

August 18, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

August 10, 2022

A Cloud of Witnesses

Hebrews 12:1-2

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Reading today's scripture reminded me of the time when our son, Daniel, ran a marathon in Richmond. We excitedly saw him off at the starting line, and then rushed off to get the next site where we could wait for him and then cheer him on as he ran by. We did that a number of times until we got to the finish line. Dan seemed to enjoy having people cheer him on, and I know as tired as he was at the finish line, our presence helped give him a little extra motivation to keep going.

Chapter 11 of Hebrews begins with the statement, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” The author then continues by providing a veritable Who's Who of people who demonstrated their faith through their actions. Some of these people like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses are well known to us. Others such as Rahab, Gideon, and Barak may not be as well known. Then finally, there are those who are not mentioned by name but only by their deeds. All of these people are our ancestors in God's family and through their faith. These, as well as the many other people recorded in the Old Testament lived, built, and passed down our faith heritage to us, but their faith stories only received completion through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. We now not only have the faith stories of people who survived furnaces, lion's dens, and being thrown in a cistern, but we have the promise of faith fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus. Through Jesus, we know that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God.

As we run the race that is our life of faith, look to the sidelines and see the familiar faces of all those mentioned in Hebrews 11. They are all there scattered along our journeys to cheer us on and keep us faithful. Not only are the notables from the Bible present to encourage us, but all those from our particular lives and backgrounds who have helped to form and strengthen us as we grew in faith. They are always there to urge us forward and cheer and sustain us.

Whether or not we have thought about it, we all have that “great cloud of witnesses” surrounding us, helping us to grow in our faith. I hope you will take some time to think about the people from the Bible, from history, and from your personal background who have nurtured your faith and provided you with examples to follow in your own life. Then think about all of those people now living who, by their example, encourage and direct you. God does not intend for us to live alone, but provides us with this faith community that is rooted in God’s presence through Jesus Christ.

Take a few minutes to draw a cloud and enter the names of all those who have had an influence on your faith story. Then draw another cloud and enter the names of all those whom you have influenced in one way or another by the example of your faith. Our faith grows in an ever expanding cloud of being influenced by others, and in turn, sharing that faith with others.

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of faith that strengthens and nurtures us while doing the same for others. Thank you for those who have and who are cheering us as we run the race set before us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

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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 medium 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.



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

Sermon by Elder Kym Wiederholt

"Why Bother"

Based on Ecclesiastes 1: 12-14; 2:18-23 and 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Liturgist: Norah Cundiff

Ushers/Greeters: Milt and Nancy Davis

[Lunch immediately following the service](#)



Community Breakfast this Saturday, **August 20.**

Led by Joe and Jerry DeVault. If you are able to help, please contact Jerri at [252-2162](tel:252-2162).

Volunteers are needed to cook and prepare from **7-8:30 a.m.** and to serve and clean up from **8:30-10:00 a.m.**

Please arrive by 7 AM if you are working the first shift



Saturday, August 20 - Community Breakfast

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



August

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

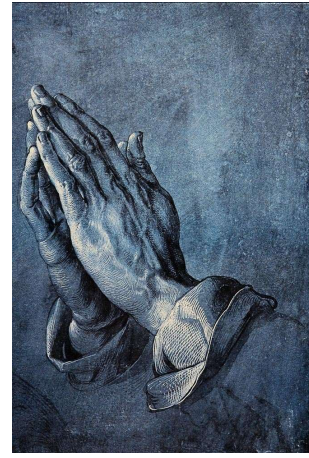
30 Elena King

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

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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