

June 18, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

June 17, 2020

"Fools think they need no advice, but the wise listen to others."

Proverbs 12:15

What makes up any person's attitudes and character is a combination of a lot of factors. The environment in which one grows up in, socio-economic status, education, family history, race, religion, and opportunity all can shape who anyone can become. The sad part is that so many times we are taught, and learn, values from generations before us that don't always reflect what God has placed on our hearts for today's world and future generations. Knowing what's right and reflecting our actions don't always go hand in hand!

We say outwardly that all people created by God should be seen and treated as equal yet not a one of us can say we don't have some kind of bias towards anyone who looks, acts, or thinks, differently than ourselves. We claim to understand "just how others feel" while without living the experience we can only imagine from our own perspective. So, when others disagree with our perspective, often we put up walls of defense and stop listening.

How can what may be intended as "constructive criticism" be delivered in a way that seeks solution rather than personal attacks of character? We all have taken offense at some time to emotional statements or actions meant to make things better for a cause that escalated tension rather than calmed it. When emotions become uncontrolled, true solutions tend to fail!

I remember a time when I was riding my motorcycle on the highway, coming up on an eighteen-wheeler truck hauling scrap metal. At the same time, a passenger car

pulled up next to me, rolled down his window, and honked. I was angry that he honked because in my mind I had done nothing wrong. He was yelling something at me that I was refusing to hear. Suddenly the car abruptly cut in front of me and came to a stop and so did I. Ready for a fight, I got off my bike and ran towards the car, when I noticed the car had shielded me from a large portion of scrap metal that had fallen from the truck! Whatever unpleasanties I had or had not verbally exchanged previously with the driver was now filling my mouth with "crow".

God calls believers to not only listen to each other in times of injustice, but also to band together to protect each other from harm when possible. Jesus came to this world as a servant and lives on forever to protect, with compassion, that gift of life for us all. Listen to each other and respect our differences in backgrounds to move forward peacefully for the betterment of all.

Pastor Mark

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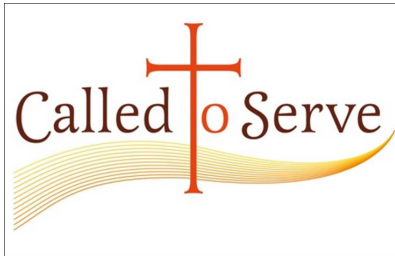
Our free community breakfast will return **THIS SATURDAY** in a to-go drive-thru format.

- Volunteers are needed beginning at 7am to cook & prepare the food, volunteers are also needed to pack & hand out the meals.
- Breakfast starts at 8 AM and we will serve until we run out of food. We are **ONLY** serving 50 total meals this time and no more than **4 meals per family**. Brook will provide further instruction on Saturday.
- Volunteers will only be in the kitchen coming through the kitchen's back door and all food and people entering and leaving from there.
- To maintain social distancing, we'll only have about 4-5 volunteers at a time.

If you are available to help with one or both tasks, please contact **Brooke Cundiff** ([276 340-6124](tel:2763406124)).



Be sure to join the Facebook live worship service every Sunday at 11 AM. The info is sent via text message and includes 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 11 AM.



All members of the congregation are invited to submit suggestions to the Nomination Committee for the slate of ruling elders and trustees. All active members of First Presbyterian Church are eligible to hold office.

Suggestions for nominations for **Elder and Trustees** are being accepted now through **June 29th**. If you know of a man or woman of our congregation, whom you feel meets the outlined qualifications listed below; we encourage you to submit their name(s) to the church office at office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org or to one of the

Nominating Committee members:

Ex-officio, Mark Hinchcliff

Moderator, Brooke Cundiff bchnfamily@gmail.com

Nancy Davis davistwo@comcast.net

Jerri DeVault jerride@embarqmail.com

Neil Tatum ntatum98@gmail.com

Election of Church Officers

"Christ's ministry is the foundation and standard for all ministry, the pattern of the one who came, "not to be served but to serve" (Matt. 20:28)....Those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world" (PCUSA Book of Order G-2.0101, 2.0104)

Discerning God's Call

As we seek to identify those who are called serve, consider the following

characteristics, skills and commitments to the life of faith and the ministry of the church:

- Regular attendance in worship
- Participation in church activities
- Cooperative, with ability to work with others
- Willingness to learn and be open to new ideas
- Conscientious, with ability to follow through on tasks
- Demonstrates a Christian spirit in dealing with others
- Commitment to the government and discipline of the PC(USA)

Ruling Elders: Elders should be "persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit." (Book of Order G-2.0301) We are seeking 3 persons to serve a full 3 year term, class of 2023.

Trustees: Trustees exercise responsibility "to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property, real or personal, for the congregation." (Book of Order G-4.0101) We are seeking 2 persons to serve a full 3 year term, class of 2023.

Each term runs from January through December.



The church office and facility remain CLOSED. For the safety and health of our staff, please stay home. Even though we are in Phase 2, folks aren't supposed to be in the building until things are officially opened. Even then guidelines will have to be followed. You will be given notice when you can return. Thanks for your adherence and understanding.

The code to enter FPC has been changed. If you have need to enter the building and do not have a fob you will need to call the office and set an appointment time with a staff member. If you wish to have a key fob please call the office and leave a message. By having a key fob it will allow us to know when someone enters the facilities. We are trying to be proactive about disinfecting areas if we know someone has been there.

Anyone entering FPC must use the back door at the portico. All other doors are to remain closed with no entry. You are required to wear a mask to enter. Please help us to maintain a COVID-19 free facility by staying home if you are sick or have been in contact with the virus in the past 14 days.



We are called to make a difference, and one good place to start is by taking the **21-Day Racial Justice Challenge**, which is well suited to individuals, churches and mid councils. The challenge invites us to do something every day to raise awareness about the perniciousness of racism and encourage action in response to that awareness. The PC (USA) has joined several nonprofits, organizations and school systems in adapting the challenge for our use.

To access resources and an example of how the challenge works:

presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21



Vacation Bible School

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.

VBS Activities: Compassion Camp will contain typical VBS elements such as crafts, games, music, a daily bible story; as well as some new elements such as a daily yoga session and a communal art project. Some stations will be led through video formats, while others will be provided in a Family Pack to be done together as a family.

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 day's session at your leisure.

Materials & Supplies: The week before VBS, families will receive a list of materials and supplies that you will need for VBS. These are items you will likely have readily available in your household.

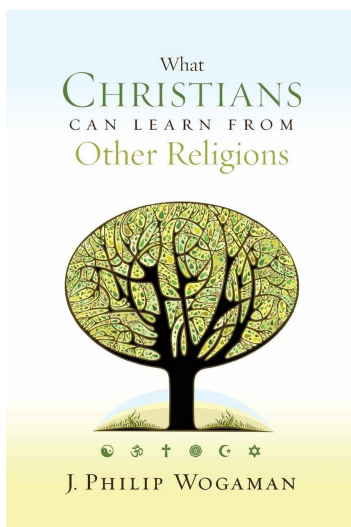
Registration: Most families with elementary age children are already on our Family Ministry email list and will be set to receive this program. If you are not on the email list or if you have grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, or neighbors that would like to receive this program, please contact Sam at sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu or 276-224-2811 to be added to the list.



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:

"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

Our Youth Sunday School class will continue to meet via **Zoom** on **Sunday afternoons from 3 - 4:00pm**. Starting this week we will be taking a deeper look at our faith, how we worship, practice Sabbath, & what it means to be a Presbyterian. We'll also take time to check in, hang out, and maybe even play some games! 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.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Even though the doors to the church building are closed and our congregation is dispersed into our individual homes for the foreseeable future, we are still bound to each other through the love of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Your Agape Team has been working to contact all of the members of our congregation to touch base with you, visit with you, and check on your needs. The Agape Team will contact you periodically, but if you want to talk or if you need help with getting groceries or supplies before they contact you, please feel free to contact any of our Agape Team. We are here for you. Also, each of us is charged to care for one another, so if you feel God calling you to reach out to others please do so. We are all Christ's church together.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God...There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:7; 18

Grace and Peace to all of you from the Agape Team

Denny Casey - d.a.casey@comcast.net 276-224-3906

Ron Rebman - ronreb85@gmail.com 276-634-1254

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Monica Stevens - mlkstev@hotmail.com 276-632-8075

Tracy Hinchcliff - tracyhair60@gmail.com 409-330-0847

Judy Ware - je_ware@yahoo.com 336-601-2316

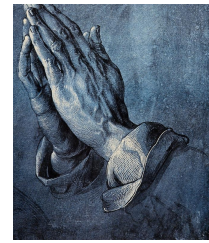
Judy King - jpk1944@gmail.com 276-340-810

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), 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
Canned Tuna or Canned Meat for Grace Network

Dear Friends,

Grace Network is continuing to help those in our community during the Covid-19 situation in partnership with the Harvest Foundation, the United Way, Salvation Army, Community Fellowship and the Henry County Food Pantry in Bassett. We have all come together to provide food boxes for those in need and will provide 5 locations to pick up these boxes each Monday from 9-2.

Grace is blessed to be part of this effort and when this is all over, we will go back to our regular services in providing financial services and food through our regular processes. The assigned food items from our church partners will become even more important on the other side of this quarantine with so many needing extra help to get back on their feet.

The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 2nd quarter is **canned tuna or other canned meats like chicken or ham**. 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.

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/

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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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