



the Chimes

August 2017

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

Letter from the Pastor



As we head into the last month of summer break I'm reminded of how important it is to spend time with family. Many people during the summer months take family vacations. It's an opportunity to spend time together away from the normal hustle and bustle of every day life. Yet there are many of us that often don't have the chance to take time away. A time to recharge and reflect; a time to grow closer together.

A few weeks ago my family had the best vacation we've ever had. This year we took a chance and went somewhere new. We travel to the upper peninsula of Michigan and stayed in a town called DeTour Village. The town itself only has 350 people and its main source of commerce is fishing. Because of the size of the village we were able to ride our bikes everywhere. We rode them to church, to the restaurants, to the marina, and even to the grocery store. We stayed in the local Presbyterian Church's manse and had wonderful views of the lake and of the large boats moving iron ore from lower parts of Michigan and taking them to Canada. This was particularly amazing for my son Knox who loves big trucks and boats and cars.



Summer Worship Schedule

- **9:00am** - Adult Sunday School Class
- **9:00am** – Music Rehearsal
- **10:00am** – Worship Service





On one of the days we traveled to Sault St. Marie which is on the border of Canada and we watched the large ships go through the locks that move them from Lake Huron to Lake Superior. The kids got an up close look at how big these boats are and could even see the crew members on them. I have to admit I was pretty impressed.

While we were in DeTour we went to their local botanical gardens, went fishing at the marina, bought fresh fruit and pasties (this is their local food dish, like our pepperoni roll) at their local farmers market, and swam at their local beach.

As a family we just really enjoyed our time together. We enjoyed seeing new things, experiencing new food, meeting new people, and just playing together as a family! On the last day of our trip Kaylen asked if we could buy a house there. I said to her “why would you want us to buy a house here.” Her response was, “So that we can come here all the time!” She concluded her statement with this has been the best vacation ever! As I think about her statement as to why this might have been our best vacation, I believe it's not because of where we went. It was because as a family we were able to enjoy our time together and everything we did! So my hope and blessings for you is that you have the opportunity to have a family vacation like ours: where you get to experience new things, surround yourself by the people you love, and enjoy each other's presence in that moment. For we all only get one life to live and we have to take advantage of the time we have to spend with those we love.



July Prayer List

The Family of Doris Crislip
 The Family of John Flanagan
 The Family of Dan Pizzica
 Skip Bell
 Chuck Brenneman
 Jill Diaz
 Leona DeLong
 The Dodd Family
 Peggy Eddy

The Fowler Family
 Anne Morgan
 Carolyn Nolan
 Bob Payton
 Amanda Peterson
 Ruth Ann Powell
 Bob & Kristi Rice
 (Presbyterian African
 Missionaries)

Simon Rohaly
 John Satterfield
 Alisa Smith
 Alayna Stewart
 The Sphon Family
 Oran Weaver
 Gevenny Williams

Music Notes

From June 18-23 this summer I had the pleasure of attending the Montreat Music and Worship Conference.

Each time one returns to this wonderful place it is a different experience. Different clinicians, different workshops, different worship experiences. It is also a place of familiar faces as many people return from year to year. And for good reason - it always leaves one feeling refreshed and renewed.

This year I experienced singing in the choir under the direction of Tom Trenney, a beautiful organ recital by Nicole Keller at First Presbyterian Asheville, service playing with David Hurd, Routley Lecture with Martin Jean, African-American song with Phillip Morgan, and ringing handbells with David VanderMeer. I rang the lowest bass bells to be specific which are certainly a workout!

The Chamber Choir concert was a treat as always. Daily worship was very inspiring, well planned out, and had a lot of variety to it. I also enjoyed the evening prayer service which was such a healing and calming way to end the day. And of course it isn't Montreat without lots and lots of singing! Singing in choir, singing in worship, singing in workshops, singing in the Hymn Festival. But when there is so much to be happy about and grateful for in life, why shouldn't we sing as often as we can?

May you always have a song of joy in your heart,

John Morrison
Director of Music/Organist



The final concert at Montreat



First Presbyterian Church, Asheville



SPECIAL MUSIC SCHEDULE

Special Music Schedule for August:

August 6 - Becky Stivers and Stan Swihart, duet

Bell Quartet: Amy Koon, Linda Stoops, Amy Turluck, Kate Turluck

August 13 - Wholeness Service

John Morrison, violin

Kim Trisel, piano

August 20 - Youth Ministry Sunday

August 27 - Betty Pat Lee and Blake Boggess, duet

News & Correspondence

HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE: AUGUST 13TH

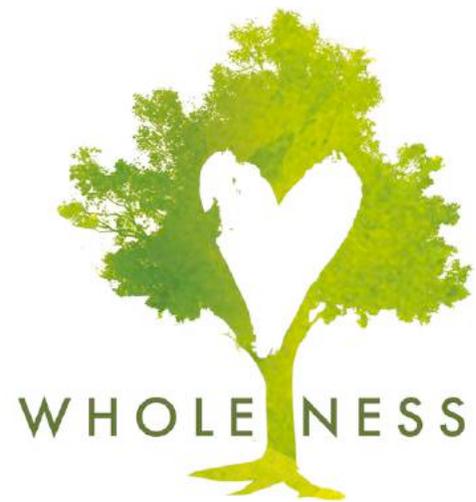
As your pastor, I have been keenly aware of the amount of heart ache and tragedy this congregation has faced within the last year. My heart does ache for the members of our congregation and for the families that have been affected in so many ways. Therefore on Sunday, August 13, I am putting together a Healing and Wholeness Worship Service for our congregation. This service will take place in our fellowship hall with us around tables to celebrate communion. As part of this worship service, there will be opportunities for individuals to share joys and concerns in several different ways as we will engage in different prayer stations during our time together. I hope that you will mark this date on your calendar and join us as we worship together and lift up our broken hearts.

Rev. Elise Renee Neal

JULY SESSION SUMMARY

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Fairmont met on Tuesday, July 18, 2017. Pastor Elise opened the meeting with prayer at 6:30 p.m. Peggy Twyman offered the devotion. Minutes of the May, 2017 Stated Session meeting were approved. Carolyn Crislip-Tacy presented various communications from the Clerk of Session. Jim DeLong reported that FPC is under budget. Dave Floyd asked Session members what types of financial reports they would like him to provide to them. He suggested quarterly reports. Pastor Elise gave the pastor's report. The Property Team reported that all locks on the church doors have been re-keyed, and new keys have been issued. All old keys should be turned in to the church office. Fall cleanup has been scheduled for October 21st. Diane Floyd reported that 40+ people attended VBS this year. Session approved a request from Christian Discipleship to hire two new nursery workers. Christian Discipleship will sponsor a garage/bake sale at the church on Saturday, August 5th from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to support our youth. The Outreach Ministry team has set August 12th as the giveaway day for the annual Smart Start Backpack Program. A special offering will be taken on July 30th to support this event. The Hospitality Ministry will provide hot dogs and Coke and root beer floats on Rally Day, September 10th. Pastor Elise closed the meeting with prayer at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting of Session will be on Tuesday, August 22nd, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Pam Pittman



RHYTHMS OF GRACE

Ruth Martin stopped by the church to share the following devotional from Our Daily Bread. She found it particularly meaningful and wanted to share it with the church family.

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do."

"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

How could Jesus offer rest and relief to His followers while knowing the road ahead was steep and difficult? A careful reading of Matthew's gospel answer such questions. In His day, Jesus was a breath of fresh air. He wasn't like the self-righteous teachers who had a moral principle for every problem. He was a giver. When He sent His disciples out to announce the good news of His coming, He gave them the ability to do life-giving miracles to show their credibility. Imagine the exhilaration they must have felt at the end of a hard day. They were discovering for themselves what it meant to reach out to sick, oppressed, and troubled people by the Spirit Jesus gave them, rather than by the strain and monotony of religious duty.

Now the offer is ours to accept. Our Lord invites us to come to Him and discover his "unforced rhythms of grace" and rest. The promise is for the joy of what he can do in us and in the lives of those He inspires us to love and to serve.

INSIGHT

A friend and his wife, not in their early nineties and married for sixty-six years, wrote their family history for their children, grandchildren, and generations to come. The final chapter, "A Letter from Mom and Dad," contains important life lessons they've learned. One caused me to pause and take inventory of my own life: "If you find that Christianity exhausts you, draining you of your energy, then you are practicing a religion rather than enjoying a relationship with Jesus Christ. Your walk with the Lord will not make you weary; it will invigorate you, restore your strength, and energize your life." (Matt. 28-29)

Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of Jesus's invitation in this passage begins, "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Walk with me and work with me....Learn the unforced rhythms of grace." (The Message)

When I think that serving God is all up to me, I've begun working for him instead of walking with him. There is a vital difference. If I'm not walking with Christ, my spirit becomes dry and brittle. People are annoyances, not fellow human creatures in God's image. Nothing seems right.

When I send that I'm practicing religion instead of enjoying a relationship with Jesus, it's time to lay the burden down and walk with Him in His "unforced rhythms of grace."

- David McCasland

Matthew 11:29

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

August 2017

SUNDAY	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
		1 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers 6pm Christian Discipleship Meeting	2	3	4	5 8am Rummage & Bake Sale
6 9am Music Rehearsal 9am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 1pm Softball @ Trinity 2:15pm Softball @ Trinity	7 10am Lunch Bunch 5:30pm Worship Team Meeting	8 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers	9	10 7pm Admin Team Meeting	11 Committee Reports Due	12 Smart Start Backpack Giveaway
		Pine Springs Camp				
		Charles Vacation				
13 9am Music Rehearsal 9am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 4:45pm Softball @ Trinity	14 9am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Property Team Meeting	15 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers 6:30pm Session Meeting	16	17	18	19 Presbytery Meeting at Davis Memorial
20 9am Music Rehearsal 9am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 4:45pm Softball @ Trinity	21 9am Staff Meeting	22 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers	23	24	25	26
		Chimes Submission Deadline				
		John Morrison Vacation				
27 9am Music Rehearsal 9am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 4:45pm Softball @ Trinity	28	29 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers	30 First Day of School	31 10:30am Wesley Lunch		

Christian Discipleship

DISCIPLESHIP NEWS

The lazy, hazy days of summer continue. Some of our children and adults will be heading off to Family Camp at Pine Springs early this month, and we will celebrate them and our Bluestone campers at the August 20 service. You will get to hear exciting reports from a summer of camp as we settle back down to a new school year.

Shawn Weaver

FIRST FRIDAY

With fall just around the corner, First Friday will return on September 1!

RUMMAGE SALE

Got some extra stuff around your house, in the attic or basement? You know you do. If you need to make some room in your closet, bring that extra stuff to the church for our Rummage Sale on August 5! Then come and see what treasures you can find to take home to fill those now-empty spaces! Christian Discipleship will be happy to facilitate this trash and treasures transfer.

The sale will be from 8 AM to 2 PM. You can bring items for the sale before that Saturday and leave them in the Fellowship Hall by the stage (small items) or at the garage (large items). Please label for us! (Women's clothes, children's, we need some hints) Also having items inside a bag or other container helps.

We also want to sell baked goods! Pies, cakes, cookies, bread, whatever you would like to make. Then come on the fifth and sample your friends' wares. We plan to have a lot of fun. Come be a part of it!

PINE SPRING CAMPS

Rev. Elise Neal and several families from FPC will attend summer camp at the Pine Springs Camp in Jennerstown, PA from Aug. 6-9. There is a Grandmas, Moms, and Tots Camp that runs during at time, as well as some camps for older children. You can find more information on the Pine Springs website or by contacting the church office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Our children's programs are growing, so we need more Sunday School teachers! Help us solve this wonderful problem of having so many children in the church, knowing that many hands make light work. We want to have three school-age classes for the fall (lower elementary, upper elementary, and youth) and need teachers for each. We also need multiple teachers and helpers for each so we can trade off days for vacations and illnesses. Please consider being part of this ministry.

ACOLYTES

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are creating an acolyte schedule for Sunday, September 10th through Sunday, December 31st. Acolytes are children in 2nd through 6th grade who bring in the Bible and light the candles to mark the beginning of the worship service on Sundays and extinguish the candles and take out the Bible at the conclusion of the worship service.

Acolytes are on a rotating schedule, and at most, may be asked to serve two or three times, unless someone on the schedule is absent on a Sunday. In order to finish the schedule, I need to know whether or not your child(ren) want to participate and his/her grade level.

We are also in the process of establishing a short acolyte training session before the first Sunday on the schedule (September 10th).

Please contact Pam Pittman by August 2nd if your child(ren) want to participate with the names and grades of each child.

Thanks for your help.

NURTURING FAITH IDEAS

Here you will find weekly suggestions and activities from the Presbytery's Nurture Committee to link worship and home and to nurture faith development in the family. These are intended for all ages and all family types – with children or grandchildren or families with no children.

August 6: Read Matthew 14:13-21. When the disciples told him the crowds before him needed food, Jesus told the disciples to give them something to eat. From the five loaves and two fish, Jesus fed over 5000 people. There are still hungry people in our midst. This week, when your family goes to the grocery, buy extra and share it with your community food pantry.

August 13: Read Matthew 14:2-32. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on water, they were afraid, because they didn't know who/what it was. Peter got out of the boat and started walking toward Jesus, until he became frightened by the strong wind around him, and he started to sink; Jesus caught him. When have you been scared? Share what has scared you with a friend or family member. Give thanks to God that Jesus is with us in scary times and situations.

August 20: Read Genesis 45:1-15. Many years after Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, they came to Joseph seeking food in a time of famine, and they did not recognize him. When Joseph told them who he was, he also told them that not to be distressed for God had been working in all that had happened. When, as you think back over your life, whether long or short, has God worked in a surprising way? Give thanks to God for God's never ending care.

August 27: Read Matthew 16:13-20. At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked the disciples who other people were saying that Jesus was. Then Jesus asked the disciples the same question – “Who do you say that I am?” Peter declared Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus asks that same question of his disciples today – “Who do you say that I am?” What is your response?



Outreach

MCSS - BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We will accept donations of backpacks and school supplies to assist the Marion County Smart Start Backpack & School Supply drive between now and August 6th. We will also take up a special offering on July 30th for this event. The giveaway will be held at various locations on August 12, and volunteers are welcome to come and help.

BLACK BEARS GAME

We are getting group tickets to a Black Bears Game on August 19 at 7:05pm. Cost is \$15 per person. Please contact the church office to RSVP.

Worship

USHERS & LITURGISTS

As we move into the fall, we are looking to replenish some of our volunteer ministries. We are in need of both Ushers and Liturgists.

Ushers serve on a monthly rotation and are responsible for greeting people as they come into church, handing out bulletins, taking up and counting the offering, and assisting with communion.

Liturgists are scheduled according to individual availability. Some serve for an entire month, some just for a week at a time. Liturgists assist the pastor by leading the congregation in worship.

If you would like more information about serving in either of these ministries, please contact the church office.

PEACEMAKING

Peacemaking is a central declaration of the gospel. Through Jesus Christ, God grants us the gift of grace, which we experience as peace. God's peace restores, sustains, and heals. In response to this Good News, we go into the world to proclaim and share the God's peace. As each passage is read, consider the following questions:

- What does this passage say about God's gift of peace?
- What does this passage say about our calling as peacemakers?
- What is God inviting you do to, be, or change through this passage?

The follow resource may be used in a variety of ways and settings. It can be posted weekly or monthly on a website or in a newsletter for personal devotion. It can be used in a group Bible study, prayer group, or worship setting.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/2016-2017-biblical-witness-peacemaking/>



August Lectionary Text

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST —AUGUST 6

Genesis 32:22–31 Psalm 17:1–7, 15
Romans 9:1–5 Matthew 14:13–21

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST —AUGUST 13

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28 Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b
Romans 10:5–15 Matthew 14:22–33

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST —AUGUST 20

Genesis 45:1–15 Psalm 133
Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32 Matthew 15:[10–20] 21–28

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST —AUGUST 27

Exodus 1:8—2:10 Psalm 124 Psalm 138
Romans 12:1–8 Matthew 16:13–20

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Ryan & Elise Neal
12 Years on August 6

Dave & Judy Cooper
43 Years on August 10

Steve & Judy Scott
51 Years on August 10

Courtney & Amy Cooper
8 Years on August 11

John & Anne Schooley
50 Years on August 19

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

4th - Jim Kettering
4th - Deanna Kritzer
6th - Leona DeLong
6th - Earl Sweet
10th - June Spiker
15th - Kim Steele
16th - Bert Steele
20th - Michele Miller
22nd - Judy Shaver
24th - Joe Jernigan

FLOWERS FOR THE CHANCEL

Flowers for the Chancel are needed through the spring a summer months. There is a signup sheet located by the elevator, or you can contact the church at any time to make arrangements for supplying flowers. This is a great way to remember a loved one, mark a special event, or recognize an accomplishment.

ADDRESS UPDATES

We have new addresses for the following individual:

Skip Bell
425 Lincoln Ave
Erie PA 16505

Ruth Ann Powell
1000 Maplewood Dr
Apt. 3118
Bridgeport WV 26330

JULY GIVING

July 2nd	\$2,630.00
July 9th	\$3,836.00
July 16th	\$1,810.00
July 23rd	\$3,184.00
July 30th	not avail.
July Total	\$11,460.00
YTD Total	\$82,458.11

*August Ministry
Volunteers*

USHERS

Eddie & Kathy Snider
Ron & Delores Harsh

LITURGIST

August 6 & 13 Stan Swihart



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

the August 2017 Chimes

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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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