



the Chimes

September 2025

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

September has long been considered a month of transition. Summer activities are over and fall activities begin. Labor Day has traditionally been the turning point for numerous things. Years ago, school, both public and higher education did not open until after Labor Day. That was the day for pools to close and football season to begin. Even today, especially in churches, activities do change and new things are attempted.

Of course, this year, First Church is in the midst of transition. It is an opportunity to reflect on what Scripture may say or suggest to us in times of change and transition. There are passages that focus on individuals and others that speak to the community. For us, both are important.

The prophet Isaiah addressed the people of Israel, but with an implication at least for individuals. Isaiah 40:31 states "But they 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." Psalm 27: 14 advises, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

The Book of Lamentations is not often read or mentioned in Bible study or in sermons, probably because it is what it

claims to be. But verse 25 in chapter 3 offers a good and encouraging word: "The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him."

We at First Church are in a time of waiting. Hopefully our waiting is focused on God as well as the transition in Pastoral leadership and our ongoing ministries. This is not only an opportunity, but for the church it is an obligation. In this, as well as other times of significant transition, it is essential for people of faith to trust that God's leadership is present in whatever the change may be.

The challenge is to engage seriously in prayer and reflection and to "wait for the Lord." Having been blessed with strong and gifted ministry by Evan Walker, there is reason to hope and look forward with assurance that God will lead in bringing new leadership to our congregation and the local community.

Together as a congregation, a community of faith, we can wait with expectation and anticipation while we witness God's goodness to continue to bless and enable us to extend his grace and love within our congregation and to the larger community. Hopefully we will find our strength renewed so that we might "rise up with wings like eagles; run and not be weary; walk and not faint." **Continues on page 3)**



- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 9 a.m. Sunday School, Handbell Choir
- 10 a.m. Children's Handbell Choir & Chancel Choir

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





Musical Notes from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist

Thanks to everyone who was a part of the special music over the month of August: Gary Jack and Stan Swihart who sang a duet, Maria Potts who sang a solo, Betty Pat Lee and Blake Boggess who sang a duet, the First Presbyterian Pick-Up Choir aka the "Summer Singers", John Schooley who sang a solo, and Amy Koon and Karen Mersinger who rang bells both as a duet and solos.

Following Rally Day, I look forward to the Chancel Choir and the Cambridge Handbell Choir starting back up as we begin a new year of music making together!

Coming up in September: I will be presenting a solo piano recital Friday September 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Wallman Hall Theatre at Fairmont State and you are cordially invited to attend. May the peace of Christ be with you,

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



Troop 120 wraps up busy summer

The Cubs have done a few things this summer by going to Scout Night at the Black Bears game, hiking to learn about nature and spending an afternoon at Retro Skate.

This summer has been busy for the Scouts. They were hiking parts of the Allegheny Trail and a dozen spent a week at summer camp where they learned

things from welding to basket weaving to swimming and citizenship. A couple went to Florida for "Scuba Live Aboard" where they lived on a sail boat for a week and scuba dived three times a day.

We have three scouts, Robert Ranson, Monica Fisher, and Alex Card, that just finished their Eagle Scout projects. Monica helped Jayenne Elementary with new benches on the playground, Alex put a new playground in at Cooper's Rock campground, and Robert helped to rebuild the instrument storage cabinets for Fairmont Senior Band. We also have three more scouts currently starting their Eagle Scout projects.

Adam Ranson

Apple Butter Day October 11

Mark your calendars to join in the fun and fellowship of this important yearly event in our church. Apple Butter Day will be Saturday, October 11 at the Police Reserve Building next to the Wav Tec Pool.

Proceeds from selling the apple butter fund our Shoes for Kids ministry. More specific information to come about the specifics of that day.

An update on the prep work, apples have been picked and the first rounds of apple sauce made and frozen. Terri picked an additional three bushels and those will be prepped. We have 57 gallons but need around 80 for all the kettles. After Labor Day, we will finish up with one more cook. If you have extra jar rings bring those to the church. We plan to order some through Walmart.

Thanks to everyone who jumped in early to get things started. All the peeling, cooking and sauce prep is greatly appreciated.



First Church's News & Notes

Hospitality: Rally Day, September 2

September 2 is our next Hospitality meeting at 10 a.m. in the parlor. Anyone is welcome to attend.

September 7 is Rally Day at Wave Tek Park. Hospitality will be providing fried chicken, dessert and bottled water. We ask the congregation bring a covered dish that is something other than a dessert.



Last year we were wondering where the time went. Guess what? I'm still wondering where it went! Here we are, kids going back to school, leaves starting to fall, and the high temperatures from the summer seem to be coming down. But at First Presbyterian, we are winding up for our 2026 Stewardship Campaign!

We will be sending out a letter in late September, to allow you time to get your pledges in by October 5, Stewardship Sunday. Prior to that, we will be using social media outlets, such as Facebook, First Presbyterian's website, and Minutes for Mission from the pulpit. In the meantime, we ask that you prayerfully consider your 2026 pledges.

2 Corinthians 8:7 – "But as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all earnestness, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also." The Administrative/Finance Team



Property Team: New Sexton hired

The new Sexton started work last week at First Church. His name is Joe Miller and he will be working Monday thru Friday from 9-1 and every Sunday morning. If you see a polite young man at church, that's Joe. Welcome to First Church!

Message from your ONC Chair

I wanted to say, if you are hesitant to volunteer, please do not let the unknown prohibit your involvement. It may appear in the beginning, a daunting task, BUT here, you will not have to go it alone!

As I thought of what I wanted to say, I realized I have been attending services and functions at our church for nearly two years. I find someone within our congregation has always been available to guide, to share, to listen, to say thank you! On my first Sunday, so many introduced themselves to me.

Everyone made me feel welcome and that feeling has never wavered. That day, Deanna Kritzer asked if I would like to help cut apples. I returned the following day to cut lots of apples and I learned about the generosity of our membership to provide for Shoes for Kids! I have learned so much about our church and its members most likely due to my involvement on the Hospitality Ministry Team.

Within the past 2 years, I became a member, an elder, and joined Session. Our congregation is small and I recognize there is a need for help. I want to help. I never thought I would be a Liturgist but, I was asked by Marilyn Morgan, and thought, yes, I can do this! It was an honor to be asked to lead the congregation and to read scripture. I was asked to join Session. I had reservations, but, several members spoke to me, and I knew Janet Miller would be beside me. During a Session meeting a few months ago, Evan asked if someone would lead the Officer Nominating Committee. I volunteered. I was not aware of the responsibilities required but immediately Joe Jernigan offered to meet with me to further explain the ONC. And he made time to meet with me on two separate occasions.

Deanna and Eric are now on the ONC. We have had two meetings and just as Joe mentored, they too are mentoring. We share responsibilities! In our last ONC meeting, we discussed possible members for the Pastor Nominating Committee. And Eric has just spoken to you about the PNC. I want to conclude by saying, we do not know if you are thinking you want to join the PNC. If you are or only have questions at this time, let us know. Please. We will gladly meet with you. Nancy Carnes, ONC Chair

Mark Your Calendars

- **Material for the OCTOBER issue of The Chimes is due by Friday, September 19 at noon. THANKS!!!**
- **Rally Day: September 7 at 10:30 at Wave Tek, Pavilion 2**
- **Bluestone Fall Getaway Retreat: October 3-5, deadline Sept. 30 to register**
- **Parents' Night Out: October 3**
- **Stewardship Sunday: October 5**
- **Apple Butter Day: Saturday, October 11 at Wave Tek at the Police Reserve Bldg.**
- **Trunk or Treat: Friday, October 24**
- **Session Meeting: September 16 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.**
- **Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. following Rally Day**

Pastor's Message

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As the writer of Hebrews 10: 24-25 proclaims, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

Rev. Dick Bowyer



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Penny Roberts

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Amy Koon

Tim Mersinger

HOSPITALITY

Janet Miller

Nancy Carnes

Treasurer

Roger Kritzer

Children & Youth Ministry Update

We had a wonderful Camper Sunday August 10, celebrating who attended church camp this summer, along with those who went to Triennium. It was

Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and 6th grade, as well as to any child who has not yet received a Bible. To ensure no one is missed, please check the list posted at the back of the sanctuary near the children's bulletins and confirm the information is accurate.

We're also excited to announce that Sunday School will resume on September 7. We're looking forward to welcoming our children and youth back to regular classes, where they'll continue growing in faith, friendship, and understanding of God's Word.

As we prepare for the new program year, we are also

a joyful time of faith, growth, and fun. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who supported these experiences through your generous donations and faithful prayers. You truly helped make these opportunities possible for our young people.

As we move into the fall season, we're looking forward to Rally Day at Wave Tek! This special day is always a highlight as we gather to celebrate the start of a new church year. Be sure to bring your backpacks for the Backpack Blessing, where we will pray over all students and teachers as they head into the new school year.

During Rally Day, we'll also be presenting Bibles to children entering

looking for Sunday School and nursery shepherds. If you feel called to volunteer and haven't already shared your contact information with Jane, please do so—we'd love to have you join us in guiding and nurturing our young ones.

Finally, thank you to everyone who donated clothing and supplies to the nursery. Your generosity helps us create a warm, welcoming space for our youngest members and their families.

We are so grateful for the support and enthusiasm of this congregation and look forward to a meaningful season ahead!



FALL GETAWAY RETREAT - October 3-5 @ Bluestone

bluestonecamp.org/fall-getaway

Registration deadline is September 30



September Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

September 7: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 14:25-33

What do you think Jesus means when he says one must hate their 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 14: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 15:1-10

The Pharisees and scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." Jesus told them a story about a lost sheep that was found. What have you lost that you later found? Give thanks to God for lost and found things and people.

September 21: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters, meaning we cannot be faithful to God and worship something else. Whom or what do you worship and make most important in your life, God or something or someone else? Find a way to show your faithfulness to God this week.

September 28: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Read Luke 16:19-31

Here we find the story of a rich man who was well-dressed and ate well, and the story of a poor man who was covered with sores and wished that he could eat the rich man's leftovers. Most of us have plenty to eat and nice clothes to wear, while others do not. Go through your closets and/or drawers and find some clothing and food that you will share with those in need. Take them where someone in need can get them.

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

9/4	William Laughlin
9/5	Vicki Bostic
9/9	Jonathan Schooley
9/10	Thomas Ranson
9/13	Jill Zundell
9/17	Ben Poling
9/23	Diane Floyd
	Sally Tarley
	Robert Ranson
9/27	Terri Bunner
9/30	Ed Snider

Anniversaries

9/7	Brian & Ami Starn
9/15	Austin & Jess Fatkin
9/17	Tim & Karen
	Mersinger
9/20	Taylor & Missy Downs

Prayer List

Kevin Boggess
David Foster
Judy Councilman
Family of Joe Muto
Family of the Sam Kuzbari
Doris Cain
Barbara Priester Lucas
Marissa Meadows
Beverly Sandy
Ken Miller
Rev. James Morley
Susan May
Brad & Donna Dodd
Ella Morris
Stephen Satterfield
Judy Shaver
Paul Hines
Peggy Twyman
Linda Stoops

July/August Pledges & Gifts

July 27	\$2,043
August 3	\$4,368.75
Shoes For Kids	\$2,000
August 10	\$1,761
August 17	\$1,990
Total:	\$12,162.75

Total to Date: \$143,172.50

"It doesn't matter how long you are spending on the earth, how much money you have gathered or how much attention you have received. It is the amount of positive vibration you have radiated in life that matters." - Amit Rav

September Ministry
Volunteers

Liturgist: Diane Boso

USHERS : Eric Hauser (captain), Erin Hauser & Pam Nolan



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

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