

---

# The Presbyterian Press

---



---

## Publication of First Presbyterian Church of Clarksburg 2024

---

Dolores Yoke from Mustard Seed:

**"THANK YOU!** As Christian churches begin ordinary time, the Mustard Seed volunteers want to send extraordinary thanks to all who share our "work of Christmas." Your generous gifts of time, funds, clothing, cleaning/hygiene products, household goods and prayers make this happen.

Last year 24,422 people were fed. Clothing and household goods were shared with 21,755. Howard Thurman's poem *The Work of Christmas* ends "bring peace among brothers and make music in the heart." You do it through the Mustard Seed!

Our current needs are peanut butter, jelly, soup, blankets, toilet paper, hoodies in all sizes and your used grocery bags. Blessing to you all in 2024."

"The Mustard Seed would like to give big thanks to the congregation of First Presbyterian church for the warm outerwear items they donated from their annual giving tree collection. This winter has certainly demanded warmth on several extremely cold days. Your caring and generosity are a blessing to many."



## Pastor John's Jottings



“Be Strong and bold . . . It is the Lord who goes before you.”  
Deuteronomy 31:7-8)

Lately I have been doing a lot of things for the last time. I have celebrated the last Christmas with you as your pastor. I have installed new officers for this church for the last time. Soon I will preach my last sermon here. I have truly enjoyed my time as your pastor. Together we did some great ministry! And I will miss you!

At the Ministerial Meeting this morning, the devotion was from Deuteronomy 31. Moses tells Joshua, “I am 120 years old. It is time for you to take over.” Moses wanted to lead the people into the Promised Land, but that was not to be. His time with them was at an end.

I found myself identifying with Moses. I may not be 120 years old, but I am feeling my years. I know that God has great plans for this church. But I will not be the one leading you into those plans. It is time for a new leader.

As we come to end of our time together and you begin the process of looking for your next full-time pastor, I can think of no better words for you than what Moses said to Joshua. “Be strong and bold, . . . It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

Hope and confidence,  
Pastor John



Pastor James A. Harris, thank you for agreeing to be our interim pastor. We really appreciate it.  
Thank you so much!

# First Presbyterian Church

## Session Highlights

Wednesday, January 16, 2024 5:30 p.m.

- The Presbytery has appointed a new moderator for the session for after Pastor John leaves. The Rev. Evan Walker, Pastor of First Presbyterian in Fairmont, was introduced to the session last night.
- The session set the meeting schedule with Pastor Evan. Session will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month starting in February.
- The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry has appointed George Lilley as the liaison to help this church work through the process of finding the next pastor. George was also present and spoke briefly to the committee. He will be meeting with the session on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30
- The Treasurer's report shows that we ended the year income vs. expenses in the black by \$1,564.89. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity!
- Changed the date of the next communion from Feb. 4 to January 28.
- Fellowship time after church continues to be scheduled
- The Publicity committee is working on getting the word out about the Lenten Lunches and Services.
- Approved extra hours for Lance to clean the entry ways after church on Sundays when ice melt is being tracked in.
- New pump and motor for boiler room has been installed and is working fine.
- Jenna Bennett will be coordinating home communion, and teams of the elders will be taking the communion to shut-ins.
- Decided to send \$1,000 to Open Heart Ministries to help people with rent and utilities.
- Approved contract for organ maintenance with Siedle Organ Company of Pittsburgh.
- Approved Statistical Report with thanks to Wayne for compiling the report.
- Elected Sally, Karen, Bryon, and Jenna to review financial books.
- Elected officers for the church corporation for 2024.

*President- Denver Atkinson*

*Vice-President - David Allman*

*Secretary- Ginger Delawder*

*Treasurer- Wayne Northey*

- Bryon and Ginger will be attending the February 17 Presbytery meeting.

### **Pastor's Report:**

**hospital visits:** 4 **Other significant Pastoral visits:** 15 most by phone

### **Baptisms:**

**Funerals:** 1-6-2024 Bonita Sue Burkhammer Coleman

**Sacrament of Communion:** Was celebrated on January 7 to 45 people. **Home communion** was taken to 6 people with the help of elder Connie Leuliette. It was celebrated at the Palace Bible Study and served to 7 people.

**Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2024 -**

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Month	Requests	Completed	Amt. Pledged	Amt.
January	3	3	\$300.00	\$300.00

There is a balance of \$7,117.28 as of Jan. 17, 2024

---

Net Income Jan- Dec 23	Budget	% of Budget
\$1,584.89	-21,689.00	-7.2%

---

*Special Days in February:*

*Groundhog day - February 2<sup>nd</sup> - hopefully not six more weeks of winter*

*Ash Wednesday, Valentine's Day, First day of Lenten lunches - February 14<sup>th</sup>*

*President s' Day February 19<sup>th</sup>*

*Leap year - 29 days in February*



February 4<sup>th</sup> - Suzi Heger  
 11<sup>th</sup> - Maria Morrison  
 18<sup>th</sup> - Bryon Delawder  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Beth Allen

4<sup>th</sup> - Betty Brandli  
 11<sup>th</sup> - Beckie Alvaro  
 18<sup>th</sup> - Betty Brandli  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Joshua White



4<sup>th</sup> - Jeanne Harris  
 11<sup>th</sup> - Maria Morrison  
 18<sup>th</sup> - Heather Sigmon  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Dick Ogden

4<sup>th</sup> - Denver Atkinson, Lance Kuhens  
 11<sup>th</sup> - Lance Kuhens, Hank Lawrence,  
 Andrea Myerburg  
 18<sup>th</sup> - Jason Burnett, Lance Kuhens  
 25<sup>th</sup> - David Allman, Denver Atkinson,  
 Lance Kuhens



4<sup>th</sup> - Amy Strange  
 11<sup>th</sup> - Ginger Delawder  
 18<sup>th</sup> - Terra Burnett  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Kandy Atkinson

## Laundry Ministry

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Jeanne, James & Kierra
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Beckie & Maria
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Sally & Josh
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Wayne & Harriett
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Jeanne, James & Kierra



Laundry Ministry



- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Dottie Rinehart  
Lynx Cosby
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Anne Small ridge
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Harmony Compton
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Sally Gray
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Heather Sigmon
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Megan Strange
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Bradley Burnett  
- Linda Lonsinger
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Karen Tyson
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Sarah Weese
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Genie Koerner  
Brad Nickerson
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Abigail Northey

## *Sermons for February*

*4<sup>th</sup> - "A Time to Refocus"*

*Deuteronomy 6:1-9  
2 Thessalonians 3: 1-6*

*11<sup>th</sup> - "Don't Forget the God of Blessing"*

*Leviticus 13: 1-13  
Luke 17: 11-18*

*18<sup>th</sup> - "Can You Believe What You See"*

*Psalms 8  
John 2: 1-11*

*25<sup>th</sup> - "Somebody Prayed for Me"*

*Psalms 17  
John 17:7-11*

*Lenten Lunch    14<sup>th</sup>  
"The Fruits of Our Labor"*

*Deuteronomy 26: 1-11*

---

