



the Chimes

October 2023

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,

Things are really starting up at the church this Fall. The staff and the session have both been hard at work planning, organizing, and praying for the Spirit to lead us in this church. Great things are happening at First Presbyterian! I recognize the truth, though. It will be easy to get tired.

In this season, I turned to Isaiah 40:28-31.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

This passage has always intrigued me as Isaiah seems to be introducing God to the people once more. He asks rhetorical, but also surprising questions – “Have you not heard?” Isaiah has great news! Isaiah wants us to receive the promises that God is over all things. God created all things.



God does not sleep or get tired. When our strength fails, God remains faithful. Actually, God is most powerful and revealed in our weaknesses. It is there we truly declare with Paul in Galatians 2 – “It is no longer I who love, but it is Christ who lives in me.”

“Have you not heard? Have you not known?” Of course, we have all heard, but how important is it for us to be reminded and turn to God who is our strength and our life, especially as life gets busy and we begin to feel overwhelmed with all that needs to get done.

There are several dates for us to be aware of as siblings in Christ and co-workers in this church. October 8 is Dedication Sunday when we will be asked to commit our time, talents, and treasures to the service of God through this church. October 15 is Children’s Sabbath as our students will lead us in worship. October 29 is our annual Trunk-or-Treat.

Then on November 5, we have a busy, but wonderful Sunday planned. Davis & Elkins Choir will be joining us for worship and President Wood will be offering the Word that morning. *(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 & Facebook





Musical Notes *from John Morrison, Director of Music*

If you have had a chance to look at our handbells recently you may have noticed they look a little shinier. On a Saturday morning toward the end of summer, we had a "bell polishing day."

Thanks to Pam Nolan, Linda Swihart, and Meredith Knight who came out that morning to help us take care of the beautiful White Chapel handbells which have been a part of the musical ministry of the church since the 1970s. I hope for this to continue to be an annual tradition.

The Chancel Choir is back in the swing of things and we are excited

to welcome back our devoted choir members as well as to welcome new member, Jess Fatkin! We have already begun rehearsing the cantata in addition to the weekly anthems. If you are interested in singing in choir either for the cantata and/or for the weekly anthems, come join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm in the choir room! I am happy to talk with anyone who has questions about singing in choir. It is a really fun and wonderful

group of people to be a part of.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison, Director of Music and Organist



Sunday school has begun! We have four great classes this year. PreK-2, 3-5, 6-12 and our adult classes are all meeting from 9 -10 a.m. before church. We give thanks to God for all of our volunteer teachers and our parents for all their help in preparing and kicking off this year. In their first week, all of our participants learned about forgiveness.

September 1 was our first Parents' Night Out of the year. We learned the story of Elijah and the valley of the dry bones, painted special rocks for our church garden and played bible trivia about the miracles in the bible.

Thank you so much to the hospitality team and Jennie Poling for volunteering their time to help us have a great time.

Rally Day was September

10 and while the weather caused us to gather in the Fellowship Hall instead of our original plan of the park pavilion, it didn't diminish our fun. The whole church participated in blessing our teachers, students and their school year as well as joining in an intergenerational craft time. We enjoyed a delicious meal

prepared by both the hospitality team and the hands of every person who brought a dish to share!

Rev. Emily Harden, DCM



First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- November Chimes deadline is **Friday, October 20** at noon.
- Parents' Night Out: October 6 at 5:30 p.m.
- Dedication Sunday: October 8
- Session Meeting: October 17 at 6:30 p.m.
- Children's Sabbath: October 15
- Sunshine Committee: October 26 at 1 p.m. in the parlor
- Trunk-or-Treat: October 29 at church
- Thanksgiving Dinner: November 5
- 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.

Sunshine Committee to meet Oct. 26

On October 26, the Sunshine Committee will be meeting in the parlor at 1 p.m.. Immediately following the meeting, the Women of the Church will meet and decide on their recommendation to Session for how the money in the Nettie Blubaugh Fund will be spent in 2023.

All women are asked to attend the Nettie Blubaugh Fund meeting. If attendance is not possible and you have a special recommendation to make, please send a note to the Church office by October 24 or contact someone who will be attending the meeting.



D&E choir to perform on Sunday, Nov. 5

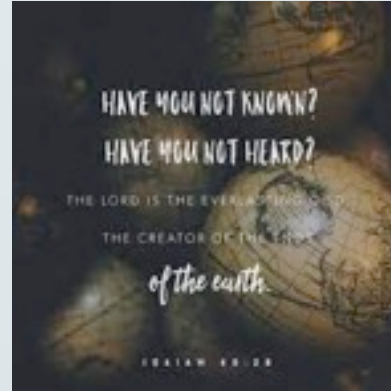
On November 5, the Davis & Elkins College Choir will be performing at our Sunday service.

We will be receiving a "love offering" on October 8, 15 and 22 to present to them at the dinner after the service on November 5.

Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

Many of us know, but perhaps not everyone. This church supports Davis & Elkins annually through our Nettie Blubaugh Funds. We are honored to host them and then share our annual Thanksgiving Dinner with them that same day.

Those are some highlights for the next month on our calendar. I want to personally thank our devoted Session



members willingly leading us. I encourage each of you to also express your gratitude to them. This simple expression can also give energy back to those working so hard.

In all things, we remember that what we do in this church is not for our glory or simply to look busy. We are here to glorify God and to enjoy God forever. We may get frustrated or tired, and

that is normal. But together as we remember our everlasting God who desires to give strength to us, we can go forward renewed and with a better vision than just one more task to accomplish.

"Have you not heard? Have you not known?" Yes, and I am thankful I can be reminded of who God is each and every day.

May God strengthen and renew you so that you may "mount up with wings like eagles".

To the glory of God,

Rev. Evan Walker



stew·ard·ship

/ˈstōərdˌSHɪp/
noun

1. the job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property.

Watch your mail for more information and a pledge form. Prayerfully consider your commitment and bring your pledge form on Dedication Sunday, October 8



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



Property gives update on elevator project, funding

As of today the elevator fund has approximately \$150. This is after an initial check of \$28,725 was written to begin the project.

The project is being done by Neoteric Elevator Concepts out of Charleston. The accepted bid of \$57,450 is to install a new hybrid hydraulic vertical platform lift replacing the elevator just off the main sanctuary.

Please consider donating to this major project. Again, Property would like to thank all those who denoted generously towards the stained glass windows project which has been completed.

Congratulations to The Class of 2026 Session

- Jill Zundell (Christian Discipleship)
- Jennie Poling (Outreach)
- Rob Steele (Property)
- Pam Stalnaker (Worship)

Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker

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Director of Music

John Morrison

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Session

CLERK OF SESSION

Kathy Snider

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

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Jenna Renee Casto

Sophia Sammons



October Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

October 1: Today is World Communion Sunday. The Indonesian word for bread is *roti*. In Spanish, we speak of *pan*. In Hebrew, *lehem*. Offer a prayer today to Jesus Christ, who spoke of himself through the image of bread, while also speaking of our unity with others.

October 8: Exodus 20:1-17 gives us the commands God gave to God's people in the wilderness. This was the way of life and gratitude to which the people of God were/are called : loving God and loving neighbors. Which of these are easy for you to follow? Which are more difficult?

October 15: In Philippians 4:1-9, the author encourages readers to "Rejoice in the Lord always," and, rather than worrying, to turn concerns and thanks over to God in prayer. What makes you rejoice these days? What makes you worry these days? Pray, telling God about all of these.

October 22: In Matthew 22:15-22, Jesus is questioned about paying taxes to the emperor, and he tells those asking him to give to the emperor that things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's. Most, if not all, of what we have is a gift from God. What are some of the things that belong to God? Pray and give thanks for them.

October 29: Read Matthew 22:34-46. Jesus is questioned by a lawyer, one who knew the law, as to what the greatest commandment was. Jesus responded with not just one, but two: Love the Lord your God with all your being, and love your neighbor as yourself. Discuss with a friend or family members ways to show your love for God and love for your neighbor.

BIRTHDAYS

October 5	Doug Shaver
11	Stan Swihart
12	Rob Steele
13	Ami Starn
	Brian Starn
15	Jim Kettering
21	Earl Straight
28	Becky Harvey

Brian Starn
John Coutes
Ann Summer
Ramona Baker
Paul Hines
Michelle Miller
Peggy Twyman
Linda Stoops

ANNIVERSARIES

October 7	Eric & Erin Hauser
12	Rob & Kim Steele

PRAYER LIST

Brad Dodd
Steve Palmer
Calvin Blosser
Devon Crane

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER PLEDGES & GIFTS

August 27	\$1,835
September 3	\$1,162
September 10	\$3,211
September 17	\$1,084
September 24	\$2,415

Total: \$9,707
Total to Date: \$127,138.46

October Ministry
Volunteers

Liturgist: Marilyn Morgan

USHERS : Joe Jernigan (captain), Benita Jernigan & Jim Thompson

NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on October 8 & 22.



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

the
October 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



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