

The Good News

November 2019

THANK YOU!

Hello friends,

November is a good month to say “Thank you,” so I’m taking the opportunity to do just that. I want to thank you for a number of reasons:

Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor. It has been an amazing year so far, and I know it will be a great final two months! I continue to have fun and find meaning doing this work, and it gives me a lot of joy.

Thank you for all the words of encouragement you give me. I appreciate them all.

Thank you for sharing stories of how sermons, bible study time, and prayer practices have helped you grow. Being a minister so often means that the fruits of our work aren’t very measurable or quantitative. We rely on hearing stories like that to give us validation of our work!

Thank you for all the cards, gifts, and food that I’ve enjoyed with you!

Thank you for your commitment to this church and the tremendous amount of energy, time, and resources you pour into it to keep us going in a positive direction!

Thank you for all your prayers - for me and for each other. Prayer is always a vital practice in the life of a church.

Thank you for your commitment to our community. If our church suddenly disappeared, a lot of people would notice, and that is a great thing that not every church can say.

Thank you for your willingness to try new things! It will help us discover new things God is calling us to do.

Thank you for making sure I take days off and vacation time. You truly care about my spiritual, emotional, and physical health - that is a gift not every pastor gets from the congregation.

Thank you for supporting me through Meaghan and my divorce this year. It has been a difficult year for my personal life, but I am on the other side of the most difficult time. Looking back, I realize that I never felt I had to fear that you all would question my ability to continue being your pastor through it. That is a true gift.

Thank you for taking me seriously! Honestly, I’m not that old, and I often wonder why in the world people with so much life experience and wisdom sit and listen to me preach. It is a humbling thing to do, and I do not take the pulpit for granted.

Thank you for doing your best to welcome people as Christ would welcome them. There are few things more important than this. The hospitality we demonstrate helps heal and restore their faith, and it gives them renewed hope! I have seen it happen, and we should never underestimate how important it is to demonstrate the grace of God to all people in our community. It’s easier to be a pastor to people when you all set the tone of love and grace.

I’m looking forward to the holiday season, and for many more years of ministry to come with you all here in Morgantown. God has a lot in store for us, and I can’t wait to see it all unfold.

Peace,
Zac

PREACHING SCHEDULE

November 3	Job & The Power of Suffering: When Bad Things Happen	Rev. Zac Morton
November 10	Davis & Elkins College Sunday	Chris Wood, <i>D&E President</i>
November 17	Job & The Power of Suffering: When God Doesn't Seem Good	Rev. Zac Morton
November 24	Job & The Power of Suffering: TBA	Rev. Zac Morton

JOB & THE POWER OF SUFFERING SERIES

Job is a book that is usually ignored or made “nice.” People think of Job as an exemplar of consistent, constant faith through struggle. The book of Job is way more complex than that! It is full of nuance, argument, and deep questions about the nature of God and human suffering. We will dive deep into the story over four weeks and look at how this fascinating book helps us develop a deeper understanding of how we experience suffering as people of faith.

HARVEST SUNDAYS

Our garden-scaping around the church is flourishing! We now have fall crops of peas, spinach, and radishes that benefit our local food pantries and Community Kitchen. Help us harvest, tend the garden, and learn a little about the food we are growing. All ages are welcome.

Our harvest Sunday dates for October are as follows:

- November 3
- November 17

We have donated the following amounts of food to local food pantries and the Community Kitchen from our church garden:

- Tomatoes 278 lbs.
- Pepper 58 lbs.
- Rainbow Chard 52 bunches
- Cabbage 24 lbs.
- Squash 62 lbs.
- Green Beans 88 servings

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Sunday, December 1	11:00 a.m.	First Sunday of Advent
Tuesday, December 3	5:30 p.m.	PCDC Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 8	11:00 a.m.	Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 8	4:30 p.m.	Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association Community Meal (Spruce St. UMC)
Saturday, December 14	9:00 a.m.	Presbyterian Women Cookies 'N More Sale
Sunday, December 15	11:00 a.m.	Third Sunday of Advent, Annual Christmas Pageant & Cantata
Sunday, December 15	6:00 p.m.	MACGlee Christmas Concert
Wednesday, December 18	6:30 p.m.	Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, December 22	11:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 22	afternoon	Christmas Caroling for Church Shut-ins
Tuesday, December 24	5:00 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24	9:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 29	11:00 a.m.	Unplugged Sunday Service - Hymn Sing
Sunday, January 5	11:00 a.m.	Epiphany Sunday

REV. ZAC TRAVELING NOVEMBER 7—15

Please note that Rev. Zac will be out of town from November 7—15 on a small group retreat with 1001 New Worshipping Community Ministers at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico. Rev. Amanda Hill will carry the Pastor Phone (304-299-2127) during that time, and emergency Pastoral Care will still be available.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD 2019 OFFERING OF LETTERS

Bread for the World's 2019 Offering of Letters urges an increase in funding for global child nutrition programs, with a focus on good nutrition from the beginning of a woman's pregnancy through the child's second birthday. Chronic malnutrition results in lifelong consequences for 1 in 4 children, and almost half of all child deaths worldwide are linked to malnutrition. All children deserve the opportunity to live a healthy life and reach their full potential. Please join us in making this opportunity a reality. Using your laptop, electronic notebook, or smartphone, insert bread.org/ol into the browser of your e-device. After you enter your name, address, and zip code, the system will automatically email both of your senators and your representative. That's three letters with the click of one button! We will be offering our letters after worship on Sunday, November 10. Look for our table in the parlor before and after the service. For more information on this year's Offering of Letters, please visit bread.org/ol.

FALL WORKDAY

Join property committee from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Monday, November 11, as they spruce-up the church building and grounds. Tools, cleaning supplies, and refreshments will be provided – all you need to bring with you is a pair of work gloves. Everyone is invited to lend a helping hand.

FRIENDSGIVING DINNER

This year, LGBTQ Task Force is joining with PFLAG Morgantown and Morgantown PRIDE to host a Friendsgiving Dinner. The event will be held from 6—8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, in the gym here at FPC. If you identify as LGBTQ+ or are an individual/family who wants to show support for them, this event is for you. Bring a dish to share, if you are able, but come anyway if you don't have a dish. All are welcome! It will help for setup to know how many are coming but, again, not necessary. Response or questions? Contact Mavis Grant-Lilley (mavis.grant1958@gmail.com). Hope to see you there.

BECOME A GREETER

We are looking for new greeters to help us welcome new faces, provide information, and make sure that everyone who comes to worship on Sunday mornings has a great experience. All greeters will receive some training before they begin, so you will have everything you need to welcome our community to First Pres. If you are interested in becoming a greeter, please e-mail Rev. Zac at pastorzm@gmail.com.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

The annual Thanksgiving dinner will be held after worship on Sunday, November 17. Deacons will provide turkey, gravy, and beverages. The congregation is asked to provide dressing, mashed potatoes, vegetable sides, salads, desserts, and bread. Sign-up sheets will be in the parlor through November 10. We hope to see you there!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

It is November, the time of year when the church begins financial planning for the next year. Members will receive pledge mailings between now and Stewardship Sunday (November 17). Please prayerfully consider your estimated giving for next year by November 17!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Are you ready to prepare the church for the Advent season? After worship service on November 24, please help the worship committee with the Hanging of the Greens (changing the paraments for the holiday season). As usual, we will furnish homemade soups, breads, and desserts for everyone helping. Please join in the fun; there is a lot to do and plenty of good food to eat.

BIBLE & BURRITOS AND PASTOR'S BIBLE WORKSHOP

Bible & Burritos and Pastor's Bible Workshop are two groups that cover the same material. PBW meets every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m., in Room 3. Bible & Burritos meets every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., at Black Bear Burritos, Evansdale. Our current topic is *The Best Stories You've Never Heard: Great and Weird Stories from Scripture Nobody Pays Attention To*. Meetings will continue through November 26.

STUDENT EXAM PACKS

One of FPC's missions is to reach out to WVU students. Final exams are one of the most stressful times in a student's educational journey. Every semester, the deacons assemble and deliver healthy snacks to nourish and support our Presbyterian Student Fellowship group and the students at the Harless Center during dead week before final exams. You can help by providing items for the snack packs. Please deposit individually wrapped, nutritious items such as dried soups, popcorn, crackers, nuts, dried fruits, assorted sweets, teas, hot chocolate packets, aspirin, juice boxes, and other useful items into the "Exam Pack" box in the parlor by Sunday, December 8. Thank you for your support of this important mission. Questions? Contact Donna Weems (donnaweems@rocketmail.com)

ADVENT CANTATA

Save the date for the Advent Cantata during worship on Sunday, December 15. Please see Ken Godwin about joining the choir for this event! We will also be looking for youth and children to be members of the cast and narrators soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ANNUAL COOKIES 'N MORE SALE

Saturday, December 14, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

Proceeds from the cookie sale, treasure table, wreath sales, and bazaar items will go to PW's mission fund that supports international concerns, community efforts, and church projects. You can help in the following ways: baking and buying cookies, donating gently used items to the treasure table, buying bazaar items, buying a wreath, and helping set up and work the event. Orders for fresh holiday wreaths and holiday décor from Tatham's Modern Homestead will be taken through Sunday, November 24. Sign-up sheets will be available in the parlor for bakers and volunteers. We will need workers to help set up on Friday, December 13, and workers for the day of the event. Please join Presbyterian Women in support of its many projects.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN UPCOMING CALENDAR

Mark your calendars for upcoming events. Regular meetings include Bible study, planning projects and activities, and fellowship. Prior to each event or meeting, a detailed announcement is placed in the Sunday bulletin.

- **November Meeting:** The usual “bag lunch” meeting will be held at noon on Monday, November 4, in room 3.
- **December Meeting:** The usual “bag lunch” meeting will be held at noon on Monday, December 2, in Room 3.
- **Cookies 'N More Sale:** Friday, December 13, will be set-up day; Saturday, December 14, will be the sale. Further details will be provided at a later time.

SESSION REPORT

The Session of First Presbyterian Church held its regular meeting on Sunday, October 20. Highlights are as follows:

- Chris Mullett enrolled as Inquirer.
- Pledge reminders will be mailed this month.
- There is an increase in need for pancake breakfast funding for 2020 budget.
- Finance Committee is determining a fair price for the possible sale of 3 parking spaces in agreement with the city of Morgantown.
- Parlor renovations are nearly complete. Work on the entryway will continue, with a few additions and renovations coming soon.
- The Crisis Preparedness Team will meet with committees this month and submit updated recommendations to Session in November.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 17, in Room 3. A full transcript of Session notes is available upon request in the church office.

PARLOR REFRESH UPDATE

The parlor refresh is nearly complete. We will make a few small additions to the parlor as well as some big changes to the entryway. Special thanks to Lee Mullett, the head of the project, and Debbie Palmer for leading the way on the entryway and artwork additions. Thanks to Debbie Palmer for the great new artwork in the entryway. This artwork incorporates crosses from around the world. Next time you travel, please bring back a small cross and give it to Debbie so we can add to the piece.

We are still accepting donations to fund the project through the end of the year. We have currently raised \$15,000 of our \$30,000 goal. Please consider donating to the parlor refresh to help us replenish funds that were used to complete the project. Every donation helps!

CHURCH SKI DAY

We are organizing a church ski day to Hidden Valley Ski Resort on a Saturday in February (exact date TBD). A church-wide trip gives us discounted lift tickets, rentals, and the opportunity to sign up for a beginner's group lesson. All ages are welcome. Lift hours are 9:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. Sign up on the church website, or by e-mailing pastorzm@gmail.com.

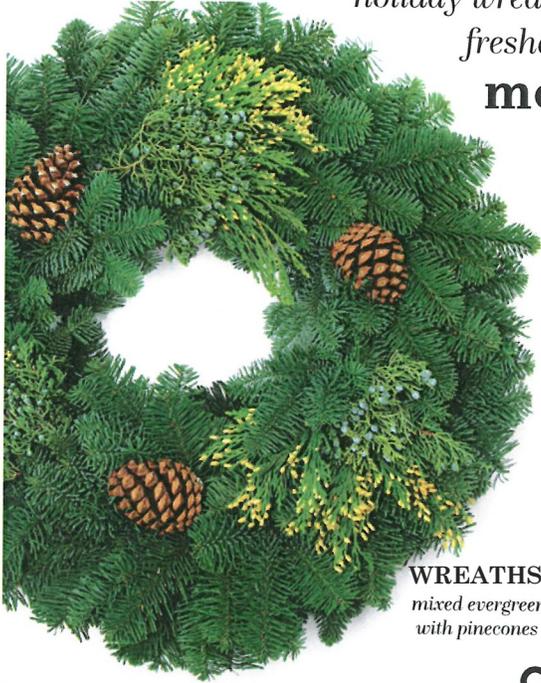
Prices are as follows:

- Lift Ticket- \$46
- Equipment Rental (Ski or Snowboard)- \$28
- Lesson- \$22

First Presbyterian Women's **Holiday Sale**

*holiday wreaths and holiday decor made with the
freshest, most fragrant evergreens*

modern HOMESTEAD



WREATHS
*mixed evergreens
with pinecones*



SWAGS
*noble fir, red cedar,
princess pine and juniper*

GRAVE MEMORIALS



fraser fir with white pine accents, bow & pinecones

ORDER FORM

DEADLINE TO ORDER:
Thursday, November 24, 2019
Thursday, December 1, 2019

PICK-UP DATES:
SUNDAY, December 1, 2019
SUNDAY, December 8, 2019

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

WREATHS	SIZE	AMOUNT	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Small	16-18"	\$30.00	X	=
Medium	28-30"	\$45.00	X	=
All-Weather Bow - Red		\$ 7.00	X	=
SWAGS	One Size	\$22.00	X	=
MEMORIALS	One Size	\$42.00	X	=

* ribbon color subject to change.

ORDER TOTAL _____

NEW ADDRESS

Jean Humphreys has moved and welcomes cards, letters, and notes of encouragement. Please mail correspondence to Fitzwater's of Fairmont Private Care Facility, 219 Locust Ave, Fairmont, WV 26554.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Jonathan Weems	9	Ken St. Louis	18	Kate Fragale
3	Trey Smith-Tatham	12	Martha Schwab	18	Rachael Patterson
3	Luke Velickoff	15	Michael Spevock	22	Gertraud Irwin
6	Ken Hayes	16	Jan Benders	29	Mavis Grant Lilley
6	Michael Hohn	16	Michael Gerber	29	Hilary Bougher
7	Ann Hubbs	16	Hannah Williams	29	Missy Albert
7	Laura Rye	18	Billy Hoffman	29	Pat Jenkins

SESSION

John Bolt (Clerk of Session), David Burtner, Donna Gerber, Noel Hoffman, Gertraud Irwin, Beth Madison, Barry McMillan, Lee Mullett, Cathy Samuel, Susan Shumaker, Lucas Tatham, Justin Weber

DEACONS

Jan Benders, Karen Cassidy, Brenda Ely, John Garlow, Cynthia Griffin, Nikki Hoffman, Sara Loughney, Chris McClelland, Diana Scott Beattie, Trey Smith-Tatham, Donna Weems, Diane Williams

STAFF

Rev. Zac Morton, *Pastor*

Johnetta Velickoff, *Bookkeeper & Administrative Assistant*

Sharon Portaro, *PCDC Director*

Ken Godwin, *Music Director*

Kimberly Chaffee, *Secretary*

Youngju Lee, *Accompanist/Organist*

Reggie Underwood, *Custodian, Sunday Sexton*

Janine Arnold & Teanna Branch, *Nursery Attendants*

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Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.