



# the Chimes

July 2024

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,

The first reading during worship this year has been from the gospel of Mark. For the duration of summer, we will be focusing our attention directly at this Gospel. Mark's is unique and fascinating. Mark has no time for birth narratives or introductions. Mark's Gospel jumps right in with John the Baptist proclaiming in the wilderness. The whole gospel actually begins with a sentence fragment – "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

One of Mark's favorite words we translate as "immediately". When you read his gospel, he almost get breathless as he darts from story to story and everything happens "immediately".

For example, Mark 1:16-18 reads: "As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him."

Immediately, they leave their nets, their livelihood, and their family to follow Jesus. I've long wondered about the calling of the first disciples. Jesus walks by and says, "Follow me" and that's all they need? Certainly, there had



to be more to it. Certainly, this was not the first time they had seen or met Jesus. I've tried to give reasons and explain how and why these four were able to simply pick up and leave everything.

I try to rationalize this story. I want to rationalize this story, mainly because I don't know if I could "immediately" drop everything in my life and follow. The Spirit challenged me to think about all the reasons and excuses I can conjure up to explain why I could not do that or that I'm too busy right now. I heard a phrase several years ago that has stuck with me – "It is easy to give one's life. It is difficult to give one's day." I can speak great things and make great promises, but sometimes I find it difficult to follow through today, right now, immediately.

My first questions to Jesus if I had been Simon and Andrew would probably be along the lines of – "Where are we going? How long will it take? What do I need to bring? Who else is coming? Will there be snacks? Could I have an itinerary?"

There's something scary about truly following. I want Jesus in my life, but I want to make sure that it is still MY life.

*(Continues on page 3)*



- 9 a.m. Music Rehearsal
- 10 a.m. Summer 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

## I attended the 2024

Montreat Worship and Music Conference in June which was a very busy and inspiring week full of great music, a variety of continuing education sessions, daily worship, nightly concerts, plus a hymn festival. The theme was "Lead Us Homeward" and worship addressed what the meaning of home is to all of us. The services were based around the

Psalms of Ascent, Psalms 120 to 134, which pilgrims sang on their way to Jerusalem. The conference planning team presented a daily "Worship Reflections" panel which was the first afternoon session after lunch. This was an opportunity for anyone attending the conference to react to the worship service of that day, to share what aspects of worship may have been particularly moving, to learn about what went into the planning process, and to address any surprises or spontaneity that happened during worship. What is quite impressive is that the planning process for a Worship and Music conference occurs over the course of three years! Needless to say, the planning team has put a lot of time and effort into making worship as meaningful and varied as possible. It was inspiring to see how much they truly enjoyed working with each other



and how the long planning process had formed a meaningful bond between them. The planning team also had a great sense of humor and mutual respect for each other.

Daily worship at Montreat is full of surprises and each service is unique while still following the overall theme. As they mentioned during Worship Reflections, they have the

luxury of straying from the usual Sunday service model because of having services every day and of course to provide inspiration for the conferees. An example of a surprise that occurred

during the opening worship when we were reminded of our baptism by being splashed by branches coming through the aisles.

A different kind surprise occurred in a later service when a video clip was shown of the "Atlanta Homeward Choir". This is a ministry run by Irish native Donal Noonan who directs a choir of homeless individuals. The congregation immediately segued into singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" in honor of Juneteenth.

Sometimes the surprises came in the instruments that were accompanying

singing or playing prelude or postlude. The guitar was featured frequently especially for prayerful moments or dance like music. The organ was magnificently uplifting for particularly celebratory and majestic moments. Brass instruments, ukuleles, flutes, string instruments, and various percussion instruments were also incorporated.

Singing is so important during the conference. A lot of this happens during worship including hymn singing of both familiar and unfamiliar hymns, sung responses, chanting, the use of cantors for the psalms, a cappella singing, even congregational humming while a cantor was singing a solo line. Other languages were sung during worship such as Mandarin Chinese and the Bunun language by cantors and Spanish by the congregation. The choral singing was very enthusiastic. I had the pleasure of singing in the adult choir under the direction of Brandon Boyd. There is also an adult chamber choir, a high school choir, a middler choir, *(Continues on page 6)*



**SUMMER MUSIC AT MONTREAT.** Maria Potts, who sings soprano in the Chancel Choir, sang with the Montreat Chamber Choir in a beautiful evening concert.

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

Jesus you can come along, and I thank you for salvation, but it's still MY life. I still get to decide what I think is important and what and where I am willing to go. That's not how this thing called following happens though.

To truly follow means to put all other pursuits and priorities aside and make Jesus front and center. It means surrender. It means Jesus is first and everything else is second. It means that Jesus is not one option among many but that Jesus is the only option and everything else is under and subject to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

I read a book a few years ago (I cannot remember which one), but I do remember this story. The author described the feeling of needing to get away and get spiritually refreshed. A friend of his recommended going to a monastery for a week. The author gave his true thoughts on the subject, which were not that great. Here are people who have withdrawn from society, are so disconnected, and all they do is pray. In other words, he's not that interested. But, he went. They assigned him a room and he settled in for the week.

The author went on to say how through his week, he realized that indeed it wasn't the monks who were disconnected, but it was himself. He spent so much time running around, squeezing everything into a day as possible, wearing himself out, he had forgotten how to enjoy God and God's creation. He had forgotten about daily rhythms of life and being present with the ones he loved. Really present, not that present where we listen to someone talk while we check our phones and scroll on Facebook. The real present where we tune into needs right now rather than consider where else we need to be and when. The real present where we are not just in the same room, but actually connecting – not just watching TV.

One line caught me. He recounts walking into his little room in the monastery and reading a sign, "If there's anything you need, let us know and we'll teach you to live without."

I consider my own life things I'm willing to gripe and complain about, but am unwilling to do anything about them? Isn't that how so many of live our lives. There are certain things we don't want to let go. I want to be the victim. I want people to feel bad for me. No, I don't want to fix or change anything. I'll keep my anger and resentment. I'll cling to the past. I'll feel sorry for myself and hold onto my failings. I'll complain about what others are doing to me and blame those who are different

than me for my lot in life. Can I learn to live without those things and follow Jesus?

We don't like doing that. What might it cost to follow Jesus? What does it mean to follow? To follow means that I am not in control. To follow means laying down my priorities. There was only one requirement for the first disciples – to lay down their nets and follow. They couldn't follow Jesus and hold on to the past. They couldn't follow Jesus only when it was convenient and easy. They couldn't just give lip service. They had to put down their nets – meaning everything that they relied on and trusted in, and trust Jesus Christ.

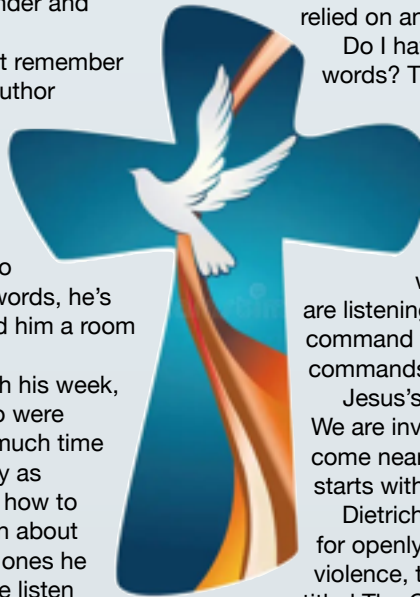
Do I have anything to show people besides fancy words? There are all sorts of debates right now on all the hot button issues, can we offer anything except cliché phrases? Being a Christian isn't about going to church. I have a vested interest in people coming to church. That's not what it's about. The church is not something we go to, the church is something we are. The church is where the people of God are listening to the Spirit of God and obeying the command to follow Jesus Christ and love and live as he commands.

Jesus's offer is held out to you and me – "Follow me". We are invited to live within the kingdom of God that has come near, that is present in Jesus Christ, but I think it starts with learning to live without.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was hanged by the Nazis in 1945 for openly opposing and resisting the evil regime of violence, terror, and genocide. His most famous book is entitled *The Cost of Discipleship*. He describes two types of grace. First is cheap grace. Cheap grace offers forgiveness without repentance, justifies our sin rather than transforms the sinner, doesn't make demands on our living. "Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life."

May we learn to live without so that we may learn what it truly means to live in the kingdom of God.

To the glory of God,  
Rev. Evan Walker



## Mark Your Calendars

- August Chimes deadline is **Friday, July 19** at noon
- Gathering in the Social Room: July 7 after the service in the Social Room
- Session Meeting: July 16 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Summer Worship Service: 10 a.m.

## Property Notes

The elevator project is completed and passed inspection. You may now ride the new elevator.

Also a VERY BIG thanks to the Scouts and the adult leaders for helping clean the various church gardens and spread mulch. Things are looking good.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Phone (304) 366-2628

Fax (304) 366-2662

## Hospitality upcoming events

"Gather in the Social Room" after morning services will be on July 7 and August 1 for fellowship, punch, coffee, and sweet treats. Mark your calendar now! July 14 will be a reception for new members Ed and Mary Cummings after church.

Hospitality served three evening meals for Vacation Bible School. Thank you to Janet Chittum for serving as chair.

Looking Ahead: Black Bear baseball game/tailgating will be on Friday evening on August 9 in Morgantown. Bring your own chairs for the tailgating.

Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 8 at Pavillion #2, Wave Tech Park. Bring your own drink & a covered dish to share for a picnic lunch.

## WV BLACK BEARS VS STATE COLLEGE SPIKES

Friday, August 9 TAILGATING 4-6 p.m., GAME TIME 7 p.m.

Wagner Field at Kendrick Family Ball Park - University Town Centre Drive, in Morgantown.



**TAILGATING:** 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. in Parking Lot 1- located across the street from the ball field - Our church will set up far right, back corner of the lot.

**MEAL PROVIDED:** Hot dogs/sauce, condiments, chips, vegetable tray, pasta salad, cookies, paper products, bottled water. Two tent canopies will be set up.

**BRING YOUR OWN:** Lawn chair and alternate beverage as you desire.

**TICKETS:** \$12.50 per person. Sign up and payment will start in early July. No separate children/senior rate. Tickets

will be distributed at the tailgate area

**PARKING:** \$5 per car. Please include parking payment when you pay for your tickets.

**GATES OPEN:** 6 p.m.

**GAME TIME:** 7 p.m.

## **FIREWORKS FOLLOWING THE GAME.**

**DIRECTIONS:** University Town Centre. GPS directions 2040 Gyorko Road, Granville, WV.

VISIT - westvirginiablackbears.com for info about what can or can't be taken into the ball park, concession stands & form of payment for food/drink, programs are digital now, & other good information.

**HANDICAP PARKING Available:** contact Deanna @ 304-694-2379 for information.

**PLEASE** wear your church t-shirt if you have one.

## **THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN!**

Any questions contact Deanna Kritzer at 304-694-2379 or Martha Sweet at 681-404-1696.

## *Staff*

### **Pastor**

Evan Walker

pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net

### **Director of Music**

John Morrison

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### **Discipleship Ministry Coordinator**

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### **Office Coordinator**

Cathy Woodson

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### **Sexton**

sexton@fairmontfirst.net

## *Session*

### **CLERK OF SESSION**

Kathy Snider

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

### **OUTREACH**

Terri Bunner

### **PROPERTY**

Rob Steele

Joe Jernigan

### **WORSHIP & MUSIC**

Pam Stalnaker

Marilyn Morgan

### **CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

Amy Koon

### **HOSPITALITY**

Anne Schooley

## *Treasurer*

Roger Kritzer

### **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

Pam Proctor

Abby Shuck

Maddie Edwards

# July Nurturing Faith Ideas

## SCRIPTURE

### July 7: 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? Jesus was not well received by the people of Nazareth. How would you react if you saw his healing powers with your own eyes?

### July 14: 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 21: 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 David and shown through David. How do these promises affect us now? How do we live our lives in light of these promises?

### July 28: 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 that when we become overwhelmed, all we have to do is be still and know God is with us. When have you ever felt distant and separated from God? How do you reconnect and get back on the right path?

## JULY

### Birthdays

7/3	Karen Mersinger
7/7	Lauren Ranson
	Carly Satterfield
7/8	Barbie Smith
7/9	Mike Walker
7/14	Doug Brenneman
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
7/6	Jim & Becky Kettering

## PRAYER LIST

Jim Nolan on the passing of his mother  
Steven Collier  
Stephen Satterfield  
Leta Rose Clayton

John Michael Annechino  
Judy Shaver  
Cathy Woodson  
Steve Schwartz  
Paul Hines, Marilyn Morgan's brother-in-law  
DD Meighen  
Brad Dodd  
Peggy Twyman  
Linda Stoops

## MAY/JUNE PLEDGES & GIFTS

May 19	\$2,350
May 26	\$139
June 2	\$2,999.73
June 9	\$14,149.38
June 16	\$2,627.80
Total:	\$22,265.91
Pentecost Offering:	\$1,010

Total to Date: \$84,344.91

July Ministry  
Volunteers

Liturgist: Amy Koon

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



NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close

## Musical Notes *continued from pg. 2*

and an elementary choir all of which take part in both worship and concerts. There are multiple handbell choirs of various levels. Handbells and chimes are frequently a part of worship and are part of the final concert.

My schedule during the day included sessions on organ topics, handbell workshops, the Routley lecturer, a choral interest session, a handbell reading session, and more. I also made sure to attend all of the evening events too! Evening concerts included a Monday evening wonderful organ concert performed by Ahreum Han Congdon who is an organist in Fort Worth, Texas. She performed works by Bach, Mozart, Offenbach, Vierne, Michel, Albright, and Jongen. Tuesday evening was a youth talent show. Wednesday evening was the Hymn Festival led by the Routley lecturer, Swee Hong Lim, with a variety of instrumentalists accompanying. Thursday evening was the Chamber Choir concert: both high school and adult choir performed as well as the advanced handbell ensemble directed by David Harris. Mr. Harris also directs the well known Raleigh Ringers who in fact just performed recently in Clarksburg, WV. Friday evening is the final concert where the ensembles all perform on one concert and is a great way to end the week!

Most people who give Montreat a try say they want to come back. There is a good reason for that, it is truly a special place!

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

John Morrison  
*Director of Music and Organist*



**DURING THE MORNING** worship service, First Presbyterian Summer Singers perform Praise Him! Praise Him! It was a special occasion as former church and choir members Don and Kim Trisel and their children Ian, Katy, and Will joined in the piece.

## Deel becomes first Eagle Scout

May we present Troop 120G's first Eagle Scout, Maleah Deel!

Maleah is our last remaining founding member and has worked her way through the scouting program over the past five years and has now achieved the highest rank of Eagle. She joins the ranks of all Eagle Scouts across America. Only about five percent of all scouts achieve Eagle. Once an Eagle, always an Eagle.

Maleah's Eagle project is an info kiosk at the Guyes's Run Fishing Area. She planned, organized, and managed the project. Go check it out.

Maleah is also the FIRST female Eagle Scout from a Marion County troop! This achievement has been anticipated by many people in Mountaineer Area Council and Troop 120. To say we are all proud is an understatement. Congratulations and well done Maleah!

*Adam Ranson*



SUMMER FUN AT VBS

# SEEKERS in SNEAKERS

Discover Jesus!



## *Celebrating Jim Thompson's 90th Birthday*





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

*the* **Chimes**  
*July 2024*

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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