



the Chimes

January 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Message from the Pastor

Beloved of Christ,

We begin a new year with wonderful things to remember but also with challenges that lay before us. We are reminded of Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:16-17:

"From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

Every year, people around the globe wait and watch and celebrate the turning of the calendar. Some have eager expectations for a clean slate with which to start anew. Others are just glad that the previous year has ended. Still others experience anxiety of what they fear may come. Still for others it is simply another day, for they have lost the ability to wonder or to hope.

How do you greet this new year?

Looking back through this year, we have seen quite a bit. We have gone through wonderful times of celebration and joy. We also experienced very difficult times of challenge, pain, and heartache.

Paul invites us to look deeper than wishes, fears, anxieties, plans, or pains. Paul reminds us of our center, our true hope, our true identity. Who we are is



not what we do. Who we are is not what has happened to us or what we have done to others. Who we are is not what we have or what we earn. Who we are is found in Christ our Lord. We are sinners redeemed by the love of Christ.

Paul confidently writes that all creation is new in Christ. ALL creation is new. All creation: not just a promise of going to heaven when we die, but a new creation here and now while we wait for the ultimate fulfillment of redemption. All things are new because Christ lives. All things are new because Christ has come, is come, and is coming.

As people in Christ, we see Christ in creation and we see all creation through the love of Christ. This is the vision we are invited into. We can lean on each other for strength and encouragement. We can offer compassion remembering the compassion given to us in Christ. We can offer forgiveness because we are no longer held captive by our own past. We can be strengthened in the knowledge that Christ rules over all. We can trust in God's grace, we can proclaim God's grace, we can hope in God's grace
(Continues on page 3)



- 9 a.m. Sunday School & Handbell Choir
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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





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

Thanks to the
choirs for all the
joyful music during

the month of December.

The Chancel Choir did a beautiful job on the Christmas cantata as did our wonderful soloists Maria Potts, Evan Walker, and Betty Pat Lee on descants. Thanks to Marilyn Morgan for being the narrator.

Over the past month, the Cambridge Handbells rang exciting arrangements of Advent and Christmas tunes by Mitchell Eithun, Sondra K. Tucker, Brian Childers, and Sandra Eithun, who happened to be at Montreat last summer. One of the December handbell highlights is that the bells are ringing a piece with Jennifer Walker on piano for the

Christmas Eve morning service. It was nice to hear recently from some visiting guests who do not normally get to hear handbells express how much they enjoyed our handbell choir.

Another special moment in December was when the Chancel Choir sang a composition by our own bass and retired FSU music faculty member, John Schooley. This piece is entitled, "We pray for the Children" and the choir sang it in conjunction with the Children's Pageant Sunday. For Christmas Eve evening worship, we will be joined by Neil King on trumpet and John Schooley on tuba.

Let us head into 2024 with our hearts open to the joy of new music adventures!

May the peace of Christ be
with you.

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- February Chimes deadline is **Friday, January 19** at noon.
- Session Meeting: January 16 at 6:30 p.m.
- Session Retreat: January 27, Saturday at 9-noon
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Chancel Choir rehearsal: Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Time to start a new project, habit

A Challenge!

Now that the evenings are longer and the weather colder, this is good time to start a new project and habit. Reading the Bible as a family or individually.

This is a good way for the family to do something together as well as teaching the kids to read aloud and also learn the books of the Bible.



You can start with any book, but normally you start a book at the beginning. Some of the books of the Old Testament a bit tedious but God is teaching the Israelites how to become a nation since they had

been in slavery for roughly 400+ years. Reading schedules are in back of most Bibles.

God is a fierce God as you read into the books of the Old Testament, but he is a loving and forgiving God when they obey him.

Prayers will go up to heaven for any and all who take on this project. Don't get discouraged. Continue to read daily and after a while you will look forward to reading each nite.

Please give this a chance, you won't be disappointed. It will change your life forever.

With thanksgiving, praise, faith, hope, and the Love of God.

A concerned Christian, in Love and Prayers.

Thank you from the Miller family

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for the care and concern you gave our family during my Mom's services. The love and support you have for your church family is remarkable.

Thank you for the food provided during visitation and the meal following the interment. The ornament from the Hospitality Team hangs on my tree as an enduring memory. We will all miss my Mom and she is lucky to have been surrounded by such a great church.

Please share our gratitude with your congregation.

Faith-Hope-Love.

Sonya Nagle (Miller)

Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

because in Christ we have been given more than we can imagine.

In this new year, let us remember the newness given to us in Christ. Let us hold fast to the hope that God is with us. Let us trust that God will faithfully lead us as God has led us this far.

May God fill you with peace and joy,

Rev. Evan Walker

Updates, reminders from Outreach

Reminder that the Joy Offering will be received on December 24.

Many thanks to all who helped with the Shoes for Kids donations, shopping and distribution! Marion County children received 475 pairs of new shoes.

Due to the flooding that happened at the Soup Opera we are on hold for helping with meals. It will be a few months before the Soup Opera will be ready to serve at their location.

We can still use men's outerwear for The Street Store. We gave out several children's coats at the Shoes for Kids pick



CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
9 AM - 12 PM ON TUESDAY

Phone (304) 366-2628

Fax (304) 366-2662

Email: office@fairmontfirst.net

Web: www.fpcfairmont.com

Thank you to everyone for your help in December

December proved to be a very busy month full of wonderful happenings and fellowship at First Presbyterian Church.

THANK YOU to those who donated the gift of cookies for our "Shoes for Kids" pick up day and the reception following the Vocal Tapestry concert. The cookie trays were beautiful! Cookie trays were also prepared and delivered to our local Fire, Police and 911 locations from our congregation as a gift of appreciation for their service. Cookie boxes were also prepared and delivered during the First Presbyterian Christmas Caroling outing. Those receiving these cookie trays and boxes were truly delighted at being remembered during the holidays. I also want to thank everyone who helped in any way December 8-10. It was an extremely busy weekend with Parents' Night Out, Shoes for Kids, Children's Christmas Pageant, Christmas Dinner, and Vocal Tapestry reception. Even having a water pipe break between our Christmas Dinner clean-up and preparing the social room for Vocal Tapestry's reception didn't stop us from having a well-received reception and wonderful fellowship here at First Presbyterian Church.

Due to the holiday, this month's meeting has been changed to Tuesday, January 9, at 10 a.m. in the church parlor. If you are interested in joining the Hospitality committee, please mark your calendar and come join us! At this time, the only item on the calendar for January is the Session Retreat set for Saturday, January 27.

Deanna Kritzer

Trustees for 2024

Joe Jernigan
Rob Steele
Roger Kritzer

Officer Nominating Committee 2024

Joe Jernigan, chair
Ed Snider
Eric Hauser



Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker

pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net

Director of Music

John Morrison

music@fairmontfirst.net

Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

discipleship@fairmontfirst.net

Office Coordinator

Cathy Woodson

office@fairmontfirst.net

Sexton

Charles Lettrick

sexton@fairmontfirst.net

Session

CLERK OF SESSION

Kathy Snider

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Amy Koon

Jennie Poling

PROPERTY

Rob Steele

Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Pam Stalnaker

Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jill Zundell

Meredith Knight

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer

Anne Schooley

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Jenna Renee Casto

Sophia Sammons



January Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

January 7: Read Acts 19:1-7

The apostle Paul “baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus...the Holy Spirit came upon them.” Pour a glass of water into a small bowl and think about your own baptism. Share a story about what you remember about your own baptism.

January 14: Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10

The Lord called to Samuel in the night. Samuel responded, “Here I am!” Read the lyrics to the hymn “Here I am, Lord,” written by Dan Schutte. Find them on the internet or in your hymnal. How has God called you? How might God call you this week? How will you respond?

January 21: Read Psalm 62:5-12

The Psalmist calls us to trust God at all times, to pour out our heart before God for God is a refuge to us. Take a moment to sit in silence, then pour out your heart to God. Tell God what brings you joy today. Tell God what isn’t going well in your life. Thank God for the fact that God loves you and has great plans for you.

January 28: Read Mark 1:21-28

Jesus taught with authority. What are some stories you know of Jesus teaching others? Write down some of the things Jesus taught us. Which of Jesus’ teachings mean the most to you? How might you teach others what Jesus

BIRTHDAYS

January 14	Nancy Jones
16	Roger Kritzer
	Anne Schooley
20	Kathy Snider
21	Matt Stalnaker

ANNIVERSARIES

January 9	Jim & Pam Nolan
22	Evan & Jennifer Walker

PRAYER LIST

Judy Palmer
Linda Willoughby
Mayle Family
John Coutts
Breanna Borum
DD Meighen
Kenny Dean
Brad Dodd
Peggy Twyman

Ramona Baker
Linda Stoops

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PLEDGES & GIFTS

November 19	\$2,260
November 26	\$275
December 3	\$2,792
December 10	\$1,642.85

Total: \$6,969.85
Total to Date: \$161,552.19

January Ministry
Volunteers

Liturgist: Jess Fatkin

USHERS : Marilyn Morgan (captain), Adam Ranson &
Lauren Ranson

NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on January 14 & 28.



A time for celebrating Christmas with special music & meals, the Children's Pageant, Shoes for Kids, Vocal Tapestry, caroling & much more



*Tis
the
Season*





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

the *January 2024* 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
301 JACKSON ST.
FAIRMONT, WV 26554