



the Chimes

March 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Message from the Pastor

Beloved of Christ,

Luke 4:1-2 reads as follows: "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished."

We now enter a season of Lent in the church. Lent is one of the oldest observances of the church. Long before the celebration of Advent and Christmas, Christians observed this season. We can date observances all the way to the 2nd century, but it became standardized in 325 AD.

The numbering of 40 days draws from this passage in which Jesus journeys into the wilderness where he fasts and is tested. The Church has seen itself in this journey as we too are called to grow in faith and to be honest about where we have given into sin, unlike the perfect One. In doing so, we prepare ourselves to once again travel to the cross, to hear the mocking, and to see the Son of God offering himself in pure love for us and for our salvation. Even today, Catholic and Episcopal churches use Lent as a time to prepare confirmands for baptism. One image of baptism comes from Romans 6: a



dying to self and a rising to Christ. For those already baptized, it is an opportunity for us to remember and recommit ourselves to the vows we made. Our Book of Common Worship states this: "Baptism marks the

beginning of new life in Christ. The new way of life to which God calls us is one of deep commitment, disciplined discernment, and growth in faith. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, given with and through baptism, equip and strengthen us for the challenges of Christian faith and life." All of these images reveal to us that the Christian life is more than intellectual assent. It is instead a deeper commitment to take up our cross and to follow in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior.

During this time of preparation, many traditions have undertaken the practice of giving things up for Lent. Lent is not the time for personal improvement or to return to that New Year's resolution that went sideways. Lent is not a weight loss program or an exercise regimen. Lent truly isn't really about us. Lent is about waiting for and expecting the Holy Spirit to work. Lent is about making space for the Spirit of God so that we might be (Continues to page 3)



Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Child Care
- 9 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School: Social Room
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

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



Musical Notes

from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist



On March 2, we will be holding an Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent, can be an overlooked day in our faith journey. It perhaps lacks the excitement and appeal of other "popular" services such as Christmas and Easter. Nevertheless, I personally find this service to be one of the most meaningful of the entire year. The solemnity of hearing the words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" while receiving the ashes on your forehead is a powerful experience. Accepting and dealing with mortality is no easy task, but one that we all must face. We all deal with loss at one point or another, but our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior helps to ease this burden. We should remember that the joy of Easter is all the more meaningful after the darkness of Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season.

Last summer at Montreat, one of the worship services focused on Ash Wednesday.

One experience from this service that stuck with me was the point at which we began to hear people from throughout the congregation call out names of loved ones who had passed away simultaneously. We are accustomed to

hearing names called one at a time which naturally makes them intelligible for us to hear and understand. But in this circumstance when with a large group of people had come from various places in the country, it was less about the individual names and more about the

wave of sound which made an emotional impact. Another highlight of the service was the hymn singing. One of the hymns we sang was "Sign Us with Ashes". It has a beautiful melody and the words to the refrain and first verse are: "Sign us with ashes, merciful God, children of dust, as to dust we return.

Sign us with ashes, merciful God. Mark us and make us your own. Surely, you alone can save us. You pay our price with precious blood. Reaching through your great compassion, you lift up your people with love." - Text by Mary Louise Bringle, 2003. Music by William P. Rowan, 2003. (2006 GIA Publications) These words also make a great Ash Wednesday prayer even if they were not sung.

Mark your calendars: on March 11 at 7:30 p.m. there will be an in person concert in the Wallman Hall Theatre at Fairmont State with all proceeds benefiting the United Way. Performers will include a variety of Fairmont State ensembles, instrumentalists, and vocalists. More information can be found at the Fairmont State Community Arts Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/FairmontSoFA/>

Thanks to Anne and John Schooley, Charlene Sullivan, Evan

Walker, Alyssa Schwartz (flute), Kim Steele and Amy Koon (handbell/chime duet), and John O'Connor for all of the beautiful special music during the month of February!

May the peace of Christ be with you and may you always have a song of joy in your heart,

John Morrison
Director of Music/Organist



Mark Your Calendars

- April Chimes deadline is **Thursday, March 24** at noon.
- Ash Wednesday Service: March 2 at 7 p.m.
- Session Meeting: Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteers at 8 a.m.
- Adult Sunday School at 9 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
- Parents Night Out: March 4 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Sunshine Committee: March 24 at 1 p.m. Church Parlor
- Boy Scouts: March 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 6:30 p.m. Social Room

Thank you from Head Start children

I thought I would share a little follow up for Shoes for Kids. I work for Head Start, which is a program that serves children ages 3-4 for pre-k and their families. The children often have new shoes to start the school year but by December, they are getting pretty worn out and many are outgrowing their shoes.



Several of the children receive shoes or

boots from Shoes for Kids. After we, the church, raise money, shop, bag and label the shoes, we distribute them to the families we are working with. In the following days, the children will come to school with their new shoes or boots on and they are just beaming. They show their shoes to their friends, their teachers, and anyone else they might see. They are so excited! It would just melt your heart. So from them, through me, I would like to thank you for all of your generosity and kindness.

Pam Nolan,
Family Resource Coordinator for Head Start and Church member

Sunshine Committee meets March 24

Nancy Jones announced that The Sunshine Committee will meet in the church parlor on Thursday, March 24 at 1 p.m.

Property Committee Updates

Thank to sexton Charles Lettrick for his initiative to check and repair emergency lights around the church. Carpet has been ordered but no set date for installation. Deposit has been sent with the final payment due when project is completed.

Members of the History Committee and Property have been meeting to work on a grant to help with the stained glass project on the parking lot side of the church. Continue working with Chris Egress from E-Solutions on lighting project for choir loft.

Ed Snyder and Joe Jernigan met with Adam Rohaly to discuss elevator concerns and possible options. Thanks to Roger Kritzer for donating a mini fridge and paper shredder for the office.

Pastor's Message

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transformed. Lent is a time to let go and to let God work in our hearts in through our lives.

I learned a new practice several years ago that stuck with me. The challenge is not to simply give something up, but rather, it is to replace that something with a spiritual practice. For example, turn off the TV for 30 minutes and read scripture or pray. Another example: give up a soft drink or coffee and put the money you would have spent on those into a charitable donation. Or, get off social media and spend that time reaching out to people or writing notes of gratitude. Or, turn off the radio on the way to work and spend that time naming blessings God has given. We could embrace the silence and simply pray: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." There are countless examples, but you get the idea.

This stuck with me because faith is hard work. Growing in Christ is not something that will just happen. It takes intentionality and purpose.

I thought about this even more as we examine the Matthew 25 initiative. What things might the Spirit be asking us as a church to give up? Are there programs or ideas that served their purpose but now are outdated? Are there ministries that the Spirit is urging us as a church to step into?

We might feel as though we are entering a wilderness all alone to be tested, but we may be surprised to see Jesus waiting for us if we but risk and journey onward.

Rev. Evan Walker



CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM MONDAY - THURSDAY
Phone (304) 366-2628 Fax (304) 366-2662
Email: office@fairmontfirst.net Web: www.fpcfairmont.com

Session Committee News

Hospitality Committee: Souper Bowl February 13

The Hospitality Team hosted Session members and staff during their February 12 Session Retreat. Thank you to Janet, Martha, Amy, Charlene and Anne for preparing and serving lunch and breakfast to our church family.

Sunday, February 13 was Souper Bowl Sunday. Cleaning supplies were collected and will be delivered to the Friendship Room in downtown Fairmont along with monetary donations collected. Again, a huge THANK YOU to our hospitality ministry team and church members who donated homemade soups and cookies for our church family to enjoy!

Upcoming in March 2022

DINNER RESERVATIONS ARE SUGGESTED DURING LENT

Session COVID policy will be observed at all times. The Hospitality Ministry Team will serve the meal with all safety precautions followed. Families will be asked to sit together. If not a family, a total of three may sit at a round table. Face masks will be worn at all times, only to be removed while eating.

Wednesday, March 2 is Ash Wednesday. The Hospitality Ministry Team will be preparing a meal to be served at 6 p.m. Menu - fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, dinner roll and dessert.

Wednesday, March 9: Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Menu - Baked Potato Bar with the fixings

Wednesday, March 16: Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Menu - Breakfast for dinner

Wednesday, March 23: Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Menu - Homemade pulled pork

Wednesday, March 30: Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Menu - Vegetable Lasagna and Beef Lasagna

PLEASE call Deanna at (304) 694-2379 BY MONDAY OF EACH WEEK DURING LENT FOR DINER RESERVATIONS.

March 4: First Friday - a meal will be served at 5:30 p.m.
March 8: 11 a.m. - Hospitality Ministry Team meeting in the church parlor.

Deanna Kritzer & Anne Schooley

Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker
pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net

Director of Music

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Charles Lettrick
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Session

CLERK OF SESSION

John O'Connor

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan
Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Penny Roberts
Diane Floyd

PROPERTY

Eric Hauser
Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda O'Connor
Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jenny Poling
Adam Ranson

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer
Anne Schooley

Treasurers

Roger Kritzer
David Floyd

Nursery Attendant



March Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

March 6 - First Sunday in Lent: Read Luke 4:1-13

As we journey through this season of Lent, Luke's account of the Temptations of Jesus shows us that God will "test" us before God can use us for his purposes. Hear the words of the hymn "When We Are Tested" by Ruth Duck. *When we are tempted to barter our souls, trading the truth for the power to control, teach us to worship and praise only you, seeking your will in the work that we do.* What ways is God testing you?

March 13 - Second Sunday in Lent: Read Luke 13:31-35

In the scripture reading, you will see the theme of rejection. Many have been given the choice to seek God's kingdom, but have turned their back on this offer. But the good news is that God has limitless patience! God will wait for you to accept or refuse God's offer of love through Jesus Christ.

March 20 - Third Sunday in Lent

It's A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood! March 20 is Fred Rogers' birthday, and the PC(USA) has designated it as Mr. Rogers Day. Take a moment to reflect on the principals that Fred Rogers exhibited throughout his life. He welcomed the little children and taught forgiveness and the power of kindness, as well as the importance of unconditional love and empathy and to love your neighbor as yourself. Happy Birthday, Fred!

March 27 - Fourth Sunday in Lent: Luke 15:1-3

The well-know parable of the Lost Sheep is a parable of joy. How joyful we are when something we've lost is found. God's love for us is a rejoicing love. When we are lost, we feel the comfort of knowing God welcomes us with open arms. Search for someone who may have gone astray from your church family and welcome them with open arms.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 4	Charlene Walker Peggy Twyman
March 16	Judy Scott
March 17	David Floyd
March 18	Joan Krause-Smith
March 22	Marilyn Morgan
March 28	Emily Starn
March 29	Cooper Urse
March 30	Linda O'Connor

ANNIVERSARIES

March 5	Carlton & Justin Enocksne Neely
March 6	Dave & Penny Roberts
March 16	Glen & Dana Satterfield
March 26	Ken & Michele Miller

PRAYER LIST

Asher Stewart, Amy Koon's grandson
John & Linda O'Connor
Family of Steve Thompson
Jennifer Walker
Rob Willoughby, Amy Koon's nephew
Janet & Craig Gates, Joan Krouse's
cousin Smith's cousin
Steven Satterfield, Pam Stalnaker &
Penny Roberts' nephew
Dr. Jeriel Gilmer
Marilyn McDougal
Linda Stoops
William Siegman, Cynthia's father
Carlton Jon Neely and family
Family of Carrie Yancy, Darrell, Dion
& Reese's grandmother
Peggy Twyman
Linda O'Connor's father
Doug Shaver

Family of Carla Duskey

JANUARY/FEBRUARY PLEDGES & GIFTS

January 31	\$10,850
February 8	\$3,070
February 15	\$2,943
Total:	\$16,863

Total to Date: \$26,578

March Ministry
Volunteers

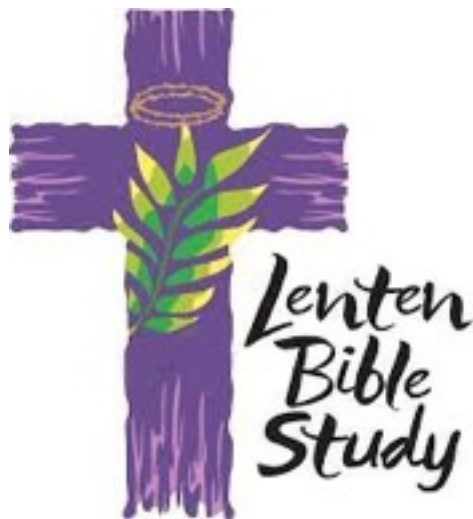
USHERS

Mike Stalnaker (captain), Pam Stalnaker, Penny
Roberts, & Dave Roberts

Discipleship Ministry from Janel Nye, Coordinator

Ash Wednesday & the Lenten Study

The Lenten season is here, and we are getting ready to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord! This year we will study "Anxious for Nothing" By Max Lucado. This five-part study will begin with a weekly video before the discussion.



Books and supplies have been ordered. You will receive a book to read along with the study as well as a devotion you can complete on your own, if you choose.

The older youth will also receive a youth-oriented book they can

read along with parents. Youth and parents can determine if they want youth to remain with parents and participate in the adult study or go with the younger grades for the children's study.

The children will work on a similar study in their group, and they will also study some of Jesus parables. Please see the schedule below:

Wednesday, March 2: Dinner at 6 p.m., Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m. (no childcare provided)

Wednesday, March 9: Dinner at 5:30, Lenten Study approximately 6-7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 16: Dinner at 5:30, Lenten Study approximately 6-7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 23: Dinner at 5:30, Lenten Study approximately 6-7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 30: Dinner at 5:30, Lenten Study approximately 6-7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6: Dinner at 5:30, Lenten Study approximately 6-7 p.m.



Parents' Night Out March 4

Parents' Night out will be March 4 from 5:30 to 8:30. An evite will

be sent out for the event. If you are not on the evite list and would like to be please email a number to text to:

discipleship@fairmontfirst.net.

Please RSVP so we have a head count for food and supplies! The event will begin with dinner and is designed for children ages kindergarten to 6th grade. The event is open to any child, but a RSVP is required.

This month we will study the Tower of Babel and play games and make crafts to increase our understanding of the Bible.

Sunday School sessions back

Sunday School is back in session and the children, youth and adults are very happy to be back in their Sunday school rooms! We have picked up right where we left off!

Sunday school will be from 9:30 to 10:20 until children's bells and music resumes. When music resumes the schedule will be as follows:

9-10 a.m.: Sunday school

10-10:20 a.m. Childrens' bells and childrens' music

Childrens' Church in September

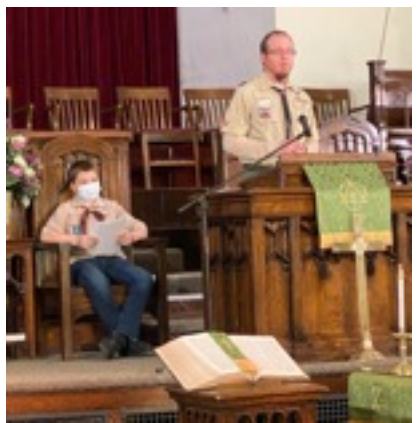


Childrens' Church (held for children infant through 5th grade) during the church service, will resume in September 2022. If you would like to volunteer to teach, please contact

discipleship@fairmontfirst.net. A lesson and all supplies are provided for you.



Winter Celebrations: Boy Scout Sunday, Session Retreat & Souper Bowl Sunday





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

the
March 2022 *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
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