

June 2, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

June 2, 2022

Who can we trust?

Psalm 40: 1-5

"I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up out of the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet on a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted." (NRSV)

I was drawn to Psalm 40 this week as I pondered the continuing cascade of calamities in the world. I have to admit that there are times when stresses of a personal nature and/or of a more global nature seem to pile up and become almost unbearable. What is a person to do? Today's psalmist took his problems to God. He cried out to God and God answered.

We sometimes have the mistaken idea that we need to use correct, well-planned words when we pray, but that just isn't the case. God wants to commune with us through simple, honest, heart-felt prayer. If what we are thinking and feeling is a jumbled mess, then take it to God and let it all spill out in in jumbled mess. Anger, confusion, fear, depression—give it all to God. While our God is the mighty Creator, our God is also the God of infinite love and compassion. God will embrace us and our difficulties and surround us with steadfast love. To paraphrase the words of the psalmist, God can draw us up from whatever desolate pit or miry bog we seems to be sliding into and set us on the firm rock of God's infinite love and care.

Not only will God strengthen us and set our feet on the right path when we are weighed down by daily problems, God wants to fill us with the joy of God's presence so that we are able to live our life as a song of praise to God. As the goodness God wills for us suffuses our lives, others will see and take notice, wanting that same joy for themselves. We will be beacons to draw others to God.

The world promises us all sorts of things—wealth, fame, power, status, material possessions, and there is nothing wrong with any one of those things unless we put our trust and reliance on them and begin to derive our identity and sense of purpose from them. Then they become idols. As the psalm says, “Happy are those who make the Lord their trust.” Money, power, status, fame, and material possessions can all disappear in the blink of an eye, but the faithful love of God remains forever. God’s goodness, mercy, and love are multiplied and made available to us daily. Our God is trustworthy and sure in times of calm and peace and in times of trouble and we are invited to trust all of our joys and concerns to God’s loving care. With the psalmist let us say, “May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, ‘Great is the Lord!’” (v 16).

Loving Lord, sometimes it is difficult for us to trust anyone—even you. Remind us of your loving care for us and your desire to share our burdens and our joys. Teach us to trust you and serve you to the glory of your holy name through your Son, Jesus Christ. Alleluia! 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 day of **Pentecost** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Rev. Paul Johnson

Peace for Anxious Times

Based upon John 14:8-17; 25-27 and Psalm 104:24-34

Help Needed!

We will return to passing the communion and offering plates on June 5. Help is needed for communion set up and clean up. Contact Liz Ferrell ([276-734-6376](tel:276-734-6376)) if you are interested in helping.

Worship Service Update

Due to a tied voting from both the congregation and the session, the time of worship **will remain at 10:00 a.m.** until an interim pastor is hired. At that time another vote will be taken.



- **We would love to celebrate your graduates successes!** Please forward any graduation information to the office by **June 6** so that we may include it in Steeple Views. Email address is: office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org.
 - **Pentecost Sunday, June 5**, will be a joint service with Rev. Paul Johnson, Chaplain at King's Grant, and Rev. Cheryl Peeples, pastor at Forest Hills. Confirmands will also be confirmed. Lemonade on the lawn will follow the service to celebrate our confirmands.
 - **Congregational Meeting**, Sunday, June 12 to elect members of the nominating committee to recruit elder and trustee candidates for the class of 2025.
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SPECIAL OFFERINGS PENTECOST

The Pentecost Offering, which benefits youth and young adult ministries of the PC(USA), ***will be collected now through June 5***. A portion of the offering also stays in our own congregation to benefit our own youth ministry. Designated envelopes can be found in the pew racks.



Imagine being sick, grieving, afraid, or lonely. Imagine that a friendly visitor wraps you in a warm shawl that has been knit or crocheted with prayer in every stitch. That is how the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** works.

Recipients can be anyone, whether or not a member of our congregation. If you know of someone who could use the comfort of a prayer shawl, you may pick one up in the church narthex (foyer) and sign it out on the register. No questions asked. If you need a prayer shawl mailed, contact Joan Montgomery at joanmontgo@gmail.com or at [276-252-6060](tel:276-252-6060), or any member of the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**.

back2school

It is time to celebrate the 16th year of the back2school outreach event that has served over 32,000 kids with the efforts of over 19+ churches across our communities and beyond!

Won't you join us in serving these students and making a difference in their lives?

Back2school Sunday is June 26! Please wear your t-shirts and post photos of you wearing them.

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
- Tuesday, July 19 (6-8 pm) at The Uptown Ministry Center

Pack the Bus

- At Walmart, Martinsville July 15-17. Shifts TBD

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 Hinchcliff tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetnetworkmhc.org
or call [409-330-0847](tel:409-330-0847)

*Jesus said "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!
For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children"*

Matthew 19:14

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Ralph Shank, Jr., Georgette Bishop, Ernest & Marilyn Bremner, Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Mary Brown Morgan (Barbara Tatum), Jim Brunt (N Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb, Bobby Davis (Milt Davis' son), Nancy Davis, Daniel Handy, Melanie Hardy, Iliene Hite, Leonard Kelley (M Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Corrie Lawson (niece of Gael Chaney & Peter Marshall), Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries due to violence and tyranny.



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:276-340-3476).

Grace Network Donations

The 2nd quarter 2022 food donation item is **Saltine Crackers**



Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

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

**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

Presbytery of the Peaks

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)

Our mailing address is:

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

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Doug Talbot, Worship Technology

Coordinator, 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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