

the Chimes

November 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Pastoral Message

The Other Side of Gratitude

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever." — Psalm 107:1

November is the month when we talk a lot about being thankful. We count our blessings, gather around the table, and remember to say thank you. But I've been wondering lately: What is the opposite of gratitude?

Maybe it's not simply being ungrateful. Maybe it's taking things for granted. We get used to the roof over our heads, the food on our table, and the people who love us. When was the last time you were thankful for running water, realizing that it is a luxury for some people? Are you grateful that you have no need for a bomb shelter where you live? We worry about *what* we are going to eat, but we don't worry that we will have *nothing* to eat. Maybe the other side of gratitude is being so comfortable that we forget that ordinary things are blessings, too.

Gratitude means being thankful for what we have been given. The opposite is being dissatisfied with what we have. Do you find yourself thinking about what is missing instead of noticing what is already here? We look at our neighbor's greener grass and forget the comfy rocking chair on our own porch. The Israelites often grumbled and complained, even after God's miraculous deliverance from Egypt. When we find ourselves grumbling about what we don't have, we may have wandered to the other side of gratitude.

Gratitude recognizes that what we have is a gift from God. The opposite is believing that we are entitled to all these good things—that what we have is simply what we deserve. We may think that if someone else has something, we should have it, too. And when we have worked hard for what we have earned, it's easy to forget that we haven't done it all on our own. Our talents and abilities, the opportunities that came our way, and the people who taught us and encouraged us along the way are gifts, too. Hard work matters, but so does remembering all that made it possible.

Gratitude doesn't mean life is always easy. There are empty chairs at our tables, worries we carry, prayers that seem unanswered, and days when giving thanks comes hard. Faith doesn't ask us to pretend those things don't hurt. Rather, gratitude invites us to look for God's goodness even in the midst of life's difficulties.

This November, may we do more than count our blessings. May we recognize them as gifts, receive them with humble hearts, and share them generously with others. A grateful heart doesn't just change how we see what we have. It changes how we live. For one of the best ways to give thanks to God is to become a blessing to someone else.

Rev. Rene Tyro



- **10:30 a.m. Worship Service**
- **8:30 a.m. Childcare begins**
- **9 a.m. Youth Sunday School - 3rd. floor**
- **9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School - Parlor**
- **9 a.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal**
- **10 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

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

We're a **Matthew 25** church
pcusa.org/matthew25

Musical Notes

from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist

On October 11, the Cambridge Handbells had the pleasure of giving the première of a newly composed work, "Antiphon" by Stanley Leonard. What made this bell piece particularly special was that it was dedicated to our long time choir members Stan and Linda Swihart.

Some background about the composer: Stanley Leonard, 95 years young, was the bell director at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church in Naples, FL for many years. He is an Eastman School of Music graduate and retired tympanist in the Pittsburgh Symphony playing notably under conductor André Previn. He is highly regarded in the percussion world. Another fun fact is that he has been married for 74 years! We want to thank Stanley for sharing this beautiful



composition which gives hints of the melodies in "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" and "Auld Lang Syne".

November 1 is All Saint Day when the names of family and friends who have passed away this year will be read during the service. Roger Kritzer will toll a bell after the reading of each name. We offer our prayers for everyone who has faced the loss of a loved one this year.

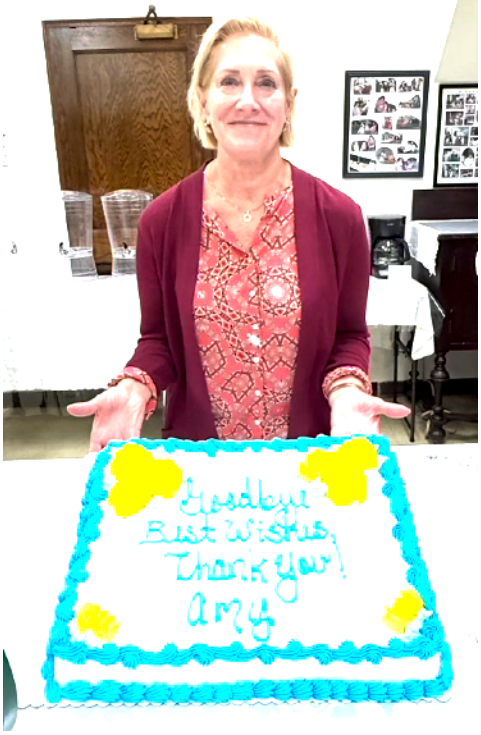
Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata, Sunday, December 20! The choir will be presenting The Poetry of Promise, A Cantata for Christmas by Joseph M. Martin.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

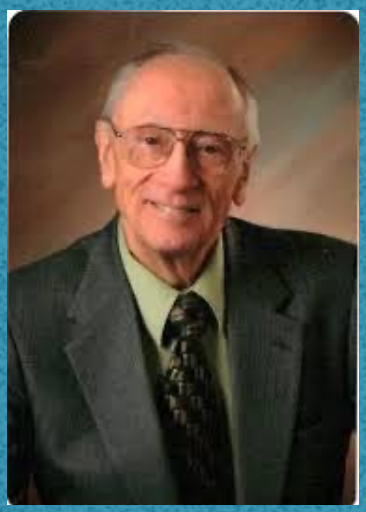
John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



Reminder: Office hours may be affected by winter weather. On days the Marion County schools enact a 2-hour delay, the office will be open from 10 a.m.-1p.m. School closings will likely result in a full closure. Please call the main office before heading in.



In Memory of
the Rev. Richard (Dick) Bowyer
A wonderful, faithful friend to First Presbyterian Church



Mark Your Calendars

- **Material for the DECEMBER 2026 issue of *The Chimes* is due by Friday, November 20 at noon. THANKS!**
- **Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.**
- **Women's Breakfast: November 12 at 9 a.m. McAteer's**
- **Session Meeting: November 17 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Advent Craft/Chili Cook-off: November 15**
- **Staff/Session Christmas Dinner: December 4**
- **Christmas Pageant/Dinner: December 6**
- **Vocal Tapestry Concert: December 6 at 3 p.m.**

Hospitality events for Nov. & Dec.

Here is a list of Hospitality's upcoming events through the end of the year. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

November 1	Donuts and muffins in the social room
November 3	Hospitality meeting in the parlor at 10 a.m.
November 8	Baby Shower for Jane in the social room.
November 15	Advent Craft and Chili cook off competition. We will have a first, second, and third place prize for the cook off. Look for an EVITE and more information in the upcoming bulletins.
December 1	Hospitality meeting in the parlor at 10 a.m.
December 4	Staff and Session Christmas Party
December 6	Christmas Dinner. There will be an EVITE sent out as well as with more information in the church bulletins. We will be asking the congregation to bring homemade cookies.
December 6	Vocal Tapestry reception
December 7	Cookies will be delivered to our First Responders
December 12	We will be serving hot chocolate and cookies at the Shoes for Kids pick up.





Thank you, Sunshine Committee

If you've never lost a loved one, or, if you've never had a medical procedure or surgery, or, if you've never been sick and under the weather, you may not be aware of the healing cards and prayers from a wonderful group called The Sunshine Committee!

The cards that come in the mail make you feel so good when you're not at your best . During my recent shoulder surgery, I was the recipient of an outpouring of love from this group! Many thanks to all who sent cards and messages, checked on me and prayed for me! We are so blessed to be a part of a caring community! Keep spreading sunshine!

Diane Floyd

Outreach Team collecting for Hope

Outreach continues to collect paper and cleaning supplies for Hope now through November. Boxes are located by the main office.

The team is also looking for winter coats for our Street Donations. A big thank you to everyone who helped make Apple Butter Day a huge suggest. There are still some pint jars for sale that support the Shoes for Kids Project.





Contact Information

Office Hours: 9 am - 1 pm on Monday thru Thursday

Phone (304) 366-2628 **Fax (304) 366-2662**
Email: office@fairmontfirst.net **Web: www.fpcfairmont.com**

Youth & Children's Ministry:

We have lots of exciting things happening in Christian Education!

We are excited to welcome Brigitte as she prepares to take over after Jane leaves to welcome her new baby. We are grateful for Brigitte's willingness to step into this role and look forward to all the wonderful things ahead.

Our upcoming Advent crafts are sure to bring some holiday cheer! We will be offering a children's Advent calendar craft, an adult snowman decoration craft, and a Christmas ornament craft. We look forward to sharing this special time of creativity and fellowship with everyone.

We are currently looking for a Sunday School teacher. If you or someone you know might be interested in helping teach and guide our children in their faith, please speak with Jane or any member of the Christian Education (CE) team.

Our youth are also looking for five individuals to help during the holidays. Youth would assist with putting up Christmas decorations or yard cleanup for approximately one hour each. If you know someone who might benefit, please let the CE team know.

We have had so much fun recently! Children's Sabbath was a wonderful time, and our Halloween-themed Children's Church was filled with fun, creativity, and learning. We are thankful for the opportunity to help our children grow in faith while making lasting memories together.

We are also collecting gently used toys for the Toy Store. If you have toys in good condition that your family no longer needs, please consider donating them to help make the season brighter for others. We will have a collection bin for donations.

In honor of Veterans Day, our children and youth are finding meaningful ways to thank those who have served our country. The children made cards, and the youth created pipe-cleaner flowers to share with veterans as a small token of appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

Finally, we are looking forward to our Christmas pageant! If your child would like to participate, please see Jane for more information. We would love to have our children be part of this special celebration of the birth of Jesus. Be on the lookout in your inbox for the evite where you can view the Pageant script and sign up for parts.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our children, youth, and Christian Education ministry. Your time, generosity, and encouragement help make these opportunities possible. We look forward to a joyful season of faith, fellowship, and service together!





Staff

Pastor

Director of Music
John Morrison
music@fairmontfirst.net

Discipleship Ministry Coordinator
Jane Mead
discipleship@fairmontfirst.net

Office Coordinator
Karen Mersinger
office@fairmontfirst.net

Sexton
Nancy Carnes
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

November Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

November 1: Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost/All Saints' Day – Read Revelation 7:9-17
In the Reformed tradition, saints are believers of all times, past, present and future, through whom the light of God shines. As the author of Revelation reminds us, saints come from every nation, tribes, peoples, and languages of all ages and sizes. Give thanks to God for the saints in your lives who have shared their faith and hope with you.

November 8: Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Read Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Joshua gathered the people to renew their covenant with God. The people reaffirmed that they would serve and obey the Lord their God as people of the covenant. We, too, are called to choose to serve God rather than tun away from God and to reaffirm our commitment to God and God's ways. How does your life show that you have chosen to serve God?

November 15: Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Read Matthew 25:14-30
The Parable of the talents encourages us to use the gifts that God has given us, be they large or small, in service to God. List some of the gifts and abilities God has given you, and how you use them, or could use them, in your church and to help others.

November 22: Christ the King/Reign of Christ – Read Matthew 25:31-46
Jesus tells the story of some who fed others, gave others something to drink, gave them clothes, took care of them when they were sick, visited them in prison, welcomed them when they were a stranger, and some who didn't. They were all surprised to find that in doing so, or failing to do so, they did these things to/for Christ. The story reminds us to see Christ in all whom we encounter.

November 29: First Sunday of Advent – Read Mark 13:24-37
This week we enter Advent as we begin a new church year. In Advent, we gather around the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love as we prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming as the baby of Bethlehem and we wait for Christ's return. Jesus reminds us in this passage that only God knows when Christ will return, and, in the meantime, we are to be alert and awake as we wait.

NOVEMBER

Birthdays

11/5	Charles Lettrick
11/6	Reid Harvey
11/7	Jeff Jenkins
11/19	Catie Blankenship Snyder
11/16	Sophie Starn
11/17	Linda Swihart
11/20	Missy Downs
11/22	Alisa Perdue
11/23	Jan Miller
11/24	Becky Kettering
11/25	Jack Snyder
11/27	Matt Snyder
11/28	Harry Hadley

Anniversaries

11/15	Joe & Benita Jernigan
11/16	Adam & Lauren Ranson

Prayer List

Family of Rev. Richard Bowyer
Deb Bermingham
Jim Bermingham
Cindi Siegman
Family of Roger Bopp, Pam Nolan's uncle
Grace Shoemaker
Jennifer Jones, Pam Nolan's niece
Alan Moran, Blake Boggess's neighbor
Cathy Woodson, hospice care
Diane Floyd
Robert Kerns, Judy Shaver's cousin
Florene Kendall
Betty Lou Sheets
Donna Dodd
Steve Satterfield

September/October Pledges & Gifts

September 20	$5,651
September 27	$1,538
October 4	$3,270
Shoes for Kids	$91.46
October 11	$14,185
World Communion	$782
Apple Butter	$1,999
October 18	$2,151
Ismael	$121.17
Total:	$29,788.63

Total to Date: $184,990.18

NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM
FOLLOW US on Social Media

November Ministry Volunteers

Liturgist: Reid Harvey

Ushers: Earl Straight (captain), Janet Miller & Ken Miller



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

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301 JACKSON ST.
FAIRMONT, WV 26554