



# the Chimes

May 2026

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

## A Pastoral Message

*“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” – Romans 12:4-5*



*After returning from the historic Artemis II mission – the first crewed lunar flyby in over five decades – NASA*

*astronaut **Christina Koch** shared a powerful reflection on Earth and humanity. Speaking at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, she described Earth as a “lifeboat” suspended in the vast blackness of space.*

*Koch explained that seeing Earth from the Orion spacecraft’s window made her realize how small and precious it was, surrounded by endless darkness. This perspective deepened her understanding of what a “crew” truly means: a group that is “in it all the time, no matter what,” moving with the same purpose, willing to sacrifice silently for*

*each other, giving grace, holding accountability, and being “inescapably, beautifully, dutifully linked.”*

*She closed with these words... “Planet Earth – you are a crew.”*

*I could not help but think when I hear her remarks... that here was a person who had seen... the face of God.*

*Our world desperately needs the vision these astronauts were given. In a world constantly driven by a fierce independence... sadly at times to the demise of the least, the lost, the left out and the lonely... a voice reminded us... that we are in this together.*

*In a world torn by war... a voice still speaks....“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” – Ephesians 4:3*

*In a world where division is our norm in the way we “social media” with one another.... A voice still speaks... “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” – Hebrews 10:24-25*

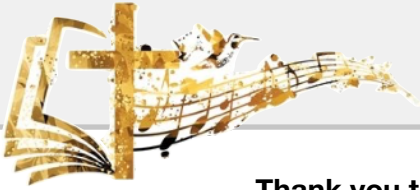
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- ✦ 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- ✦ 9 a.m. Youth Sunday School & Handbell Choir
- ✦ 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- ✦ 10 a.m. Chancel Choir

*Worship Service is in-person and online at [fpcfairmont.com](http://fpcfairmont.com) & Facebook*





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

## Thank you to the Chancel Choir

who did a beautiful job on the Easter cantata!

Thanks also to Diane Boso for being the narrator and to Alyssa Schwartz for playing flute with the cantata. The handbells also did a beautiful job with the prelude.

We look forward to recognizing Maria's graduation with her doctorate! This will take place on Sunday, April 26. We want to thank Maria for choosing First Presbyterian Fairmont as her church home in West Virginia and for sharing her wonderful singing talent with us while pursuing her degree at WVU.

Here is the upcoming schedule of Chancel Choir

Anthems:

May 3 - Grace and Peace to You by Darcy Stanley

May 10 - I Often Dance by Gary Hallquist

May 17 - Jubilate Deo by Peter Anglea

May 24 - Spirit's Comin' by Herb Frombach and Joel Raney

May 31 - Hymn of Praise by Sean Paul

Special music will start in June with Men and Women's Chorus, Summer Pick-Up Choir, and solos/duets.

I am looking forward to attending the Montreat Worship and Music Conference in June!

May the peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison

Director of Music & Organist



# First Church's News & Notes

## Mark Your Calendars

- **Material for the JUNE 2026 issue of The Chimes is due by Friday, May 22 at noon. THANKS!**
- **Session Meeting: May 19 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.**
- **Women's Breakfast: May 14 at 9 a.m. McAteer's**
- **Celebration for Robert Ranson: May 3 after service**
- **YARD SALE: May 16 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
- **June 7: Mother's & Father's Day Brunch**
- **Vacation Bible School: June 8-10**
- **June 19: Black Bear's Baseball Game/Tailgate**

## Hospitality events for May

We had a wonderful turnout of 76 people for our Easter Dinner. The food was delicious and the room was filled with wonderful fellowship. We would love to see that number of people at all of our dinners!

Please mark your calendars for Hospitality's upcoming events.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>April 26</b> | Cake reception for Maria Pott's graduation from WVU.   |
| <b>May 3</b>    | Cake reception for Robert Ranson for his high school graduation and achievements. Also, we will be having a Charcuterie Board reception in place of our monthly cookie social. |
| <b>May 5</b>    | Hospitality meeting at 10 a.m. in the parlor.  |
| <b>June 2</b>   | Hospitality meeting at 10 a.m. in the parlor.  |
| <b>June 7</b>   | Mother's and Father's Day Brunch after church service. This year we will be doing a brunch instead of a luncheon. Watch for your Evite!  |

## Pastor search update

Moving forward... After the congregational survey was completed and summarized, a narrative was written to share with Presbytery. At the April Session meeting, the Session voted to approve the narrative and this will be sent on to the Commission on Ministry (C.O.M.) for review. Once we have received feedback from the C.O.M., we will be moving toward the next steps of officially nominating the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

Stay tuned for more information! *Submitted by Pam Nolan, Janet Miller and Nancy Carnes*

## Pastor's Message *cont. from page 1*

In a world that tells us to watch out for number one... A voice still speaks... "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up." – Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Yes... in a world in need of a prophetic voice... a woman stepped forward and proclaimed.... "Planet Earth – you are a crew."

Grace and Peace, Dan Kimble



## BLACK BEARS BASEBALL GAME

**Friday, June 19**

**Tailgating from 4-6 p.m. (Back right corner of main parking lot)**

**Cost: \$11.75 per ticket purchased before May 1**

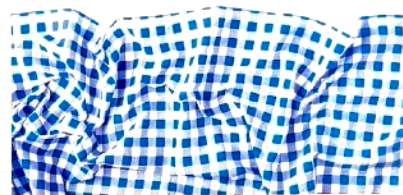
**\$5 per vehicle parking (Pay with ticket purchase)**

**Any checks made out to First Presbyterian Church (Black Bears game in memo line)**

**Food & water provided (Bring own drink of choice)**

**Bring a chair for tailgating**

**Any questions contact Deanna Kritzer**



**FAIRMONT COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

## COMMUNITY PICNIC

**Food • Fellowship • Community • Fun**

**Date:** Saturday, May 30, 2026, 5-7 PM

**Location:** Pavilion #2, East Marion Park

**Address:** 35 City View Terrace (Wave Pool)

Everyone in the community is welcome!  
Come enjoy a relaxed afternoon of food, friendship, and fellowship.

**Bring a Dish to Share! Hot Dogs and Drinks Provided**

**Hosted by the Fairmont Council of Churches**



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**PHONE (304) 366-2628**

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

**FAX (304) 366-2662**

**Web: [www.fpcfairmont.com](http://www.fpcfairmont.com)**

*Staff*

**Pastor**

**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**

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

**Nursery Attendants**

Pam Proctor  
Abby Shuck  
Hailey Hauser

**Sunday School**

Brigitte Gapen

**A/V Tech**

Chris Ward

*Session*

**CLERK OF SESSION**

Kathy Snider

**ADMINISTRATION**

Pam Nolan  
Earl Sweet

**OUTREACH**

Terri Bunner

**PROPERTY**

Eric Hauser  
Rob Steele

**WORSHIP & MUSIC**

Penny Roberts  
Pam Stalnaker

**CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

Nancy Carnes

**HOSPITALITY**

Janet Miller  
Deanna Kritzer

*Treasurer*

Joe Jernigan

## Youth & Children's Ministry

As we reflect on the month of April, we are grateful for the many meaningful and joyful moments shared within our Christian Education Department.

Our youth group had a wonderful opportunity to serve the community during a recent outing to the Marion County Animal Shelter. They delivered donations and spent time volunteering, making it both a fun and rewarding experience for everyone involved. It was a great reminder of the importance of compassion and service.

We also celebrated Palm Sunday with a festive egg hunt, where more than 20 children participated. A special thank-you goes out to our youth, who helped hide the eggs and made the event extra special for the younger children.

During Sunday School on April 12 and 19, the youth enjoyed some fun and engaging candy bar trivia activities, adding an extra element of excitement to their learning time.

In addition, the adults gathered for a movie night featuring *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* where they shared dinner and reflected on the life and example of Fred Rogers and what it means to be a good neighbor. During this time, the children met in the social room for their own activities and learning.

We also distributed surveys on Palm Sunday and Easter. If you did not receive one, please stop by the nursery to pick one up. Your feedback is important as we seek to tailor our events to best fit the growing and changing needs of our families.

We are also proud to recognize two of our graduates. Maria's was celebrated on April 26, and Robert's will be honored on May 3. We congratulate



them both on their accomplishments and wish them continued success in their next chapters.

Looking ahead to May, we are excited about what's to come! Registration is now open for our summer camps at Bluestone and Pine Springs. We encourage families to sign up and take advantage of these wonderful opportunities for growth and fellowship.

We are also preparing for Vacation Bible School, which will take place June 8-10. This year's theme is "Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God." We are currently seeking volunteers to serve as team leaders and station leaders. If you are interested in helping as a group safari guide or leading a station, please see Jane for more information.

Additionally, our youth continue their thoughtful ministry of creating pipe cleaner flowers to share with guest pastors and our shut-ins. If you would like to be part of this creative and encouraging outreach, please connect with Jane Mead or Nancy Carnes.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support and participate in our Christian Education programs. We look forward to another month of learning, serving, and growing together!



# May Nurturing Faith Ideas

## SCRIPTURE

### May 3: Fifth Sunday of Easter - Read John 14:1-14

In verse 7, Jesus says, "if you know me, you will know my Father" What adjectives or descriptive words describe Jesus? Make a list of these; what do they say about God?

### May 10: Sixth Sunday of Easter - Read Psalm 66:8-20

Psalm 66 reminds us that through tough times God is with us. The psalmist praises God when times are bad and when they go well. Think of times when you have struggled through tough times, then think how you know God was with you. Give a prayer thanking God for God's steadfast love.

### May 17: Seventh Sunday of Easter - Read 1 Peter 4:14:12-14, 5:6-11

Here we are told to humble ourselves under God and to cast our anxiety on God who cares for us. What anxieties are you hanging on to? Make a list of the things on which you have been worrying. Pray asking God to take care of each thing you've included on your list.

### May 24: Day of Pentecost - Read Acts 2

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon waiting disciples. Suddenly, they were speaking in languages that they didn't know, but everyone who walked by could understand them, no matter what language they spoke. Peter then stood up and explained what was happening and shared his faith in Jesus. As Christians, it is important for us to share our faith as well as the Spirit guides us. How could you, will you share your faith today?

### May 31: Trinity Sunday - Read Genesis 1:1-2:4a

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.

## 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

Family of Brad Dodd  
Maika: friend of Lauren Ranson  
Bonny Burnsworth & family  
Lindy Straight  
Debbie Thomas & family  
Simon Rohaly  
Steve Asher  
Cathy Woodson  
Emma Keener  
Joe Criss  
Jason Burdette  
Amy Koon  
Barb Starn  
Dave Yazvak  
Rev. James Morley  
Donna Dodd  
Ella Morris  
Steven Satterfield  
Judy Shaver  
Peggy Twyman

### March/April Pledges & Gifts

March 29	\$1,160
April 5:	\$2,410
One Great Hour	\$455
April 12:	\$8,471.50
April 19:	\$2,925
Total:	\$15,421.50
Total to Date:	\$102,121.34

May Ministry  
Volunteers

Liturgist: John Schooley

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



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

*the* **Chimes**  
*May 2026*

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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