

**February 11, 2021**



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

February 10, 2021

**"...be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction." 2 Timothy 4:2b**

I never thought with all these hundreds, even thousands, of movie selections to watch from home that I would ever say, "I've run out of things to watch." But it's finally happened. With all this trying to stay safe and at home with the Pandemic, I've found myself being hooked on some of these Marvel Superhero flicks. And just like my own life, when trouble comes it's always at the most inconvenient of times. But unlike my own experience, the Superheros never have to stop and fill up with gas first, or search for the keys to the Batmobile, or missed the call because the searchlight had a burned-out bulb. Superhero's never miss a beat because they're prepared for whatever comes next.

While the superheroes are responding unconcerned, I'm wondering about what to do; when my son has just been in a car wreck at 2:00 am, when I'm forty miles out of town on my vacation and a beloved parishioner dies unexpectedly and the family needs you there now, or when a close friend wonders whether life is worth living anymore while you're stepping up to the microphone to accept the Man of the Year award. What do you do? Is the car full of gas?

Will any of us be ready? Have we been working on our relationship with God to prepare ourselves through study, through prayer? Are we confident enough to trust God to make us ready for whatever life brings and to help us to respond without question? Are your spiritual gas tanks constantly being topped off with that source of power that only God brings? God is patient and kind giving us opportunities to share each day regularly with Him what we have learned in our private times. Isn't that such a sweet way to anticipate, be ready, keeping our tanks full and available when God calls. No superheroes needed. Just faithful believers.

Hey, I think I saw another showing of the Ten Commandments coming on next.

Blessed be your days,

Pastor Mark

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### ***Last Sunday After the Epiphany***

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

sermon by Pastor Mark Hinchcliff.

#### ***The Illuminated Truth of God***

Based upon 2 Corinthians 4:3–6 and Mark 9:2–9

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### ***Upcoming Events***

#### **Blood Mobile Dates at Martinsville Elk's Lodge**

12 - 5 pm

**February 12th, 18th & 24th**

#### **Lenten Bible Study**

February 17 - March 31

#### **Earth Care**

Save the date if you would like to help with property clean-up in the areas behind the church on **March 20**.

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### **Ash Wednesday Schedule**



**Live Ash Wednesday Service** – February 17 at 10:00 a.m on Facebook.

**Drive Through Receiving of Communion and the Imposition of the Ashes** from 1-1:30 p.m. will be available under the portico at First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Mark and Pastor Cheryl Peoples of Forest Hills PC will be serving.

**Anytime Ash Wednesday** – PCUSA is providing for congregational use an online Ash Wednesday service that features liturgy and music in English, Spanish and Korean that you can access at this link: <https://bit.ly/3aPfa5y>

**Ash Wednesday Prayer Service** – 7 p.m. with Pastor Cheryl Peoples on Zoom When you join, you will be admitted from the waiting room at the beginning of the service. The link to join is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89596788350> Meeting ID: 895 9678 8350

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## Lenten Bible Study

February 17 – March 31

7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Seven Marks for Church Vitality

PCUSA Missions Board - Matthew 25 Program

Lent is the period in the church year between Ash Wednesday and Easter, and most of us think of it as a time of personal introspection, spiritual reflection, and scriptural meditation centering on Jesus' life, death, and his ultimate resurrection. Our study this year will call us to prayerfully study scripture and examine what it means to be called to be Christ's Church. Just as God calls each of us to live an abundant life as a child of God, Jesus calls his church to live a vital life of service and discipleship. What does it mean to be a vital congregation? What would that look like? How would we go about increasing our vitality and discipleship? These are exactly the questions that will drive our study and form the background for exploring our mission as Christ's Body in this place and time.

God calls us together as a congregation, binds us together through the Holy Spirit, and sends us out into the world bearing the love and grace of Jesus Christ. You are a vital part of our church family and we need your presence with us as we join in study to discern God's call to FPCM today.

The study will start **Ash Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**, and will be held every Wednesday evening at 7 through March 31. Look for your Zoom invite in your email in the coming week. May God bless us in this work.

Contact Monica Stevens at [mlkstev@hotmail.com](mailto:mlkstev@hotmail.com) if you have further questions.

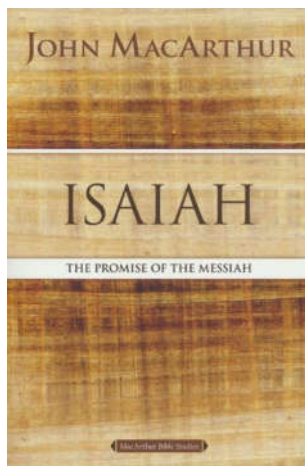
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## Sunday School

Begins: **February 7**

Meets at 9 am on Zoom

The **MacArthur Bible Studies** provide intriguing examinations of the whole of



Scripture and continues to be one of the bestselling study guide series on the market today. In this study, Dr. MacArthur examines the words of the prophet Isaiah, showing how God proved to be faithful to his people (and us) by promising to send Messiah who would save them from sin. These latest all-new studies join the ranks of the previously released study guides, now offering readers a comprehensive selection of Old Testament Bible studies by bestselling author and theologian John MacArthur.

Each lesson includes:

- **Drawing Near:** An opening question based on the key theme or topic of the lesson
- **The Context:** Background information on the passage of Scripture being studied
- **Keys to the Text:** Detailed commentary on the passage being studied
- **Unleashing the Text:** Application questions on the passage highlighted in the lesson
- **Exploring the Meaning:** Three key takeaways from the passage
- **Reflecting on the Text:** Reflection questions on the passage highlighted in the lesson
- **Personal Response:** A journaling section to help readers apply the principles

Each study includes an introduction that provides background information to each book of the Bible being studied and a closing "Reviewing Key Principles" lesson to help cement the main themes of the study.

To sign up or for more information, contact Denny Casey ([d.a.casey@comcast.net](mailto:d.a.casey@comcast.net)).

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## Youth Ministry

The youth will be doing a Lenten study beginning **Sunday, Feb. 21** that will mirror the Wednesday evening adult study on the *Seven Marks for Congregational Vitality*. We'll think about what it means to be a vital congregation and ways to increase our vitality by exploring scripture & questions to reflect on what it means to be The Church.

We will continue meeting

**Sunday afternoons at 12 pm**, still 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.



Margaret Mead famously said, *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."*

The Earth Care group reminds you that we will be recycling clean cans/metals on **Saturday, Feb. 20**. Let Victoria Esarey (276-732-9110) know if you have an old appliance or other heavy items for recycling.

Save the date if you would like to help with property clean-up in the areas behind the church on **March 20**.

Finally, does anyone have a useful hack for avoiding the use of common plastics? For example, has anyone tried the new bar shampoos that come in a paper wrapper, making one less bottle for the landfill?

The PCUSA website for Earth Care Congregations is:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>

Denny Casey has remarked that the website is "like peeling an onion." But be not overwhelmed, just go poke around a bit to see how seriously Presbyterians are taking this idea of caring for our Earthly home.

## Technology Corner

There have been some reports of emails from "RITA BATEMAN" going to junk mail folder.

Members should check their junk mail folders and add emails from RITA to the safe senders list: here's how the email sender appears:

RITA BATEMAN [mail@icnsend.com](mailto:mail@icnsend.com)

If there are emails in your junk mail folder, you should select:

1. "never block sender"

2. "never block sender's domain" and
3. "never block this group or mailing list"

## Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

### PRAYER CONCERNS

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



*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*

**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)

### 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](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](https://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  
[steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

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

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### STAFF

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

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

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 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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