



the Chimes

March 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Message from the

Beloved in Christ,

Paul opens his letter to the church in Philippi thus:

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am

confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." I recall these words and feel like Paul could have written them from my heart to First Presbyterian Church.

I have often laughed about where and how God leads and in unexpected ways. I never thought I would serve in western Kentucky, north central North Carolina, or north central West Virginia. Yet God has been in and over each of these transitions.

When Jennifer was offered the position at WVU in 2020, all I knew was that we were moving to this area. I prayed and wondered and worried about what I would do. It was a hard time to move, in the middle of a global pandemic. All of those worries were for naught. Once again, God opened the right doors and I still stand amazed and thankful that I have been able to serve as your pastor and how it all came about. I consider



myself blessed and honored to be called your pastor.

I truly thank God quite often for leading us here. Truly, I thank God for all that God has done through you before I came and what God has allowed to happen since coming. I see and feel the love of

God in so many ways and cannot put into words what each of you mean to our family. I can see the love you share for each other and this community. I can say boldly, we have been recipients of that love beyond our imagining.

Jennifer and I stand humbled by the outpouring of love and support in the process of adopting Marley. Each of you have played a vital role in this process and in his life. We thank God for all the laughs and memories shared. We thank God for the patience shown as we navigated this process. We thank God that you listened as we bemoaned and cried and struggled. We thank God for bringing Marley into our lives and look forward to what God will do in and through him. You as our church family are and will be a major part of all of this and we will always cherish these times. *(Continues on page 3)*



Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Childcare Begins
- 9 a.m. Sunday School & Handbell Rehearsal
- 10 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal & Children's Music
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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



Musical Notes from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist



The season of Lent is upon us. We begin the Lenten season with a solemn Ash Wednesday service reminding us of Genesis 3:19 "From dust you came and to dust you will return." There is a beautiful hymn to accompany the Imposition of Ashes in the *Glory to God* hymnal, #433 Sign Us with Ashes.

I invite you to read these words aloud to yourself and reflect on them. There is such profound meaning to the words which are then brought to life with a soaring melody written by William P. Rowan.

The Chancel Choir has been rehearsing some beautiful anthems for the month of March: Lord, My Savior from "Stabat Mater" by Franz Schubert, Glory Be to Jesus! from "Requiem in C Minor" by Luigi Cherubini, If We Had Seen Him on the Cross by Steve Kupferschmid, and Remember Me by Deborah Govenor. They also busy rehearsing the cantata for Easter Sunday April 9! *The Easter Story* by Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi "retells Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection, and exaltation to the right hand of the Father. The narrative, by Ken Bible is thoroughly, deeply scriptural, providing not only the detail but also the context. It helps us relive the events that unfolded in Jerusalem two thousand

years ago, but it also places them in the flow of God's dramatic, eternal story of redemption. In the process, it engages our mind, heart, and imagination with a story that is simple, yet profound...including hymns from *The Sacred Harp* and *The Columbian Harmony*, spirituals, carols, and songs from the English, Irish, and Hebrew traditions." - Lorenz

Soloists for the cantata are Betty Pat Lee, Maria Potts, and Charlene Sullivan.

The Cambridge Handbells will be ringing for worship March 12 and March 26. Looking ahead, the West Virginia Brass Quintet will be playing for the April 2 Palm Sunday service.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,
John Morrison

Director of Music and Organist


THANK YOU!

First Presbyterian Church of Fairmont's 2023 Collection

raised:

\$78 and 482 food items

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



TACKLE HUNGER

February 13, 2023

Alison Reese
Executive Director
Tackle Hunger: Home of the
Souper Bowl of Caring



Rules for interacting with police

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Panel discussion with Ron Tucker
Fairmont Attorney

Professor James Nolan
WVU Sociology & Anthropology Dept
& West Virginia ACLU speaker TBA

March 2, 6:30-8:00pm
First Presbyterian Church
436 Spruce Street, Morgantown

Refreshments provided

Presented by
NAACP Morgantown/Kingwood Branch

photo by Amy

First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- April Chimes deadline is **Friday, March 24** at noon.
- Parents' Night Out: March 3 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Session Meeting: March 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteers at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.



Making special love letters

Sometimes plans go awry. Such was the case for our February Parents' Night Out. The plan was for the children to make valentines for our shut-ins. However, inclement weather forced us to cancel. So, we pivoted. Deanna Kritzer and Lauren Ranson's Sunday School class used part of their February 4 lesson to share the love. The children cut out paper hearts, glued ribbons, affixed heart stickers and added A LOT of glitter to their heart-felt cards. In just 45 minutes, they created enough valentines to send several to each shut-in. They were fabulous!

We want to say a big Thank You to Erin Hauser who has been teaching Sunday School for several years. She is taking a well-deserved break, and Deanna has stepped in to teach our younger children through May. Evan has graciously agreed to teach our older youth through March. We are on the lookout for a volunteer to take over the older youth class April-May. Please prayerfully consider stepping up to fill this vacancy. If you can't commit to two months, how about one or two weeks?

We are still on the hunt for childcare workers for our nursery, children's church and other activities. If you know of anyone 16 or older who would be interested, let us know.

Parents' Night Out – March 3, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*



Our family thanks you for a wonderful celebration. You cannot imagine what it meant to us to turn around in the courtroom and see so many people smiling and shedding tears of joy. We thank Deanna Kritzer and Anne Schooley and the Hospitality Team for the party immediately following the adoption and for all the gifts. We are working as best we can to get thank you cards to everyone. We tried to explain to Marley how many of the gifts he may not fully appreciate now, but as he grows, he will learn to cherish them.

I also never imagined the joy I would have as a pastor being able to baptize my own child. As special as that day was, I know there is no one else we would rather have shared it with than our First Presbyterian Church family. I have baptized several people in my life. The words and the promises spoke to me in a way they never had before that day.

There is so much more we could say and we know thank you is not enough. We offer our thanksgiving to God for you and for welcoming us so well. We look forward to sharing and serving alongside you for years to come.

With God's love and our gratitude,

The Walker Family



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

Email: office@fairmontfirst.net

Web: www.fpcfairmont.com

Session Committee News

Please meet/gather in other areas during office hours

The Administrative and Finance Ministry team would like to request that committee meetings and informal gatherings take place in areas of the church other than the main office. When meetings take place in the office, confidentiality for the team and individuals may be compromised. This also allows the office coordinator to focus on the tasks that need to be accomplished.

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Nolan or Amy Turluck.

Please note that the office hours are changing a little. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday will be from 9-1 and Tuesday will be 9-12.



Helping the Friendship Room & Scott's Place

Many thanks to everyone who donated toiletry items for the Souper Bowl Day of Caring!

We delivered 20 bottles each of shampoo and conditioner, 18 body wash, 80-100 deodorant, 100 plus tooth brushes, 50 plus tooth paste, 25 hand/body cream, 10 hand sanitizer, 80+ bars of soap, 15 lip balm, 7 or 8 packages of wipes, 5 packages of sanitary napkins, 10 small packs of tissues, 30 + razors, 8 cans of shaving cream, combs and brushes, and 3 pairs of gloves to The Friendship Room.

We also received \$78 and we are going to use the cash to purchase pillows that were requested by the Scott's Place Homeless Shelter. Outreach Team

Flowers for the Chancel

Beginning the first of March, the congregation can now pledge flowers for the year. A signup sheet will be on the table by the elevator next to the sanctuary.

Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker

pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net

Director of Music

John Morrison

music@fairmontfirst.net

Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

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

Treasurers

Roger Kritzer

March Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

March 5: In John 3 we meet Nicodemus who comes to Jesus under cover of darkness, hiding from the other Pharisees. This week consider what you try to hide in the darkness, hoping no one will know. Pray that God will help you bring what you try to hide to the light of Jesus and Jesus' love.

March 12: John 4 begins with the story of a Samaritan woman's meeting with Jesus. Jesus speaks with her, accepting her for who she is. She listens and learns from Jesus, despite Samaritans and Jews despising each other. Jesus brings light and hope to all regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, or any other division and then do the same to someone who seems lost or left out. Consider whom you might reach out to that has been left out, and then do so.

March 19: John 9:1-41 presents the story of a blind man who can see what Jesus brings and the Pharisees who although have sight, are blind to the man in front of them. As you go your way through this week open your eyes and ears to what is happening around you and see as the blind man saw. Where do you see God's activity in the world around you?

March 26: Read Ezekiel 37:1-14. Focus on a difficult situation this week. As you focus, consider these questions: Where is God in this? How can I and/or how can we, the church, be a part of the solution? How might the Holy Spirit be breathing new life into your community of faith, your life?

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

Family of Velda Sponaugle, Cindy Siegman's aunt
Isabell Brooks
Peggy Twyman
Nancy Jones
Steven Satterfield
Linda Stoops
Kirk Gullledge, Rev. Walker's uncle
Thomas Stemple, family of Deanna Kritzer & Ben Poling
Family of Janice Stemple

ANNIVERSARIES

March 6	David & Penny Roberts
16	Glen & Dana Satterfield
26	Ken & Michele Miller

PRAYER LIST

Judy Palmer
Amy Koon
Jean Lambert
Terri Bonasso
Family of June Spiker
Lois Brummage

JANUARY/FEBRUARY PLEDGES & GIFTS

January 29	\$2,925
February 5	\$2,917
February 12	\$3,046
Total:	\$8,888

Total to Date: \$34,889

*March Ministry
Volunteers*

Liturgist: Amy Koon
USHERS : Marilyn Morgan/Earl Straight (captain),
Jim Thompson, Janet Chitum

NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on March 12 & 26



18 Foster Care bags donated

The kids at Parents' Night Out in December packed bags for Foster Care children and teens. The bags contained toiletries, Bibles and devotional material and some games and toys. Each bag was labeled for the appropriate age and sex of the child.

Thanks to the church's donations we were able to pack 18 bags! They were delivered to Faithful Fostering Foster Closet in Grafton, WV. Faithful Fostering was very happy to receive the bags; they serve over 100 foster children each year. They are always looking for beds, sheets, car seats and other "big ticket" items for fostering families.

Goodbye letter to First Church

Dear First Church,

I have been here for five years and it is very hard to say good bye. The Christian Discipleship position was expanded by Session, and I can no longer meet the scheduling requirements.

The church and everyone in it, has become such a big part of my life and my family's life. We will miss seeing everyone on Sunday, but we are so thankful for the friendships we have forged! The old adage states, this is not "good-bye" but "see you later" and indeed we will. My children can't wait to visit, now and then, to sing and ring bells and see their friends.

Thank you so much for letting me serve here for five years. It has been a pleasure to see your children grow in faith and in stature! It has been so cool to see many of the children mature from babies to kids and from kids to young adults. The questions they ask have always impressed me and their knowledge of the books of the Bible is really inspiring. I loved making videos with them and having them perform in Christmas Pageants. I especially loved Parents'



Night Out when we had the opportunity to dive deeper into the Bible and eat together and play games and do crafts with one another. There are so many things I will miss but so many blessings that have occurred during my time here.

We have been so blessed by your prayers throughout the years and we will continue to pray for you. We will always cherish the prayers you said when Rada was a baby in the hospital and when Ryan tried to cut off his toe (on accident of course!). The welcome you gave Prairie was beyond compare. It was such a lonely time, as no one was venturing out in January 2021. Your cards and gifts brought light to that season of our lives, and they are forever in her baby book as a testament to the welcome she received!

We are so thankful for all of you. Please stay in touch with us!

Ecclesiastes 7:8 says the end of a matter is better than the beginning. This has always puzzled me but maybe I understand it a little better now. Endings are sad, but they are sad because you have amassed memories and friendships and lessons. It is sad to see an end to seasons of life but how much better is it to have all those memories and experiences than merely the anticipation of a beginning. Endings are better because before the ending, celebrations and blessings abounded!

Thank you so much for my time with you! I know God wanted me here and put me here and it was so wonderful. - Janel Nye

Hospitality announces upcoming events

Thank you to all who helped with Marley's Adoption Reception, Souper Bowl of Caring and Marley's Baptism Reception. February was truly a month of blessings here at FPC!

Upcoming in March - Lenten Dinners and Seder Meal
Dinner Reservations are suggested during Lent. Please call Deanna at (304) 694-2379 by Monday of each week during Lent for dinner reservations.

Lenten Dinner at 5:30pm. Study at 6:00pm.

Wednesday, March 1: Menu- Baked Potato Bar with the fixings
Wednesday, March 8: Menu- Soup Beans, Cornbread and Cole Slaw.

Wednesday, March 15: Menu- Fish Sticks or Chicken Nuggets, Mac-n-Cheese, veggies and dip.

Wednesday, March 22: Menu- Taco Salad Bar.

Wednesday, March 29: Menu- Baked Pasta, Salad and Bread.

Maundy Thursday Dinner at 5:30 pm.

Thursday, April 6: Seder Meal

Parents' Night Out

Friday, March 3: Hospitality host: Janet Chittum. Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7: Hospitality meeting at 10 a.m. in the church parlor.

Deanna Kritzer & Anne Schooley

Scouts partipate in Pine & Klondike Derbys

The Cub Scouts recently had their Pinewood Derby here at the church. We awarded top three finishers and scout's choice.

The boy and girl troops both attended the Klondike Derby in Doddridge County. It is a "dog" sled race to 12 stations to perform various things from knot tying to first aid to sewing or fire building.



SCOUTS IN ACTION.
Scout team pulls its sled at the Klondike Derby. Martha and Earl Sweet's grandsons, George and Thomas Pigott show their cars and awards at the Pinewood Derby held at First Church.



**FIRST CHURCH
CELEBRATES
Marley Robert
Walker's adoption
and Baptism.**



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

the
March 2023 *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
301 JACKSON ST.
FAIRMONT, WV 26554