



the Chimes

October 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 have been looking at *The Great Ends of the Church*, written by Presbyterians and included in our Book of Order. Last month, we examined the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.

This month, we consider the second one: the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God. Sounds lofty, and it is—but how important it is.

Acts 4:33-35 describes the early church as follows: “With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”

This is the second time (refer to Acts 2:42) that this description arises, and what a lovely and beautiful picture we get. The apostles proclaim the resurrection of the Lord (see the first Great End) AND they take care of each other in spiritual and physical ways. Imagine that kind of community.

This is what I hear and see when I consider “the shelter, nurture, and



spiritual fellowship of the children of God.”

Shelter. What comes to your mind when you hear this word? There are shelters in parks where people can enter to be protected from the elements. There are shelters that give people places to live. Merriam

Webster offers “shelter” as a noun and verb. As a noun, it means “something that covers or affords protection”. As a verb, it means “to protect”.

The church is called to be a shelter for all people. People can come to this place from the trials and tribulations of life and find peace and security. I hear Jesus speaking in this as he says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28). We all need a safe place. We all need somewhere where we can let down our guard and know that we are loved and cherished.

Nurture. In this word, I hear gardeners talk about how they lovingly and carefully tend their plants, providing all that is needed for their sustenance and growth. Merriam Webster defines it in this way: “training, upbringing, to educate, to further the development of.”

(Continues on page 3)



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

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





Musical Notes from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist

On the first Sunday in October we will

welcome guest flutist, Alyssa Schwartz, who will play the instrumental part along with the choir anthem, "The Journey" arr. Joseph M. Martin. This beautiful anthem features both the tune "Simple Gifts" and "Going Home", a theme taken from Dvorak's *New World Symphony*. Then another highlight for the month in mid-October: the choir will be singing an energetic and catchy arrangement of *The Battle of Jericho* arr. by Roger Emerson. It has been a joy to see the numbers in choir increase and thanks to both longtime and newer choir

members for sharing your beautiful voices in worship.

On November 3, in celebration of All Saints, there will be a tolling of the bell by Amy Turluck with the reading of the names of those who have passed away this year. Both handbells and Chancel Choir have anthems on the All Saints theme: a Lloyd Larson handbell arrangement of "For All the Saints" and "Sing with the Saints in Glory" by Anna Laura Page.

And a final note: I will be performing a faculty solo piano recital on Friday, October 4 at 7:30 p.m. in



Wallman Hall Theatre at Fairmont State University. You are cordially invited to attend!

May the peace of Christ be with you,
John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



Christian Discipleship Ministry News

Rally Day was an exciting day for our church school ministry. We met Janeth Rodriguez and Morgan Jackson, our new Sunday School teachers, who introduced themselves. They and Jane Peterson-Mead, CDM Coordinator gave Bibles to new children and those who moved up a class. Parents and children were able to meet and greet their new teachers.

Sunday, September 15 started our full Sunday School Program. Nursery Bible Story Time, classes K – 2nd, 3rd – 5th,

and the confirmation class were all staffed and the children were excited to participate in the lessons. Children's Church was overflowing. What a great ministry for the future of this church!

Apple Butter Day is almost here – Saturday, September 28. There will be activities for children of all ages starting at 10 a.m. We hope everyone will participate sometime during the day.

Parent's Night Out (First Friday's) is coming October 4, 5:30-8 p.m., for Nursery thru fifth grade children. There will be a meal, a Bible lesson, activities and games. This is a good opportunity for "date night" parents!! Please let Jane know if you plan to come. Your children can bring friends.

Trunk or Treat will be held Sunday, October 27, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The children always have interesting costumes. Friends are invited. We hope many church members will come in costume and set up treat stations! The evening will start with a meal, then a Bible story, then games and a costume parade, then the evening will end with "Trick or Treating" at cars or different stations around the church if it rains. Please contact Jane if you can participate or help in any way. Also, make dinner reservations with her or the office at discipleship@fairmontfirst.net or office@fairmontfirst.net. This is a fun night for all.

Last but not least, we are planning more Youth Group activities with details to come. We have a busy, exciting year planned for our children and youth. Please plan to participate whenever, wherever you can!

First Church's News & Notes

Pastor's Message continues from pg. 1

This happens in a myriad of ways in the church. We have a wonderful Christian Education program in this church and we invite everyone to take part. We are nurtured as we share food, sing, and pray together. None of us are perfect; we all need forgiveness. We all need a place to grow and learn. The church is meant to be this type of place.

Fellowship. Or more colloquially: hanging out. It speaks of community and togetherness. Merriam Webster defines fellowship as "companionship, company, a community with common interests or activities." We were made for community. The first thing God says when Adam is created is that "It is not good that the man should be alone." From the very beginning, God intended for us to be in fellowship with others.

The second great end speaks not just of fellowship, however—it speaks of "spiritual fellowship." This is deeper than getting coffee with someone or going to a ballgame

together. This is intentional and purposeful gathering in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is authentic, vulnerable, mutual sharing of who we are and what we have. I believe it can only happen if we know that we have found shelter and can therefore trust that we are being nurtured. Then, we can enter true, real fellowship without facades or masks.

The Great Ends of the Church are not just for us insiders. We are meant to foster them together in worship, to be sure, but we are also called to go out in service to cultivate them for others who need shelter, nurture, and fellowship. We have a beautiful building in which we gather. This Great End invites us to consider what type of community we are building for ourselves and others, both in that beautiful space and beyond its walls.

May the Spirit of God lead and guide us in this hard work.

Rev. Evan Walker

Mark Your Calendars

- November Chimes deadline is **Friday, October 18** at noon
- Dedication Sunday: October 6 (turn in pledge cards)
- Session Meeting: October 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- Parent's Night Out: October 4 from 5:30-8 p.m.
- Trunk or Treat: October 27 from 5:30-8 p.m.
- Women of the Church: meeting at 1:45 in the parlor on October 24
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m.
- Choir rehearsal: Wednesday's at 7 p.m.
- Handbell Choir rehearsals Sunday at 9 a.m.
- Children's Music Time: Sunday at 10 a.m.

Meeting for Blubaugh Fund on Oct. 24

On Thursday, October 24, at 1:45 p.m. a meeting will be held in the parlor room of the church where the Women of the Church will decide on their recommendation to Session for how the money in the Nettie Blubaugh Fund will be spent.

All women are asked to attend. If attendance is not possible and a special recommendation would like to be made, please write a note to be received in the Church Office by October 21 or contact someone who will be attending.



RALLY DAY! First Church would like to welcome (top picture) new members Jessica and Austin Fatkin and daughter Libby and Janet Miller.

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

Property Team updates

Getting ready for fall, your Property Team would like to thank Joan Krouse-Smith for planting flowers in the church's garden. They look amazing.

Murray Sheet Metal has begun replacing the old boiler and is close to having it completed and Rebecca Moran has completed the church inventory video.



Dedication Sunday October 6; bring pledge cards

Reminder that Dedication Sunday will be on October 6. Please bring your pledge card with you that day or mail in to the church prior to 10/6/24.

Hebrews 13:16 - "Do not neglect to do good and to

share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Thank you!

Pam Nolan

Updates & dates from Hospitality Team

Hospitality thanks everyone who helped with Rally Day (setting up, bringing supplies to the pavilion, ordering food, drinks etc). We all enjoyed a variety of foods which were delicious midst cold temperatures.

To get ready for Apple Butter Day, apple sauce making was done on Aug. 26, 27, Sept. 3 and 4 in the kitchen and social room. Members of the congregation helped Hospitality and Outreach Teams. Thanks to all apple pickers. Apple Butter Day is Saturday, Sept. 28. Bring a casserole to share for lunch. Coffee and water will be available. Bring other drinks if you like. Some of us are making breakfast foods for those arriving for early 6 a.m. morning beginnings for "fire and kettles."

MORE EVENTS

- Trunk or Treat: Oct. 27 from 5:30-8 p.m. – Evening Meal: hot dogs, veggie trays, chips, lemonade, and water

- Advent Craft & Lunch: Nov. 10 immediately after morning worship. – Menu:

pizza & salad, lemonade, coffee, water. Dessert: ice cream sandwiches

- Presbytery Meeting – Host: First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont on Thursday, Nov. 21. Helpers needed: Kitchen, Social Room Prep. etc. Contact Anne Schooley at anschooley@mteer.com (304-366-3758) if you can help on Wednesday, Nov. 20 or Thursday, Nov. 21 for



serving and prep. with Hospitality Team. (might need others to help in other areas of the church)

- Christmas Dinner: Dec. 8 After morning worship. Traditional turkey dinner...Congregation members are asked to bring pies for dessert.

Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker

pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net

Director of Music

John Morrison

music@fairmontfirst.net

Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

Jane Peterson-Mead

discipleship@fairmontfirst.net

Office Coordinator

Karen Mersinger

office@fairmontfirst.net

Sexton

Will Shamblin

sexton@fairmontfirst.net

Session

CLERK OF SESSION

Kathy Snider

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan

Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Terri Bunner

PROPERTY

Rob Steele

Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Pam Stalnaker

Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Amy Koon

HOSPITALITY

Anne Schooley

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Pam Proctor

Abby Shuck

October Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

October 6: 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 13: 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 20: 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 27: 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?

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

10/5	Doug Shaver
10/11	Stan Swihart
10/12	Rob Steele
10/13	Ami Starn Brian Starn
10/15	Jim Kettering
10/17	Jess Fatkin
10/21	Earl Straight Tom McClure
10/22	Diane Bosco
10/28	Becky Harvey

Anniversaries

10/12	Rob & Kim Steele
10/25	Meredith & Patric Knight

PRAYER LIST

Family of Celina "Frankie" Bostic, Vickie's mother
Family of Ginny Smejkal Dansby
Terry Bilotta
David Foster
Judy Hauser

Pearl Hunt
Connie Morgan
Judy Palmer
Diana Walker
Steven & Debra Collier, Ruth Martin's nephew & niece
Stephen Satterfield
Judy Shaver
Paul Hines, Marilyn Morgan's brother-in-law
DD Meighen
Brad Dodd
Peggy Twyman
Linda Stoops

AUGUST/MAY PLEDGES & GIFTS

August 25	\$1,147.07
September 1	\$3,242.26
September 8	Rally Day No Collection
September 15	\$3,678.33
September 22	\$1,933.92
Total:	\$10,001.58

Total to Date: \$118,194.45

October Ministry
Volunteers

Liturgist: Penny Roberts

USHERS : Rob Steele (captain), Cindy Siegman & Ed Cummings



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

the **Chimes**
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
301 JACKSON ST.
FAIRMONT, WV 26554

