



# the Chimes

October 2021

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,

The last couple of weeks have been rough for me and my family as we faced a COVID outbreak in the house. None of us were spared, although thankfully some had very mild symptoms. While thinking about this, my mind went to an offering that Paul collected for the Jerusalem church when the Jerusalem church suddenly faced famine and hardship.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 8:1-6 "We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you."



Now I do not presume to be a saint. Instead, I read this text and gave thanks to God for this church. Particularly the portions of "have overflowed in a wealth of generosity...for I can testify they gave voluntarily." Yes

friends, I can testify to your servant hearts. We did not experience nearly the hardships of the Jerusalem church, but we received generously from your love and service. We cannot thank this church enough for the support and outpouring of love.

I am usually the pastor and I see myself as the giver. It is much different to be on the other side when each of you pastored me and my family. Generally, Jennifer has taken care of me and I her because we don't get sick together and have never had to quarantine quite like this. It truly was a blessing to receive a text or phone call inviting us to open our front door and find some offering of food, groceries, and medicine when we could not do it for ourselves. I knew this church was a loving congregation that stepped up to help others in need. I just didn't figure I would be on the receiving end of that.

**(continued on page 6)**



## Worship Schedule

- 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

Worship Service is online only at [fpcfairmont.com](http://fpcfairmont.com) & Facebook

Masks are required at any in-person services/functions at the church.



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

Thanks to Stan Swihart, Anne and John Schooley, and John O'Connor for singing for worship during the month of September!

We also had a guest flutist, Dr. Alyssa Schwartz, who played for the August 29th service. Alyssa is the Fairmont State Band director and as you heard, a phenomenal flutist. Recently she gave her Germany debut in August 2021 as a first-prize winner of the Senior Division of the 2021 Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition- Bonn. Winners in each division from around the world were given the opportunity to perform at the winner's recital at the concert hall in Beethoven's House in Bonn, Germany in honor of the composer's 250th birthday (December of 2020). According to Alyssa recounting her experience: "The beautiful recital hall overlooks the gardens of Beethoven's childhood home, which has been transformed into a museum displaying such historic artifacts as the last of Beethoven's pianos, some original manuscripts, employment contracts, portraits, and a collection of his hearing trumpets."

Due to the current increasing infection rates of the Covid-19 pandemic in our community and state, Session has voted to return to virtual worship. As you join us virtually, I invite you to sing along from home with our service vocalists! Singing hymns is such a wonderful way to worship and feel a sense of community even as we are physically separated.



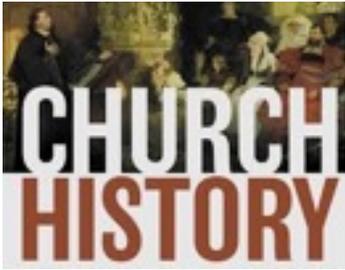
This concert can be viewed at:  
[www.facebook.com/FairmontSoFA](https://www.facebook.com/FairmontSoFA)

May the Peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison  
Director of Music/Organist

For those who like to hear a great violin/piano duo concert: A guest artist duo, the Hessler Street Duo, performed in Wallman Hall in September to a limited invited audience which was also livestreamed.





# 1st CHURCH's HISTORY CORNER

by Jean Lambert

## Time to kick off a new season with family, friends, good food

Since Rally Day was postponed to a later date, we will display some pictures of previous Rally Day Celebrations.

For a number of years Rally Day was held in the Social Room of the Church. More recently it was moved outside to Wave Tech Pool area, Palatine Park, or Mary Lou Retton Park where we had the Church service followed by the picnic meal. Good food was enjoyed as members were asked to bring a dish to share with either chicken, hot dogs or hamburgers provided by the Hospitality Committee.

Games played after the picnic included three-legged race, water balloon and football toss, miniature golf, corn-hole board toss, and at Palatine Park the splash park area was enjoyed by the children.

We will hope for a Rally Day celebration and, if not this year, definitely next year.



## October Prayer List

Family of Raymond Johnson  
Daniel Webster  
Gail Kevenk  
Douglas Zigmont, Ruth Martin's nephew  
Tom Cox, Alena Crockett's father  
Les Lockhart  
Family of Willa Hood  
Donald Morrison, John's father  
Scott Weisenborn

William Siegman, Cynthia's father  
Blair Montgomery  
Steven Satterfield, Pam Stalnaker & Penny Roberts nephew  
Marilyn McDougal  
Patty Snider

# CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM MONDAY - THURSDAY

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

Janel Nye  
[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

John O'Connor

### ADMINISTRATION

Benita Jernigan  
Amy Turluck

### OUTREACH

Penny Roberts  
Diane Floyd

### PROPERTY

Eric Hauser  
Jason Burdette

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda O'Connor  
Pam Stalnaker

### CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jenny Poling  
Adam Ranson

### HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer  
Kathy Snider

## Treasurers

Roger Kritzer  
David Floyd

### Nursery Attendants

Christy Erickson



### SHARING GOD'S LOVE ALL MONTH LONG!

Here are suggestions for sharing God's love with others. Take purposeful action during the month of October. Share with neighbors, friends, and family.

#### Sharing God's Love

I Kings 19:12b (NIV): "After the fire came a gentle whisper." This verse follows Elijah's instruction to wait and watch for God. Small children are short! Yes, they are much closer to the floor than we adults are. To share God's love, move to their level by kneeling, squatting, or sitting. From this position, you will be ready to hear what they are saying and a gentle whisper.

#### Sharing God's Love

Children are hardwired to move. One-year-olds new to walking will circle, bend, tumble and roll, interpreting the feel of the music. Unashamed and unafraid to express themselves through movement, children skip, gallop, hop, sit, shake and wiggle. Scripture is filled with actions words: go up, kneel down, clap, raise our hands. But in church children are taught to restrain themselves. Perhaps we will ask God for a child-like heart so that we can begin to worship freely, without shame or inhibition. Perhaps we will lift up our hands and bow down to our maker, together with our children.

#### Sharing God's Love

October is a busy month with fall festivals, leaf-raking, football, and carving pumpkins. It is also a time of great beauty here in West Virginia as the plants and trees change from summer growth to winter rest.

Darkness comes earlier, and fears can emerge. With God's love, we can acknowledge fear as a reality for some. Stay with anyone who is afraid, and show them compassion. Share God's love.

#### Sharing God's Love

Look for times you can include children and others you are with in the conversation. From the Ivory Coast comes this proverb: "Talking with one another is loving one another." Love one another in conversation this and every week.



# October Nurturing Faith Ideas

## SCRIPTURE

**October 3 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 22: Read Mark 10: 2-16**

Jesus told the disciples that whoever does not receive the kingdom as a little child will never enter it. We must disregard our goals of fame and fortune and turn to God as powerless children. How do you need to change your thinking to make this happen?

**October 10 - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 23: Read Mark 10: 17-31**

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God. Wealth and honor will not get you into the kingdom. How do you prioritize your need for wealth and your desire to enter the kingdom of God?

**October 17 - Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 24: Read Job 38: 1-7**

Job has suffered greatly, and his friends give advice. Elihu puts Job in his place, so to speak, declaring his unworthiness to question God. God's response is a rebuke to Elihu and friends who speak without knowledge. Job in his anguish, yells at God; do you ever do the same? How does God respond?

**October 24 - Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 25: Read Mark 10: 46-52**

Jesus heals Bartimaeus' eyesight because of the faith with which he shouted out to Jesus, and he becomes a follower of Jesus. Bartimaeus did not fear the rebukes of the disciples but continued to call out in faith. How can you and your family work to strengthen your faith considering your trials and suffering so you call upon Jesus for help?

**October 31 - Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 26: Read Mark 12: 25-34**

Although Jesus is often critical of scribes, this one agrees with the most important commandments necessary to be a follower: Love God and your neighbor. How do you live out these commandments in your everyday life?

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 5	Doug Shaver
October 11	Stan Swihart
October 12	Ron Steele
October 13	Ami Starn Brian Starn
October 15	Jim Kettering
October 21	Earl Straight
October 27	Christine Nolan

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER PLEDGES & GIFTS

August 29	\$3,465
September 5	\$2,430
September 12	\$2,725
September 19	\$1,779.38
August/September Total:	\$10,399.38

To Date Total: \$107,982.38

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

October 7	Erin & Eric Hauser
October 12	Rob & Kim Steele

*October Ministry  
Volunteers*

## USHERS

Jim Thompson (captain), Ken Miller, Mike,  
Charlene, Caden Walker

## Mark Your Calendars

- November Chimes deadline is **Friday, October 22** at noon.
- Session Meeting: Tuesday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteers at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
- Dedication Sunday, October 31
- Sunshine Team: October 28 at 1 p.m.
- Nettie Blubaugh Fund: October 28 at 2 p.m.

## Special Thank You to First Church

On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, please convey our appreciation to your mission committee, pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support. On July 21, 2021, we received \$60.63 for 102 Shared Mission Support.

Yours in Christ,  
Lynne Foreman  
Mission Engagement Adviser

Thank you for your congregation's generosity in donating to CASA of Marion County. Every dollar we receive allows us to further our advocacy to more of the abused and neglected children in Marion County.

Gratefully,  
Shannon Hogue and staff

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

To be perfectly honest, I have never been that great at accepting help. This experience left me no option. In a way, I am thankful because God revealed to us even more the love of this church and how blessed we are to be a part of it.

I am humbled and even more thankful than I was previously to be your pastor, called by God to this congregation in Fairmont. We have been here slightly over a year and yet you have given us such a warm welcome. Your calls, texts, emails, cards, and gifts caused us to continually turn to doxology of praise to God and gratitude to be here with you all.

If we tried to compose a "thank you letter" to everyone who reached out, we would undoubtedly forget someone and that is not our desire. Instead, we offer our most heartfelt gratitude to this church that surrounded us as we know you have surrounded so many others.

It is my prayer, that I may hold these lessons you have taught and shared and that I may become more and more like you in Christlike love and service and that together we may give ourselves each day more and more to Jesus Christ our Savior who gave himself for us.

In the love of Christ our Lord,  
Rev. Evan Walker and family



*"Giving is a Joy if we do it in the right spirit. It all depends on whether we think of it as "What can I spare?" or as "What can I share?"* Esther York Burkholder

## Stewardship Campaign Dedication Sunday, October 31





### *Church Library reorganized*

The church library is organized and ready to be used. The books have been classified by subject and the subjects are listed under the book section. If you find anything in the incorrect category please put it in the

correct category.

There are many classic titles and also many new reads. The library has everything from theology and Bible reference books to Christian fiction and popular Christian best sellers. There is a whole section of children's books and youth books as well. Please use this amazing resource!

While we work on obtaining a book return, please put your books on one of the tables in order to be reshelved.

Happy reading!



### *Craft Room also has been reorganized*

The craft room has been reorganized. There are many supplies available for Sunday school, children's event and holiday celebrations. If you use anything, please leave your unused supplies

on the table so they can be reshelved.

Thank you!



### *Sunday School postponed; materials still available for sermon topics for children*

Session's recent decision has postponed Sunday School. Materials related to the daily sermon topic will be available in the mailboxes in front of my office for all children. They will each have a mailbox with their name on it. These can be used during church. A weekly memory verse will also be included.

Please note, these materials are designed for use in Sunday school so some materials may require adult explanation.



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

*the*  
*October 2021* *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