

February 25, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mark Hinchcliff

February 24, 2021

"I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing"

1 Corinthians 9:26 NLT

I like to hear about people that have unique talents and careers. Take our Youth and Family Ministry Director for instance who has a degree in screenwriting. I'm amazed at how screenwriters throw in symbolism, foreshadowing, flashbacks, and a teaser or two in order to keep the audience engaged and guessing all the time. It's a scattering of information that usually doesn't come all together until the end of the movie or play! And almost never does the finished product come together without rewrites to insure it all interconnects properly.

Every word a writer puts down has a purpose. There's no word that's not carefully and intentionally crafted before moving on to the next thought or scene. What if every step of our lives were being taken down, thought out with intention, and ready to be connected in the final culmination of our day? I don't know about you but if that were the case, I certainly think I would be a lot more careful about what I said or did along the way. Don't you?

Our lives should sometimes be as thoughtful as screenwriters. Sure, everyone needs a little room for spontaneity, but our steps should be taken with some kind of purpose. We should be taking steps wanting to be an example for Christ and living a life focused on God. Consider what you say and how you say it. It matters what we say and what we do. Be purposeful in writing your script so that it glorifies God in everything. And when you don't (forgetting to pray before making major life decisions, plowing ahead without thinking about how your decisions are affecting others, and let's face it, just being pretty selfish at times), put into God for a rewrite.

May it be that when we look back at the script we've created, we're proud of our work and will be satisfied for God's kingdom.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

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Second Sunday in Lent

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

sermon by Pastor Mark Hinchcliff.

A Legacy of Promise

Based upon Romans 4:13–25 and Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

Upcoming Events

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**.

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 Peeples 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 Peeples 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

Lenten Bible Study

February 17 – March 31

7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Seven Marks for Church Vitality

PCUSA Missions Board - Matthew 25 Program

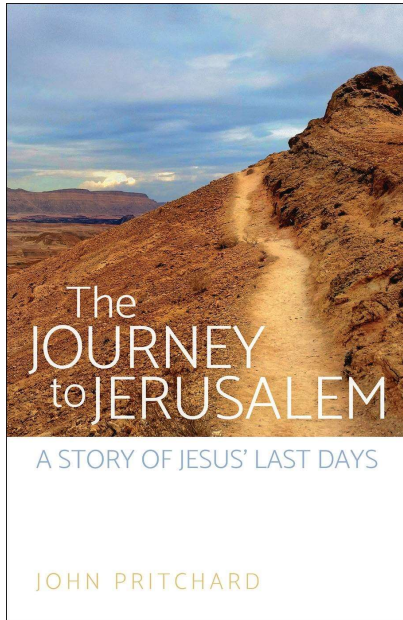
Lent is the period in the church year between Ash Wednesday and Easter, and most of us think of it as a time of personal introspection, spiritual reflection, and scriptural meditation centering on Jesus' life, death, and his ultimate resurrection. Our study this year will call us to prayerfully study 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 if you have further questions.

Sunday School - Lenten Study



Begins: **February 21**

Meets at 9 am on Zoom (runs for seven Sundays).

From the publisher:

"In this imaginative retelling, John Pritchard explores the Gospel of Luke by looking through the eyes of the disciple John. *The Journey to Jerusalem* follows Luke's account from Luke 9:51, as Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem." Perfect for individual or group study, *The Journey to Jerusalem* provides weekday readings for Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, along with a poem for each Saturday. Questions for reflection and discussion are also included."

The study will begin this Sunday (Feb 21) at 9 AM by Zoom and run for seven Sundays.

For more information, contact Denny Casey, d.a.casey@comcast.net.

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 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.*"

Earth Care "Won't You Be My Neighbor Day"

March 20, 9 am - Any day can be a beautiful day in the neighborhood - and



"Won't You Be My Neighbor Day" is no exception! "Won't You Be My Neighbor Day" is a day to remember and honor Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and children's TV presenter of Mr. Roger's Neighborhood. **Meet at the church at 9 am** to help clean up the stream behind the church building and other neighborly things.

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

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"
-



Congratulations to Madison Sayles on the birth of her baby boy, **Kingston Drake Espana**.

Baby Kingston arrived on February 23 weighing 2 lbs. 14 oz. Mother and baby are doing well.

Proud grandparents are Carrie and Darrell Wilson. Great Grandparents are JoAnne and Keith Sanders.



2 Peter Marshall
6 Jerry Wood
9 Tyler Price
18 Steve Edgerton
21 Emma Wilson, Evan Wilson

Our Deepest Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Doc Altizer. Doc passed away on Tuesday, February 16.

December 28, 1942 - February 16, 2021

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Duke Ferrell and his family, on the passing of his mother, Annie Lee Hanby Ferrell. Annie passed away Thursday, February 18.

October 24, 1920 - February 18, 2021

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to JoAnne Sanders and her family, on the passing of JoAnne's mother, Charlotte JoAnne Walker. Charlotte passed away in West Lafayette, Indiana on February 18.

June 17, 1925 - February 18, 2021

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

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.

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

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/

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

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Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director,
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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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