



# The Presby Record

A community beacon of faith, love and hope.

Volume LV Issue 5

May 2025

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## *Mark's Message*

Beloved members and friends of FPC St. Albans,

Your kind words to me and the celebration of our time together on Sunday, April 27th, were so very meaningful, and the energy surrounding your goodbyes was exceptionally heartfelt. It was a reassurance of our time in ministry together, being such that God was worshiped and glorified. It was an amazing capstone for me personally, so once again, thank you.

As our time together comes to an end officially on May 11th, it is important for us to have a conversation about how our relationship must now naturally evolve. As you might expect, this is not an easy conversation for either of us to have, but for the sake of the church we both love, it is a necessary one.

I'll begin by saying, thankfully, the Presbytery has a very good policy available and is prepared for situations like this that occur frequently in the lives of pastors and congregations. It is available for you to read at <https://wvpresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Ethics-for-Departing-Pastoral-Leaders.pdf>. One thing I would like to highlight from the document is the third section titled, "Guidelines For Relating to a Former Congregation From a Different Location." In it, there are lists of questions many of you have already asked, and the document does an excellent job of explaining why certain situations must be handled the way they are. Two of the most common questions are handled in an additionally quoted document that outlines ethical standards I must uphold, and states that I shall "Participate in the life of a ministry setting I left or from which I have retired only as directed by presbytery; and, "Provide pastoral services for a congregation I previously served only as directed by the presbytery." I know this is challenging, but it is a healthy boundary that I must obey.

I want to reiterate words I have already shared, namely, it has been an honor to be your pastor. I will cherish our time together, serving in Christ's name and discerning the Spirit's guidance. You have a very powerful and capable Session that will lead you into the future God has prepared in advance for you. Thank you for sharing your lives with me, and as we end each Sunday, "Farewell good friends! Farewell good friends! Shalom, shalom. Till we meet again, till we meet again, Shalom, Shalom." May God's shalom keep you well.

Pax,

Mark

## Communion Servers

**May 4th** - Kathleen Jordan - Set up

Buck Ivey - Server

Jack Rogers - Server

**June 1st** - Buck Ivey - Set up

Kristi Sutphin - Server

Jack Rogers - Server

## Liturgists

**May 4th** - David Harvey

**May 11th** - Jennifer Burgess

**May 18th** - Buck Ivey

**May 25th** - Kathleen Jordan

**June 1st** - Valerie Wade

## In Care Facilities:

Ann McCormick, Apt.106, English Meadows,  
5 Bexley Dr, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Sadie Ashworth, 5 Rolling Meadows Dr., Room  
118, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Cel Jones, Meadowbrook Acres Rehab, Room A-  
13, 2149 Greenbrier Street, Charleston, WV 25311  
Phone 304 344-4268

## Prayer Concerns

### **Prayer Concerns – Congregation Members:**

Mike Clark	Mike Merguc, Home
Mark Curtis	Alex Dayfield
Sara Kell	Kensie McComas

### **Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends**

Ashley Nestman, Lymphoma (Connie Ivey)

Kathi Curtis' mother, Shirley Ware, Florida

Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Parkinson's (Kathryn Maddy)

William Wallace (Traletta Wallace's son) kidney

Roger Schomburg (Kathryn Maddy's uncle)

Victoria Reynolds (Wanda Bowman)

Joshua Higgins (Ron & Sharon Peterson's nephew)

Jeff Maddy (Kathryn Maddy's husband)

Michael Murphy (Mark Boyd's friend) cancer  
returned

Eloise Waugh, Florida

Brucie Kessler (recovering from surgery)

Harry Speidel (Connie Ivey's brother)

Debbie Speidel, broken shoulder (Connie's sister-  
in-law)

Darrin Grass, stomach cancer (Laurie Turley)

Mary Jo Swartz

Flo Rogers (Jack's wife) recovering from surgery

Ron Collins, multiple and serious health issues  
(Kathy Leftwich, the husband of a dear friend.)

Journey, two year old daughter of Dustin and Jess  
Combs, Anticipating Surgery

Jennifer Ray, high risk pregnancy (Donna's cousin)

Jason Haught, complications from spinal surgery  
(Vickie Haught's son, Jack Rogers' nephew)

Brett and Linda Foster, glioblastoma (Laurie's  
nephew and his wife)

Kate Calkins Lichtenfels, cancer (Kathryn Maddy's  
niece)

Arnett Schmidt, cancer and a ruptured spleen  
(Kathy Harrah)

## Military

**Captain Allie Curtis**, US. Army (United States) **Hunter  
Parsons** U.S. Navy (Virginia)

**Mickey Swartz**, Aircrew Flight Equipment  
Technician, U.S. Air Force (Eugene, Oregon)

**Lieutenant Jack Wiles**, U.S. Air Force

## May Birthdays

5 – Heather Cook

7 – Joseph and Sam Sutphin

10 – Gary Mounts

11 – Elizabeth Harvey

13 – Michael Clark

15 – Gracie Capehart

16 – Mark Curtis

19 – Gage Gibson

23 – Kathi Curtis

24 – Kaylee Truly

28 – Kathy Atkins

## Happy Anniversary

Patty and Jarrell Mullins

May 6, 1972

Susan and Richard Allowatt

May 7, 1977

Denny and Patsy Denison

May 15, 1970

Donna and Mike Merguc

May 22, 1971

Heather Cook & Francisco Chica Navas

May 12, 2007

## Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

We, your church congregation, are thrilled to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our graduates. Your hard work, dedication, and resilience have paid off, and you are now ready to embark on the next exciting chapter of your lives. As you step forward, remember that the future is bright and full of endless possibilities. We are incredibly proud of you and can't wait to see the amazing things you'll accomplish. Best wishes for a successful and fulfilling journey ahead!



**Michael John Merguc** is graduating from St. Albans High School on May 27. Michael has attended the Kanawha County Special Education Programs since Preschool. Michael has been blessed with many dedicated and caring Teachers, Aides, and Therapists during his time in Special Education. Michael's family is researching all the Day Programs at this time. These programs have structured environments where individuals with disabilities can engage in activities and receive social interaction and may also include life skills training. Michael has attended the Special Olympics each year and has played ball with the Nitro Challenger Baseball League since he was 5 years old. Please keep Michael in your prayers that God will be with him in his future goals and challenges.



**Logan Roberts**, is graduating from St. Albans High School and from the Carpentry Program at Ben Franklin. Known for his carpentry skills and musical talent, Logan excels in playing multiple instruments with ease. His passion for music shines through in his performances, where he showcases both technical skill and creativity. Whether he's strumming a guitar or playing the piano, Logan's musical abilities are as impressive as his craftsmanship.



**Moria Boyd** is graduating from Cabell Midland High School and has decided to attend Marshall University to pursue a career in the medical field, following her mother's footsteps. She is enthusiastic about the opportunities and challenges at Marshall, aiming to gain the skills necessary for a successful medical career and to make a positive impact in others' lives.



Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to: nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, support the mission of the church worldwide, work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Women of the church are gathering for lunch again this month at Shuckers on Friday, May 9 at 11:45. All are welcome.

Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation  
The 2024–2025 Horizons Bible study  
by author Patricia K. Tull

Presbyterian Women's Bible study this year was a call to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts. It has been a challenging study to face the demands of scripture in view of the modern day abuses of our God given world and those with whom we share it.

We have learned that God's creation of our little blue planet "was less an act of producing its material reality and more an achievement of control to produce order and function." James May wrote, "Psalm 140 recognizes a dynamic reality. The world always depends on the authority of God. The bounds are set against the chaotic waters (vs. 9) but the limits hold because the Lord reigns."

Join us as we conclude with one last look at the interconnectedness of life everywhere, and God's intention for life. The Reverend Rosalind Banbury said, "When we feast on the wonders of creation, thanksgiving can rise in us, and thanksgiving is an antidote to fear, cynicism and hopelessness. The world may be in turmoil, but beneath us are the foundations that our Creator laid." We can courageously do our part here and now to recreate balance with God's help, assurances, and our individual talents.

Daytime Circle meets Wednesday, May 14 at 12:00 noon in person for table fellowship. Bring your own brown bag lunch. At 12:35 pm we begin the Bible study and conclude promptly at 1:30 pm.

Evening Zoom Circle meets on Tuesday,  
May 13 at 7:00 pm. The zoom will open at 6:45 for early birds to fellowship.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85861031680?pwd=Nw4SR3C1r969qxLdwY9avWaru3wiai.1>

Meeting ID: 858 6103 1680  
Passcode: 406332



### **True North: A Summer of Faith and Adventure Awaits!**

As summer approaches, excitement is building for this year's Vacation Bible School at First Presby. From June 9-13, 5:30 - 8:00pm each night, we invite children to embark on an unforgettable journey toward Jesus, our True North—a faithful friend we can always trust!

In today's fast-moving world, it's easy to lose sight of truth. But throughout this special week, kids will explore how Jesus provides unwavering guidance, leading them through life's adventures with clarity and love. Expect faith discoveries, memorable music, epic adventures, and friendship-building moments with Jesus!

Each evening will be packed with food, energizing music, science experiments, fun games, and engaging Bible time, ensuring that every child experiences the joy of growing in faith.

We still need volunteers to help make this event a success! If you're passionate about guiding young hearts toward faith, we encourage you to \*\*reach out to Holly Greathouse at (304) 741-7549\*\*.

Come join us in this incredible journey as we navigate toward our True North—Jesus!  
We can't wait to see you there!

Register at: [firstpresbychurch.com](http://firstpresbychurch.com)

First 20 to register will receive a free True North T-Shirt!

<https://forms.gle/6teyshqjwPHctp539>



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL 13 MEETING

- Moderator Mark Boyd opened the meeting with prayer.
- Our guest, Maureen Wright, Transitional General Presbyter and Stated Clerk of Presbytery of WV, discussed the transition process as our congregation proceeds without an installed pastor. She entertained questions and comments.
- Treasurer's reports were received as presented.
- Approved transfer of membership for Mark and Kathi Curtis to the Plantation United Methodist Church, Plantation, FL.
- Approved the baptism of Christopher Allan Dale Caldwell, son of Cody Caldwell.
- Approved a list of pulpit supply through June 1st.
- Approved a youth group from Northminster Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis to stay overnight in First Presby's building the night of July 14. They will be traveling to Massanetta Springs.
- Approved a baby shower in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, June 28.
- Approved a Called Congregational Meeting for Sunday, April 27 for the purpose of dissolving our pastoral relationship with Rev. Mark Boyd effective May 9th.

### **\*Congratulations\***

**Steve Leftwich is retiring from WVU Tech where he taught civil engineering for 37 years. He's ready to immerse himself in his woodworking hobby and additional visits to his family farm.**

## Little's Story Time Team

### Donna Merguc, Coordinator

Story time introduces the children to books, rhymes and rhythm, music and song, taking turns, paying attention, and being in a group. The children teach us adults the importance of simple joys, curiosity, living in the moment, patience, forgiveness, and just having fun.

Fridays are Little's Day! The helpers and children look forward so much to our time together to fellowship with one another.

We were blessed with THIRTY little ones at our Easter celebration. Mike Merguc and Matthew Lanham hid over 300 eggs on the playground for the children. The weather was a little cool but it didn't hinder them from finding ALL of the eggs!

Daisy, Zoey, and their families came to our Spring Market on April 19 at the church and participated in that Egg Hunt. They had a great time! Thank you Raven for offering that event.

Do you enjoy watching children make crafts? We could use more volunteers to assist with the CRAFTS. You could help once a month or every other month. We get many of our craft ideas from the internet such as Pinterest. Think about it, pray about it and give Mrs. Donna a call or text at 304-545-1159. Thank you.

Take a moment and stop by the Nursery to see our new curtains. We love them and hope you do!

St. Albans Food Pantry is asking for volunteers to help sort food from the Post Office food drive. If you are interested, please arrive at the Food Pantry May 10th between 1:00pm-5:00pm.

Thank you!

## Facilities Committee

Special thanks to Kathleen, Alex, Tony, Braxton, Regina, Raven, David, Wendy, Mel, Sara, Andrew, Katie, Andi, Donna and Jennifer for their participation on our April(Spring) cleanup day!

Item Addressed:

- Clean leaves from exterior stairwells
- Paint exterior caution posts
- Scrape and prime basement dorm room walls
- Sand edges of three doors and touch up stain
- Scrape and prep exterior handrails
- Add screws as needed to church pews, add pencils and envelopes to holders
- Clean dining tables and chairs
- Clean out shed and throw away trash
- Trim one tree
- Bell tower checked for birds

Thanks Again!

The new roof has been completed!  
HVAC to be completed this month.  
Slate roof checked by Durable Slate and all is well.  
Wind blown downspout reset by Harris Brothers.



The Pentecost Offering supports our ministries with children and youth.

Join Us  
April 21-June 8!

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

 **PENTECOST**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

April 21–June 8, 2025



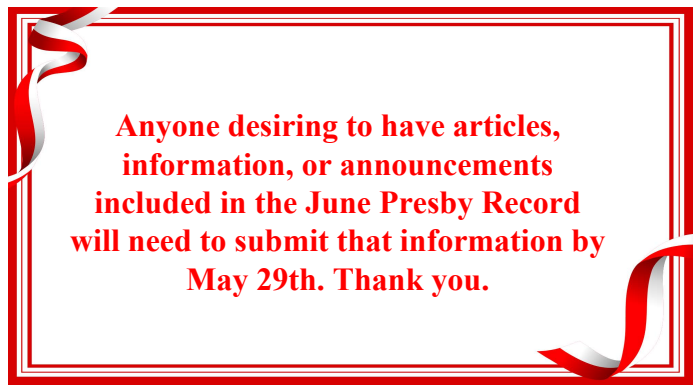
# PENTECOST

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

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CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

First Presbyterian Church  
201 Kanawha Terrace  
St. Albans, WV 25177



**Trustees**

Class of 2025: Buck Ivey  
Class of 2026: Holly Greathouse  
Class of 2027: Dewitt Bowman

**Officers**

<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
Dave Harvey (1)	Kathleen Jordan (2)	Jennifer Burgess (1)
Adam Greathouse (1)	Valerie Wade (2)	Kathy Harrah (1)
Buck Ivey (1)	Kristi Sutphin (1)	Jack Rogers (2)

**Church Staff**

Ministers..... Every Member of the Congregation  
 Pastor .....  
 Administrative Assistant.....Raven Lanham  
 Custodian ..... Jennifer Gil  
 Musician..... N. David Stern  
 Treasurer .....Buck Ivey  
 Tech Team ..... Dave&Wendy Harvey, Betty King, Logan Roberts

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