



# the Chimes

May 2025

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,

We have entered the greatest season in the church year – Easter. This is the entire reason that Christianity exists. This is the most important thing we can share. This is the greatest news ever spoken, “Christ is risen from the dead.”

Mark’s Gospel tells this story, but ends rather strangely. The women have come to the tomb and heard the message of the angels. The story concludes: “So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

The best stories leave you wanting more. They give you just enough to whet your appetite, but not so much that you are just happy it’s over. I think we have all seen movies and thought, “There were so many good places to end that were passed right over.” The best stories give enough details without inundating you. The best stories allow your imagination to fill in the details. It invites us into the story, to take part in the story, to participate. The best stories give you enough, but leave you wanting more.

I cannot decide if I am happy with this ending of Mark or not. Most every translation gives a statement right after verse 8: “the earliest manuscripts



and some other ancient witnesses do not have Mark 16:9-20.” In other words, what we have as the ending of Mark now was not original to the text. So the real ending was either lost or Mark seriously concluded his gospel with the phrase – “and they said nothing to

anyone, for they were afraid.” Someone along the line decided that Mark needed a better ending.

The best endings leave you wanting more. Perhaps, Mark is quite intentional with his ending. We know for a fact that the women didn’t stay silent forever. Why? Because we exist as the church. They had to tell someone because we know that Christ is risen from the dead. If the women had stayed silent, we would not be here this morning. William Barclay offers a helpful statement: “The best evidence of the resurrection is the existence of the church.” For some reason, that is the way God has chosen to work.

A good story leaves you wanting more, and what if we are that more that Jesus intends to use to share, to recognize, and to bring resurrection in a world consumed by death?  
*(Continues on page 3)*



- 8:30 a.m. Childcare begins
- 9 a.m. Sunday School & Handbell Rehearsal
- 10 a.m. Children’s Music Time & Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. 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

### Thanks to the Chancel

**Choir** for the beautiful Easter cantata and to the Cambridge Handbells for making Palm Sunday and Easter worship so festive. Our cantata soloists Betty Pat Lee, John Schooley, and Maria Potts did a great job as did our narrators Ken Miller and Karen Mersinger.

It was also a great joy to have the WV Brass Quintet with us for Palm Sunday! They not only played their own musical selections for worship but also accompanied the Chancel Choir anthem with Jennifer Walker joining us on piano. And during Holy Week it was wonderful to experience the worship and fellowship of the Seder meal on Maundy Thursday.

A special kudos to Stan Swihart, a long time Chancel Choir member and member of Vocal Tapestry, who recently received an award from the City of Fairmont Arts and Humanities Commission. I was honored to be asked by the commission to accept the award and speak on his behalf since he was not able to be in attendance for the ceremony. Stan has for so many years brought a great deal of energy, passion, and good humor to our music ministry and to the arts in Fairmont in general. He has participated in musical ensembles most of his life, and raised children who are also musically talented and accomplished. His son Andrew in fact gave his senior piano recital at the church along with Brooks Parker. Linda is also equally active in music, ringing handbells, and singing with our Women's Chorus. Stan always makes others feel supported and appreciated, and it was so nice to see him being the one honored!



### Here are some upcoming concerts:

Thursday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. FSU Wind Ensemble in Wallman Hall Theatre  
Friday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. FSU Choir Concert: Collegiate Singers and Community Choir  
Sunday, May 18 at 3 p.m. Vocal Tapestry at First Presbyterian

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

*John Morrison*



# First Church's News & Notes

## Pastor's Message

*continues from pg. 1*

The resurrection is not the end of the story. The resurrection is merely the end of the beginning of the story and in the words of Paul Harvey, we have been living in "the rest of the story"?

Something occurred that morning that changed terror filled women into evangelists. Something happened that morning that transformed Peter from denier of Christ into a fierce confessor of Christ. Something happened that morning that renewed those runaways with courage to stand before councils and kings and share that Christ is risen. Something happened that morning that filled followers throughout the centuries with the power of the Spirit that the faith grew and strengthened and gave power to many as they literally gave up their lives for this message. Something happened that morning that means 2,000 years later we are here telling the ancient story, with contemporary promises.

The story does not end with an empty tomb. That is only the beginning. We tell the story of power martyrs and theologians in the faith throughout the centuries who bore



witness to the risen Lord. We also examine and confess where in that time the church has not been a great witness. When the church remained silent in the face of injustice. Where the church used its power and position to tear people down and push them out. Where the church has misused scripture to hurt. We look at our own lives and wonder why would God choose me or want me? I'm a pretty awful follower who fails more often than not, who lives more often in fear rather than in faith.

The best stories leave you wanting more. That is what we need – more love, more joy, more resurrection, more forgiveness. Those things and so

much more are what Jesus provides in abundance. Resurrection brings life!

The best stories leave you wanting more. Church, we are that more. Church, we are the rest of the story. Church, we are the best evidence to the resurrection. So I invite you to consider – where have you see signs of the resurrection in your life? Where has something you thought was dead, or hopeless, or pointless suddenly been transformed? Where has the Spirit given you new life?

Then I invite you to consider, how might we as the people of the resurrection show that to others? When we turn to love of particular persons rather than love as a concept, that is the resurrection. When we stand with the oppressed and victims demanding justice, that is the resurrection. In other words, let's stop talking about the resurrection, and let's start practicing it, let's start looking for it, and let's start living into it. To the glory of God,

*Rev. Evan Walker*

## Mark Your Calendars

- Material for the JUNE issue of the Chimes is due by Friday, May 23 at noon. THANKS!!!
- Parents' Night Out: May 2 at 5:30 p.m
- Session Meeting: May 20 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m.
- Choir rehearsal: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
- Handbell Choir rehearsals Sunday at 9 a.m.
- Children's Music Time: Sunday at 10 a.m.

## Hospitality: Gathering in the Garden begins on May 4; First Friday May 2

May 2 at 5:30 p.m. will be First Friday, Parents' Night Out. Pizza, veggies and desserts will be provided for the children and staff.

On May 4 will be the Gathering in the Garden after the church service. This year we will be going back to having the Gathering in the Garden outside weather permitting. Cookies and drinks will be served.

May 6 will be the next Hospitality meeting at 10 a.m. in the parlor. Everyone is invited to join us. This is where we discuss and plan all of our upcoming events.

June 1 will be our Mother's and Father's Day luncheon after the church service. Mark your calendars.

## Property Team: door reminders

Just a reminder that during Sunday morning worship service the handicapped door and the upper main door on Jefferson Street are unlocked at 10 a.m. **only** if an usher is present at that door. At 10:30 our sexton is locking the Jefferson Street door and then the handicapped door at 10:45

Also remember that the keyless access code policy states that no doors are to be propped open and left unattended. Please be vigilant.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM ON MONDAY THRU THURSDAY

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## Staff

### Pastor

Evan Walker

[pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net](mailto:pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net)

### Director of Music

John Morrison

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### Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

Jane Mead

[discipleship@fairmontfirst.net](mailto:discipleship@fairmontfirst.net)

### Office Coordinator

Karen Mersinger

[office@fairmontfirst.net](mailto:office@fairmontfirst.net)

### Sexton

Will Shamblin

[sexton@fairmontfirst.net](mailto:sexton@fairmontfirst.net)

## Session

### CLERK OF SESSION

Kathy Snider

### ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

### OUTREACH

Terri Bunner

Loren Hunt

### PROPERTY

Rob Steele

Joe Jernigan

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

Pam Stalnaker

Penny Roberts

### CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Amy Koon

Tim Mersinger

### HOSPITALITY

Janet Miller

Nancy Carnes

## Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

### NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Pam Proctor

Abby Shuck

## Discipleship Ministry Team

What a joyful and eventful spring it's been for our church family! We began the season with a joyful PALM SUNDAY EGG HUNT for the kids. It was such a fun time—little ones darting through the grass in search of brightly colored eggs, and plenty of laughter and smiles to go around!



Thank you to everyone who participated, served, or simply showed up with a smile. You make this community a blessing to be part of!

Throughout Lent, we came together for a meaningful study focused on STAYING CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH and the importance of KEEPING THE SABBATH. The discussions were rich and encouraging, reminding us all to rest, reflect, and remain rooted in our faith.

EASTER SUNDAY was a true celebration! We were thrilled to see so many faces—new and familiar—worshiping together in the spirit of resurrection and renewal. During our SEDER DINNER, the kids had a blast searching for the afikoman—the hidden piece of matzah. It was a fun and interactive way to tie tradition into our gathering and get the whole family involved.

We're now looking ahead with excitement to our UPCOMING YOUTH OUTING. Parents' Night Out will start the month off on Friday, May 2 at 5:30 p.m. More details will be shared soon, and we hope you'll join us!

And to wrap up this season with something special, our YOUTH EARTH DAY EVENT AT VALLEY FALLS was a fantastic time of fun, fellowship, and caring for God's creation. The group enjoyed the fresh air, some hands-on activities, and a lot of laughs—it was a wonderful way to celebrate the beauty of our world together.



# May Nurturing Faith Ideas

## SCRIPTURE

### May 3: Third Sunday of Easter

Read John 21:1-19

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked him if he loved him not once but three times. We can feel equally hurt when our faith and/or love is questioned. However, a life of faith and following Jesus 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' sheep?

### May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Read Psalm 23

The psalmist lifts up God's care for us. God provides what we need, guides us in God's ways and provides rest for us. God is with us in the midst of our struggles, walking through the darkest, saddest, scariest places of our lives with us, comforting us. What is a dark place you've experienced recently? Picture God in that place with you, walking beside you and comforting you.

### May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Read Psalm 148

The psalmist calls on all creation to praise the Lord! How do you praise God? What are five things for which you would praise God? Share your thoughts with a friend or family member.

### May 25: 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. Jesus offered the man a different perspective and a different solution. This week think of a problem you are facing that you can't solve and ask God to open your eyes to new possibilities.

## May

### Birthdays

5/1	John Morrison
5/3	Erin Hauser
5/4	Janet Chittum
5/9	Jill Mason
5/14	Glen Satterfield
5/16	Levi Hunt
5/17	Hailey Hauser
5/18	Celia Knight
5/19	Dana Satterfield
5/20	Pam Nolan
5/23	Henry Downs
5/24	Lois Brummage
	Kurt Perdue
5/25	Melodie Schooley/ Kuzma
5/28	Libby Fatkin

### Anniversaries

5/23	Stan & Linda Swihart
5/25	Carolyn & Glenn Crislip-Tacy
5/26	Lois & Bill Laughlin

### Prayer List

Susan May  
Ben Poling  
Family of Charles "Rab" Snider  
Billy Fekete  
John & Marie Lemoine  
Carlton Neely  
Donna Dodd  
Cathy Reed  
Ella Morris  
Alisa Perdue  
Stephen Satterfield  
Judy Shaver  
Paul Hines  
DD Meighen  
Brad Dodd  
Peggy Twyman  
Linda Stoops

### March/April Pledges & Gifts

March 30	\$1,362
April 6	\$5,245.60
Boot Sunday:	\$173.78
April 13	\$5,152
April 20	\$1,975
One Great Hour	\$1,550
Food Pantry	\$500
 Total:	 \$15,958.38
 Total to Date:	 \$88,165.63

May Ministry  
Volunteers

Liturgist: Amy Koon

USHERS : Marilyn Morgan (captain), Cindy Siegman  
& Vickie Bostic



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

# *the* **Chimes** *May 2025*

F I R S T P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H



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