

April 28, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

April 27, 2022

Beyond Easter Sunday

John 20:19-31

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

These are the words that ring out in the hymns, scriptures, and sermons on Easter Sunday. Hearing them and voicing them on Easter fills us with hope and joy, but what about all the days that follow? Can we carry the presence of the living Christ with us through the rest of the year?

That first Easter morning started with the Disciples cowering in fear and despair behind locked doors. Jesus was dead and buried. It seemed that everything they were just beginning to understand about Jesus had been a mirage and they were filled with grief over the loss of the teacher they had loved so dearly and the loss of the hope he had given them. The disciples were also afraid for their lives. If the Council could maneuver the Roman government into killing Jesus, what was to stop them from seeking to kill Jesus' followers?

In the midst of their fear, doubt, and indecision, Jesus came to the disciples. Jesus' first words to them were, "Peace be with you." This was a common greeting, but it meant so much more than a simple hello. The "Shalom" that Jesus was offering was the antidote to their grieving, their fear, their aching emptiness, and their lack of purpose in the wake of Jesus' death. To help further convince the disciples of Jesus' reality and presence with them, he showed them the nail prints in his hands and feet and the spear wound in his side. The physical evidence of his gruesome death and miraculous resurrection was undeniably displayed in front of them. Understanding awoke in their hearts like the rising of the sun. All darkness, fear, and gloom dissolved in the presence of their Risen Lord and they rejoiced.

I want to dwell on this for a minute. When the scripture says, "The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord," it goes way beyond feeling happy. The disciples had been lost in despair, but now they were found by the one they loved most and who loved them beyond measure. Imagine joy and relief surging upward like fireworks bursting in the night sky. Imagine "Hallelujah! Praise the Lord" tingling through every part of

their body and consciousness. Imagine the wonder, reverence, and awe that suffused their entire beings as they stood in the presence of Jesus who once was dead but was now fully alive and standing before them in glory.

Jesus brought them peace—the peace that calmed their fears, healed their grief, and filled their emptiness with Christ’s own presence. Beyond any shadow of a doubt, Jesus proved that although he had truly died, he was now truly and eternally alive. Death had been defeated and no longer held any threat or power over those who believed in Jesus. The Disciples were overwhelmed with the joy and love that comes from encountering God through the living Christ and this love and joy filled them with devotion that sent them obediently into the world to share God’s great good news with all of God’s children. What they had was too wonderful and too powerful to keep for themselves--it had to be shared even though it was dangerous and subversive to the status quo of the secular world. These Disciples had physically seen the Risen Jesus and they knew their witness had to be honest, accurate, and compelling because they were the link that would carry the love of Jesus to all future generations.

Jesus calls us today just as he called his followers all those years ago. He comes to each of us offering his peace that calms our fears and fills us with his joy and love. To undergird and sustain the good news and joy of that first Easter, Jesus has given us the promise of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to guide, direct, and empower us as we strive to live out our call to faithful discipleship. Just as the Disciples were the first links between Jesus and the rest of humanity, we are now the links that Christ is counting on to carry his joy and love forward into the future. With all believers in every time and every place, may we remember who we are and whose we are as we joyfully proclaim to the world:

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!

[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 **Third Sunday in Easter** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by
Rev. Rusty Reaser

***A Look Back to See the Way Forward
(Reflection on Ministry: Yours and Mine)***

Based upon 1 Samuel 1:1-11 and Philippians 1:12-21



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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!



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

[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.

Mark Your Calendars

- **Presbyterian Women's Circle meeting** is Monday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m. at King's Grant. Lunch will follow in the private dining room and the cost is \$9. If paying by cash or check you may pay at the front desk. Credit/Debit cards will be accepted in the dining room. If you plan to attend, please contact the church office (276-632-3431) or Nancy Davis (276-634-1403).
- 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.
- VMNH Youth Climate Summit **May 7 at 2:00 PM**

YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

Saturday, May 7 at 2:00PM



JOIN TOGETHER TO PLAN A YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT!

Serve your community



Student volunteers needed to organize and help host the first annual Youth Climate Summit in Martinsville

Youth Climate Summit



Planning will culminate in a summit that combines informative sessions and workshops in a fun atmosphere for rising 9th-12th grade students

Meet at VMNH on 5/7/22



First interest meeting at the Virginia Museum of Natural History
21 Starling Ave, Martinsville, Saturday, May 7th, 2:00 PM

 **Remote Participation/ Other Questions**
To participate over Zoom, contact Mary Zell Galen at maryzell.galen@vmnh.virginia.gov or at 276-634-4150
Youth Climate Summit program is coordinated by Dr. John Ashburn, museum volunteer, of the Climate Advocacy Group
****Volunteer hours credit given pending approval****



Happy Birthday in May!



- 1** Janet Fentress
- 3** Georgette "Jerry" Bishop
- 4** Doug Knighton
- 5** Amy Mason
- 8** Gavin Luther
- 10** Sandra Shank
- 11** Emily Beard, Bonnie Price
- 12** Monica Stevens, Patricia Christenbury, Pearl Minter
- 16** Susan Hatchett
- 17** Heath Russell
- 19** Annie B. Boyd, Taylor Shank

- 20** Christal Kelly
22 Hayden Cundiff, Joanna Wood
27 Kent Williams, Jacob Wingfield, Virginia Seamon
29 Edward M. Linker
30 Ron Rebman
-

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pat Baumann, Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner, Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb, Daniel Handy, Melanie Hardy, Iliene Hite, Leonard Kelley (M Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, 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.



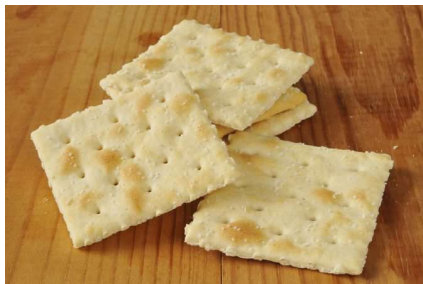
Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, [\(276\) 632-3431](tel:2766323431), office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org.

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

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, adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleva.org

Doug Talbot, Worship Technology

Coordinator, worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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

Copyright © 2022 First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, VA, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

