

July 14, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

July 13, 2022

Mary and Martha

Luke 10:38-42

Now as they [Jesus and the disciples] were on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.

We are familiar with this short passage of scripture, perhaps too familiar. The usual interpretation of this passage centers on the idea that Martha is distracted because she has so much to do while providing hospitality for Jesus and the disciples while Mary has chosen to sit at Jesus' feet and listen. Martha becomes frazzled, frustrated, and resentful due to her sister's lack of assistance, while Mary seems blissfully unaware of the problem. Jesus seems to side with Mary for choosing the "better part" while chiding Martha's irritation, but is this the only, or even the main lesson found here?

Martha invites Jesus and the disciples into her house and offers them hospitality—food, drink, comfort, and safety. Hospitality was more than just being nice, it was a way of remembering, enacting, and sharing the mercy God had shown the Israelites when they were strangers in Egypt.

Hospitality was written into Jewish Law and was an integral part of Jesus' teaching on mercy throughout the gospels. Hospitality was indeed important not only on a practical level, but on a spiritual level as well.

Mary had probably been actively engaged in the preparations for welcoming Jesus and the disciples, but once they arrived, Mary took off her apron and sat near Jesus to listen and take in everything he said. Mary had a thirst for Jesus' gospel message and Jesus would not let her be denied. Since Jesus knew he was heading to Jerusalem and crucifixion, he had a real sense of urgency about his spreading his

message about the kingdom of God and he wanted all to hear it, including Mary and Martha.

For better or worse, we have a penchant for trying to force things into an either/or, black /white, yes/no paradigm, and we want to do the same thing with this narrative. If we look at things this way, either hospitality is what Jesus desires or Jesus wants us to attend to what he teaches. If we take a breath and step back from preconceived notions, we can see that hospitality or doing, and listening or receiving the Word, are both sides of the same coin: discipleship. Discipleship demands that we are steeped in Jesus' message so that we can translate that message into action that serves Jesus in the world.

Mary and Martha could very easily represent the dual nature of discipleship that needs to be kept in balance to create unity of purpose within individuals and within faith communities. If we, like Martha, get so wrapped up in doing—projects, programs, logistical details, service opportunities, committee duties—that our actions become more like ticking off boxes on a to-do list than providing loving service in Jesus' name, we have lost sight of who and whose we are. On the other hand, if like Mary, we immerse ourselves in spiritual study to the point that the needs of the physical world become remote and unimportant, we have reduced the gospel to a mental activity and we lose sight of who it is our Savior came to save and who it is we are to serve in his name.

Each of us has special gifts and areas of expertise where we excel. Some of us are more comfortable being do-ers, and others of us are more comfortable with spirituality which is fine because we are the way God created us to be. However, to be mature, balanced disciples, we need to value and engage in spiritual development and then put our faith into action by serving others. The Mary and Martha within each of us and the Marys and Marthas within our congregation need each other, and best serve the Lord when they work in tandem to the glory of God.

Loving Lord, teach us to be mature disciples who rely on one another and work hand-in-hand to serve the world in your name and to your glory. Amen.

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The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!

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.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

If you are not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask. If you have symptoms,

test positive, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 please remain at home.



Please join us for worship this Sixth Sunday after **Pentecost** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Monica Stevens

Standing True

Based on Colossians 1:15-28 and Amos 7:7-9; 8:4-6, 9-12

Liturgist: Joan Montgomery

Ushers: Rob King and Monty Montgomery



The Community Breakfast is Saturday, **July 16** led by Henry and Nancy Moore and will be served in person. Please contact **Nancy** at Nbmoore4@icloud.com or [276-732 3400](tel:276-732-3400) if you are able to help! 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.

back2school

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

There are many opportunities to let your gifts shine during this great event.

Registration

• **Tuesday, July 19 from 6 - 8pm at The Uptown Ministry Center**

Greeters(1-2): These folks will greet the kids and parents as they come for registration. Many of these families will be repeat and will know how the process works, but many will be here for the first time. It's important that the greeter is friendly and welcoming and brings in our families with love and grace.

As a greeter, you will simply bring them into the ministry center and show them where to go to the registration table.

Registration assistants (1-2): These folks will be handing clip boards and pencils to the guardian to fill out essential information about each child. You will need to make sure that the child they are registering is present with the parent. Make sure that the forms are legible and verifying information. You will then escort them to the foot measuring station.

Foot measurers (4-6): These folks will have Brannock devices to measure the child's foot and a partner to record the size on the form. Work in pairs to get the correct information quickly. After they are measured, take the form and family to the registration table to get their appointment for August 6.

Registration table (2): These folks will record the family information, issue the appointment sheet and answer any questions about the Event day.

This registration process will need **approximately 14 people total**. Please contact Tracy Hinchcliff if you are interested in volunteering: [276-403-4222](tel:276-403-4222) or [409-330-0847](tel:409-330-0847) (cell). Please arrive at the Uptown Center about 45 minutes before we begin to get settled in and answer any questions about your job.

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Iliene Hite, Georgette Bishop, Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Mary Brown Morgan (Barbara Tatum), Jim Brunt (N Davis' brother), Bud Buffkin, Tommy Cobb, Bobby Davis (Milt Davis' son), Neill Ferrill (Sandra Ford), Daniel Handy, Melanie Hardy, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol Lamm, Corrie Lawson (niece of Gael Chaney & Peter Marshall), Mary Manning, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, Daniel Stevens, 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.



Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, [\(276\) 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 Pearl Minter at [276 340-3476](tel:2763403476).

Grace Network Donations

The 3rd quarter 2022 food donation item is **Green Peas** (15 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)

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worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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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