

**December 31, 2020**



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## **Pastor's Corner**

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff  
December 30, 2020

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

While looking through some materials from a Youth retreat that I had previously led, I found a birthday party invitation for Jesus. The invitation read like this;

You are cordially invited to a birthday celebration.

Guest of Honor: Jesus Christ

Date: Should be every day but around December 25<sup>th</sup> is fine

Time: Whenever you're ready! Try not to be late.

Place: In your heart. (He'll meet you there. You'll hear him knock.)

Attire: Come as you are. He'll be cleaning you up anyway.

Cost: No charge. He's already paid for all of us.

Gift Suggestion: Your promise of commitment and trust.

That last line particularly struck me because we are the ones receiving the gift instead of the birthday boy! When was the last time you went to a party and not expected to be the one to give but rather to be the one to receive?

Or when was the last time you had a birthday and didn't get any older, just newer and fresher?

Christmas should be a time of renewal and celebration of God's greatest gift of life to the world. Jesus comes as a newborn to represent a fresh

start without any history of bad actions on our part. Forgiveness and a clean slate are offered on our behalf bringing hope for a better future. Shouldn't that be something we celebrate every day instead of once a year? Don't throw away this invitation.

Pastor Mark

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### ***Second Sunday After Christmas***

Please join us on Sunday for the **Second Sunday After Christmas**. We will be live on Facebook at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Drawn to the Light**

Based upon Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12

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#### ***Upcoming Events***

**Sunday, January 3, 2021** Ordination/installation of church officers during the **10:00 a.m.** worship service.  
**Sunday School** at 9 am; youth at 12 pm on Zoom

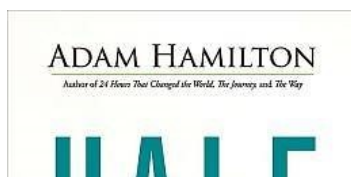
**Sunday, January 10, 2021** Congregational Meeting to vote on the approval of the pastor's terms of call.

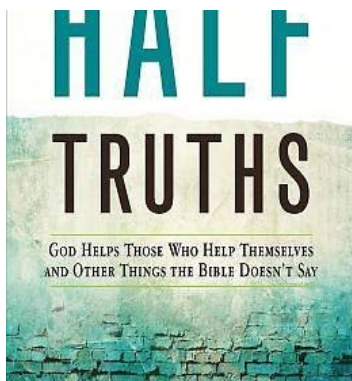
Members will receive a Zoom invitation for this meeting. The meeting will take place following worship.

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#### **Sunday School**

Begins: **January 3**  
Adults at 9 am and youth at 12 pm on Zoom





***Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say*** by Adam Hamilton

Here's a description from the publisher:

Join Adam Hamilton in exploring popular sayings that miss the point.

True or false:

1. Everything happens for a reason.
2. God helps those who help themselves.
3. God won't give you more than you can handle.
4. God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
5. Love the sinner, hate the sin.

All true? Not so fast. We've heard these phrases all of our lives, but in Adam Hamilton's new book, *Half Truths*, you'll learn that although they capture some element of truth, when compared to the wisdom found in Scripture, they're really just popular sayings. The five-week study with accompanying video can be used in small groups or as a churchwide program where all ages explore the topics at the same time. For more information or to sign up, contact Denny Casey ([d.a.casey@comcast.net](mailto:d.a.casey@comcast.net)) or Sam Smith ([sam@peaksprebytery.org](mailto:sam@peaksprebytery.org)).



**Congratulations** to Raven Adams on the birth of her son, Kaven Alexander Adams, November 20, 2020 in Martinsville, VA. Mandy Muse is the grandmother and Lynn and Ashby Pritchett are the great grandparents.



## **Happy Birthday in January!**

**4** Marie Thompson

**6** Iliene Hite

**7** Elena King, Robert 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

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### Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Doc Altizer, Ken Beavers ( Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Sandra and Mark Dobrinski (brother and sister in-law of Cynthia), Daniel Handy, Sarah Hastens (Cynthia Dobrinski's niece), Helen Hawkes, Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Jim Murray (Judy King), Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gene 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](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org).

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***Please remember***

## Canned Soup



The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 1st quarter is **canned soup**. 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*

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## Youth Ministry

The Youth will be meeting on **Sunday afternoons at 12pm**. Grab a snack or lunch & join us on **Zoom!** If your middle or high school child would like to join us, please contact Sam at [sam@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.org) for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

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## 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_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/)

**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](mailto:stepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

**Church Office Phone:** 276-632-3431

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Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, [contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

### THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

#### Class of 2020

Denny Casey: Christian Education

Ron Rebman: Administration

Kym Tatum: Fellowship

#### Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Stewardship

Rob King: Facilities

Monica Stevens: Worship

#### Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Communications

Betty Hudson: Congregational Care

### TRUSTEES

2020: Milton Davis, Duke Ferrell

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

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