

January 13, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Dr. Denny Casey

January 10, 2022

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? James 2:14 (NRSV)

This verse is a constant reminder to me to put my faith into action. As James proclaims, faith without works is dead as a body without the Holy Spirit.

As Christians, it's crucial to emphasize though, no number of good deeds can lead to salvation. We can't earn our way into God's favor.

I'm reminded of the 1998 film *Saving Private Ryan* based on the WWII story of a family named Ryan. There were four sons in the Ryan family. The father is dead, and all four boys go off to fight in the war, leaving their mother at home. Tragically, three of the four sons were killed in action. The War Department enlists the help of Captain John Miller to find the surviving son, James, and bring him home, to ensure the grieving mother has at least one son returning home.

Captain Miller selects a small squad of soldiers to go in search of Private Ryan, travelling from one unit to the next and fighting German soldiers as they go across the French countryside. Miller and his squad feel resentment towards Ryan, and as they inevitably start to get killed off, the survivors can't help but wonder does Ryan deserve to be saved? When they finally come across Ryan, he insists on remaining with his company and does not want to be saved. How then should Miller proceed? They stay with him and fight. They become engaged in a fierce battle with many casualties including most of the squad. Captain Miller lies mortally wounded but manages to whisper into Ryan's young ears, "earn this."

Ultimately, *Saving Private Ryan* is less about those who suffered and more about those who have been spared suffering. In the end, is not the courage of the soldiers who fought at Normandy; it's the debt owed them by their children and their children's children. Mrs. Ryan's son was not the only child those brave men saved.

From a Christian perspective, no one deserves to be saved and we can't earn salvation by the good deeds we do. But as Christians, we have a chance on this earth to do something exceptional for God. Former President Jimmy Carter said, "my faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I can, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference." Jesus died so that believers could be saved, but also so that we could find what God wants us to do and do what we can to make a difference and above all to honor God.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son who died for our sins and for teaching us that the path to salvation is through trust and faith in You and not from the good works we do. But we pray that as we walk in Your grace that Christ may be seen in us and that we may bring forth the fruit of good works in the world - to Your praise and glory. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

In Christ,

Denny

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The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!

The safety of our congregation and community are our highest priority. In light of increasing infections, **we strongly recommend that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth while anywhere inside the church and sanctuary**

The church office will open for limited appointments. Please call to schedule. Please enter at the narthex for Sunday worship and during the week use the back door at the portico.



In the event of inclement weather, a text message/email will be sent from the church to let everyone know the status of church services. Snow is expected this weekend and a decision will be made as soon as possible

regarding in person services. The safety of our congregation is the number one priority!



Please join us for the second Sunday after the Epiphany either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Dr.Denny Casey

The Good Wine

Based upon John 2:1-11 and Isaiah 62:1-5



Attention all Elders: We are now ready and able to start our Extended Table ministry once again!

We serve communion to shut-ins on **the first Sunday** in the month and to King's Grant residents on **the first Monday**.

We are asking all Elders who are interested in this ministry, to contact Nancy Davis at davistwo@comcast.net or by phone at [634-1403](tel:634-1403). Please indicate which day or days you want to serve.

Remember "Once an Elder always an Elder"



The Community Breakfast is Saturday, January 15. Volunteers are needed to cook and prepare from 7-8:30 a.m. and to serve and clean up from 8:30-10:00 a.m. The breakfast will remain in a drive-thru format until further notice. Contact Brooke Cundiff if you are available to help ([276-340-6124](tel:276-340-6124) or bchnfamily@gmail.com).

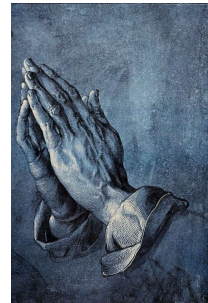
The Weekday School and Church Offices will be closed Monday, January 17, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Judy Epperly (Nancy Baker), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Anne Peterson, Scott Stevens (M. Stevens), Bruce Thomas (M. Stevens), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, and persecuted Christians and all troops in defense of freedom throughout the world.



Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, ([276](tel:276-632-3431)) [632-3431](tel:276-632-3431), office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org.

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 Lynn Pritchett at [276 252-6068](tel:276-252-6068).

Grace Network Donations

Baking Mix

The 1st quarter 2022 food donation item is **Baking Mix (small) or Flour**



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*



Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views is published weekly on Thursdays. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO: steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org**. If you send to another email address, the information may get lost and subsequently not included in the newsletter.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

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/

Church Office Phone: 276-632-3431

Our mailing address is:

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THE SESSION

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

Class of 2024

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

TRUSTEES

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

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