

April 7, 2022



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

April 7, 2022

### Ever-present Grace

Psalm 23:6

“Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the Lord’s house as long as I live.” (CEB)

Believe it or not, this meditation took root (pun intended) as I observed trees on the way to and from Charlottesville this past week. Laura and I had to go to Charlottesville because she had a routine check-up with one of her doctors.

Sometimes the drive is difficult due to a very early departure time, bad weather, or difficulties that Laura is having, but this week, the drive was very pleasant. Even the traffic volume seemed lighter than usual.

Since we make this trip every month or so, we get to witness the cycle of the seasons in the changes of the foliage along the way. For most of the year the larger trees garner the most attention. In the summer, the lush green foliage of the hardwood trees and the pines obscure much of what lies beyond the road while at the same time providing some shade on the road from the glare of the strong summer sun. In the fall, the larger trees once again take center stage as their leaves turn shades of red, gold, and brown creating a vibrant patchwork quilt of color and texture. During the winter, when most of the leaves have fallen from the deciduous trees, the evergreen trees serve as hardy reminders that even though the other trees look dead and the fields are bare, abundant life still exists even in the harshness of winter. On our trip last week though, the large trees were either still dormant or just barely sprouting tiny yellow-green leaves. Spring is the season for the smaller, under-story trees to announce their presence. Unlike the brazen colors of the fall, these trees shyly blossom forth resplendent in shades of white, pink, and purple while the brilliant yellows of the daffodils and forsythias seem to cheer them on. Like the returning robins, redbud, dogwood, and other flowering trees announce the new life that comes with the spring.

While musing on the changing seasons, several random thoughts occurred to me. The first was that regardless of the appearance and characteristics of a given season, each and all seasons are full of life. This observation reminded me that no matter what sort of “season” of life we are currently inhabiting, we are still surrounded by and infused with the life that God has given to us. Even in the

times that feel gray and fallow, God is still there with us, supplying us with his life-giving love.

Another thought I had was that all of the trees along the road have a function and a purpose. It seems that the large trees get most of the attention, but all trees add their part to the creating a healthy environment that is so necessary to all species that live on this earth. If I compare myself to the trees, I don't see myself as one of the sturdy oaks or graceful willows whose presence is so commanding, but rather I see myself as one of the understory trees doing my small part in my small area of the world. Regardless of who we are, we all have a part to play in helping God's kingdom come to fruition here on earth as it is in heaven.

One last set of thoughts. When we think about the life of Jesus, we most often call to mind the great events mentioned in the Bible—his birth, baptism, calling the disciples, teaching, preaching, healing, feeding the five thousand, the Transfiguration, raising Lazarus, the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, his crucifixion, death, and burial, and of course his Resurrection and Ascension. These are very important parts of Jesus' life, ministry, and significance that we should study and think about, but that is not all there was to Jesus' earthly life. While Jesus was always fully God, he was also always fully human and he lived a large portion of his life before and in between the events in the Bible. I am sure he did many of the things that we do such as enjoying good meals, informal get-togethers with family and friends, listening to music, going to worship, and taking care of the many things involved in daily living.

In all of these very human things, Jesus would have been faithful to his calling to live in God's way. Perhaps this is an important lesson we need to think about. All of us are called to be faithful in the way that we live our lives whether God calls us to great deeds or not. Being faithful to God in the everyday tasks of life is perhaps the most important witness we can share.

These are some of my thoughts from this week. Like the trees, regardless of our role in life, we are all important to the life of the rest of God's creation. Each of us is called to live our life in the light of God's love and grace regardless of the task we are assigned. Jesus has provided us the model for how to be faithful in taking part in great deeds and in the small deeds that make up our daily lives. May God continue to bless us and keep us in God's grace so that we may be a blessing to others. Amen.

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

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## ***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.

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Please join us for **Palm Sunday** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Monica Stevens

***Who Is This Jesus?***

Based on Philippians 2:5-11 and Luke 19:28-40

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## **Martinsville-Henry County Ministerial Association**



**Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 2 PM**

**Smith River Sports Complex Amphitheater  
1000 Irisburg Rd. Axton, VA**

Open air facility, bring your lawn chairs

ALL ARE WELCOME

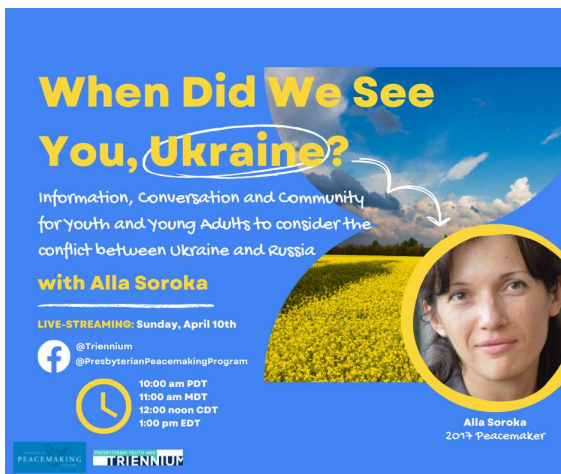
ALL CHURCHES, ALL DENOMINATIONS Join in a tradition of over 40 years.  
Bring your palm branches to wave as we begin Holy Week together in  
community

Live Stream also available  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
FBCEmartinsville](https://www.facebook.com/FBCEmartinsville)

**Rain Location:**

First Baptist Church, Martinsville  
23 Starling Ave. Martinsville VA

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**When Did We See You, Ukraine?**


Information, Conversation and Community for youth and young Adults to consider the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

**with Alla Soroka**

**LIVE-STREAMING: Sunday, April 10th**

 Triennium  
@PresbyterianPeacemakingProgram

 10:00 am PDT  
11:00 am MST  
12:00 noon CDT  
1:00 pm EDT

  
Alla Soroka  
2017 Peacemaker

PEACEMAKING TRIENNIVM

A special live-streaming event focused on connecting Presbyterian youth and young adults with youth worker and peacemaker, Alla Soroka, who lives in Odessa, Ukraine [will be taking place THIS SUNDAY, April 10 at 1pm.](#)

This will be a time of listening, open-eyed praying, storytelling,

life sharing and question asking. As we practice Jesus' invitation to SEE. Hosted by [Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#) and the Office of Presbyterian Youth and Triennium/PYT Beyond.

This will be livestreamed on Facebook live on the Presbyterian Peacemaking page and the Triennium page. Video will be available there after the live event as well.

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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

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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.** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Announcements

- **Lemonade on the Lawn/Reception for Spencer Koger** is Sunday, April 10 following our worship service. Join us out front (weather permitting) for refreshments and fellowship with our new Interim Director of Music.
- **Ecumenical Palm Sunday in the Park Service** is Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Smith River Sports Center Amphitheatre (1000 Irisburg Rd. Axton, VA). Bring your palm branches to wave as we begin Holy Week in our community. This is an open-air facility so bring your lawn chairs too. Sponsored by the Martinsville-Henry County Ministerial Association.
- **Next Sunday is Easter.** We encourage everyone to bring poly-silk flowers to add to our outside cross in celebration of the risen Christ.
- **Community Breakfast** is Saturday, April 16 lead by Bill and Suzan Kirby and will be served in a drive thru format.
- **Maudy Thursday Service April 14 at 7 pm** with Rev. Paul Johnson. Communion will be served.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, 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 (OGHS) — 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.

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)** • Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees • Receives 32% of funds raised


**PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)** • Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed • Receives 36% of funds raised

**SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)** • Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues • Receives 32% of funds raised

**Please consider giving generously. Collection date is April 17, 2022**

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



The poster features a central image of two hands, one larger and one smaller, cupping a small green seedling in dark soil. The background is a light yellow-green gradient. Text on the poster includes: 'Virtual Journey to Guatemala', 'CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH ACTIONS OF HOPE', 'April 20, 2022', a list of times for Pacific, Mountain/GMT, Central, and Eastern time zones, and a suggested donation of \$11. At the bottom left is the CEDEPCA logo with the text 'INTERCULTURAL ENCOUNTERS'.

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.

**Register at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqceChgT0iHdKIiyDaxHtukyx7FKuvdgu>

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

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## Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:



### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Mary Page Family, 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, Iliene Hite, Leonard Kelley (M Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Dr. David McConnell, 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](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org).

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## 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).

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## *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](mailto: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](https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020_Peaks_Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf)

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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/)

**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](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.org).

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org).

Spencer Koger, Interim Director of Music, [srk86879@gmail.com](mailto:srk86879@gmail.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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