



# the Chimes

March 2024

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 are in the middle of Lent with Easter coming at the very end of this month. Yes, we have a whole month more of Lent. This is the oldest observance in the Christian tradition, and one of the most important. To keep us in this mindset, we turn to a strange passage in the Gospel of Mark.

“On the following day, when [Jesus and his disciples] came from Bethany, [Jesus] was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. He said to it, ‘May no one ever eat fruit from you again.’ And his disciples heard it...In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. Then Peter remembered and said to him, ‘Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.’” (Mark 11:12-14, 20-21)

This is such an odd little passage. I've often felt bad for this fig tree because it did nothing wrong. Jesus just doesn't really know the season for figs and the tree gets his wrath. Why include such a strange story that makes Jesus look bad?

If you notice, the fig tree story actually brackets a much more famous



event. The verses I skipped (15-19) tell of Jesus cleansing the temple. With this context, Jesus is enacting a parable for his disciples and for us. Jesus seeks to find fruit within a tree. Instead, Jesus discovers a tree that looks great on the outside and from a distance but

lacking any substance. This is exactly what Jesus discovers in the Temple. Activity abounds. Priests are busy. People offer sacrifices. It looks great!

Jesus, however, seeks for the fruit and comes up empty. The temple sure is busy, but not busy with the right stuff. Jesus wants the temple to be “a house of prayer for all nations.” Jesus wants real, life-changing fruit and has no time or patience for flashy, but ultimately empty, religious gestures.

That is the point of Lent. What are we doing in our lives, individually and communally, that bears true fruit and what looks good? Lent is all about that self-examination. Jesus comes and reaches his hand inside looking for good fruit that witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. What will he find within our hearts and our lives?

Perhaps, even worse than  
*(Continues on page 3)*



- 9 a.m. Sunday School & Handbell Choir
- 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

**This month** has started off on a sad note as we learned

of the passing of longtime church member, Jim DeLong. Jim sang in the Chancel Choir for many years since I started as music director in 2009. He rarely missed a rehearsal or a Sunday anthem. He would frequently come and talk to me after the service about the music that he enjoyed singing or listening to. He was also a regular supporter of concerts in Fairmont.

We extend our prayers for the family and friends of Jim in this time of loss.

Some upcoming events to look forward in music ministry: On Palm Sunday the West Virginia Brass Quintet will be joining us in worship!

Then on Easter the Chancel Choir will be presenting the cantata, *Hallelujah, What a Savior! The Crucified and Risen Christ*. Rather than being written by one composer, this cantata is in fact written by several people with music by Lloyd Larson, Faye Lopez, R. Kevin Boesinger, Larry Shackley, Molly Ijames, Mark Hayes, and Pepper Choplin. The cantata selections are: The King Is Coming Today!, Lord of the Wind and Sea, Gathered in the Upper Room, Gethsemane Prayer, Behold the Lamb!, Hallelujah! What a

Savior!, Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!, and Worthy Is the Lamb. Lloyd Larson and Bryan Sharpe, editors of the cantata wrote of it, "It is an amazing thing to observe the pendulum swing of emotion that scripture indicates transpired in the last days of Jesus' earthly life; from the euphoria surrounding His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the desolation of the lonely Garden as He fully embraced God's plan and ensuing death; from the genuine love conveyed to His faithful followers in the Upper Room to the loneliness experienced in His final hours as those same followers rejected and abandoned Him; from the anger that filled the hearts of those who now called for His crucifixion (only hours after having hailed Him as King) to the tender resignation of a Roman soldier that this indeed was the Son of God; from utter despair as He died on a cross to triumphant joy as Christ's followers began to realize that His prophetic words had become reality – that He had indeed been raised from the dead! All of this, and so much more...within a single week! The varied emotions displayed in this remarkable week are not foreign to our own life experiences as we live this side of eternity. There are seasons of joy and seasons of despair; mountain-top experiences blended with experiences in the "valley of the

shadow of death". But ultimately, we shall stand before the living Christ in a climactic celebration of life's journey!

We have been extended an invitation to live forever and to worship the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Someday all followers of Christ will be able to bow before the Messiah joining in one voice as we proclaim: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth, and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and praise forever and ever! Amen!"

May the peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison  
*Director of Music and Organist*



Longtime church member, Jim DeLong (right) sings with the Chancel Choir during the 2014 Christmas pageant.



## Mark Your Calendars

- April Chimes deadline is **Monday, March 18** at noon.
- Session Meeting: March 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- Lenten Studies: Wednesdays on March 6, 13, 20
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Chancel Choir rehearsal: Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

## Apple Butter Day

Mark your calendars! Apple Butter Day will take place **Saturday, September 28**. We hope to make four kettles to support our Shoes for Kids Project. Last year, we provided more than 450 pairs of shoes to children across the county. The need is great! Even though we're still months away from the event, you can help right now by bringing supplies to the church. They include jars, lids, rings, and sugar. If you have any questions, contact Jennie Poling at [jenniepolding@outlook.com](mailto:jenniepolding@outlook.com).

## Church Yard Sale

Start your Spring cleaning early. We need your unwanted items. First Presby will be participating in the annual Main Street Fairmont Yard Sale on **Saturday, April 13**.

The event will take place at the downtown parking garage. We hope the old saying, "One man's trash is another man's treasure," will help us raise some serious cash for our Shoes for Kids Project. We'll take whatever you want to give away, but "hot" items include gently used baby clothes and kid's toys, small appliances still in working order and costume jewelry. You can drop off your items at the church, but please call first to make sure someone will be there. We'll also need volunteers to help price items prior to the sale and to work the day of the sale. Contact Jennie Poling if you're interested.



**WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERING  
FOODS • CLOTHING • SUPPLIES

## One Great Hour of Sharing

On **Sunday, March 24**, we will collect our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This is an annual event held during Lent but have you ever stopped to think what it's all about?

At this moment, millions of people across the world lack access to basic needs like food, clean water, and sanitation. These are things we take for granted but are

unattainable luxuries for those living in impoverished areas or disaster zones. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering goes to assist communities here in the U.S. and abroad with disaster relief, hunger programs and self-development to lift people out of poverty. To learn more about the program and how it's improving lives, go to [specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/](http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/). We hope you will give generously.

## Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

looking good but bearing no fruit, is Jesus finding rot. That rot we define as sin, which we all have. It is not the same for everyone. Recalling the series on the seven deadly sins, we all face pride, anger, lust, gluttony, envy, sloth, and greed. These things threaten to destroy us from the inside out. This is exactly what we need to be saved from.

The practice of giving something up for Lent has deep roots, but I encourage to think deeper. This practice began as a way to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross for our sins. Giving up chocolate or soft drinks seems rather silly next to the sacrifice of the cross. Instead, Jesus has come to give us a new heart – "A heart of flesh instead of stone." Jesus' sacrifice saves us from our sin, but also saves us for a purpose – to bear fruit and to glorify God.

The question we must face is what holds us back from bearing good fruit and glorifying God? What will Jesus find among us when he comes searching for fruit?

May our lives, though not perfectly in this life, bear the fruits of the Spirit.  
To the glory of God,  
Rev. Evan Walker

## SOLVING THE CHILD ABUSE PUZZLE

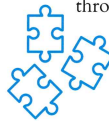
FITTING TOGETHER THE PIECES OF PREVENTION

## CHILD WATCH VISITATION DAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Join us as we learn about the community resources children experience on their journey through the child welfare and foster care system.



Brought to you by  
Marion County Child Advocacy Center  
NCWVCAA Head Start  
CASA of Marion County  
WV DHHR



Free to register at  
[casaofmarion.org/events](http://casaofmarion.org/events)  
or call (304) 366-4198

# CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY  
9AM - 12 PM ON TUESDAY

Phone (304) 366-2628

Fax (304) 366-2662

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

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

## Staff

### Pastor

Evan Walker

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

### Director of Music

John Morrison

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

### Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

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

### Office Coordinator

Cathy Woodson

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

### Sexton

Charles Lettrick

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

## Session

### CLERK OF SESSION

Kathy Snider

### ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

### OUTREACH

Amy Koon

Jennie Poling

### PROPERTY

Rob Steele

Joe Jernigan

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

Pam Stalnaker

Marilyn Morgan

### CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jill Zundell

Meredith Knight

### HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer

Anne Schooley

## Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

### NURSERY ATTENDANTS



## Hospitality announces March events

Thank you to all who brought soup to share for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Our social room was full, and it was wonderful to witness the fellowship had by all. Thank you to the Boy Scouts for their help in getting the social room ready for the luncheon, as well as helping with clean-up. We greatly appreciated the help!

The Lenten study will continue on the following Wednesdays: March 6, 13 and 20, with dessert available at 5:30 p.m.

On Sunday, March 10, we will host our Easter Dinner immediately following Sunday service. Please RSVP to Deanna at 304-694-2379. The menu includes ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable medley, Charlene's salad and dinner rolls. We will have a variety of pies for dessert, as well as iced tea, lemonade, water, coffee and hot tea to drink.

Our next Hospitality meeting will take place Tuesday, March 5, at 10 a.m. in the church parlor. If you would like to join our committee, please attend!

Deanna Kritzer

## Keeping you updated with Property

Work continues on the installation of the new elevator. Property will be presenting to Session a request for funds to replace the last of the old boilers, hot water tank, and main water shutoff.

Two new chair racks have been purchased for storing folding chairs in the social room.



# March Nurturing Faith Ideas

## SCRIPTURE

March 3: Read John 2:13-22

After clearing the temple, Jesus is asked to prove his authority to do such a thing. He responds, "Destroy this temple; I will raise it again in three days." How do these words make you marvel at Christ's authority and how he would display it through his death and resurrection?

March 10: Read John 3:14-21

We hear that the Light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness instead. What are some ways that we choose the darkness or hide from the Light? What are ways that we can set our gaze on the One who was lifted up to deliver us from the darkness?

March 17: Read John 12:20-33

What does Jesus mean when he says, "Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life"? How can we avoid the self-love that he describes? How can we pursue the self-denial that we are called to model?

March 31: Read John 20:1-18

Each gospel tells the story of Jesus' resurrection differently. In John's gospel, the risen Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene as she stood near the empty tomb. Mary didn't recognize Jesus until he spoke her name; after that encounter, she went and told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord." Are you open to hearing Jesus speak to you when you don't expect it? What might you do to be more open to that possibility?

## BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH

3/4	Peggy Twyman Charlene Walker
3/11	Mia Mersinger Amy Turlock
3/16	Judy Scott
3/17	David Floyd
3/18	Joan Krause-Smith
3/22	Marilyn Morgan
3/28	Emily Starn
3/30	Linda O'Connor

## ANNIVERSARIES

### MARCH

3/6	Dave & Penny Roberts
3/16	Glen & Dana Satterfield

## PRAYER LIST

Family of Mike Fox, Pam & Penny's brother-in-law  
Family of Jim DeLong  
Family of Christine Buckner

Lisa Jones  
Polly Wilson  
Nick, Donna Dodd's friend  
Londia Goff  
Carolyn Kerr  
Paul Hines, Marilyn Morgan's brother-in-law  
Judy Palmer  
DD Meighen  
Kenny Dean  
Brad Dodd  
Peggy Twyman  
Ramona Baker  
Linda Stoops

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY

### PLEDGES & GIFTS

January 21	\$2,030
January 28	\$3,215
February 4	\$4,569
February 11	\$1,480
Total:	\$11,294
Total to Date:	\$16,821

March Ministry  
Volunteers

Liturgist: Amy Turluck

USHERS : Earl Straight (captain), Janet Chittum & Ed Cummings



NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on March 10 & 24.



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

*the*  
March 2024 *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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