



the Chimes

May 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

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

In January I shared with all of you my desire to take a sabbatical in 2019 for the purpose of renewal and my commitment to continue to serve as your pastor for years to come. In 2019 I will have been the pastor of this congregation for 8 years and I will have been doing ordained ministry for 12 years. Being the educator that I am, I realize that there is much for us to learn as we embark together on this journey. It is my hope that the conversations around my sabbatical will be fruitful and help both me and you, the members of this congregation, grow together so that our ministry at First Presbyterian continues to flourish. I would like to share with you some details from Soul Shepherding about sabbatical, why pastors need sabbatical, and some statistics that hopefully will help you understand the reason I have requested a sabbatical in 2019.

This website contains more information about sabbaticals and even examples of pastors who have gone on sabbatical and what their experience was like. I would encourage you if you have particular questions to check out this web site, but also feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. Right now I am at the beginning of this process and have a few thoughts about what I might like to do during my sabbatical.



Worship Schedule

- **8:30am** Childcare Begins
- **9:00am** Cambridge Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- **9:00am** Sunday School Classes for Adults & Children
- **10:00am** Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- **10:00am** Children's Music Time
- **10:00am** Fellowship/Fair Trade Marketplace
- **10:30am** Worship Service
- **6:30pm** Youth Group

*Note - we will move to our summer worship schedule on May 28, with worship time at 10am.

1. Spend summer @ Montreat 2. Spend time in the Taize Community in France, 3. Spend time in the Iona Community Scotland, 4. Visit Scotland to see some of our Presbyterian Heritage. 5. learning more about liturgical dance

We are still two years away from this becoming a reality. These are just some of my thoughts at this point in time; as I continue to pray and discern the direction God is calling me to I will have a better sense of this but . My hope is that together there will be enough time to discern and plan for this sabbatical so that together we will all be prepared for this journey. The next step in this process is forming the team that will help guide and direct me and the congregation as we continue to grow the ministry of the church. I look forward to our continued ministry together at First Presbyterian Church.

WHAT IS SABBATICAL?

A Sabbatical is not a long vacation. It's not a time to read books on leadership or visit successful churches to learn from them. It's not a time to write a book, do research, or work on some other special project. A true Sabbatical is a season of Sabbath for prolonged rest. It's an extended time in which you do no work. You do no pastoring. You don't try to accomplish anything big. You just "do nothing"! Yes, nothing! Of course, we don't do nothing as an end in itself — that'd be an empty legalism — our purpose is to worship our Creator and Redeemer.

We're putting the words of Psalm 23 to the test. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul." Ahh! There it is! He restores my soul. This soul restoration comes as we submit to the Lord as our Shepherd, lying down and being still in his presence.

WHY DO PASTORS NEED SABBATICALS?

I can state without wavering that the single greatest need of the church today is the restoration of ministers. What is required is a quite different approach to their life and work. It is a matter of leading them into a massive shift of the dynamics of their personality under God, and one that cannot be done by more books and conferences. They need to be taken out of the circulation for a sufficiently long time to re-vision and re-structure their lives in communion with Jesus and his kingdom.

While some pastors and other Christian workers are afraid to step aside from their church or ministry for a Sabbatical, most would like to do this if given the opportunity! But Elder Boards, congregation members, and donors often don't understand the need for a Sabbatical. Most of them are coming from the business world where they feel fortunate if they get four weeks of vacation a year. And yet today even secular companies like Nike and Google offer "Sabbaticals" for their long-term employees!

Pastoral work is extremely stressful and a lack of spiritual rest is especially hazardous to the effectiveness of pastoral ministry!

It's very difficult for pastors to say no to the needs of the people they care for and to the unending opportunities to do God's work and grow their church. But if they don't care for their own souls under God, respecting their personal limits and nurturing their own relationships with God and their family, then their ministry eventually collapses.



Of course, people in other jobs work extremely hard and have great stress too. But if doctors, attorneys, police officers, CPA's, or teachers get divorced they don't lose their jobs! If they're spiritual life grows stale no one worries about it. If they struggle with pornography, alcohol abuse, or other emotional problems it's usually no problem for their work life, or if it gets in the way then once they get help they can go right back to work.

But pastors are called to a higher standard. Rightly so. Their work is sacred. They minister the Word of God to their congregations. They baptize new Christians. They marry the bride and groom. They conduct funerals. They care for hurting marriages and families. They help people who feel far from God get re-connected.

More than any other workers, pastors are Christ's ambassadors to hundreds or thousands of people. We need our pastors to be morally fit and spiritually healthy!

PASTOR STRESS STATISTICS: NEED FOR SABBATICALS

Many research studies have shown that pastoral work is acutely stressful, draining, and dangerous for the pastors and their families.

For pastors not to take occasional Sabbaticals is like a person not getting health insurance! Of course, a Sabbatical alone won't prevent a pastor from burning out or blowing out morally, but it's an important part of the pastor's personal care and formation in Christ.

For more statistics from the research studies on pastor stress see our Soul Shepherding articles: "Pastor Stress Statistics" and "Unfair Expectations on the Pastor's Wife." (More studies need to be done on the stress that pastors' husbands experience.)

<http://www.soulshepherding.org/2016/04/sabbatical-guide-pastors/>

April Prayer List

The Family of John Brewer

The Family of Benjamin Kritzer

The Family of Janice Hamrick

The Family of Barbara Henderson

The Family of Todd Payton

The Family of Shilena Stillwell

Deb Birmingham

Doris Crislip

Jill Diaz

The Ellison Family

Peggy Eddy

Mildred Griffith

Angie Fowler

Scott Fowler

Frank Murphy

Knox Neal

Amanda Peterson

Elaine Pollack

Paul Rogers

Simon Rohaly

John Satterfield

Patty Snider

Gloria Twyman

Anna Winans

Music Notes

He is risen! He is risen indeed! What a joy it is to arrive at the Easter Sunday morning worship each year. It was wonderful to see our sanctuary full and I am so proud of the choirs for all their hard work in preparing the special music of the season.

It is hard to believe how much happens in just one month in the life of our church. Just a month ago we hosted the Fairmont performance of the "Healing through Harmony" joint choir tour which featured both FSU choirs and Greenbrier East High School choir. The Greenbrier East choir stayed overnight in the church and volunteers brought in food for them to eat during their stay. Thank you to everyone who brought in food and made our guests feel at home.

On Palm Sunday our Chancel Choir did a great job singing the cantata which also featured oboe, Jill Zundell on djembe, Ken Miller narrating, and solos by Elise Neal, Jim DeLong, and John Schooley. The WV Brass Quintet was a treat to hear in worship, as always. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil were great services which helped prepare us to appreciate the message of Easter Sunday morning.

The Good Friday service was an ecumenical service hosted by the Mormon church and provided a way to connect with people who worship and lead worship at other Fairmont-area churches.

More exciting news this past month in music ministry:

- We received four new treble Whitechapel handbells from England, donated by Jean Lambert, which now make our set of handbells and full five octaves!
- The Worship Committee's campaign to raise funds to repair the handbells was very successful and the bells were sent to be repaired and refurbished after Easter. Thank you for everyone who contributed to the handbell repair!
- We had an inspiring Renaissance Vocal Workshop at the church with our Chancel Choir and the FSU Chamber Choir both participating. Two selections from the workshop were sung for worship as well.
- The early music ensemble, Alkemie, performed a concert of Medieval music. Alkemie is the FSU artists-in-residence and also led the vocal workshop.
- The FSU Choirs will perform a concert of American music in the end of April.

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

John Morrison
Director of Music



May 2017

SUNDAY	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
	1 10:30am Lunch Bunch	2 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers 5:30pm Hospitality Meeting	3 9am Food Pantry Work Day 6pm Christian Discipleship Team Meeting 7pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5 5:30pm First Friday	6
7 9am Cambridge Handbell Rehearsal 9am Children's Activities/Nursery 9am Sunday School 10am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Children's Music Time 10:30am Worship Service 6:30pm Confirmation Class	8 9am Staff Meeting 10:30am Wesley House Lunch 6:30pm Property Team Meeting	9 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers	10 7pm Choir Rehearsal	11 7pm Admin Team Meeting	12	13
14 9am Cambridge Handbell Rehearsal 9am Children's Activities/Nursery 9am Sunday School 10am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Children's Music Time 10:30am Worship Service/Shoes for Kids 6:30pm Youth Group	15 9am Staff Meeting	16 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers	17 7pm Choir Rehearsal	18 WV Presbytery Meeting @Bridgeport	19	20 Chimes Submission Deadline
21 9am Cambridge Handbell Rehearsal 9am Children's Activities/Nursery 9am Sunday School 10am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Children's Music Time 10:30am Worship Service 6:30pm Youth Group	22	23 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers 6:30pm Session Meeting	24	25 7pm Council of Churches	26	27
28 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship Service/Cents-Ability	29 Office Closed 9am Staff Meeting	30	31			

OUTREACH

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Thanks to everyone who donated on Easter Sunday towards One Great Hour of Sharing. These church collected \$538.86. These funds benefit the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self Development of People Grants.

KIVA - AN UPDATE FROM VIETNAM

In April of 2016, FPC contributed to a loan to the Hyong Group in Vietnam. That loan has been repair, and the lender wanted to share the success story of the recipient:

Duyen was happy because of successful fish rearing and she would like to say great thanks to you for your financial support for her agricultural work. Thanks to your loan, she could afford to buy baby fish for raising, breeding and selling. The profit from this investment was used to pay for her daughters' school fee and buy some household supplies. Currently she has taken a new loan from Anh Chi Em program to expand her husbandry.

Duyen would like to send many thanks to you and she hopes all the best things come to you and your family.



SPECIAL OFFERING UPDATE FROM THE PCUSA

The PCUSA has provided the following information to help congregations track their progress and goals in participation with the PCUSA Special Offerings.

	FPC - 2015	FPC - 2016	National - 2015	National - 2016
Christmas Joy	\$117.00	\$422.00	\$3,270,701	\$3,048,083
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$390.00	\$438.23	\$5,998,872	\$5,333,442
Pentecost	\$57.00	\$199.20	\$656,886	\$717,021
Peace & Global Witness	\$37.00	\$182.36	\$872,573	\$829,578
Presbyterian Giving Catalog	\$0.00	\$1,275.00	\$615,714	\$771,903

Christian Discipleship

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the Date: June 11 - 15

Join us for an awesome adventure alongside some of the favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us all truly heroic in God. Our 2017 VBS, Hero Central, includes epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories to help kids (and adults) discover their strength in God! Dinner will be provided!



FIRST FRIDAY



This First Friday on May 5th, the children and the staff are going to host a tea party. We are going to learn rules, manners, and God's perspective on honoring your parents. The children are going to be involved in hosting the tea party, decorating for the tea party. They will also be learning about manners. Children are asked to wear their "BEST TEA PARTY CLOTHES." and parents are invited to partake in a tea party hosted by your child at 8:00pm.

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 that 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.

www.PineSprings.org

BLUESTONE CAMPS

Bluestone Camp & Conference Center offers a full selection of summer camps. FPC has several 4-12 grade students going with Rev. Elise to camp from June 25 - July 1. Contact the church office for more information on registering your child for camp.

YOUTH

The youth group meets on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8pm for grades 5-12. Join us for fun, games, and fellowship.

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CONFERENCE

The Presbytery of WV's Nurture Committee invite all 9-12 grade students to the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat NC, on Saturday, July 15 - Saturday July 22. Contact Rev. Elise Neal for information about registering; deadline to register is Monday, April 30.



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.

May 7: In Acts 2:42 we read, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” It has just been a month since we began to celebrate Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. Do you still feel the joy? What might you joyously do to show your devotion to the teachings of Jesus? Do it.

May 14: Today we celebrate all the women who have been mothers to us from our biological mothers to the many women who have guided us in our lives. What women have been guides for you as a Christian? Make a list of these women as you think about what each has done for you. After you have made your list, then make another list of how you can be a guide to young people.

May 21: In Psalm 66 the Psalmist commands us to “Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth... Say to God, ‘How awesome are your deeds!’” Today, use your voice and your actions to “make a joyful noise to God.” Go outside and look at the awesome world God has created. Tell God what you love most about God’s creation. If you are brave, gather your family or friends; gather some pots and spoons, go outside and MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO GOD!

May 28: On our church calendars this is “Disability Inclusion” Sunday. Think about how your church includes people with physical or mental disabilities. How might some people feel excluded? What more could your church do? Talk with your pastor or a session member about how your church might be more inclusive.

WELCOME

Pending Session approval, FPC would like to welcome Shawn Weaver as our new Discipleship Ministry Coordinator. Shawn will start at First Presbyterian this May, please provide him a warm welcome as he starts to find his way around the church and our ministries.

COMMUNITY NEWS



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

May 4, 2017 is the National Day of Prayer. Local leaders will join together on the Marion County Courthouse steps from noon to 1pm to join together in prayer. Rev. Elise Neal will be there to pray for our business leaders.

CONNECTING LINK LULAROE FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars for an upcoming Lularoe Fundraiser for The Connecting Link on May 7th. The Pop Up Shop will be held here at First Presbyterian from 2-4pm.

APRIL SESSION SUMMARY

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church met on Monday, April 24th at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Elise opened the meeting with prayer. Harmony Garletts offered the devotion. Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of March 20 and the Called Session Meeting of April 9 were approved. Carolyn shared several communications she had received over the past month. Jim DeLong presented the operating budget, stating that we are about \$8,000 under budget for the year-to-date and that investments are up. Session approved it. The Administrative Team made a motion to search for another accounting service for FPC, and it passed. The Worship & Music Ministry Team presented their report that included dates for Communion (May 7, June 4, July 16, August 13, September 10, October 1, and November 26), Summer Sunday Service begins May 28 (worship services move to 10:00 a.m.), Worship in the Park on June 18, and Rally Day on September 10 (worship services move back to 10:30 a.m.). Property moved to end Mark and Mike's services as part-time sextons, to approve building use by Stewartsville Presbyterian Church on July 8-9, and to replace the heating system. All motions carried. The Christian Discipleship Team moved to hire new nursery staff. Motion carried. Outreach Ministry will participate in the Spring into Action Fair in Veterans Square on Saturday, April 29 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Other matters for Session Consideration are a membership roll review and compiling a church directory. Pastor Elise adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m. The next Session meeting will be on Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Pam Pittman

May Lectionary Text

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—MAY 7

Acts 2:42–47 Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19–25 John 10:1–10

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—MAY 14

Acts 7:55–60 Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16
1 Peter 2:2–10 John 14:1–14

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—MAY 21

Acts 17:22–31 Psalm 66:8–20
1 Peter 3:13–22 John 14:15–21

ASCENSION OF THE LORD—MAY 25

Acts 1:1–11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15–23 Luke 24:44–53

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—MAY 28

Acts 1:6–14 Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35
1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11 John 17:1–11

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Stan & Linda Swihart
47 Years on May 23

Bill & Lois Laughlin
44 Years on May 26

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1st - John Morrison
3rd - Erin Hauser
4th - Janet Chittum
9th - Amy Cooper
13th - Chad Cooper
14th - Glen Satterfield
17th - Hailey Hauser
18th - Will Trisel
19th - Dana Satterfield
20th - Pam Nolan
28th - Elise Neal

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.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you so much for your generosity in hosting our dinner in memory of Todd. It's great to know that there are people in the world who really care about others and their needs. Your sympathy and thoughtfulness will always be gratefully remembered and deeply appreciated.

Much love,
The Payton Family

Thank you for your donation to our food pantry. Your gifts help to meet the many needs of our students. May God bless you.

God's Grace & Peace
Rev. Maria Wiblin, The Wesley House

APRIL GIVING

April 2nd	\$5,680.51
April 9th	\$1,413.00
April 16th	\$5,668.85
April 23rd	\$1,766.00
April Total	\$14,708.36
YTD Total	\$53,524.06

May Ministry Volunteers

LITURGIST
May: 7 Bill Laughlin
May 14 & 21 Don Trisel
May 28 Ken Miller

USHERS
Roger & Deanna Kritzer
John & Betty Pat Lee
Skip Bell



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

the May 2017 Chimes

	1 Letter from the Pastor
	3 Committee News & Prayer List
	4 Music Notes
	5 Contact Info
	6 Calendar
	7 Outreach
	8 Christian Discipleship
	10 Community News & Session Report
	11 Lectionary Text & Volunteer Info

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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