

April 16, 2020



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## *Pastor's Corner*

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

April 15, 2020

"I have told you these things, so that you may have peace. In this world you may have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

There is a story told of a king who offered a prize to the artist who would create a painting that best represented true peace. Of all who submitted an entry only two really caught the King's eye.

One painting was a very calm and serene lake scene without a ripple of disturbance on the water. The lake was surrounded by high snowcapped mountains under blue skies and a few white fluffy clouds. To most this was the obvious choice for a depiction of "peace."

However, the second painting took a different approach! While the second also pictured mountains, these mountains were rugged and bare. Down the side of one mountain tumbled a raging waterfall. Above an angry sky full of dark raining clouds and lightning lighting up the sky. But in the midst of all this turmoil the King noticed something unique. From behind the raging waterfall grew a tiny bush from a crack in the rock and in that bush a bird had built a nest and taken refuge from those harsh surroundings.

The king quickly decided the second painting was the best representation of "true peace" because in the midst of all the chaos, resting in the safety and security of its protective home, a calm heart was found!

Even before this pandemic there was plenty of turmoil and chaos in this world. And we looked for a calming force then, now, and the days to come. As the story brings to light the real meaning of "true peace" isn't the lack of chaos and turmoil in our lives. But rather, the offering of a place of security amongst all that life may bring!

Jesus knows and offers that "true peace." He hasn't chosen to take us out of this world, or to remove all sources of trouble, but only to protect us and offer the "true peace" that only He can give! Stay safe and peaceful.

In His Holy Name,

Pastor Mark

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Pastor Mark is posting weekly spiritual messages via YouTube. They can be accessed by navigating to FPC's homepage and clicking on the links and videos posted there. In addition, they will be sent out weekly in our Steeple Views newsletter. The links to the messages to date are included below. Simply click on the link and you will be directed to the YouTube video.

**April 12, 2020:** Easter Sunday Sunrise Video Service - <https://youtu.be/ORJEbI1pyrQEaster>

The video cut off in the final moments of the Sunrise Service video after the Lord's Prayer had started. Here's a link to it so you can listen to after viewing the service video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zaEoxjMYS4>

**April 9, 2020:** Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Video Message - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG15J7huoyc>

**April 2:** Palm Sunday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFEJT9TjYBs&feature=youtu.be>

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## One Great Hour of Sharing



What a blessing it is to have enough to share.

In these days, what might you feel called to share? A word of encouragement? Please remember, we have Good News to share! We are called into action to demonstrate God's love by following the example set by Jesus Christ. The smallest act of kindness can make a tremendous difference.

If we are in need, it is appropriate to ask for help. Who to ask? What to ask for? We can ask the Holy Spirit to guide us as we seek answers in the Holy Bible. Consider James 1:5. "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not

rebuke you for asking."

Are you having your basic needs met? Do you have enough food, water, and sleep? Do you feel safe, and secure? Do you know that you are loved and appreciated? If not, I encourage you to reach out and ask for help. God has equipped each of us with special gifts, and we need each other!

I ask you to consider what special gifts you might have to share with the world at this time, and urge you to reach out to each other and discover how much of a blessing it is to share! What might you do to encourage another? We seem to have much more time on our hands than we usually do. How might you invest your time? Do you have special talents that you have set aside due to the pressures of a busy schedule? I hope that Cynthia is relishing this time alone and is creating more glorious music for praising God! Do you find that your finances are solid? Please check on those that you love, and do not assume that they have enough finances, food, and confidence to be comfortable.

The leadership of the Presbyterian Church USA has given prayerful consideration to the needs of the world. Basic human needs have not been met! Every one of us can consider sharing our financial gifts to enable others to provide assistance....here, and throughout the world. Together we can make a difference

When we all give a little, it adds up to a lot. By participating in One Great Hour of Sharing, you share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

If you would like to give a donation, please consider both our own church, and the One Great Hour of Sharing. There is a PayPal button on our [church's website's homepage](#), and you can discover more information about the One Great Hour of Sharing by visiting this weblink:

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

Please call me if you have questions or suggestions. I would appreciate the feedback.

Warmly,  
Lynn Pritchett  
Stewardship Chair



**Edwin Earl Pace, Jr.**

November 25, 1956 - April 12, 2020



It is with deep sadness that we share with you our dear friend and brother in Christ, Ed Pace, has passed away. The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family.

A celebration of Ed's life will take place at a later date. A link to his online obituary is provided below.

<https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/mbsiCIYE8PtLyNI0uGyDY6?domain=dignitymemorial.com>

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**Community Efforts**

Are you interested in making face masks to donate to those in need?

Ashby Pinkard has been making some and dropping hers off at Joann Fabrics where they take care of getting them where they need to go. She's happy to answer any questions regarding the design and construction.

In addition, there are YouTube videos on how to make them and patterns are available at JoAnn's.

This is a very worthwhile project and a wonderful contribution to our community.



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**Presbyterian Women**



The videos for lessons **six, seven, eight, and nine** from the DVD for the Bible Study on ***Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*** by

Eugenia Anne Gamble is available **on the PW YouTube channel.**

Links are posted below:

<https://youtu.be/68Wm-vPuhw0>

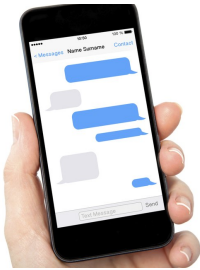
<https://youtu.be/QVd8T9Oyic0>

<https://youtu.be/68Wm-vPuhw0>

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### Communication

If you would like to be able to receive TEXT messages on your cell phone and we do not have your number, please call the church office (632-3431) and leave your information. The church office is closed but the messages are being retrieved.



If we have your number and you DO NOT want to receive TEXT messages please let us know so that we can remove your number from the database.

If you do not want your number published in the church directory but do want to receive messages, your number can be made "private" and you can still receive messages.

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### Coronavirus Testing Site

(from the WDBJ website)

What is typically Martinsville and Henry County's biggest symbol for fun and entertainment, the Martinsville Speedway, has now become a battleground in the fight against COVID-19 as a testing site.

"If you are not testing you are not finding, so as we begin testing I suspect we will find more cases." said West Piedmont District VDH officer Kerry Gateley.

When the first case of the coronavirus in Henry County was reported March 30, the Harvest Foundation announced it would provide \$300,000 in funding to open the site.

"Bringing everybody to one site to test after a prescreen was what our medical professional thought would be best in this situation." said Allison Rothrock, Harvest Foundation President.

Equipped with 200 testing kits, the site will offer drive-thru testing for Martinsville, Henry County, and Patrick County residents with a doctor's recommendation.

VDH says a space like the speedway is logistically an ideal testing site.

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### Sunday School



The Adult Sunday School class will be finishing the study "The Grace of Les Miserables" this Sunday, April 19th. We will begin "John, The Gospel of Light and Life" by Adam Hamilton on Sunday, April 26th. The class did the first lesson but due to the passage of time we will repeat that first lesson. Class members have their participants books. If any of you who joined our last study would like to continue, we would love to have you and any one else who

might be interested. You may purchase "John, The Gospel of Light and Life " by Adam Hamilton from Amazon or [Christianbooks.com](http://Christianbooks.com).

We are so blessed to have this opportunity to study God's Word together. Please let Denny or Sam know if your are interested; [d.a.casey@comcast.net](mailto:d.a.casey@comcast.net) or [sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu](mailto:sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu).



Children's Worship & Sunday School continues via digital resources. Parents are encouraged to utilize the resources provided by Sam. Weekly emails will be sent out, if you did not receive and would like to, contact Sam at [sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu](mailto:sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu).

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The April devotions from **These Days** are being provided for free online by the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. You can find them here: <https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Default.aspx?ContentID=14604&Title=These-Days>

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## Treasurer's Update Concerning Current Environment

Hello fellow members! Many thanks to all for continuing to remember First Pres! We are still learning to operate in this new environment but so far so good. We are making deposits and staying current on paying bills (with Drema's help). I hope everyone will continue to stay safe! Thanks

The tax code has been amended for 2020 to allow for an individual that does not itemize to receive a tax credit of up to \$300 for charitable cash contributions. For individuals that itemize they can claim a donation allowance of up to 100% of their adjusted gross income. I hope everyone will continue to stay safe. Thanks.

Please keep our Church, Community, State, Country, and World in your thoughts and prayers as we all work our way through this crisis. If anyone has any suggestions or questions feel free to contact me at 276-732-3296.

A link to our homepage has been provided below. After clicking on the link, look for the "donate" button as illustrated in the picture below. This is a quick and secure way to make a donation to the church. If anyone would like to use it and need some direction, please give me a call.

<http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/>

### Online Giving

We've set up a special page for making gifts to First Presbyterian Church using your credit card, debit card (if available), or your PayPal account. Your gifts are very much appreciated!



Stay safe/stay well/stay positive

Henry G Moore III

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Even though the doors to the church building are closed and our congregation is dispersed into our individual homes for the foreseeable future, we are still bound to each other through the love of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Your Agape Team has been working to contact all of the members of our congregation to touch base with you, visit with you, and check on your needs. The Agape Team will contact you periodically, but if you want to talk or if you need help with getting groceries or supplies before they contact you, please feel free to contact any of our Agape Team. We are here for you. Also, each of us is charged to care for one another, so if you feel God calling you to reach out to others please do so. We are all Christ's church together.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God...There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:7; 18

Grace and Peace to all of you from the Agape Team

Denny Casey - [d.a.casey@comcast.net](mailto:d.a.casey@comcast.net) 276-224-3906

Ron Rebman - [ronreb85@gmail.com](mailto:ronreb85@gmail.com) 276-634-1254

Jerri DeVault - [jerride@embarqumail.com](mailto:jerride@embarqumail.com) 276-252-2162

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Tracy Hinchcliff - [tracyhair60@gmail.com](mailto:tracyhair60@gmail.com) 409-330-0847

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Judy King - [jpk1944@gmail.com](mailto:jpk1944@gmail.com) 276-340-810

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## Please Help!

### Critical Need For Blood and Platelets

**Right now, eligible and healthy donors are strongly urged to make an appointment to provide lifesaving blood products to patients.**



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## Presbyterian Men Conference Update



### Presbyterian Men

Because of Covid-19, we have decided to cancel the Conference in July 2020 and reschedule it for 2021.

Walt Martin

Council Moderator

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## Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

Family of Ed Pace, Doc Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Dot Bryson, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Daniel Handy, Helen Hawkes, Anne Holland (sister of Pearl Minter), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gavin Russell, Gene Stanley, persecuted Christians and all troops in defense of freedom throughout the world.



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

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### *Please remember* Canned Tuna or Canned Meat for Grace Network

Dear Friends,

Grace Network is continuing to help those in our community during the Covid-19 situation in partnership with the Harvest Foundation, the United Way, Salvation Army, Community Fellowship and the Henry County Food Pantry in Bassett. We have all come together to provide food boxes for those in need and will provide 5 locations to pick up these boxes each Monday from 9-2.

Grace is blessed to be part of this effort and when this is all over, we will go back to our regular services in providing financial services and food through our regular processes. The assigned food items from our church partners will become even more important on the other side of this quarantine with so many needing extra help to get back on their feet.

The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is **canned tuna or other canned meats like chicken or ham**. Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever. Please stay safe, stay healthy and please keep us in your prayers as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Blessings, Tracy

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### A Note from the the Editor

Although regular church services have been cancelled and we are no longer meeting in person, I hope we all try to stay in touch with one another using any possible medium. Phone calls, face time, emails, etc. It is important that we look after one another during these difficult times and it's good to know we are not alone. While there are no regular happenings to report on, I would like to send out Steeple Views on a weekly basis so please feel free to share any news or updates with me and I will do my best to include them in the newsletter. [skirbycwj@gmail.com](mailto:skirbycwj@gmail.com) or 276 806-9709.

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

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**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](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter)

**Useful Links**

FPC website: [www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/) or [www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/](http://www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/)

FPC online directory: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com/](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/)

FPC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA](http://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA)

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org/](http://www.peakspresbytery.org/)

Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org/](http://www.pcusa.org/)

Daily Bible Readings: [www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/)

***Steeple Views*** is published. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor [steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

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Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, [contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

**THE SESSION**

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

**Class of 2020**

Denny Casey: Christian Education

Ron Rebman: Administration

Kym Tatum: Fellowship

**Class of 2021**

Ed Pace: Facilities

Lynn Pritchett: Stewardship

Monica Stevens: Worship

**Class of 2022**

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Communications

Betty Hudson: Congregational Care

**TRUSTEES**

2020: Milton Davis, Duke Ferrell  
2021: David Garland, Ed Linker  
2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

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