



The PresbyRecord

A community beacon of faith, love and hope.

Volume LVIV, Issue 5

May, 2024

Mark's Message

Springtime is a great reminder of the resurrection in many ways, and I've touched on a few of those in some of the most recent sermons. No matter what your passions in life happen to be—spring cleaning, daily hikes, honey-dos, renovations, gardening, etc.—there is literally a boost of energy for animals and plants alike as the exposure to more sunlight helps with rejuvenation and organisms' ability to thrive and prosper. Sunlight for animals boosts the production of serotonin—necessary for healthy sleep, healing, growth, and mood stability—and vitamin D which helps build stronger bones and immunity. In the plant kingdom, sunlight provides the key component for life in all plants, allowing for photosynthesis to occur and growth becomes the order of the day: it is the season of hope. This of course happens because of the way the earth is tilted on its axis and in our "spring" we begin to receive more sunshine as we rotate around our star. Conversely, we all know that after about October 20th each year we receive diminishing amounts of sunshine, leading to our winter months and the dying away, or dormancy, of most plant life and some animals.

It was about this time last year, around the same time as the Earth's tilt allowed more sunshine during our 24-hour day, that I invited Session to shine light on our system of organization, how we function, how we are

aligned, and how we might grow in the future. At the time (spring of 2023) we were charged with having 11 committees, each of which was to be chaired by one serving Elder and staffed with a compliment of about 5-7 members-at-large from the congregation. The reality, however, is that we were essentially functioning with eight Elders and maybe only half of the assigned committees were meeting regularly, with four not functioning at all. Furthermore, it was realized rather quickly that on three of the committees, most if not all the at-large members were the exact same people. Session also recognized that as a 115-member church with an average weekly attendance of 40-45, essentially, we were "over-committed" for our current situation. For us to function well it was necessary for us to prune and cull some of our committees and focus our attention in a more nuanced and streamlined way, which will also hopefully allow for and nurture growth. This discussion, which began in February 2023, came to fruition at our April 13th Session retreat at the church.

In our current tilt toward ministry, Session voted to condense our work into three committees, each having three Elders to support the work, and each examining exactly what work we feel called to do. It's a bit of our own spring cleaning, gardening, pruning, planting, seeding, or whatever metaphor you'd like to use, to see where the work of ministry will take us. Our three focal points of ministry will now be structured under Administration, Spiritual Life, and Facilities.

The hope of Session is that this new structure will be the basis of growing, strengthening, and developing the ministries of First Presbyterian Church of St. Albans into the healthy, vibrant house of worship God intends it to be. However, this will only be possible if we as the worshipping community help nurture this altered “tilt” toward the “Son” in a wholesome and encouraging way. What this means for you, dear reader, is that as much as we are centralizing our leadership model into a more manageable and realistic representation of our current size, we will need to enhance the percentage of participation from the membership of conducting the work of the church. It is time for you to branch out with your abilities into supporting the structure of the church. Does it mean you have to come to committee meetings? Probably not, in fact you’ll likely find that committee members are going to ask you to help with an activity or specific task rather than trying to persuade you to make a commitment of time once a month in perpetuity. Our hope is that as Session grows into this new Son-soaked model of leadership, you will be willing to gain energy from tasks that need to be accomplished during the seasons of the ecclesial year. Some things we know and recognize will go into dormancy, while other things will bloom and grow. While much of the natural world witnesses this based on the solar year, we recognize many of our ministry activities go through periods of growth, death, and rebirth as well.

This alteration of our structure is not new or isolated with just us; in fact, many of the healthiest churches have adopted this approach to grow participation and clear busied calendars. While we recognize this is not the silver bullet to ministry, we do hope this “tilt” toward the “Son” invigorates a season of energy, strength, health/healing, and skeletal improvement that allows us to continue to do the things we do well better,

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while pruning away some of what prohibits propagation. This did not happen overnight; it took more than one orbit of our planet around the sun to take root. However, we hope this will inspire birth, growth, excitement, and a renewed spirit of hope for all of us who call FPC St. Albans our church home. Please grow with us and be a vital part of the future ministry of our life together.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULT

April 1 – May 19

investing in our greatest resource

Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults. You make may checks payable to FPC and drop in the offering plate on Sunday Watch future announcements for more information.



At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the **first church**. This is why Pentecost is known as the **birthday of the Christian church**.

Pentecost is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 49th day after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, mother of Jesus and the Apostles of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

Planning for the Future: End of Life Seminar

Join us on Wednesday, May 15th, as we gather for a special seminar dedicated to addressing a topic often overlooked but deeply important: end of life planning. This informative event will feature expert advice from a diverse panel, including a seasoned lawyer, a compassionate funeral director, and a knowledgeable financial planner.

Why is end of life planning crucial? It's an act of love and responsibility toward ourselves and our loved ones. By making decisions now, we ensure our wishes are known and alleviate the burden on our families during an already difficult time.

During the seminar, our esteemed guests will cover a range of essential topics, guiding us through the intricate process of end-of-life planning:

- **Legal Matters:** Our lawyer will shed light on the legal aspects of end-of-life planning, including wills, trusts, and advance directives. Learn how to protect your assets and ensure your wishes are honored.
- **Funeral Arrangements:** The funeral director will provide insights into pre-planning funeral arrangements, offering options and guidance to create a meaningful and personalized farewell that reflects your values and beliefs.
- **Financial Preparation:** Our financial planner will discuss the importance of financial preparation for end of life, addressing topics such as estate planning, insurance, and managing financial affairs for loved ones left behind.

By attending this seminar, you'll gain valuable knowledge and resources to empower you in making informed decisions about your future. Whether you're considering your own end of life plans or assisting aging parents or relatives, this seminar is for you.

Date: Wednesday, May 15th

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: First Presbyterian Church of St. Albans, Fellowship Hall

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 & Jerry Mullins	May 6, 1972
Susan & Richard Allowatt	May 7, 1977
Donna & Mike Merguc	May 22, 1971
Denny & Patsy Denison	May 15, 1970
Heather Cook & Francisco	Chica Navas May 12, 2007

Congratulations!

- **Captain Allie Curtis**, U.S. Army Graduates this month from West Virginia University with a Master of Arts in Integrated Digital Marketing.
- **Tyler Loundenburg** graduates from Symmes Valley High School on May 25th. He is enrolled to start an LPN program in the fall. Tyler is the grandson of Jane and Brian Loudenburg.
- **Tyler Walker** graduated from MIT in 2019 and is currently working on his PhD at the University of Rochester, NY. His address is 104 Suburban Court, Rochester, NY 14620. Tyler is the grandson of Dreama and Lorn Walker.

Kathy Leftwich retired after nearly 40 years at WVU Tech/BridgeValley Community & Technical College!! Her new email address khleftwichmms@gmail.com

Prayer Concerns

Care Facilities:

Ann McCormick, Apt. 213, English Meadows,
5 Bexley Dr, Scott Depot, WV 25560
Sadie Ashworth, 5 Rolling Meadows Dr., Room 118, Scott
Depot, WV 25560

Prayer Concerns – Congregation Members:

Mark Curtis	Debi Speidel
Mike Clark	Sara Kell
Eleanor Reeves	Laurie Turley

Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends

Ashley Nestman, Lymphoma (Connie Ivey)
Kathi Curtis' mother, Shirley Ware
Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Parkinson's (Kathryn Maddy)
William Wallace (Traletta Wallace's son) kidney
Roger Schomburg (Kathryn Maddy's uncle)
Victoria Reynolds hospitalized (Wanda Bowman)
Billy Wright (Laurie Turley) myeloma/Hemochromatosis
Joshua Higgins (Ron & Sharon Peterson's nephew)
Jeff Maddy (Kathryn Maddy's husband)
Michael Murphy (Mark Boyd's friend) cancer
Josh Reaser (Laurie Turley's cousin) cancer
Annie Miller (Veronica's niece) recovering at home, FL
Eloise Waugh, Florida, recovering from a fall
Mary Jo Swartz
Bill Rusika, Ann McCormick's uncle, Clarksburg hospital
Janet Walker (Donna Merguc's sister) heart issue
Bob Wharton (Laurie Turley's cousin)

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

Prayer Box Requests

- Prayer that Spring 2024 is not a season of tribulation or reproach for me. Thank you and God bless you.
- Prayer for healing for Tim.
- I'm so lonely and have no friends or family. I just want to have a purpose and feel like I belong.
- Please pray for my family and friends who are suffering with various illnesses. --D. Arbaugh

Our Sympathy

Mrs. Alice Ruth McClanahan Woodall Shafer of Nitro passed away at the age of 89 at Valley Center. Alice was preceded in death by her parents, Estil and Carrie McClanahan, brothers Roy, Attison, Woodrow, Arnold, and Denver, and husbands Gordon Woodall (1958-1996) and **Rev. Charles Shafer (1998-2020)**. Alice is survived by her son, James Gordon Woodall; stepdaughters Cynthia Howerton and Jennifer Martin, as well as a number of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Administration Committee

Adam Greathouse, Buck Ivey, Kathleen Jordan
Dear Members of the Congregation,
We are delighted to share with you a significant step forward in our journey as a community of faith. During our recent Session meeting, we approved a plan to consolidate our committees, aiming to enhance efficiency and maximize our impact as a united body.

Central to this restructuring is the establishment of the Administration Committee, a pivotal initiative that I have the privilege to chair. This committee will oversee crucial areas including Finance, Staff, Stewardship, and Memorial responsibilities. With the leadership of three dedicated Session Members, including myself, the Administration Committee is poised to shape the future of our church profoundly.

As we embark on this new chapter, we are reaching out to you, our valued members, for support. We are actively seeking individuals with a passion for leadership, experience in HR, finance, or administrative roles to join us on the Administration Committee. Your involvement in this essential committee will directly contribute to the success of our mission and the well-being of our faith community for years to come.

The Administration Committee is not merely another group; it serves as the backbone of our church's operations and functionality. Your commitment to this committee can make a significant difference in ensuring the smooth functioning of our church operations.

Whether you are not currently on a committee or considering a change, we invite you to explore this exciting opportunity. Your dedication to the Administration Committee can shape the future of our ministry for years to come.

If you are interested or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Adam Greathouse. I eagerly await the opportunity to connect with you and discuss how you can play an integral role in shaping the future of our ministry.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." - Romans 12:6

Let us embody this timeless wisdom from the Apostle Paul by lending our talents to the Administration Committee. Together, let us glorify God and support our church community through purposeful service and stewardship.

Peace be with you,
Adam Greathouse
Chair, Administration Committee

Memorials

Given in memory of **Millie Grogg White** by:
Steve & Chris Henderson
Buck & Connie Ivey
Adam & Lori Martin
Joanne Rudisill

Given in memory of **Gloria Jean Williams** by:
Amy Bishell
Linda & Eugene Blodgett
Kris Dunlap
Buck & Connie Ivey
John & Jackie Jones
Sharon Mayo
Linda McCallister (designated for Music Program)
NTV Asset Management, LLC
Robert, Jr. & Ann Orders
John & Brenda Valentine
James & Joan Waggy
D.S. & Diane Walker
Steven & Diana Williams

Liturgists

May 5 – David Harvey
May 12 – Holly Greathouse
May 19 – Mark Curtis
May 26 – Kathleen Jordan
June 2 – Adam Greathouse
June 9 – Jamie Boyd
June 16 – Mark Curtis
June 23 – Buck Ivey

Communion Set-up and Servers

May 5 – David Harvey, set up
Buck Ivey, Kathleen Jordan servers
June 2—Buck Ivey, set up
Kristi, Jack servers
July 7 — Kristi Sutphin, set up
Jack, Kathleen servers
Aug 4 —Jack, set up
Kathleen, Adam servers
Sept 1—Kathleen, set up
Adam Greathouse, Valerie Wade, servers

Notes from Session

April Stated Session meeting and Officer Training was held on Saturday, April 13 with all officers in attendance.

Approved purchase of a second brass plaque for the memorial garden in the amount of \$3600.

Approved the Westminster Ukirk program at West Virginia State University.

Approved adoption of a new committee structure for leading the congregation, including assignments and meeting dates.

Set next Session meeting for Sunday, May 19th at 12:15.

Shared prayer concerns and adjourned meeting with prayer by Rev. Boyd.

Spiritual Life Committee

Laurie Turley, Valerie Wade, Kristi Sutphin

Blessing Bags – We need socks! We thank everyone for the donations to the Blessing Bags. All items are still needed for the bags but one item is of a serious nature – **SOCKS**. Please place the socks in the designated basket in the fellowship hall.

WE ARE STILL RECYCLING CANS FOR THE ST. ALBANS HIGH SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB



We continue to collect recyclable cans for the Garden Club at St. Albans High School. Under the direction of David Harvey, the proceeds will go toward the purchase of seeds and plants for gardens behind the high school. Contact David Harvey if you have questions at dwjcoh@msn.com LOOK FOR THE RECYCLING CONTAINER MARKED FOR CANS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

Refreshments Needed for Fellowship Time following Worship

If you would like to take a turn providing refreshments on a Sunday following a worship service, please sign up on the calendar in the kitchen. Thank you to all who have been bringing goodies. It is always a welcome surprise to come in the fellowship hall after worship and find a treat to share while visiting with one another.

Contact Laurie Turley at cheflauriet@aol.com
304-610-4076 call or text if you have questions.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

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.

To learn more, see www.presbyterianwomen.org.
Horizon's 2023-2024 Bible Study
Sacred Encounters: the Power & Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

Zoom Circle is Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00 pm (see link below)

Daytime Circle is Wednesday, May 8 at Noon

This month our sacred encounter reminds us that Biblical faith is always focused on the good of the community. Join us for either or both circle gatherings. Wednesday is a brown bag lunch fellowship at noon, with Bible study from 12:35 to 1:30 pm. The Zoom on Tuesday opens at 6:45 pm for fellowship and Bible study begins at 7:00 pm. Here is the Zoom link:

<https://bridgevalley.zoom.us/j/81076798059>

Meeting ID: 810 7679 8059

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,81076798059# **US (Washington DC)**

+13126266799,,81076798059# **US (Chicago)**

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 810 7679 8059 Find your local

number: <https://bridgevalley.zoom.us/j/81076798059>
13Y



BIRTHDAY OFFERING BRUNCH SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024

All members of our congregation are invited to the Birthday Offering Brunch on Sunday, June 2, 2024, following worship. The Birthday Offering is a time-honored annual tradition of Presbyterian Women since 1922, and has provided grants to over 200 major projects that continue to witness to the promise of God's never-ending work in the world.



Anyone desiring to have articles, information, or announcements included in the June newsletter will need to submit that information by May 29. Thank you.



St. Albans Post Office Food Drive
Saturday, May 11, 2024
12:00-5:30pm at St Marks

VOLUNTEERS GREATLY NEEDED!! Call Andi in the church office if you would like to volunteer. You can come at any time and stay as long as you can. (The times when there is the greatest need for volunteers is 4:00-5:30pm.)

LITTLES' STORY-TIME

meets on Fridays from 10:30 till 11:15am. It's 45 minutes but we accomplish a lot in that short period of time. We read a book, make a craft, play, sing songs, play games, and eat a snack together after we have prayed.



LITTLES' STORY-TIME PROGRAM
2024 SCHEDULE
Every Friday
10:30 - 11:15 am

May 3	Kirk King (B)	Tara Malcomb (C)	Abbie Burch (S)
May 10	John Jones (B)	Donna Merguc (C)	Jennifer Burgess(S)
May 17	Connie Ivey (B)	Raven Lanham (C)	Linda Slappe (S)
May 24	Jackie Jones (B)	Debbie Duvall (C)	Regina Dayfield (S)
May 31	No School – NO LITTLES		
June 7	Kathryn Maddy (B)	Sara Kell (C)	Andi Pease (S)
June 14	Kirk King (B)	Donna Merguc (C)	Kathleen Jordan (S)
June 21	Connie Ivey (B)	Debbie Duvall (C)	Raven Lanham (S)
June 28	Kathy Weed (B)	Andi Pease (C)	Linda Slappe (S)

Month of July NO LITTLES
Aug 2 NO LITTLES
Aug 9 NO LITTLES

Returning on Friday, August 16th

Suggested Activities: B - Reading the Book C - Preparing the Craft S - Preparing the Snack

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



Class of 2024

Jack Rogers (1)
Laurie Turley (1)
Holly Greathouse (2)

Officers

Class of 2025

Dave Harvey (1)
Adam Greathouse (1)
Buck Ivey (1)

Class of 2026

Kathleen Jordan (2)
Valerie Wade (2)
Kristi Sutphin (1)

Church Staff

Ministers Every Member of the Congregation
Pastor..... Rev. Mark Boyd
Custodian..... Mike Merguc
Treasurer Buck Ivey
Tech Team.....Dave/Wendy Harvey, Betty King, Michael Clark

Trustees

Class of 2024: John Jones
Class of 2025: Buck Ivey
Class of 2026: Mark Curtis

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