

December 30, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder Monica Stevens

December 30, 2021

Looking Back, Moving Forward

Matthew 25:31-46

The end of one year and the beginning of a new year is the perfect time for retrospection, introspection, and prospection (looking forward; foresight). We look back over the old year and remember actions, events, and relationships that brought us and others joy, peace, love, safety, and fulfillment. We also remember those things that were less positive—actions, events, and relationships that caused pain, hardship, distrust, enmity, and damage to us or others. We search ourselves to find ways to recreate the good and remedy the not so good. We look forward to living in such a way that we will engender more good than harm. Many of us make resolutions at this time of year that center around our personal lives—to exercise more, eat better, lose weight, spend more time with family, et cetera. There is nothing wrong with any of that, but we also need to look at our spiritual lives as individuals and as a church family. Since we are a Mathew 25 Congregation, it makes sense to use Matthew 25:31-46 as our guide. We need to ask ourselves individually and collectively, “When Lord, did we see you hungry, thirsty, a stranger, ill-clothed, sick, or in prison and what did we do about it?” We are already doing things to reach out to others such as sponsoring our Weekday School, holding monthly Community Breakfasts, contributing to the Warming Center through our virtual poinsettias, participating in the Blood Drives, and other activities, but we cannot rest on our laurels because the needs of the world and the community continue to evolve and change. To help us stay attuned to the need around us, I suggest that we each commit to engage in a period of daily prayer that uses the Seven-Day Prayer Card based on the Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation for the next year. This Prayer Card is a template for prayer that asks you to pray and meditate on a different facet of a life lived in Christ each day, while still providing you with the opportunity to add your own joys or concerns. The first part of the prayer offers praise and thanksgiving and the second part of the prayer lifts up petitions and concerns. Prayer is an important part of lifelong discipleship, and praying together like this will strengthen our community and help define our sense of purpose for life together in Christ. May God bless us as we move forward together in prayer.

Living God, we give you thanks and praise for the new things you are doing among us...

Sunday – **for the transforming presence of Christ**

Monday—**for your call to follow the way of Jesus**

Tuesday—**for the gift of your Word made flesh**

Wednesday—**for the good news of your holy realm**

Thursday—**for Jesus' example of humble service**

Friday—**your great love for all the world**

Saturday—**or common ministry in Jesus name**

Add your own joys and thanksgivings to your prayer.

Living God, by the gifts of your Spirit, help us to bear witness to the risen Lord...

Sunday—**proclaiming the good news of salvation**

Monday—**growing in the image of Christ**

Tuesday—**offering your grace to others**

Wednesday—**sharing the hope that is within us**

Thursday—**loving and serving one another**

Friday—**extending your compassion to all**

Saturday—**building up the body of Christ**

Add your own concerns and petitions

Living God, in the great mystery of our faith receive us each night and revive us each day, that we may be dead to sin and alive to you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

[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. In light of increasing infections, **we strongly recommend that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth while anywhere inside the church and sanctuary**

The church office will open for limited appointments. Please call to schedule. Please enter at the narthex for Sunday worship and during the week use the back door at the portico.

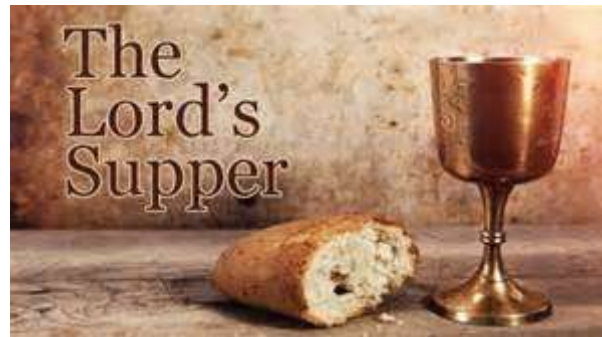


Please join us for the second Sunday after Christmas either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Rev. Paul Johnson

A Search for Christ

Based upon Matthew 2:1-12 and Psalm 51:1-12



Attention all Elders: We are now ready and able to start our Extended Table ministry once again!

We serve communion to shut-ins on **the first Sunday** in the month and to King's Grant residents on **the first Monday**.

We are asking all Elders who are interested in this ministry, to contact Nancy Davis at davistwo@comcast.net or by phone at [634-1403](tel:634-1403). Please indicate which day or days you want to serve.

Remember "Once an Elder always an Elder"



WOC Circle Meeting is Monday, January 3, 10:30 a.m. at 1 Starling Ave. in Martinsville hosted by Cindy Edgerton, and Nancy Baker will be teaching. We will be on lesson 5.

New Officer Installation and Ordination for the Class of 2024 is Sunday, January 9 during the 10:00 a.m. service. Elected elders to be ordained and/or installed are Liz Ferrell, Pearl Minter and Neil Tatum. Duke Ferrell and Milt Davis will be installed as Trustees



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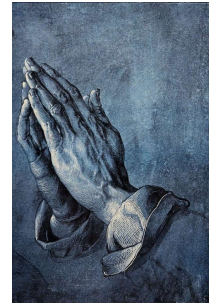
Happy January Birthdays!

- 6 Iliene Hite
- 7 Elena King, Rob King
- 10 Dr. James Beard
- 16 Billy Kirby, Wendy Luther
- 17 Grace Ann Edgerton
- 18 Mary Elizabeth Pilson-Bazemore

19 Helen Flythe
21 Bonny Pace
22 Waymon Lockett
23 Milt Davis
24 Lillian Hatchett
28 David Garland
29 Jack Kirby, Rusty Reaser
31 Mattie Wingfield

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:



PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Jean Hill, Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Judy Epperly (Nancy Baker), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Anne Peterson, Scott Stevens (M. Stevens), Bruce Thomas (M. Stevens), Carl Utey, 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](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 Lynn Pritchett at [276 252-6068](tel:2762526068).

Grace Network Donations

Baking Mix

The 1st quarter 2022 food donation item is **Baking Mix (small) or Flour**



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:** steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org. 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

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

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

Our mailing address is:

First Presbyterian Church

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Martinsville, VA 24112

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

Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director,

contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

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

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