

First Presbyterian Church

508 2nd Avenue • South Charleston WV • 25303 • fpcscwv.org

MAY 2025

"Everyday...is the day the Lord has made— Rejoice! and be glad in it!"



A Note from Your Pastor:

May is coming...May is here! I always think of the month of May as the beginning of Spring. As the month matures, warmer weather arrives and the sound of lawn mowers permeate the air. The smell of fresh cut grass, the return of 'getting the back deck ready for summer'. Mother's Day is May 11...come to church and be showered with love!

May to me is flowers and sunshine...maybe I'm just a romantic.

Each week, as we do every month, there will be a suggested items to bring to Church for Heart and Hand. Please challenge yourself to step up to the challenge and bring those items. If we...ALL...bring items each week, we will be able to feed families in our community who are in need of food, toilet paper, paper towels...things that we sometimes take for granted...garbage bags, snack baggies, aluminum foil...

Spring is in the air...let us embrace it. We see the flowers in the dogwood trees and new green growth in the mighty oak trees. The Lily of the Valley are blooming and filling the air with a spring-like fragrance. Giving thanks to God every day, let us marvel in the creation all around us and the newness we see daily...budding and emerging.

God is good...all the time! All the time...God is good!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Ginna



First Presbyterian Church of South Charleston



Youth Group Leaders

Ginna Taylor, Pastor
304-419-3071
Pastor.ginna.fpcscwv@gmail.com

Rick Smith
304-437-3780
Rkssmith4343@gmail.com

Lori Miller Smith
304-549-9867
Lmillersmith@gowv.com

Youth Group Schedule MAY - 2025

May 3, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Boating and Tubing – weather permitting

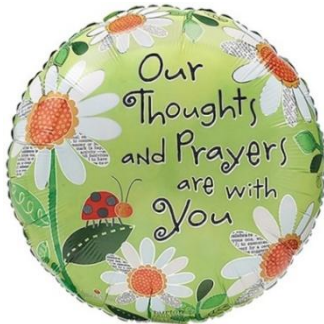
Mother or Father must attend; Pizza and Drinks!

May 30, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Friday Night after School Party

More details will follow.

Watch the church calendar and church bulletins for updates and schedule changes.



Please Be in Prayer for these Churches

This month, in addition to praying for our church and congregation, please pray for these churches in the Presbytery of WV and their ministry!

May 4

South Park Presbyterian Church, Charleston
Winfield Presbyterian Church
Kagumo Parish, Kenya

May 11

Community Presbyterian Church, Arthurdale
Milton Presbyterian Church
Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church
Githiru Church, Kagumo Parish, Kenya

May 18

Bates Memorial Presbyterian Church, Huntington
Zion Presbyterian, Helvetia
Kiagonde Church, Kagumo Parish, Kenya

May 25

Church of Our Savior, Clarksburg
Clothier Presbyterian Church
Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, Huntington
Marua Church, Kagumo Parish, Kenya



four WAYS to GIVE at

First Presbyterian Church

508 2nd Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303
304-744-2333

Visit us at
fpcscwv.org
for more information.



Mobile Giving

Use the PayPal, Venmo, or Titihely Apps to give on your mobile device.

You may search for and download these Apps in your APP store.



Online Giving

Visit our church at
www.fpcscwv.org
to use our giving
website directly.



Drop Off or In-Person

Visit our church and drop your donation in the mail slot beside the Education Building doors, drop it off in the church office, or use the offering baskets during worship services.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER ...

You're Going Places!

Commencement marks the beginning of a new stage of life, with graduates heading off to discover opportunities and face challenges. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* — a Dr. Seuss book that's now a popular graduation gift — whimsically explores life's ups and downs, twists and turns.

Young adults will face excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness. They'll feel a sense of purpose as well as confusion and even fear. "There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on," writes Dr. Seuss.

In the storybook, the life-traveler's sheer determination propels him beyond difficulties. But God's children don't need to journey alone. Our heavenly Father walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NRSV): "Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Seizing Holy Opportunities

In *Holy Moments*, Matthew Kelly discusses the world's need for more small (but sometimes large) instances of people caring for others, cultivating joy, encouragement and love instead of anger, envy, fear. Kelly defines a Holy Moment as "a single moment in which you open yourself to God. ... You set aside personal preference and self-interest, and for one moment you do what you prayerfully believe God is telling you to do."

This may mean mowing the lawn for a neighbor with a broken leg, praising a child on his artwork, buying a surprise snack for someone having a bad day, working extra shifts for a coworker with cancer so she can receive her full salary while out sick, paying for the next car's drive-thru order. Anyone can create a Holy Moment, because you don't need special skills, position or wealth. "If you want to see miracles, make yourself available to God," Kelly suggests.

He adds that God has a track record of collaborating with "the most unlikely people to make amazing things happen, and now He wants to collaborate with you." When we're open to God's leading, holy opportunities abound. And we will experience as much joy as the ones to whom we show care.

Powered by God

God made us: invented us as a [person] invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else.

Now God designed the human machine to run on himself. He himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from himself, because it is not there.

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



***Mission
Committee
Requests FOOD
for Heart & Hand***

We are collecting the items listed below for the food pantry at Heart & Hand this month:

Canned Soups, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Rice, Jiffy Mix, Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti Pasta, and Toilet Paper.

Please bring your donations each Sunday and they will be delivered to Heart & Hand! Help feed the hungry in our community!



Cents-Ability Offering

From the PCUSA website:

"Cents-Ability is one way that families, congregations, and presbyteries can support the battle against hunger and poverty. Every member is invited to contribute a few cents at every meal. Funds are then used to support local hunger ministries, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Our YTD gifts to Cents-Ability total \$188.75. Thank you for your generosity.

The next offering will be collected on Sunday, May 11th. Please start saving your 5 cents per meal each day.

NUTURING FAITH IDEAS from the PRESBYTERY of WV

Please use these suggested scriptures, questions, and activities to help you explore your faith.

May 4 – Third Sunday of Easter: Read John 21:1-19

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked him if he loved him not once but three times. We can feel equally hurt when our faith and/or love is questioned. However, a life of faith and following Jesus isn't a one-time commitment but a lifetime of showing up and doing as Jesus asks us. What will you do this week to feed Jesus' sheep?

May 11 – Fourth Sunday of Easter: Read Psalm 23

The psalmist lifts up God's care for us. God provides what we need, guides us in God's ways and provides rest for us. God is with us in the midst of our struggles, walking through the darkest, saddest, scariest places of our lives with us, comforting us. What is a dark place you've experienced recently? Picture God in that place with you, waling beside you and comforting you.

May 18 – Fifth Sunday of Easter: Read Psalm 148

The psalmist calls on all creation to praise the Lord! How do you praise God? What are five things for which you would praise God? Share your thoughts with a friend or family member.

May 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter: Read John 5:1-9

The man by the pool thought he knew what his problem was and how it needed to be fixed. Jesus offered the man a different perspective and a different solution. This week think of a problem that you are facing that you can't solve and ask God to open your eyes to new possibilities.

Kid's Page



A VALUABLE *command*

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.



son	mother	father
daughter	honor	home
respect	family	obey
	love	

1. _ _ _ _ _

2. _ _ _ _ _

3. _ _ _ _ _

4. _ _ _ _ _

5. _ _ _ _ _

6. _ _ _ _ _

7. _ _ _ _ _

8. _ _ _ _ _

9. _ _ _ _ _

10. _ _ _ _ _

ono your _ather and _our mo_h_r,
so t_at y_u may _i_e l_ng in t_e land
the L_RD _ou_ God i_ givi_g you.

EXODUS 20:12, NIV

BUMBLE BEE BALLS

Make these yummy treats as a summer snack.



What you need:

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1½ oz. instant oats
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup instant milk powder
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips
- 40 mini chocolate chips
- 20 slivered almonds
- 40 sliced almonds
- Adult help



What you do:

1. In a bowl, mix peanut butter, oats, honey and instant milk powder into dough. If too dry, add more peanut butter or honey.
2. Roll dough into 20 long balls. Place them on a cookie sheet and refrigerate.
3. Melt the dark chocolate chips and place them in a zippered baggie. Cut a tiny bit off one corner.
4. Remove dough from refrigerator. Squeeze thin lines of chocolate as stripes onto the bee bodies.
5. Use two mini chocolate chips for eyes, a slivered almond for a stinger and two sliced almonds as wings. Enjoy!



Answer: 1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son; Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

SPRING GETAWAY RETREAT

MAY 2 - 4 @Bluestone

Adults \$85
(ages 12 & older)

Youth \$50
(ages 4 - 11)

Children FREE
(ages 3 & under)

Registration deadline is April 30.

**There'll be plenty of good food
and fellowship... plus**

† trail hike or craft you can do at your leisure †

† study track w/weekend chaplain TBA †

† games, campfires, devotions †

† plenty of time and space to just simply be †

**Join us for a fun and relaxing
low key weekend!**

**Get Registration and Medical Release Forms
online at**

bluestonecamp.org/spring-getaway



Summer 2025

I want to ...

Come to Camp!

Camp Dates:

Week 1: June 15-21

Week 2: June 22-28

Week 3: June 29-July 5

Register Online Now!

bluestonecamp.org

Scholarships are available!

Bring the Whole Family!

Family Camp:

Camp Kick-Off Retreat:
June 13-15

Summer Send-Off Retreat:
July 4-6

Half-Week options are also available
each week of summer camp!

Work at Camp!

Paid Staff Positions:

Resident Counselor
High School Graduate
College Ages 17+

CIT Support Staff
High School Jrs & Srs

Service Support
Kitchen; Lifeguard

Volunteers Welcome Too!
Camp Nurse; Keyleaders; Crafts & More!

Get Some More Info!

Web: bluestonecamp.org

Email: mark@bluestonecamp.org

Phone: call (304) 397-5050 and
leave a voicemail

You're Invited!

All women of the church are invited to
Parlor at 2pm on Thursday, May 8.



We'll have lots of warm fellowship, fun, tasty treats and a great
Bible Study presented by Becky Nelson.

Please bring a snack to share and join us on May 8th!
See you there!



May 4	Amy Little
May 19	Rick Smith
May 24	Linda Amburgey
May 25	Becky Kimmons
	Becky Nelson
	Karl Smith
May 27	Brad Snyder

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Communion Sunday	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School (In-Person & Conference Call) 11:00 Worship (In-Person & Online) 1:00 Youth to SKYZONE 7:00 AI-Anon	6:00 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting	7:00 pm Committee Meetings		2:00 pm Women of the Church Fellowship & Bible Study		
11 Happy Mother's Day!	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School (In-Person & Conference Call) 11:00 Worship (In-Person & Online) 7:00 AI-Anon		6:30 pm Session Meeting		9:00 am Presbytery Meeting 1 st Presbyterian Church Logan, WV		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Sunday School (In-Person & Conference Call) 11:00 Worship (In-Person & Online) 12:05 Luncheon for All 7:00 AI-Anon				6:00 pm Pre-K Graduation Celebration		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Sunday School (In-Person & Conference Call) 11:00 Worship (In-Person & Online) 1:00 Youth Fellowship 7:00 AI-Anon	Memorial DAY				6:00 – 8:30 pm Youth Group Friday Night After School Party!	