



the Chimes

June 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Message from the Pastor

Beloved of Christ,

Romans 5:1-5 reads:

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Beautiful and inspiring words for sure, but sometimes difficult to believe. Hope does not disappoint. Really? I have been disappointed many times in my life. What is this hope that does not disappoint and how do I find it?

That was the theme for the Festival of Homiletics this year. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend this wonderful conference each year. It inspires me. It refreshes my spirit. It reminds me of the love Jesus has for me. It prepares me to love and serve better. It also provides



the chance to meet with other ministers from across the globe to share, to learn, and to connect.

The theme this year was "Preaching Hope to a Weary World." What a necessary topic! We are weary. We are still putting things together after a

global pandemic. We continue to hear about the division and hatred in our politics. Gun violence rears its ugly head almost daily. Many of us are weary from our day-to-day activities. Truly, we could all use some of that "hope that does not disappoint us".

Many speakers offered tremendous insights into hope. There are two basic kinds of hope. There is the vague, indefinite hope. This hope is more like wishing – "Tomorrow will be better. Things will get better." This hope is outcome based meaning I have a hope in a certain result. It must be this way or else it has failed. The disease must be cured. The relationship must be repaired. Friends, this is not always the case. This hope will disappoint. This hope cannot withstand the trials and tribulations of life.

Then there is the other hope. The true hope. The hope that is anchored in the
(Continues on page 3)



Worship Schedule

- 10 a.m. Worship Service

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





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

Both the Chancel Choir and the Cambridge Handbell Choir are wrapping up their "spring season" at the end of May and will be on summer break until Rally Day. Thanks to all the choir members for all that you do regularly singing/ringing anthems and preludes, and for bringing beautiful music and so much joy to worship. Some highlights from May included

the Chancel Choir singing a rousing rendition of "Hear Me Redeemer" with John O'Connor as soloist, a Handel anthem with organ accompaniment, and the handbells ringing Lloyd Larson and Sandra Eithun arrangements of beloved hymns tunes such as Rejoice Ye Pure of Heart, For the Beauty of the Earth, and Be Thou My Vision.

Looking ahead to the start of summer, the upcoming special music schedule is:

- June 4 - Stan Swihart, solo
 - June 11 - Men's Chorus
 - June 18 - Women's Chorus
 - June 25 - Pick-Up Choir
 - July 2 - Charlene Sullivan, solo
- May the peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist

Hello First Presbyterian Fairmont!

I have been settling into my new role as Director of Christian Discipleship here at the church. I thought I would share a bit about myself here as we get to know each other.



I am a native of Wheeling, WV and I attended school at both Wheeling Jesuit University and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. I have been ordained as a minister of Word

and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) since 2017 and have worked mostly in healthcare and hospital settings as a chaplain in bigger cities. In 2018, my family and I moved to Morgantown, WV and have lived there ever since. I currently work with a hospice agency as a chaplain.

I have been a member of the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) my whole life and my dad is also a pastor. I decided to pursue ministry as a career while I was studying to become a professor and teacher of theology. Some of my favorite ministry experiences have been directing summer camp, running bereavement courses, and the Advent season each year.

I have two children, Jesse (10) and Madison (4) who will regularly attend worship with me. We have a senior dog, Ed, and four cats. We are looking forward to getting to know everyone at First Presbyterian and have experienced a great welcome thus far!

Rev. Emily Harden
Morgantown, WV
(c) 304-5494-040



Mark Your Calendars

- July Chimes deadline is **Friday, June 23** at noon.
- Youth End of School Bash: June 1 from 4-8 p.m.
- Gather in the Garden: June 4 after church service
- Vacation Bible School: July 10-12 5:30-8 p.m.
- Session Meeting: June 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m.
- Mother's /Father's Day Luncheon: June 11 after service

Wedding reception July 23, please RSVP

Wedding Celebration Reception: John and Anne Schooley cordially invite members of the First Presbyterian Church Congregation to attend a "Wedding Celebration Reception" for Melodie Anne Schooley and Joshua Brandon Kuzma on July 23, 2 - 5 p.m. at the Fairmont Field Club.

Guests may "Come and Go" anytime. RSVP by June 30 to anschooley@mteer.com if you are able to attend.



FIRST CHURCH wishes Laura and Drew all the best on their adventures to Syracuse where he will be doing graduate work in Library Science.



July 10-12 from 5:30 - 8 p.m.
in the Social Room

Spread the word and don't forget to register!

Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

One who faced his own mortality and went through death and lives again. This hope has God as its subject. This hope cannot be shaken by the wind and the waves and the struggles. This hope lasts and endures and does not disappoint. This is the hope that says, "I may not understand and I may not even like what is happening, but I trust in the Triune God." As the hymn declares, "All other ground is sinking sand."

This hope is revealed in the Son. The God of all creation CHOSE to become like us in the flesh. God has chosen to be God in relation to us and all creation. God is not distant or unaware of our suffering. God is deeply invested, so invested that not even the cross and the tomb is too far. This is a hope, that just as Jesus was not forgotten or abandoned in death and hell, neither shall God abandon us.

The promise most offered by God throughout the scriptures is a simple, yet deeply profound phrase, "I will be with you." That is how Jesus is described by the angels before his birth – Emmanuel, God is WITH us. You are loved. I am loved. There is no deeper truth or more important statement to make than you, and every single person, is loved by God. Only then, resting in this absolute truth, can we experience the "hope that does not disappoint us".

In this hope, we can live – truly live. I learned a fascinating term – Hopepunk. (You should Google it). This term was coined by Alexandra Rowland in July 2017. She defined it this way: "Hopepunk says that genuinely and sincerely caring about something, anything, requires bravery and strength. Hopepunk isn't ever about submission or acceptance: It's about standing up and fighting for what you believe in. It's about standing up for other people. It's about DEMANDING a better, kinder world, and truly believing that we can get there if we care about each other as hard as we possibly can, with every drop of power in our little hearts."

That sounds pretty close to how Jesus, our Savior, lived and died and rose again. This is what we are called into and this is the hope we are to share with others.

Thank you for the chance to attend this year. It truly was a blessing.

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

Session Committee News

Outreach: Compassion Sunday update, Soup Opera

Our church sponsored eight children from our Compassion Sunday Event. That means eight more children will get help to meet basic needs so they have a better chance of reaching their God-given potential.

Thanks to those who sponsored a child. You will find fulfillment in your own life as you have obeyed God's command to love with actions and in truth.

Also, many thanks to all who donated items for the Soup Opera during the month of May.

Hospitality announces June events

"Gather in the Garden" will be Sunday, June 4 immediately following service in the church parking lot weather permitting. If inclement weather, we will gather in the church social room. Hospitality host of June, "Gather in the Garden" are Martha Sweet and Pam Bunner.

June 11, we will be hosting our combined Mother's Day/Father's Day Luncheon immediately following service in the church social room. The menu will be spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread and a variety of cakes. Hospitality chair for this dinner is Janet Chittum. Please RSVP to Janet, home phone 304-366-0065 or email her at peacheschittum@hotmail.com.

Hospitality's next meeting will be Tuesday, June 6 at 9 a.m. in the church kitchen.

Property updates: window project, security system

The stained glass window fund recently received a \$7,000 donation so First Church's "need to raise" amount is now only \$7,505. We are getting close.



Thanks again to all those who have donated.

Tri-State Roofing has completed its work on the roof, so now we will make some internal repairs from the leak. Bids are being looked over to have the parking lot resealed and marked. The team also met with a Pittsburgh company about having the elevator replaced.

If you have not received your new keyless entry code, please check with Joe Jernigan or Eric Hauser to get the paperwork. A security camera was added to the outside office entrance. For those who have codes, please double check to make sure the exterior doors are locked when you leave.

Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker

pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net

Director of Music

John Morrison

music@fairmontfirst.net

Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

Emily Harden

discipleship@fairmontfirst.net

Office Coordinator

Cathy Woodson

office@fairmontfirst.net

Sexton

Charles Lettrick

sexton@fairmontfirst.net

Session

CLERK OF SESSION

John O'Connor

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Amy Koon

Diane Floyd

PROPERTY

Eric Hauser

Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda O'Connor

Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jennie Poling

Meredith Knight

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer

Anne Schooley

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer



June Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

June 4: We hear the story of how God created the world in Genesis 1:1-2:4a. Be creative today! Make a drawing of the creation story using paint, markers, crayons or another favorite tool. Or take a walk and discover all of the wonders of God's creation in your part of the world.

June 11: In Genesis 12:1-9, God calls Abram to leave everything he knows behind and go to the land God would give to him, and God would bless him. What unexpected places has God called you to go? How has God blessed you?

June 18: In Matthew 9:35-10:8, Jesus gives the twelve disciples instructions and then sends them out to do ministry in his name. There are many things we can do as a disciple of Jesus. What will you do today? Is there someone who needs a special visit? Is there someone who you can call on the telephone? Make someone's day today by going out and being a disciple.

June 25: As you travel this summer, make time to attend church wherever you are. It's a great blessing to be able to worship with different people and maybe even learn new ways of doing worship. Be open to sharing your faith with strangers.

BIRTHDAYS

June 3	Ruth Martin
June 4	Betty Pat Lee
June 13	Robert Brummage
June 14	Arlene Hadley
June 15	Brigitte Satterfield
June 16	Eric Hauser
June 23	Carolyn Crislip-Tacy
June 25	Jim Thompson
June 30	Mary Cummings

PRAYER LIST

Rick Tribune
Buck Thompson
Michelle Miller
Zanna Joyce Egress
Paul Hines
Terri Bonasso
Peggy Twyman
Linda Stoops

ANNIVERSARIES

June 4	Mike & Charlene Walker
June 7	David & Diane Floyd
June 8	Earl & Martha Sweet
June 26	Roger & Deanna Kritzer
June 29	Robert & Lois Brummage
June 30	Ed & Kathy Snider Michael & Pam Stalnaker

APRIL/MAY PLEDGES & GIFTS

April 30	\$1,870
May 7	\$3,923
May 14	\$840
May 21	\$1,405
Total:	\$8,038
Total to Date:	\$76,766.46

*June Ministry
Volunteers*

Liturgist: Amy Koon

USHERS : Pam Stalker (captain), Penny Roberts, &
Joan Krause-Smith



NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on June 11 & 25



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

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FAIRMONT, WV 26554





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