

July 9, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

July 8, 2020

"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

"Romans 6: 1,2,6,11

For many years, since I was a father with small children, I have maintained memberships with various zoos across the nation. Because of those memberships, and as zoos begin to reopen as part of the next phase of lessening of pandemic restrictions, I receive regular publications about animal lives. One article that caught my eye was about the training of young elephants growing to maturity in zoos. It seems that at a very young age, before growing too large or overpowering, young elephants would be shackled to a small tree to keep them in place for training. At this age the elephant is unable to pull the tree over. As the little elephant matures however it does not recognize new strength but rather deems itself bound forever and can be restrained with a small stick.

As broken sinful humanity, what habitual sins are shackling our actions today? What is part of our DNA make-up and what sins have we been taught and can be relearned differently as we grow in our spiritual lives of the future? What is it that holds us back from experiencing freedom found only in Christ? Maybe its our eating habits, unhealthy relationships, discriminatory thoughts or actions, or even an inability to ask for help. What is it that has you shackled to that immovable tree and keeps you from growing? Don't become too comfortable with your captivity or like the elephant

you may lose hope believing your sin is the mighty tree holding you where it may only be a small stick.

As followers of Christ we are not immune to sin but rather have a real advocate to fight sin and its real consequences with God's Holy Spirit! Although Christ has the ability to change lives in an immediate way, with most of us old habits die hard. But Jesus' death and resurrection can set us free from the shackles of sin and be made alive again.

Pastor Mark

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Congregational Meeting

"Due to not only the pandemic, social distancing and isolation to curb the spread of the disease, the world will ever be changed in the way we conduct our day-to-day lives. The work of the church has been complicated where far reaching, innovative ways to extend God's message to God's people will require our best leadership. Whether you require your grandchildren to show you how to turn your phone on, or you are highly skilled in computer technology, **we need your help.**" - Pastor Mark

On **Sunday July 12th, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. a virtual congregational meeting will be held** to fill an unexpired Session term and to elect the Nominating Committee for future leadership. Please exercise your voting rights as your responsibility to the church. You can participate and here's how....

- If you haven't used **Zoom**, it's similar to "Facetime" or "Skype" and most find it easy to learn.
- One of the best features of **Zoom**, is you can use it on just about any device with a camera and a microphone (smartphone, laptop, iPad, etc.). You can even just dial in with any phone.
- You can download the add-on from the **Zoom.us** website or the **Zoom app** from the Android or Apple store and it's free. We highly recommended you do that ahead of time so you can test your device and connection at: zoom.us/test.

In the meantime, **please let Denny Casey (276-224-3906) know if you have any questions or issues – the sooner the better.**

back2school

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

Registration

Saturday, July 13 (9:00-noon): Albert Harris Elementary

Tuesday, July 23 (6-8 pm): Albert Harris Elementary

Pack the Bus

Sunday - Tuesday, July 19-21 (Shifts TBD): Walmart, Martinsville

Filling Backpacks

Tuesday, July 30 (6:00 pm): Future Home of Community Fellowship, 700
Commerce Court, Martinsville

Big Event training and setup

Thursday August 1: Albert Harris (6:00 pm) for setup/training

The Big Event

Saturday, August 3 (7:30 am, Shifts TBD): Albert Harris Elementary School

If you can help, please email: Tracy Hinchcliff

tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetorkmhc.org or call 409-330

Tracy Hinchcliff,
Back2School City Cluster Coordinator
(409) 330-0847



Be sure to join the Facebook live worship service this Sunday at 10 AM. The info will be sent via text message and will include the link to the service. You may also join by navigating to our Facebook page, scrolling down to the "videos" section of the page

and simply clicking on the video at 10 AM.

“Shine Light in the Darkness of My Soul”
Based upon Psalm 119:105–112 and Romans 8:1–11



Volunteers Needed for Reopening!

As we prepare to reopen parts of the building we need your help. If you are healthy and are not at-risk, please consider volunteering. Below you will see brief descriptions of some of the main responsibilities:

1. Building Team - will prepare the building by posting signs, closing off open spaces and rooms; taping off some areas of the building; the sanctuary and restrooms will be marked for physical distancing
2. Cleaning Team - will remove all bibles, hymnals and other items from the pews; clean and disinfect before and after services; work with staff to make sure all the commonly touched surfaces and furnishings are cleaned regularly
3. Screeners - screen congregants as they enter the narthex; check temperature eblast using a digital thermometer; communicate health guidelines and best practices; facilitate use of hand sanitizer dispenser; provide masks and gloves as need
4. Ushers - welcome congregants and work with screeners on Sunday morning to assist with safe distancing and seating; prepare collection plates, count offerings, deposit collection; take names of everyone in the service

More detailed descriptions will be provided with a checklist for each area. Please let Rita (632-3431, ritaofficefpc@gmail.com) know which teams(s) you are willing to serve by **Monday, July 13**. We will then schedule training sessions for each team using Zoom or telephone.



Compassion Camp: Coming Soon!

First Presbyterian, in partnership with other churches in Martinsville & Eden, will be offering a virtual at-home Vacation Bible School program this summer. Although we are sad to not have our in-person VBS or Camp Peaks programs this year, we are excited to offer this unique opportunity.

Who's Invited? Compassion Camp will be available to participants, preschoolers-rising 6th graders, July 27-31. While each day's session will be sent out via email each morning, you will be able to complete each session at your leisure. This event is FREE so invite your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors!

Materials & Supplies: The supplies you will need are items you will likely have readily available in your household. A list of supplies can be found [HERE](#).

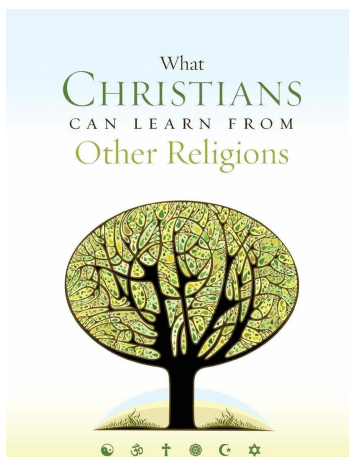
Registration: You can find more information & register your children [HERE](#) or please contact Sam at sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu or 276-224-2811 if you have any questions.



Presbytery of the Peaks has decided to publish a cookbook!! They are continuing to collect recipes from all over the Presbytery. Please email your recipes to **Theresa Underwood**, Peaks PW Treasurer. Her email address is: tundwood@aol.com.

We have so many good cooks in our congregation. It would be lovely to have our church participate!!

Adult Sunday School



This is the book we will be using for the next Sunday school class beginning on June 14 and will run for about 10 weeks. We will be offering the class by Zoom. Books are being ordered. Anyone interested in joining the class contact Denny Casey d.a.casey@comcast.net or (276) 224-3906. Denny will be creating a schedule and would like to encourage leaders or co-leaders to sign up to lead one (or more) classes.

Here's a blurb from the PCUSA bookstore:

J. PHILIP WOGAMAN

"Examining other religions provides Christians the opportunity to more deeply understand their own beliefs.

Learning about other religions is not the same as learning *from* other religions, which can have great value to Christians who wish to strengthen their faith.

In this book's ten easy-to-read chapters, Wogaman shows readers what Christians can learn from different religions, such as Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and even from atheism. From these religions, Christians can achieve insight into love, sin, ritual, the importance of myth to convey truth, the foundational roots of Christianity, the dark side of Christian history, and many other important ways to see and interpret the world and to understand God. The book concludes with a chapter on what other religions can learn from Christianity.

Perfect for church study groups, each chapter ends with questions for discussion."

Youth Sunday School

The Youth will continue to meet via **Zoom** on **Monday afternoons from 3 - 4:00pm**. For the month of July, we will be doing **Virtual Netta!** Massanetta's Youth Conference has moved online for this summer with video collections of energizers, games, theme skits, and keynotes!

If your middle or high school child would like to join us, now would be a great time to, please contact Sam sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

Also, here's a link for July's

These Days: <https://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/Pages/Item/59264/These-Days.aspx>

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

Doc Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Dot Bryson, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra Bryson Cox, Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Daniel Handy, Helen Hawkes, Anne Holland (sister of Pearl Minter), Dot Jones (Denny Casey's mother-in-law), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gavin Russell, Gene



Stanley, 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
Assorted Canned Veggies (Veg-all)

The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 3rd quarter is **canned assorted veggies**. Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

Please stay safe, stay healthy and please keep us in your prayers as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Hygiene Items - We are always in need of these items!

JULY Toilet Paper, Feminine Products, Deodorant

AUGUST Toilet Paper, Bath Soap, Toothpaste

SEPTEMBER Dish Detergent, Deodorant, 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*

Blessings, Tracy

A Note from the the Editor

Although regular church services have been cancelled and we are no longer meeting in person, I hope we all try to stay in touch with one another using any possible medium. Phone calls, face time, emails, etc. It is important that we look after one another during these difficult times and it's good to know we are not alone. While there are no regular happenings to report on, I would like to send out Steeple Views on a weekly basis so please feel free to share any news or updates with me and I will do my best to include them in the newsletter. skirbycwj@gmail.com or 276 806-9709.

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

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THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2020

Denny Casey: Christian Education

Ron Rebman: Administration

Kym Tatum: Fellowship

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Stewardship

Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Communications

Betty Hudson: Congregational Care

TRUSTEES

2020: Milton Davis, Duke Ferrell

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

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