

February 4, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

February 3, 2021

“My dear brothers and sisters. How can you claim that you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people more than others?” James 2:1

I laughed when I heard this story about a minister who was approached by a man who wanted the minister to conduct a memorial service for his beloved pet. Although licensed, the minister insisted that, “He would not perform a funeral service for someone’s dead dog! Why don’t you try another church down the street?”. The man responded, “Well that’s too bad because I so loved that dog that I was going to offer the minister that would perform the service a \$1,000,000 honorarium. The minister spoke up and said, “Wait a moment, you never told me your dog was a Christian!”.

Yes, unfortunately we all form some kind of prejudice when there’s something in it for us! Whether its denominations, political views, economic class, or some kind of special interests. We gravitate towards those who share our own views or interests, who look like us, or come from similar backgrounds. We categorize those who are with us and those who are against us which proves we all play favorites. All of us! When was the last time any of us can say we didn’t avoid someone because they disagreed with us us no matter how big or small the disagreement?

We often determine our friends by how useful they are or can be to us in the future. Maybe we all can use a reminder that playing favorites is just wrong. True, we can’t be besties with everyone we meet and that’s okay. But Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Scripture is full of instruction to avoid favoritism and to freely forgive and love others. In John 13 Jesus says, “the world will judge whether or not we are truly His by how we display genuine love for each other.” Today God charges us to display those qualities of grace, friendship, and love as has been shown to us in His care and mercy daily.

Blessed be your days,

Pastor Mark

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Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

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

sermon by Pastor Mark Hinchcliff.

Our Source of Strength

Based upon Isaiah 40:21–31 and 1 Corinthians 9:16–23

Upcoming Events



Blood Mobile Dates at Martinsville Elk's Lodge

12 - 5 pm

TODAY! February 4th

February 12th

March 18th & 24th

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:

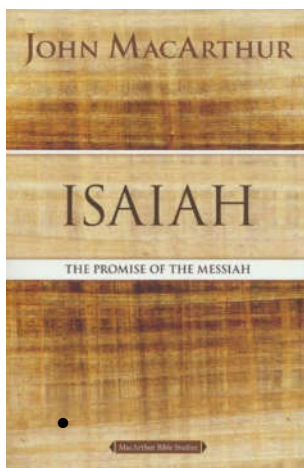
1. "never block sender"
 2. "never block sender's domain" and
 3. "never block this group or mailing list"
-

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).

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry – The Youth are meeting on **Sunday afternoons at 12pm** still on **Zoom**. For the month of January, we will be doing Adam Hamilton's book, *Half Truths*, which explores popular sayings that miss the point. So, 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 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 EarthCare group here at First Presbyterian Martinsville is small but already we have helped congregants by removing a freezer and a dishwasher.

What can we pick up for you? Contact **Victoria Esarey** 276 732-9110 or email vesarey@gmail.com. These items will be broken down into parts, making them more valuable as recyclables.

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.

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), Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), 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, 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](https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020%20Peaks%20Postings/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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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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