

August 12, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

August 11, 2021

"My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim that you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people more than others?" James 2:1

I heard one of those pastor's jokes a while back that rang a little too much real life instead of in jest. It goes like this; a man once asked a minister to perform a memorial service for his pet dog in the church. The minister insisted that, "This church does not hold memorial services for dead dogs!" As he turned to leave, the man said, "I really loved that dog. I was going to offer a million-dollar honorarium for performing the service." Then the minister immediately spoke up, "Wait a minute, you never told me your dog was a Christian!"

Whether you relate to the minister who was about to miss out on a lucrative financial opportunity or the man that thinks his offer should buy him a stronger vote of persuasion, we all do it to some extent. Whatever the defining factors are: race, gender, economic class, political views, or special interests, too often we categorize people as "in" or "out. Acting like this says we play favorites. I know I have been guilty of avoiding contact with people who desperately need a friend, rather I seek out someone who thinks or acts more like me. Too often I, and maybe you too, determine who we want to befriend based upon how useful they may be to us.

Maybe all we may need is a good reminder of how wrong playing favorites can be. We can't make everyone our "bestie" and Jesus recognizes that in us as human nature. Yet we are still called to strive towards doing better. Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves avoiding those personal biases, when possible, and freely love others.

Jesus said, in John 13, that the world will judge whether we are truly His followers by whether or not we display genuine love for one another. So how do we do that? By moving past our comfort zones and extend grace, love, and friendship to others, long past our differences. Extend a hand to another and wait to see who will accept your offer today.

Pastor Mark

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

The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!

If you **have not** been fully vaccinated please wear a mask and continue to practice social distancing.

The church office will open for limited appointments. Please call to schedule.

If you are not fully vaccinated PLEASE WEAR A MASK. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding. Please enter at the narthex for Sunday worship and during the week use the back door at the portico.



Please join us for the twelfth Sunday after Pentecost either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

Understanding the Will of God

Based upon 1 Kings 2:10–12; 3:3–14 and Ephesians 5:15–20

Sermon by Rev. Mark Hinchcliff



ANNOUNCEMENTS
& UPCOMING EVENTS



Please join us in honoring the Reverend Mark Hinchcliff in a retirement celebration after church on [August 22 from 2 to 4 pm](#).

The event will be catered by Rising Sun Breads at **Franck's Place in the King's Grant Community**. The address is 469 King's Way Road, Martinsville, VA.

Masks are Mandatory due to a recent change in policy at King's Grant.



What can we pick up for you? Contact **Victoria Esarey** **276 732-9110** or email vesarey@gmail.com. These items will be broken down into parts, making them more valuable as recyclables.

Congregational Care and Fellowship

If you are in need of prayer, a meal, transportation, etc...due to a death in the

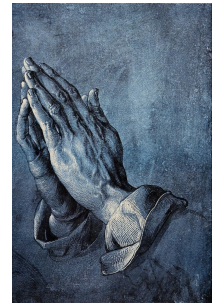
family or the birth of a baby, please reach out to the Congregational Care and Fellowship committee by contacting Lynn Pritchett at [276 252-6068](tel:2762526068).

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Kimberly Bryson, Laura Buffkin, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra and Mark Dobrinski (brother and sister in-law of Cynthia), Judy Epperly (Nancy Baker), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gene and Betty Stanley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), 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.

Please remember

Potato Products



The 3rd quarter food donation item is **Potato Products (mashed, scalloped)**

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*

Presbytery of the Peaks



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/

Steeple Views is published. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

stepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Church Office Phone: 276-632-3431

Our mailing address is:

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff, Pastor, pastor@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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

Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist, 276-734-0212

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

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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

Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Rob King: Facilities

Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

TRUSTEES

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

Copyright © 2021 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](#)

