



the Chimes

September 2022

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 in Christ,

1 Peter 4:7-11 reads:

"The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen."

These powerful words offer a beautiful vision of what it means to follow Jesus Christ. This does not mean that we must be serious and boring all the time. However, we are called to be mindful of who we are and how we live and the jokes we make. We had a wonderful time sharing with each other at the Black Bears baseball game. The fellowship, sharing, and deepening of relationships was a joy to see. Indeed, we are benefactors of grace beyond our imagining.



We continue the invitation to enter into this Matthew 25 ministry. This fall, after Labor Day, we will return to a PC(USA) curriculum we started last year called *Follow Me*. The next two installments in the series are "Welcome All" and "Confess". We will be looking at how these topics invite us to

"maintain constant love for each other" in eye opening and surprising ways.

Welcoming sounds easy. We declare that all are welcome, but do our lives truly reflect that statement? Are there people that we find quite difficult to welcome? Does "all" truly mean "all"? Welcoming sounds easy, but it can be so difficult to practice.

Yet welcoming and hospitality are central to our life of faith.

Differing understandings of culture hinder the ability to welcome. Something normal and regularly-practiced in one place may be viewed as quite rude in another. Sometimes the practices of welcoming means that we first must unlearn somethings and relearn others in order to make a space welcoming. Welcoming is more than having open doors. (Continues on page 3)



Worship Schedule

- 9 a.m. Children's Sunday School (begins Sept. 18)
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service (begins Sept. 11)

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



Musical Notes

from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist



Thanks to John Lee, Stan Swihart, Kim Steele, Amy Koon, Jennifer Walker, the Men's Chorus, and the Women's Chorus for all the special music during the month of August.

Rally Day is right around the corner on September 11 when we will enjoy an outdoor worship service and fellowship together. Chancel Choir will start rehearsals Wednesday, September 14 at 7 p.m. in the choir room and will begin singing for worship September 18. The Cambridge Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals Sunday, September 18 at 9 a.m. Looking forward to working with the choirs in the Fall!

We had a very productive handbell polishing day on August 20. Thanks to Kim Steele, Pam Nolan, Amy Turluck, Meredith Knight, Linda Swihart, and Amy Koon for polishing the Whitechapel bells and making them look so beautiful.

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



THE WOMEN'S CHORUS (Pam Bunner, Betty Pat Lee, Meredith Knight, Amy Koon, Kim Steele and Linda Swihart) singing special music for worship.

THE MEN'S CHORUS (Blake Boggess, Jim Kettering, John Lee, John Schooley, Stan Swihart, Pastor Evan Walker, and John O'Connor) singing special music.

AMY KOON, Jennifer Walker, and John Morrison opening worship with a handbell, flute, piano prelude. This lovely arrangement by Cathy Moklebust of "Abide with Me" was just recently published in 2021. Amy Koon and Kim Steele also rang a beautiful bell duet for Communion in August, "Morning Has Broken".

First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- October Chimes deadline is **Friday, September 23** at noon.
- Parents' Night Out: September 2 at 5:30 p.m.
- Rally Day: September 11 at 10:30 at Wave Tech - Pavilion 2
- Apple Butter Day: Saturday, September 24 Wave Tec
- Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteers at 8 a.m.
- Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. starting on Sept. 11



Apple Butter Day, September 24

Reminder we need you on Saturday, September 24 at the Marion Reserve Building at East Marion Park to help make kettles of apple butter. All the proceeds will go to our Shoes for Kids Project.

We will also need help in picking apples and making the sauce before Sept. 24. Watch for dates and times. It will depend on when the apples are ripe.

First Church's troops have active summer

In June, Cub Scouts held their annual awards ceremony and handed out ranks earned. In July they played a round of putt-putt and in August went to a Black Bear's game.

Troop 120B went strong through the summer with 21 scouts attending summer camp in Pennsylvania. In August, they had their court of honor and awarded over 180 merit badges and ranks. A special Eagle Court of Honor was conducted for Paul Mora who completed his eagle project and rank of eagle. The troop has another eagle project done at FSHS by Ian Holbert who installed a concrete pad with a bench and sun shade. He just needs to finish his paperwork and will be an Eagle Scout as well. That makes four new Eagle Scouts in the troop this year, with two more almost done.

Troop 120G also pushed hard this summer with seven attending summer camp. They held their court of honor in August and were awarded 52 merit badges and ranks. They were also asked to be the color guard for the Mannington Fair Parade.



A special Thank You

Thank you to my church family for the prayers and well wishes and to the Sunshine friends who sent so many cards. This means so much and really lifts the spirits.
Linda O'Connor

Pastor's Message *continues from pg. 1*

Welcoming requires creating a space where those who enter feel comfortable and included. That means work on our part, but it is holy work.

Confession is also central to our faith. We have a prayer of confession every week in church for a definitive purpose. We enter the worship of a holy God. We come as sinners and we need to acknowledge that. None of us deserve to be in the presence of God, but God is merciful and gracious and invites us anyway.

Confession also sounds easy, but it can be quite difficult in practice. Some things are more acceptable than others to confess. Some things, we imagine, are too shocking to actually name. Others make us ashamed or uncomfortable. Still, scriptures reveal that confession is powerful and amazingly freeing as we remember that God's grace is greater. Peter declares for us, "Love covers a multitude of sins." Thanks be to God!

Confession also means that we have to be a place of love instead of knee-jerk reactions and judgment. It means intentionally choosing love and helping lift each other up and being a support in times of need.

This fall, let us be intentional about our love, our welcoming, and our confession. In all things we trust that God is sovereign over all.

To the glory of God,

Rev. Evan Walker

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM MONDAY - THURSDAY
Phone (304) 366-2628 Fax (304) 366-2662
Email: office@fairmontfirst.net Web: www.fpcfairmont.com

Session Committee News

Hospitality announces upcoming events for September



"Gather in the Garden" ended August 7 with a gorgeous sky and wonderful fellowship where we continued to celebrate the marriage of Drew Boston and Laura Van Dyke. A special "Thank You" to Drew and Laura for sharing their beautiful flowers from their wedding with us for Sunday's worship. "Gather in the Garden" will return May 2023.

On August 26, members of First Presbyterian Church will attend a West Virginia Black

Bears baseball game. Tailgating will begin at 4 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the game begins at 7:05.p.m. The Hospitality Team will provide hotdogs, hotdog sauce, condiments, all paper products, and drinks. Please bring a side dish to share and a folding chair. Parking is \$5 per vehicle. Parking/tailgating is located between Star Furniture and Buffalo Wild Wings. If you haven't made reservations, it's not too late. Tickets are \$12 per person. Contact Deanna Kritzer at 304 694-2379.

The Hospitality Team would like to thank co-chair Anne Schooley for the list of "Kitchen Rules" being placed in the kitchen. We ask those using the facility at any time to please abide by the new rules.

On September 9, "First Friday" will start back up. Martha Sweet is the Hospitality Host for September. The menu will be pizza (regular crust and cauliflower crust - with pepperoni and cheese) fresh vegetables with dip, and fresh fruit or fruit cups. There will be lemonade and water to drink.

Rally Day will be held September 11 at Wave Tek Park, Pavilion 2, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Following worship, the Hospitality Team will be providing fried chicken, drinks, and all paper products. Please bring a covered dish to share.

The next Hospitality Team meeting will be held September 13 at 10 a.m. in the church parlor.

September 24 is Apple Butter Day! If you've never attended, I encourage you to do so. It is a wonderful day of fellowship. Once Outreach has obtained apples, the Hospitality Team will reach out for volunteers to cook the apples.



First Church members attended a previous Black Bear's game in Morgantown.

Staff

Pastor

Evan Walker
pastorevan@fairmontfirst.net

Director of Music

John Morrison
music@fairmontfirst.net

Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

Janel Nye
discipleship@fairmontfirst.net

Office Coordinator

Cathy Woodson
office@fairmontfirst.net

Sexton

Charles Lettrick
sexton@fairmontfirst.net

Session

CLERK OF SESSION

John O'Connor

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan
Amy Turluck

OUTREACH

Penny Roberts
Diane Floyd

PROPERTY

Eric Hauser
Joe Jernigan

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Linda O'Connor
Marilyn Morgan

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jennie Poling
Adam Ranson

HOSPITALITY

Deanna Kritzer
Anne Schooley

Treasurers

Roger Kritzer
David Floyd

Nursery Attendant



September Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

September 4 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Luke 14:25-33

What do you think Jesus means when he says one must hate his/her life to be his disciple? How does his call to carry our own cross inform this? Jesus gives examples of “counting the cost,” showing that being his disciple involves a willingness to give up everything. Is there something in your life that you need to give up in order to follow Jesus more faithfully?

September 11 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read Timothy 1:12-17

How has God abundantly poured his strength, mercy, grace, faith, and love into your life? How has Jesus shown his “immense patience” to you? How can all of this be used as an example to share with others that they, too, “would believe and receive eternal life?”

September 18 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Paul urges the church to pray particularly for those in positions of authority. Why do you think that is, and what are ways you could answer this plea to pray for our leaders? He shifts the focus to its proper center: our Mediator and Ransom Christ Jesus. How might we point others to him in our worship and witness that they may “come to a knowledge of the truth?”

September 25 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Read 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Paul contrasts godliness (in the form of contentment) with greed. In what ways can an eagerness for goods over God lead to grief and ruin? What might it look like instead to pursue righteousness, faith, love, and gentleness? What is the difference between putting hope in wealth vs. in God? How does this take form in our actions and deeds?

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

September 4	Bill Laughlin
5	Vickie Bostic
9	Jonathan Schooley
13	Jill Zundell
23	Diane Floyd Sally Tarley
27	Teri Bunner
30	Eddie Snider

PRAYER LIST

Family of John Floyd, Dave's brother
Ronda White, Deanna Kritzer's sister
Donna & Larry McElroy
Dr. Jeriel Gilmer
Carlton Neely
Family of Jackie Allender
Peggy Twyman
Family of Nancy Watkins Carr
Sammy Livengood
Jean Lambert
Ron Straight
Steven Satterfield
Linda Stoops
James Cimino

AUGUST PLEDGES & GIFTS

August 7	\$4,429
August 14	\$580
Total:	\$5,009
Total to Date:	\$96,556.85

September Ministry Volunteers

USHERS

Eric Hauser (captain), Erin Hauser

NOTE: Ushers will need to open & close on September 11, 25

First Church's News & Notes *cont.*

A VBS THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who helped run a successful Vacation Bible Study! The kids had a wonderful time walking with Christian on his journey to the Celestial City and the adults enjoyed studying C.S. Lewis's *A Pilgrims Regress*. This event, and every other event, in the church could not be accomplished without the gracious support of volunteers. Each one of you is very appreciated!



Rally Day Sept. 11 at East Marion Park

Rally Day will be held at East Marion Park (Wave Tech) in shelter number 2 on

September 11 at 10:30 a.m. We look forward to worshipping with you in an outdoor setting!

Sunday School, Children's Church begins on Sept. 18

Children's Sunday School will resume on September 18 at 9 am. Children ages nursery to 2nd grade will meet in the nursery. Grades 3-6 will meet in the upstairs classroom and A confirmation class will meet in the youth room. For more information about any of these classes please contact: discipleship@fairmontfirst.net.

Children's Church will resume during the church service (children are dismissed after children's time) on September 18.

HELP WANTED! Nursery workers needed

We are eagerly advertising to hire three nursery workers to assist with children's programming. A job description is available for you to share on the First Presbyterian Church Facebook page. You can also email discipleship@fairmontfirst.net for a copy to share with an interested candidate. All candidates must be 16 years or older and pass a background check. A mother or grandmother could bring her children to all the church events with her.

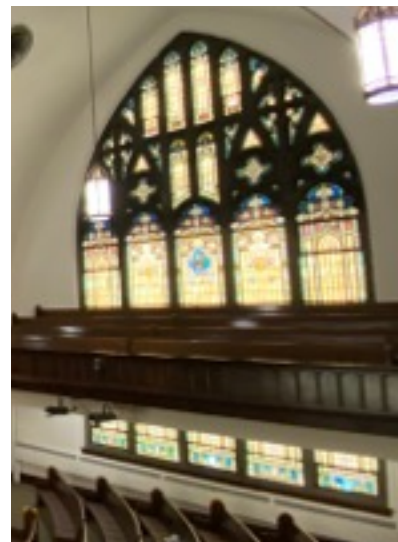
Please pass this information along to any interested candidates. We have been advertising for this position in many places but are struggling to find any candidates so any help spreading the word would be greatly appreciated.

Please consider volunteering

As the Sunday school year begins and programming resumes, we will need volunteers to help in children's church and Sunday school. All materials are provided to you; you can just walk in and teach! The materials can be given to you in advance as well, so you have time to read over the lesson. There is no prep time required. All needed supplies are waiting for you in the classroom. Please consider joining this ministry! Contact discipleship@fairmontfirst.net if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

Church receives \$40,000 state grant for windows

First Church's History and Property Teams are excited to announce that the West Virginia Archives and History Commission has approved a matching State Development grant for \$40,000 for the



repairs and restoration of our large windows on the parking lot side of the church.

So now it is time to start raising our part for the project. There is a special church account set up for collecting donations. We have already received some donations and a bid from Willet-Hauser who has done the work on all of our other windows. We are waiting on several other bids. Total cost for the project will be around \$100,000. To receive the state grant, we must complete the project by September 2023.

We would like to thank Randall Reid-Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer, and Christy Moore, state grant coordinator, for all of their assistance.

The Youth Council of the Presbytery of West Virginia presents:

The 2022 YOUTH Retreat
(for those in grades 6-12 and their adult advisors)

November 18-20, 2022

A MORE LOVING



with David LaMotte

at

Bluestone Camp and Retreat Center, Hinton, WV

FOCUS: Given that we are called to love our neighbors, what does that actually look like? In a world in desperate need of God's love, how do we go about showing it? We will be looking at the story of the Good Samaritan, and talking about what love means, what neighbor means, and what the story teaches us about learning to love like we are all "us."

KEYNOTE LEADER: David LaMotte is an award-winning songwriter, speaker and writer. He has keynoted peace conferences and facilitated conversations about positive change. David has published three books, including *55 Bathub*, *White Flour*, and *Worldchanging 101: Challenging the Myth of Powerlessness*. David and his wife Deanna are the founders of PEG Partners, a non-profit organization that supports literacy, critical thought, and artistic expression in Guatemala. He is also the creator of the website "Let's Be Neighbors."

Complete information and registration forms will be emailed to church leaders in September. Contact Susan Sharp Campbell (304-667-9429) with any questions.



Vacation Bible School - Third Night Scenes

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped make VBS successful!





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

the
September 2022 *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