

February 2, 2023



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Dear First Presbyterian family,

When there is a difference between where we want to be and where we are, we say that there is a Gap. Closing the Gap becomes one of our most important challenges. Our Gap lies between our concerns and our aspirations. Our concern is that we, as a faith community, cannot continue with the status quo that served us well in the past. We must adapt to a different world, community, way of using our building, and way of being the church. Our aspiration is to radiate love within our congregation and out into our local neighborhood and even further out into Martinsville.

Changing how we operate is hard; it makes us feel uncomfortable. Most of us would rather keep doing what we are doing. We are grateful for who we have been and we are comfortable with that identity. However, we know that we now need to look forward more than we look backward if we are going to grow into who God is calling us to be. Right now, our aspirations are not yet well defined. We don't have a concrete picture of what closing the Gap will look and feel like and it's difficult and uncomfortable to live in uncertainty.

The important thing to remember is that when we look honestly at the Gap with a clear purpose to guide us, we will generate new energy and excitement for what is ahead of us. We will know that radiating love takes all of us working together for a common purpose—a purpose that will take us out of our comfort zone as we achieve our greatest aspirations. We have started our discernment process by exploring change through the Adaptive Change workshops and the follow-up Purpose Labs.

The next exciting step in this process is to create a Think Tank—a working group drawn from volunteers in the congregation. The Think Tank will examine who we are now and who we feel God is calling us to be and then identify the adaptive and technical challenges we will face as we seek God's new future for us. As the Think Tank workshops our challenges, their outcomes will be presented to the Session, where the decisions for our way forward will be made. Please prayerfully consider joining the Think Tank. When everyone is

part of the process, amazing things happen. Tough problems become simpler. Big aspirations become reachable. While I realize that a Think Tank including all of us, would be overwhelming; it is important to have many, varied voices in this process so that all aspects of our church and life together are considered.

If you are interested in joining the Think Tank, please let me know.



Call me, text me, email me, to become part of the Think Tank! ([276](tel:2767348830)) [734-8830](tel:734-8830), rev.millerb@gmail.com.

With anticipation,

Pastor Bea

PS – Please plan on attending the **Budget Forum**, immediately following worship on **Sunday, February 12th**. For those of you who participate on-line, we will send a Zoom invitation as a congregational email, prior to the Budget Forum. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.



Please join us for worship this fifth Sunday after the Epiphany at 10:00 am

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

Sermon based upon Matthew 5:13-20 and Psalm 112:1-9

Liturgist: Ashby Pinkard

Ushers/Greeters: Neil Tatum, Betty Hudson

Just a reminder:

You will NEVER get an email or text from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.

If you receive one of these messages, it will come from an email other than an official church email address or a phone number not in use by a church staff member. Simply report it to the church and delete. Do not respond. We are so sorry for the inconvenience these fraudulent activities (that have been happening for years to churches everywhere-not just here) continue to cause!

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

The safety of our congregation and community are our highest priority. COVID-19 transmission rates are low 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.



Purpose Labs continue: **February 13 and February 27**, beginning at 12 p.m. on Zoom. Join by clicking this

link: <https://www.peaksprebytery.org/event/purpose-labs/>

****If you have Kroger coupons for items that can be used for the community breakfast, (i.e., eggs, biscuits, juice, fruit) and you aren't going to use them, we would welcome them. Leave your coupons at**

the church office or drop them in the mail slot at the back door. Thank you!**

Presbyterian Women's Circle Meeting is Monday, February 6 at 11:00 a.m. at King's Grant. Lunch may be purchased for \$10. Please pay at the front desk.

The next Presbytery Meeting is Thursday, February 16 on Zoom.

Liturgist Schedule

February

5 Ashby Pinkard
12 Briana Tatum
19 Kym Tatum
26 Brooke Cundiff

March

5 Nora Cundiff
12 Chuck Cundiff
19 Milt Davis
26 Nancy Davis



Extended Table

It's time to update the 2023 Extended Table schedule. We need for more folks to sign up for this rewarding ministry.

The qualifications are that you are an Elder or have been an Elder at some point. Nancy Davis will offer training as needed.

We offer this ministry on **the first Sunday and Monday** of each month. **Sunday** we take the elements to individual shut ins. **Monday** we offer the elements to a group at King's Grant.

If you are interested please contact Nancy at [\(276\) 634-1403](tel:2766341403) or davistwo@comcast.net. Let her know which day you prefer. God bless you as you consider this ministry.

Happy February Birthdays!

- 2** Dr. David Seamon, Isla King
3 Charles R. Knighton, Harold Lamm
4 Pamela Rakes
7 Mason Wood
13 Connie Anderson
19 Sandra T. Ford
21 Sharon Kirby

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sue Benfield, Georgette Bishop, Mike Boswell, Marilyn and Ernest Bremner, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Bud Buffkin, Tommy Cobb, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Maggie Pilson, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, Paul Salmons (M&N Davis), David Seamon, 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.



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:276-340-3476).

Grace Network Donations

[The 1st quarter 2023 food donation item is Juice \(40-64 oz\).](#)

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 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

Class of 2024

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

Class of 2025

Ron Rebman: Mission/Outreach

Sue Legg: Stewardship and Communication

Monica Stevens: Christian Education

TRUSTEES

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

2025: William Kirby, Gale Legg

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