

August 11, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Dr. Denny Casey

August 9, 2022

So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. Ephesians 4:25

Recently, I read a disturbing article in the paper about a man who was convicted of posting false, conspiracy theories on his website. In this case, he was charged with publishing claims that the deadly Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre was a hoax. The parents of one of the children killed, sued him for defamation after he accused them of faking the death of their son attempting to attack gun rights.

He argued that the case should be dismissed because he was speaking on a matter of public concern, and his speech should therefore be protected under the First Amendment. Second, he argued that his statements against the Sandy Hook families were his opinions and therefore couldn't be defamatory. He lost both arguments largely on procedural grounds because he refused to produce the necessary documentation. I am of course relieved that he lost the case, but to me, he is but a symptom of a much larger social and spiritual issue.

There are many who are being lured into believing false claims that come to us through the media. Public health has been seriously impacted and continues to be threatened by anti-vaxxers and COVID-19 deniers. Many share false claims about election results on personal social media accounts. But one of the biggest problems with supporting a false claim is that in doing so, we become bearers of false information too. It's not a harmless thing to do.

Some of us convince ourselves that lying is okay if we don't get caught; or dismiss it saying, 'no one was really hurt;' or in the case of social media, 'I'm just sharing what someone else posted, what's the harm in that?' But I don't think God sees it that way. God cares about the truth and our relationship in community depends on it. As Christians, we believe that honesty is essential to the body of Christ and that we have a responsibility to be bearers of the truth. I am reminded of this in Paul's letter to the church of Ephesus.

Bearing false witness changes more than the facts; it also changes the person. If I lie to you, my action erodes our relationship, whether you know I lied or not. Each of us needs to be able to depend on each other to care enough to be truthful and honest. When that doesn't happen, we feel manipulated, suspicious, distrustful, and eventually the relationship can dissolve, it diminishes community, and our relationship with God suffers.

So, as a Christian, what can I do? First, I should consider my own actions and ask myself if I am involved in making or sharing a false claim and if I am, I should stop, admit my error, make amends, and ask for forgiveness. Second, if I know of an instance when I've observed lying, I can confront the person with the error, but with God's grace because we are all made in God's image and deserve honor and respect. If that doesn't work, we might call on other witnesses to intervene. Another option is to ignore it; but, regardless of how we approach it, we can always pray for the person and pray for God's help.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight. Proverbs 12:22

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for your truth and the direction it brings to my life. I have set my heart on your will. Forgive me, whenever I have strayed from your truth and teach me to carry a light in the darkness. Help me remember you are the way, the truth, and the life. Help me to honor you and all your children with honesty and to speak the truth in love. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

In Christ
Denny

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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.



Please join us for worship this Tenth Sunday after **Pentecost** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Dr. Denny Casey

"Keeping the Lamp Lit"

Based on Luke Luke 12:32-40 and Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Liturgist: Milt Davis

Ushers/Greeters: Joan and Monty Montgomery



Lemonade on the Lawn following Worship



Sunday, August 21 - Lunch immediately following the service to honor all the Ministers, Elders and lay readers whom have faithfully served our church over the past year. Contact Liz Ferrell ([276-734-6376](tel:276-734-6376)) or Rita in the church office ([276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)) if you are available to help cook or serve/clean up in the kitchen

Presbytery Meeting - Saturday, August 20 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.

If you would like to send **Sam Smith** notes of encouragement here is his address:

Sam Smith

3401 Brook Road
Richmond, VA 23227



Marge Dunn is 90!

Her family cordially invites you to a

Life Celebration!

Saturday, August 13

**at First Presbyterian Church
(fellowship hall)**

Drop in anytime from 2 - 4:00 p.m.



In lieu of gifts, you may honor Marge

with a donation to

GRACE NETWORK

FPC COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

or to the

FPC KITCHEN



August

- 21 Nora Cundiff
- 28 Chuck Cundiff

September

- 4 Monica Stevens
- 11 Nancy Davis
- 18 Jerri DeVault
- 25 Janet Fentress

October

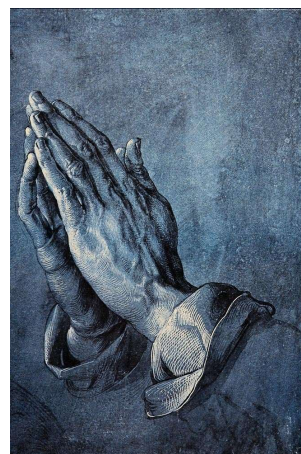
- 2 Duke Ferrell
- 9 Liz Ferrell
- 16 Rob King
- 23 Shanna King
- 30 Elena King

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Sandra Hudnall (Sharon Kirby's mother), Family of Carrie Buffkin, Georgette Bishop, Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N Davis' brother), Bud Buffkin, Tommy Cobb, Bobby Davis (Milt Davis' son), Neill Ferrill (Sandra Ford), Daniel Handy, Melanie Hardy, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.



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 3rd quarter 2022 food donation item is **Green Peas** (15 oz.)



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

Hygiene Items are always needed (optional)

- *Toilet Paper
- *Bath Soap
- *Dish Detergent
- *Feminine Products
- *Toilet Paper
- *Deodorant
- *Deodorant
- *Toothpaste
- *Laundry Detergent

**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 Wednesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com. For time sensitive announcements, please

sent to skirbycwj@gmail.com

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%20Peaks%20Postings/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:

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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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