



the Chimes

September 2026

F I R S T P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

A Pastoral Message



Since I have had to cut back on my preaching opportunities and other things, it has been difficult at times to adjust. Adjustment can become difficult or at least frustrating. But in reality, all of us have to make adjustments in living and lifestyle from time to time.

Sometimes health is the dominant factor, but finances are often the driver. Other factors, including the return to the fall schedule with school and other activities, require changes in the calendar or the pace and timing of life.

It is tempting, and often easy to yield to frustration over the interruptions taking place. We seldom pause and reflect on our spiritual circumstances when this happens. Spiritual nurture often eludes us or fails to appear as an important feature.

But however frustrating or complicating such adjustments become, for us who claim to have a connection and relationship with God, need to pause long enough to sense their impact on that relationship.

That may not be the easiest thing to do amid the pressures of life and the rigidity of our routines. But the adjustments that may be required have to be faced. They can be faced more directly and helpfully if we take a deep breath and offer even a simple "Help me Lord," prayer.

This month brings its own adjustments, and daily life will bring others. So, take the time to seek God's guidance and support in dealing with whatever life brings.

Rev. Richard Bowyer



- ★ 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- ★ 8:30 a.m. Childcare begins
- ★ 9 a.m. Youth Sunday School - 3rd. Floor
- ★ 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School - Parlor
- ★ 9 a.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- ★ 10 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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





Musical Notes from John Morrison, Director of Music & Organist

Thanks to all who were a part of special music this summer!

We had a nice variety of pick up choir, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, vocal solos and duets, instrumentalists, and handbell solos and duets.

We are looking forward to the start of the Chancel Choir and Cambridge Handbell Choir being a part of Worship again. The first Chancel Choir rehearsal is Wednesday, September 16 with the first anthem in Worship on September 20. The bells will start rehearsing September 20.

John Morrison
Director of Music and Organist



Marion Meals on Wheels – here are a few facts:

- Meals have been served through this program for 53 years!
- Nutritious meals are delivered to homebound persons 65 years of age and older
- Meals are funded through fees paid by recipients (when they are able to pay) and through donations – individuals, groups, clubs, businesses and churches
- This is a **totally volunteer** organization – all deliveries are made by volunteers!
- Would you like to make a donation? Mail it to Marion Meals on Wheels, Inc PO Box 1264 Fairmont, WV 26554
- Would you like to **join the other volunteers in delivering meals**? Or try it out to see if it is a good fit for you? Call 304-366-0771 or 304-816-8585 for West Side and 304-363-2938 for East Side. This will be a well spent two hours of your time. Want to deliver once a month? Twice? More? You can work out a schedule!



**Marion County
Senior Citizens, Inc**
Empowering Seniors, Enriching Lives

First Church's News & Notes

Mark Your Calendars

- **Material for the OCTOBER 2026 issue of *The Chimes* is due by Friday, September 18 at noon. THANKS!**
- **Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays at McAteer's at 8 a.m.**
- **Women's Breakfast: September 10 at 9 a.m. McAteer's**
- **Session Meeting: September 15 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Rally Day: September 13, East Marion Park (Wave-Tech), Pavilion 6 at 10:30 a.m.**
- **Apple Butter Day: Saturday, September 26 at Police Reserve Building (9 a.m. Youth activities begin)**
- **September 20: Church Service begins at 10:30 a.m.**

Hospitality events for June

September 1: Hospitality meeting in the parlor at 10 a.m.

September 13: Rally Day - Hospitality will be providing the fried chicken, bottled water and coffee. We are asking that everyone bring your favorite side dish. We will be at East Marion Park, Pavillon 6.

September 26: Apple Butter Day - This is always a great way to spend your Saturday. Lots of wonderful fellowship and good food. We ask that everyone bring a covered dish. Once again, we will be at the Police Reserve Building at East

In the coming weeks, you will hear more about this year's campaign. We invite you to reflect on the blessings you have received, to pray about how you can respond, and to join us in building a faithful and hopeful future.

Together, we can continue to grow in generosity, deepen our shared ministry, and serve God's people with joy. Thank you for being part of this important season in the life of our church.

Hebrews 13:16 – "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

The Administrative and Finance Team



Join us for some great fun!
Apple Butter Day

Saturday, September 26
at the Police Reserve Bldg.

Proceeds support our
Shoes for Kids Project



Marion Park.

First Church Stewardship Campaign

Each year, our annual stewardship campaign gives us an opportunity to pause, give thanks, and consider how God is calling us to share the gifts entrusted to us. Stewardship is more than a financial commitment; it is a faithful response to God's generosity and a way we participate in the life and mission of the church.

Through the generosity of this congregation, ministries are strengthened, worship is enriched, neighbors are served, and the love of Christ is made visible in our community. Every gift—of time, talent, prayer, and financial support—helps us continue the work we are called to do together.



LOST BUT NOT FOUND. If you left any of the above items in the church kitchen please come and claim them. Hospitality Team is cleaning house.

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 1 PM ON MONDAY THRU THURSDAY

PHONE (304) 366-2628

Email: office@fairmontfirst.net

FAX (304) 366-2662

Web: www.fpcfairmont.com

Staff

Pastor

Director of Music

John Morrison
music@fairmontfirst.net

Discipleship Ministry Coordinator

Jane Mead
discipleship@fairmontfirst.net

Office Coordinator

Karen Mersinger
office@fairmontfirst.net

Sexton

Nancy Carnes
sexton@fairmontfirst.net

Nursery Attendants

Pam Proctor
Abby Shuck
Hailey Hauser

Sunday School

Brigitte Gapen

A/V Tech

Chris Ward

Session

CLERK OF SESSION

Kathy Snider

ADMINISTRATION

Pam Nolan
Earl Sweet

OUTREACH

Terri Bunner

PROPERTY

Eric Hauser
Rob Steele

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Penny Roberts
Pam Stalnaker

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Nancy Carnes

HOSPITALITY

Janet Miller
Deanna Kritzer

Treasurer

Joe Jernigan

Youth & Children's Ministry

What a fantastic month we've had in our children's program! We've been busy collecting used cards and clean, empty soup cans to create beautiful vases for our pipe cleaner flowers project to give to members of the church to let people know they are in our thoughts. If you have any to spare, please bring them to the church!

We're also excited to announce that we're looking for dedicated shepherds to help with Sunday School and other children's activities. If you feel called to join us in this rewarding service, please reach out!

Mark your calendars for Rally Day on September 13 at Pavilion 6 at 10:30 a.m.! Bring your backpacks for our special Backpack Blessing—let's send our kids off to school with love and support. Also, we'll provide childcare during Apple Butter Day, starting at 9 a.m.

We had an amazing Camper Sunday service recently! The youth shared all the fun and lessons learned at camp—not to mention the games they played!

Please note the change of location for Rally Day, and we hope to see everyone there!



**Sunday, September 13
East Marion Park, Pavilion 6
10:30 a.m.**

WELCOME: New First Church member Gary Jack was honored with a reception following the church service in the Social Room.



September Nurturing Faith Ideas

SCRIPTURE

September 6: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Read Matthew 18:15-20

Here Jesus instructs his disciples, including us, on what to do is someone in the church hurts us, and he gives us steps to follow. He also reminds us at the end that, when we do so, he is with us. What difference does, might, it make in a conversation about being hurt, if we remember Jesus is part of the conversation?

September 13: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Read Matthew 18:21-35

Peter wanted to put a limit on how many times he had to forgive someone; he suggested seven times. Jesus responded not seven times but seventy times (some translations say seventy times seven times). That's a lot to remember. Do you think Jesus wants us to keep track of how many times we forgive someone, or to always be forgiving, as our God is forgiving?

September 20: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Read Matthew 20:1-16

Those who had been working all day complained that those who started late in the day got paid the same. We want God to act like we would, and we aren't happy when God shows grace and love to those who are different from us, who don't work as hard as we do. We focus on what we don't have, instead of what we do have. Think about what you have and give thanks to God for it.

September 27: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Read Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

The psalmist reminds us we have learned the stories of faith from our ancestors, including parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and others. The psalmist also reminds us to tell our stories to those in younger generations. Who are some of the people in your life who have shared their stories with you and with whom you have shared your story? Give thanks to God for them in prayer.

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
9/20	Taylor & Missy Downs

Prayer List

Family of the Rev. Hugh Springer
Dave Yazvak
John Schooley
Betty Lou Sheets
Donna Dodd
Gary Jack
Steve Satterfield

July/August Pledges & Gifts

July 26	\$1,485
August 2	\$1,455
Boot Sunday	\$173.19
August 9	\$3,535
August 16	\$1,990

Total: \$8,638.19

Total to Date: \$149,969.55

*September Ministry
Volunteers*

Liturgist: Linda Swihart

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



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

the
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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

