

July 7, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Dr. Denny Casey

July 6, 2022

"You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness." James 1:19-20

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally, the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there."

Anger is a natural emotion, sometimes brought on when we are treated unfairly, threatened, or attacked. It can motivate us to work to achieve worthwhile goals and to protect our values and beliefs. Anger can lead us to stand up against naked aggression, injustice and other sins. However, when anger is vented carelessly, it can damage and ruin relationships. God's Word leads us to deal with anger constructively before it leads to uncontrolled and destructive behaviors. The words from James and a few choice Proverbs provide practical gems of wisdom on dealing with anger and how to better manage our emotions.

James says to be "quick to listen." Whatever we might be feeling emotionally, listening is time well spent. Active listening can focus our full attention on hearing the

speaker with our heart as well as our ears. Listening gives us the opportunity to better understand and to empathize with the speaker. It may be difficult, but the Holy Spirit can guide us. "If one gives answer before hearing, it is folly and shame." (Proverbs 18:13)

Just because someone is angrily shouting at us, doesn't mean we have to respond in kind. Nor do we have to impulsively react in defense of our point of view. Instead, we can pause for a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show us what, if anything, we should say. If we are careful choosing our words and our tone of voice, we can avoid eliciting an angry response and make the exchange more constructive. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." (Proverbs 15:1)

It can be hard to remain unemotional when someone is shouting at us. In the moment, we can feel defensive, and our natural tendency might be to shout back, but that can just escalate the situation. While we cannot control someone else's angry outburst, we can control how we respond. "One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and one whose temper is controlled than one who captures a city." (Proverbs 16:32)

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus speaks repeatedly about responsible speech. James underscores that sentiment, advocating that more listening and thoughtful speech will keep anger in check. Most importantly anger is unproductive and interferes in our interpersonal relationships as well as our relationship with God. "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." (Psalm 103:8)

Prayer

Merciful and Gracious God,

I pray that I would become a person who is quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. I believe anger can ruin relationships and hinder spiritual growth. Please help me surrender myself to your Will, becoming more respectful and a gentler Spirit. Help me to grow emotionally and to exercise more self-control. Help me to open my ears and my heart so that I can learn what you can teach me in every situation. In Christ I 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.

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 Fifth Sunday after **Pentecost** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Dr. Denny Casey

"Neighbor Revisited"

Based on Luke 10:25-37 and Psalm 82



- **The Community Breakfast** is Saturday, **July 16** led by Henry and Nancy Moore and will be served in person. 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.
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back2school

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

Registration

• **Saturday, July 9 (9:00-noon) 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.

The last thing will be the breakfast/lunch bags given to the kids. This will be handled by school personnel. They will be able to sit and have their meal before leaving. There will be designated tables for this and **we would love to have a couple of volunteers to just spend a little time with the families while the kids eat.**

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.

 *Congratulations!* 

We are happy to announce the marriage of **Ben Pinkston** to Beatriz Torres on Saturday, June 18 in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.
They will live in Blacksburg, VA



Happy Birthday to Laura Stevens on **July 27!**



Hazel "Iliene" Hite

January 6, 1929 – July 4, 2022

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Iliene Hite, who passed away on **Monday, July 4.**

The full obituary can be found at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/martinsville-va/hazel-hite-10817432>

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:2766323431), 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 Tuesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com. 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

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/

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