



the Chimes

May 2022

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,

Acts 1:3-4
reads: "After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.'"

We are in the greatest season in the church year: Easter. Yes, friends, Easter is an entire season in the church. After forty days of Lent, we enter into seven weeks of Easter joy and celebration! Indeed, Christ is risen from the dead!

The time between Easter and Pentecost (the giving of the Holy Spirit) created what has come to be known as the early Church. We are in this time together and still wait. Yes, Christ is raised. Yes, the Spirit of God is with us. Yet, we need to know resurrection power and the Spirit's power once more.

In this light, we will be examining many of the early stories of the Church from the



book of Acts this Easter Season. Once they encounter the Risen Lord and are filled with the Spirit, the first followers do amazing things as they spend their time trying to keep up with the Spirit's leading.

We look at these stories because we can imagine what it

would mean for us, First Presbyterian Church of Fairmont, to be filled with the power of the resurrection and the Spirit once more and anew. Instead of attempting to control the Spirit or hinder the Spirit, we should simply be filled and led as the Spirit desires. This without a doubt is scary and risky. However, I believe is it also faithful.

This also connects to the invitation from the PC (USA) to become a Matthew 25 Church. This is not something we control or create within ourselves. Only the Spirit of God can create congregational vitality, can dismantle structural racism, and can eradicate systemic poverty. That Spirit is still at work. That Spirit still invites. That Spirit still creates and recreates today.

(Continues on 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
- Beginning on May 29 we go back to 10 a.m. for the summer worship service

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

Musical Notes

from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist

The ringing of handbells, the glorious sound of the West Virginia Brass Quintet, the beautiful voices of our Chancel Choir: What an exciting Palm Sunday and Easter we celebrated at First Presbyterian! It was great to see so many faces in church, and to hear the musical offerings of our choir members which made the celebration of Christ's Resurrection even more special. Easter Sunday also included a piano-organ duet with the talented Jennifer Walker on piano. Congregational singing which we may have taken for granted before the pandemic, filled the sanctuary. Praise be to God! It has also been wonderful to hear about church members and their family watching and being a part of worship from other states far away via the virtual worship service.

A big thank to you to Eric Hauser and the Property Team for the new lights in

the choir loft! Eric met with myself, Evan, and the contractor, created an action plan, and then made it happen. These new lights are a significant help to see/read in the choir loft, especially when there is an evening service. It is much appreciated!

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

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist

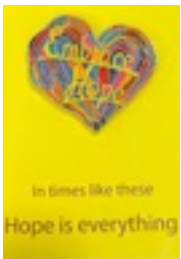


First Church's News & Notes



Mark Your Calendars

- June Chimes deadline is **Friday, May 20** at noon.
- Session Meeting: Tuesday, May 3 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: Friday, May 6 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Boy Scouts: May 1 & 22 at 6:30 p.m. Social Room
- Mother's & Father's Day luncheon: June 12 after church



'Hope is everything' - thank you

To whomever left this very caring lapel pin at my bell music stand, thank you ❤️
Blessings, Pam Nolan



Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

As we examine the beginnings of the Church while considering the Easter message, may our hearts be open and may the Spirit lead us into God's new way of being.

The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Rev. Evan Walker



A special thank you to everyone who placed the beautiful lilies for Easter. Please be sure to pick up your lilies if you haven't.



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: 'Gather in the Garden' to begin May 1

As we move from winter into spring, we have much to celebrate and be thankful for! Two of our many blessings are, our volunteers who teach Sunday school and our mentors. The hospitality team will be hosting a continental breakfast to honor them on May 1 at 9 a.m. in the church library.

Sunday, May 1 will be our first, "Gather in the Garden" of the season. Weather permitting, we will gather outside for cookies and lemonade in the church parking lot. "Gather in the Garden" will take place the first Sunday of each month, May through August following church service. We will gather in the church parking lot weather permitting. If inclement weather, we will gather in the church social room.

First Friday will be May 6 in the social room, dinner being served at 5:30 p.m. Looking ahead:

- Friday, June 3, First Friday. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 8 Vacation Bible School. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m. in the church social room
- Sunday, June 12 combined Mother's/Father's Day Luncheon following church service

Property: Updating some the projects



Property has been meeting monthly working a number of key projects to help improve the church.

- Keystone Waterproofing has been cleaning, pointing and sealing the outside of the church on the parking lot side.
- New LED lighting has been added to the choir loft to make it easier to read music, especially at any evening events.
- Family Carpet has informed us that the new carpet for the choir loft should ship

this week or next. Once it arrives, they will install it.

- Stained glass window project continues. We are looking at some other possible grants to help pay for the \$90,000 plus project. One grant has been submitted to Charleston asking for \$50,000. We will also began a campaign shortly to raise the additional funds for the project.
- Balcony Protection: parents please remind your children that there should be no running or playing in the balcony area. We don't want any one falling, especially in the front row areas. Running also causes problems with the cameras and other equipment when were are broadcasting.
- Outside gardens: gravel and mulch are being added to spruce up the areas.

Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker
pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net

Director of Music

John Morrison
music@fairmontfirst.net

Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

Janel Nye
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

Penny Roberts
Diane Floyd

PROPERTY

Eric Hauser
Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda O'Connor
Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jennie Poling
Adam Ranson

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer
Anne Schooley

Treasurers

Roger Kritzer
David Floyd

Nursery Attendant



May Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

May 1 - Third Sunday of Easter: Read John 21:1-19

Peter felt hurt that Jesus kept asking him the same question over and over, and we can feel equally hurt when our faith is questioned. However, a life of faith isn't a one-time commitment but a lifetime of showing up and doing as Jesus asks us. What will you do this week to feed Jesus's sheep?

May 8 - Fourth Sunday of Easter: Read Psalm 23

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me..." What dark place in your life or insurmountable challenge has been on your mind lately? Picture God in that place, walking beside you and comforting you.

May 15 - Fifth Sunday of Easter: Read Psalm 148

The Psalmist calls on all of creation to praise the Lord. Where have you seen God's wonder in nature recently?

May 22 - Sixth Sunday of Easter: Read John 5:1-9

The man by the pool thought he knew what his problem was and how it needed to be fixed. But Jesus offered a different perspective and a different solution. This week, think of a problem you have that you can't solve and ask God to open your eyes to new possibilities.

May 29 - Seventh Sunday of Easter: Read Acts 16:16-34

When Paul and Silas were in jail, they prayed and sang hymns to God; they knew that God was with them, even at that difficult time. When you are going through difficult times, do you pray and sing? Do you remember God is with you?

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	John Morrison
May 3	Erin Hauser
May 4	Janet Chittum
May 14	Glen Satterfield
May 17	Hailey Hauser
May 18	Celia Knight
May 19	Dana Satterfield
May 20	Pam Nolan
May 24	Lois Brummage
	Kurt Perdue

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 23	Stan & Linda Swihart
May 25	Glen & Carolyn
	Crislip-Tacy
May 26	Bill & Lois Laughlin

PRAYER LIST

Steven Satterfield, nephew of Pam
Stalnaker & Penny Robert
Dr. Jeriel Gilmer
Marilyn McDougal
Linda Stoops
Joslyn Morris, niece of Ruth Martin
Peter Koch

MARCH/APRIL

PLEDGES & GIFTS

March 27	\$610
April 3	\$3,562.76
April 10	\$6,354.86
April 17	\$1,896
April 24	\$684

Total: \$13,107.62

Total to Date: \$50,636.85

*May Ministry
Volunteers*

USHERS

Roger Kritzer (captain), Deanna Kritzer, John &
Betty Pat Lee



Parents' Night Out May 6

Parents' Night out will be May 6 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 an RSVP is required.

Mentor Breakfast set for May 1

Now that we are back open, it is time to have a get-together with mentors and their mentees! We will have a mentor breakfast on May 1 at 9 a.m. (during the Sunday School hour). All kids and their mentors are invited to join us. Please look for an email and you can RSVP to the email.

Last Day of Sunday School May 22

We will wrap up the Sunday School year on May 22. Starting on Memorial Day, the service will move to 10 a.m. and there will be no Sunday school and no children's church, per tradition. Please join us on May 22 as we recognize all those who contributed to the Sunday School ministry.



Vacation Bible School starts June 8

Save the dates for this summer's Vacation Bible School: June 8, July 13, and August 10

We will host VBS at the church. We are gearing up and advertising for a big crowd. Please consider volunteering! Message: discipleship@fairmontfirst.net if you would like to volunteer.

Calling all Volunteers

We are still searching for volunteers to teach children's church three Sundays a month.

Please consider volunteering. You are provided all the teaching materials and there is no prep necessary. Children's church follows a "mini church service" format and the children do a lesson and craft. It is a great time, and the kids are eager learners! Message:

discipleship@fairmontfirst.net if you would like to volunteer.





Greetings Friends. Every month, I receive an email newsletter entitled Regarding Ruling Elders

from the Office of the General Assembly. I routinely forward the newsletter to Evan, the staff, and Session members. I think this month's edition is particularly worthwhile reading, not just for our congregational leaders but for all of us. Know God's Peace.

John O'Connor, Clerk of Session

This article is the fourth in a 12-part series focusing on the constitutional questions that church leaders answer upon their ordination and installation, using some of the materials from Coming Alive in Christ: Training for PC(USA) Ruling Elders and Deacons Based on the Constitutional Questions.

I do and I will—Question C

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

I have several favorite parts of the service of ordination and installation. I love seeing the variety of people God calls into leadership. I love to see them pop up from different areas in worship—back row, balcony, choir—and no matter where their faith journeys began or have taken them, they make their way together up front. I love knowing some of the individual stories of faith that have led them to that moment.

I also love prompting folks to answer the questions. We know the answers are “yes,” but there are different ways to say “yes.” Sometimes it’s “I do.” Sometimes it’s “I will.” I’ve learned to add “Do you?” or “Will you?” at the end of each question. For question C, the answer is “I do and I will.” That one is tricky. So is understanding what we mean when

we agree to be led by a rather unspecified list of tenets from a collection of written historical confessions of faith.

In a sense, I’ve already described what it means to say, “I do and I will.” If you squint and use your imagination, the scene of various church members making their way toward the front of the worship space to be installed as leaders helps us understand.

From way in the back row, farthest away in history, the Apostles’ Creed and Nicene Creed stand up. They have been around so long, and their presence in worship is so faithful, that they are familiar to most folks in the church. They are reliable leaders.

From different areas in the sanctuary and history, other creeds and confessions start forward. The Scots and Second Helvetic Confessions have weathered church controversies in the past, and they bring wisdom and a great knowledge of history.

The Westminster Confession and the Catechisms head down the aisle. They taught your parents in Sunday school, and these folks know their Bible. They might not agree with one another or with you on every issue, but they are respected guides.

From near the front the Declaration of Barmen stands up, and so does the Confession of 1967. They are newer members, quick to share their faith in Jesus and active in ministries of reconciliation and mission.

The Brief Statement of Faith is sitting with the youth. Everyone is glad to welcome into leadership an energetic young member who speaks so clearly.

The Belhar Confession is a recent transfer. Some folks don’t know them yet, but that will change. They have been a leader in racial justice ministry, and we need their voice at the table.

As these all come forward, the church gets a glimpse of what it means to trust a group to help guide us. They are not all alike. They have varied strengths and weaknesses. They bring diverse history. They connect with different people at different times.

But the congregation knows they are united in essentials. They all

trust in Jesus Christ and look to scripture to most clearly see how God’s grace is revealed in him. Everything else flows out of that—what they believe about the triune God, the church, and how, in covenant relationship with God, we are invited to participate in the transformation of the world. We’ve examined their faith and know that God will work through them. With a resounding “yes” the congregation entrusts them to work together to help us all follow Jesus as a community of faith.

Agreeing to be led by the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions is a bit like the congregation receiving a slate of officers. We trust the Holy Spirit to work in and through a collection of guides, who are agreed on the basics of faith. Their variety enriches our ministry, even while we listen for new voices and interpretations, always open to our fellowship being reformed. Their beliefs will translate into faithful committee work, important session votes, bold outreach projects, and creative worship services. The church will be blessed by all their voices, as she is by yours, in your own particular expression of the essential tenets of faith. Thanks be to God that your answer is “I do and I will.”

For Reflection:

Which confessions in the Book of Confessions are most familiar and/or resonate most with you? How do the leaders with whom you serve, or have served, reflect the strengths of unity and diversity in the Reformed faith?

What are the essential tenets of the Reformed faith? While there is not one checklist, take a look at Chapter 2 in the Book of Order, or the section “Some Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith” in the resource material from Coming Alive in Christ: Training for PC(USA) Ruling Elders and Deacons Based on the Constitutional Questions, or this blogpost or video (33:36) by Jack Rogers. How do the materials in the resource deepen your understanding of this question?

Rev. Julie Coffman Hester is a pastor and writer in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. She is inspired by faithful ruling elders, like her parents, and the remarkable disciples with whom she has served in local congregations.





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

the
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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