

July 21, 2022



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

July 20, 2022

### Live in Christ Jesus

**Colossians 2:6-10**

“So live in Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way as you received him. Be rooted and built up in him, be established in faith, and overflow with thanksgiving just as you were taught. See to it that nobody enslaves you with philosophy and foolish deception, which conform to human traditions and the way the world thinks and acts rather than Christ. All the fullness of deity lives in Christ’s body. And you have been filled by him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.” (CEB)

Many of the difficulties Paul and the early church faced seem very contemporary. The church at Colossae was being tempted to alter the gospel that was preached to them by Paul’s co-worker, Epaphras. Some groups were preaching that the only real way to be a Christian was to follow the Jewish laws regarding dietary restrictions, holy days, the Sabbath, and circumcision. Others proclaimed that they had a “higher knowledge” involving secretive mystical experiences that enhanced their spirituality and made them superior to other Christians. We may not have to contend with the false teachings of the Jewish-Christian sects or the Gnostics, but there are plenty of people and groups that will tell you that they are the only “true” Christians and unless you believe what they believe and live your faith in the same way they do, you have missed the mark and your faith is in vain.

John 3:16-17 provides us with the simple truth that, “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” (CEB) In John 15, Jesus tells us, “As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. This is my commandment: love each other as I have loved you.” (vs. 9-12, CEB) The very heart of our Christian faith is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to live in his love by loving others.

As Paul told the Colossians in our opening scripture, "So live in Christ Jesus the Lord the same way you received him. Be rooted and built up in him, be established in faith, and overflow with thanksgiving as you were taught." The more we live our lives in Christ, the deeper, richer, and fuller our faith becomes. We work to nurture our faith and deepen our relationship with Christ through prayer, study, thanksgiving, service, and life within the community of believers.

Just as it was during Paul's lifetime, there are plenty of people and groups who want to "improve" or "embellish" Jesus' gospel. Their ideas can cause doubt and confusion among believers and cause people to engage in a destructive sort of competition that demeans the faith of others in their quest to be the "best," "purest," or "most righteous" Christian. We need to stay rooted in the love of Jesus and build up our own faith and the faith of others by living in and sharing that love. Our mission is a simple and as difficult as that.

Gracious heavenly Father, we thank you that you have sent your Son, Jesus, into the world to reveal the depth of your love for us and all of creation. Help us to keep Jesus at the center of our lives so that we may grow in our faith, resist things that would separate us from your love, and become vessels to spread the joy of your love wherever we go and in whatever we do. We pray this is the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. 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.

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

Sermon by Elder Kym Wiederholt

***Everyone Who Asks***

Based on Luke 11:1-13 and Genesis 18:20-32

**Liturgist:** Lynn Pritchett

**Ushers:** Nancy Davis, Milt Davis

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**Session Meeting** - Monday, July 25 at 7 pm in the session room.

**Under Construction!** New flooring to replace the carpet will be installed in the hallway under the sanctuary. We ask that you refrain from using the side door entrance for the next 2 weeks. Installation should be completed by July 29.

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# back2school

***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!***

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

Filling Backpacks

- **At the Future Home of Community Fellowship**  
**700 Commerce Court, Martinsville**  
**Tuesday, August 2 (6:00 pm)**

The Big Event

- **At The Uptown Ministry Center (Behind Rania's)**  
**Saturday, August 6 (7:30 am) Shifts will be determined**

**If you can help, please email: Tracy Hincheliff**  
**[tracy.hincheliff@gracenetnetworkmhc.org](mailto:tracy.hincheliff@gracenetnetworkmhc.org) or call 409-330-0847**



July

24 Lynn Pritchett  
31 Ashby Pinkard

August

07 Brooke Cundiff  
14 Chuck Cundiff  
21 Nora Cundiff  
28 Milt Davis

September

04 Monica Stevens  
11 Nancy Davis  
18 Jerri DeVault  
25 Janet Fentress

October

02 Duke Ferrell  
09 Liz Ferrell  
16 Rob King  
23 Shanna King  
30 Elena King

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## Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Georgette Bishop, Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, 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:2766323431), [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto: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** 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](mailto:fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com). For time sensitive announcements, please sent to [skirbycwj@gmail.com](mailto: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](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](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter)

**Useful Links**

FPC website:

[www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/) or [www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/](http://www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/)

FPC online directory: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com/](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/)

FPC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA](http://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA)

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org/](http://www.peakspresbytery.org/)

Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org/](http://www.pcusa.org/)

Daily Bible Readings: [www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/)

**Church Office Phone:** [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)

**Our mailing address is:**

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Martinsville, VA 24112

**STAFF**

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

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Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Spencer Koger, Director of Music, [adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator,

[worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto: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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