

April 14, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

April 13, 2022

It's Just Me?

John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

I attended a meeting by Zoom last night. Since we had a guest in attendance who is not a regular member of the committee, we each took a moment to introduce ourselves by giving our name and our church affiliation. As we went around, the introductions were pretty standard until one person said, "I'm _____ and I'm just _____." This person was of no lesser value to the committee or to their own home church than anyone else in the group, but that word "just" seemed to indicate that the speaker somehow felt they were less than others.

I was struck by that person's perception of their role within the church or at least the committee and I obviously continued to think about it well after the meeting. I realized that I and most other people do this sort of thing on a regular basis, often without even realizing it. Sometimes that "just" is justified. I had a congregation ask if I could moderate a Session meeting for them and I had to decline because I was neither ordained nor commissioned to their church. As far as moderating meetings was concerned, I was just a regular person with no special authority. More often though, we use "just" as a weasel word that we hide behind because we have low confidence in ourselves, we feel that modesty and humility demand it, or that we feel we are unworthy of recognition.

There are plenty of people and circumstances in the world that are willing to "take us down a peg" if we get too sure of ourselves, but the church shouldn't be one of them. Our Scriptures and our faith teach us that people—all people—are so precious and important to God that he came in the person of Jesus to live among us and to die for us that we all might be reconciled to God now and eternally. We each have intrinsic value because that is how God made us and that is how God sees us. God knows each of us--knows our best attributes and knows where we fall short—and yet, God

still loves us and calls us to himself. This all-encompassing love is not something we can ever merit or earn. It is ours through God's grace alone. Isn't that the whole message of the Gospel?

As you meditate on the events of this week—Jesus' triumphal entry, the cleansing of the temple, teaching daily in the temple, the Last Supper, washing the disciples' feet, Jesus' betrayal, trial, crucifixion, death, burial, and Resurrection—remember that it was all done for you and all of humankind. The only thing Jesus asks of us is that we love God and we love our neighbor. This is how the law of God is fulfilled.

I would like to change the way we use the word "just." No longer should we think of ourselves as "just me" as if there was some deficiency in being who you are (all of us have room for improvement, but we are all worthy of God's love). Instead, I would like each of us to live knowing that God loves me just as I am. If we can accept the love and sense of worth that God has for us, we will continue to grow and develop into our full potential as God's beloved children now, and for eternity. Let these hymn verses be our prayer:

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thy love unknown has broken every barrier down, Now to be Thine,
yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come. Amen.

[View this email in your browser](#) • [Forward to a friend](#)

The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!

The safety of our congregation and community are our highest priority.

COVID-19 transmission rates are low in our area so you may wear a mask based on your personal preference, however, those who are not vaccinated should wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth while anywhere inside the church and sanctuary. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19, should remain at home.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

If you are not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask. If you have symptoms, test positive, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 please remain at home.



Please join us for worship this **Easter Sunday** at 10:00 AM

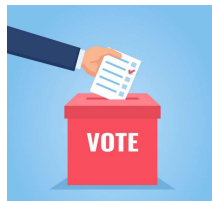
Sermon by Elder Kym Wiederholt

Unprepared, Startled and Amazed

Based on John 20:1-18 and Acts 10:34-43



More volunteers are needed for the blood drives. FPC has been helping the third Thursday of each month and other times when available. Call Nancy Baker if you have questions or think you would like to be a volunteer. 638-7923



An email was sent out Tuesday, March 29 requesting your input on what time you prefer Sunday morning worship. If you have not already cast your vote, please do so by selecting a time below:

Service is currently at 10:00 a.m.

Please let Rita know by Sunday, May 1st. The Session will tally votes at the May 2nd session meeting and, if a new time is voted in, it will begin June 1st.

Check one:

10:00 a.m. _____

10:30 a.m. _____

11:00 a.m. _____

Announcements

- **Maundy Thursday Service tonight at 7 pm** with Rev. Paul Johnson. Communion will be served.
- **This Sunday is Easter.** We encourage everyone to bring poly-silk flowers to add to our outside cross in celebration of the risen Christ.
- **Please Vote!** If you have not already voted for your preferred worship service time, please respond to the email sent out or call the office by May 1st.
- The Session will meet Monday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the session room.
- **The next Presbytery of the Peaks Meeting** is Saturday, May 7 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.
- **Community Breakfast for Saturday has been cancelled. Will resume next month with breakfast being served in our traditional format in the fellowship hall!!!**

back2school

YOUR help is needed! **This Saturday, April 16th, from 9 to 11** the back2school team will be doing an inventory of the supplies for back2school 2022. If you or a teenager you know, help? It is taking place at The Community Fellowship's future campus (700 commerce court, Martinsville). If you can help, please contact Adrienne Hubbard at abhubbard05@gmail.com for additional information.

Virtual Journey to Guatemala: "Confronting Climate Change with Actions of Hope" Wednesday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

During Earth Week, take a Virtual Journey to Guatemala to see how Central Americans are "Confronting Climate Change with Actions of Hope." You will be challenged by the Rev. Dr. Karla Koll, Professor of Mission at the Latin American Biblical University in Costa Rica, who will speak about what it means to live holy lives in the midst of the threat of destruction. And you'll be inspired by the stories of ordinary people in Central America whose actions in relationship with creation reflect extraordinary hope.

This virtual travel opportunity is designed for an English-speaking audience and will include breakout room discussions. Pre-registration is required.


Virtual Journey to Guatemala

**CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE
WITH ACTIONS OF HOPE**

April 20, 2022

4:30 pm Pacific
5:30 pm Mountain/GMT
6:30 pm Central
7:30 pm Eastern

Suggested donation: \$11



CEDEPCA INTERCULTURAL ENCOUNTERS

Register at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqceChqT0iHdKliyDaxHtukyx7FKuvdgu-](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqceChqT0iHdKliyDaxHtukyx7FKuvdgu-)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Our Deepest Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended

to the family of **Dr. David McConnell** on his passing on April 7 in Martinsville.

The full obituary may be found

at: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/martinsvillebulletin/name/david-mcconnell-obituary?id=34170955>

to the family of Mary Manning on the passing of her mother, **Mary Kemper**

Page on March 30 in Greenville, SC. The full obituary may be found

at: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/martinsvillebulletin/name/mary-page-obituary?id=34040489>

to the family of Joanne Sanders on the passing of her father, **William K.**

Walker on February 20.

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Dr. David McConnell, Ruth Aaron, Pat Baumann, Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner, Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb, Judy Epperly, Daniel Handy, Melanie Hardy, Iliene Hite, Leonard Kelley (M Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Lauren Prince, Troy Spencer (P Rakes' father), Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries due to violence and tyranny.



Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, ([276](tel:2766323431)) [632-3431](tel:2766323431), office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org.

Congregational Care and Fellowship

If you are in need of prayer, a meal, transportation, etc...due to a death in the family or the birth of a baby, please reach out to the Congregational Care and Fellowship committee by contacting Pearl Minter at [276 340-3476](tel:2763403476).

Grace Network Donations

From Tracy Hinchcliff: I wanted to share with you my appreciation of First Presbyterian's help and support with the Presbytery Block Grant that Grace Network applied for.

We just received word that we got the grant. We received \$1,550. That is a great amount and we are grateful.

Please express my appreciation to the congregation and the session.
Blessings, Tracy.

The 2nd quarter 2022 food donation item is **Saltine Crackers**



Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

Hygiene Items - We are always in need of these items!

**Items may be brought to church but please call the office to make sure Rita is there. Alternatively, you may drop off at Grace Network, Monday - Friday, 9-2 PM*



Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views is published weekly on Thursdays. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com. If you send to another email address, the information may get lost and subsequently not included in the newsletter.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor



For updates and announcements, please click on the link below or copy and paste into your web browser:

https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020_Peaks_Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf

Our Mission

Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other

Printed copies of *Steeple Views* are available at church. Current and back issues are also on our website:

www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter

Useful Links

FPC website:

www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/ or www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/

FPC online directory: members.instantchurchdirectory.com/

FPC Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA

Presbytery of the Peaks: www.peakspresbytery.org/

Presbyterian Church (USA): www.pcusa.org/

Daily Bible Readings: www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/

Church Office Phone: [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)

Our mailing address is:

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

Sam Smith, Youth and Family Ministries Director, sam@peakspresbytery.org.

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Spencer Koger, Interim Director of Music, srk86879@gmail.com

Doug Talbot, Worship Technology Coordinator, dougtalbot@yahoo.com

THE SESSION

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

Class of 2024

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

TRUSTEES

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

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