration and deep sorrow. I tried to point to the presence of the living God with us through it all.

The Lord has been at work and I know will continue to lead you. You are cherished in my heart and I am thankful for the call of God to this church. I treasure the ways each of you in this church impacted my life, prayed for us, and supported us in the good times and the struggles. This community has strengthened my faith and encouraged my growth and personal walk with Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

I am excited to watch and learn how God will use this church to serve this community and share the love of Jesus Christ. I echo Paul's words to the Philippians: "I thank my God every time I



remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the

day of Jesus Christ."

Regardless of anything else, I urge and encourage you to continue in the love that girds this church. I am confident that one day Christ will return and fill all creation. That day, we will join in praise together.

Growing up, at the conclusion of every communion service, my church stood and joined hands across the aisles and together we sang "Blest Be the Tie That Binds". I didn't realize how much that practice impacted me until years later. I want to conclude with the first verse.

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

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- 10 a.m. Worship Service
through September 7

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





Musical Notes from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist

During the week of June 15, I attended the Montreat Worship and Music Conference in North Carolina which had the theme this year of “Clothed in Love”.

Each day of the conference there was also a more specific theme guided by a word of the day: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. We were invited as a congregation to reflect on the meaning of these words and how they apply to our daily lives, our society, and our faith. It’s important to remember in particular that they are not words of weakness, but words of strength.

The theme and word of the day were explored in a variety of ways from the eloquent and articulate preaching of Rev. Margaret Aymer, the enthusiastic and creative hymn singing, choir anthems sung by all ages, the art made by the conference artist and by the youth, processions, and more. The reading of scripture almost always had something unique and imaginative in the



way it was presented in the service. For one service, the liturgist alternated with a percussionist playing a drum in between certain verses. For another, several children each read a passage followed by the congregation singing a response.

Children and youth were regularly involved in the service making it a multigenerational worship. Both Tom

Trenney at the organ, piano, and as cantor, and David LaMotte singing and playing guitar did a beautiful job with the service music as did a variety of other instrumentalists. It was a particularly poignant moment to see clips of the damage and recovery from Hurricane Helene while David LaMotte sang. But it was at the same time celebratory how the community came together during this time of natural disaster.

To give you an idea of what my schedule

looked like, my days started with 7 a.m. breakfast and then sessions started at 8 a.m. and went all day until 4:30 p.m.

The evenings had a variety of events. Monday evening featured a family concert of guitar and organ called “Six Strings and the King”. The performers were David LaMotte, singer and guitarist, and Tom Trenney playing organ. They mostly performed separately, but they did perform two collaborative pieces, one for guitar and piano and the other for guitar and organ which is a combination you do not hear often. It is always a great pleasure to hear Tom Trenney perform on the organ. David LaMotte was very personable with the audience and had a great sense of humor.

Tuesday evening’s event was a youth talent show. Wednesday evening’s event was the Hymn Festival, led by the Routley lecturer, Ana Hernández. (*Musical Notes continues on page 4*)



MONTREAT CONFERENCE. (Top Photo) Chancel Choir soprano Maria Potts (front row center) performs with the adult Chamber Choir. Left is the closing worship service in Anderson Auditorium.

First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- Material for the AUGUST issue of The Chimes is due by Friday, July 22 at noon. THANKS!!!
- Black Bears Baseball/Tailgating: August 15
- Rally Day: September 7 at Wave Tek, Pavilion 2
- Session Meeting: July 22 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m. through Sept. 7

Hospitality: Gathering in the Garden

Our Italian luncheon on June 1 was a huge success with 62 people attending. We would love to have this many people attending all of our events!

July 1 is our next Hospitality meeting in the parlor. We welcome anyone that would like to join us and see what we do.

On **July 6** we will be having Gathering in the Garden outside by the garden weather permitting. Cookies, lemonade and water will be served. If the weather is bad, we will be having this in the Social Room. Come and enjoy a cookie or two with us.

Mark your calendars: We will be having a Farewell Reception on **July 20** for Pastor Evan, Jennifer and Marley. The reception will be after our church service. More details will be coming in an Evite and in the church bulletin.

August 3 we will be having another Gathering in the Garden outside by the garden.

Pastor's Message

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We are bound to Christ and to each other through the promises of baptism through the love of God poured out in the Son. You have my love and my prayers this day and always.

To the glory of God,

Rev. Evan Walker

VBS: Road Trip, on the go with God!



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Session

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ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

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OUTREACH

Terri Bunner

Loren Hunt

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

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Pam Proctor

Abby Shuck

Musical Notes *continues from pg. 2*

She included both familiar and less familiar hymns, hymns with a Spanish flavor, and her own compositions. She also encouraged some improvisation from the congregation at times. Thursday evening featured one of my favorite events, the Chamber Choir concert.

There is both a high school and adult chamber choir. The adult chamber choir under the direction of Lynda Hasseler was one of the best ones I have heard at Montreat, which is saying a lot since they are always of a high quality. The program was performed with no applause until the end of all of the selections. While it is challenging for an audience to not clap in between selections, it gave the program such a cohesiveness and flow. Then the audience went wild at the end when they finally did get to clap. Congratulations to our own Chancel Choir soprano, Maria Potts, who performed with the Chamber Choir and was even selected to sing a solo!

During the conference, I attended sessions on vocal technique, choral conducting, "Awakening Joy & Soul at the Console" with Tom Trenney, the Routley lecture, a Morning Star choral reading session with Michael Burkhardt, a handbell reading session with Brenda Austin, visited Jeffers Handbells Supply and Beethoven & Company, and sang in

the adult choir. One of my favorite sessions to attend is always the Worship Reflections where the planning team discusses how they worked together, what inspired them in the planning process, and how things actually turned out in the actual service. The conference attendees also have the opportunity to express how they experienced worship, what moments were the most meaningful to them and give feedback to the committee. Those in attendance were overwhelmingly positive with their feedback.

The final day of conference culminates with a concert that features most of the ensembles and choirs and then everyone heads off their separate ways to return to their congregations full of inspiration from the week that they spent at Montreat.

I leave you with a quote that stuck with me this week and that I heard during worship reflections: **"We can live with both grief and joy simultaneously."**

This made me think about how this is what worship so often is. Seeking and finding the joy at the same time that we cope with grief and the challenges that life brings.

May the peace of Christ be with you,
John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



July Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

July 6: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Galatians 6:7-10

In this passage, we are encouraged to keep doing what is right and working for the good of all. What are some things you could do this week that would help people? Make a list of at least three things and do them.

July 13: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 10:25-37

When the lawyer wanted to know exactly who his neighbor was that he was to love, Jesus told the Story of the Good Samaritan, where the one considered “enemy” and “foreigner” was the one who stopped to help. Who is someone you know, who may be different from you, that needs to know they are cared for and loved? Consider what you might do to help them and then do it.

July 20: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 10:38-42

When Jesus visited, Mary took the time to sit at his feet and listen to what he said; Martha was focused on her tasks, perhaps she was trying to get a meal ready for all of them. Jesus pointed out the importance of spending time in his presence. Are you more like Mary or Martha? Take some time to focus on Jesus today; take a walk, read a book, play music, be silent, pray, whatever makes you aware of Jesus’ presence with you.

July 27: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Read Psalm 138

God wants us to praise God with all our heart. That is a lot of praising! Cut out a heart from a piece of paper then fill up the heart with words and phrases that tell of the wonderful things you believe about God. Tape the heart up somewhere where you will see it all week, reminding you to praise God with all your heart.

JULY

Birthdays

7/3	Karen Mersinger
7/7	Lauren Ranson
	Carly Satterfield
7/8	Barbie Smith
7/9	Mike Walker
7/14	Doug Brennehan
7/24	Blake Boggess
7/26	Brianna Hauser
7/26	Dalton Stalnaker
7/27	Martha Sweet
	Adam Mersinger
7/30	Marley Walker

Anniversaries

7/1	Terri & Pam Bunner
7/2	Loren & Corey Hunt
7/6	Jim & Becky Kettering

Prayer List

Family of DD Meighen
Kevin & Lisa Boggess
Stephanie Siegman
Cille Bucsko
Judy Councilman
Ellen Marchilena
Jim Thompson
Shannon Watson
Joanne Whalen
Ken Miller
Justin McCraw
Dave Yazvac
Doris Cain and family
Denise Snyder
Family of Dave Cooper
Ben Poling
Susan May
Rev. James Morley
Brad & Donna Dodd
Ella Morris

Stephen Satterfield
Judy Shaver
Paul Hines
Peggy Twyman
Linda Stoops

May/June Pledges & Gifts

May 25	\$1,553.25
June 1	\$3,760
Boots:	\$42.05
June 8	\$1,306
Pentecost:	\$1,028
June 15	\$2,035
June 22	\$1,075
Total:	\$10,799.30

Total to Date: \$124,112.93

July Ministry
Volunteers

Liturgist: Karen Mersinger

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



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

the *Chimes* *July 2025*

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