

June 25, 2020



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## **Pastor's Corner**

**Rev. Mark Hinchcliff**

June 24, 2020

*"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in the mirror and, after looking at himself goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law of God that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it, he will be blessed in what he does." James 1:22-25*

With all the world-wide push for racial equality, and pointing fingers at everyone except ourselves, I am amazed at what lengths people will go to not own past actions and take steps to do better. While I would love to think the Church and the people in it would be exempt from such denial, bias exist everywhere! To make a difference in the future of the world, Christians have to be real and seek God's change in us all. Nothing gets under my skin more than a holier-than-thou Christian who refuses to share their own hurts and sorrows. Real people can make a difference.

I once heard a story about a minister having a debate with a businessman who sold hand soaps, about the effectiveness of Christianity changing bad past actions into good for others. The businessman was not a believer and took every opportunity to point out self-proclaimed Christians acting badly. The minister thought for a moment and responded by saying, "If a young boy playing in the mud asks his mother to come into the house, as is, what's she going to say? She's probably going to hand him a bottle of soap, maybe even your soap, and tell him he can't come in until he's clean. Is the boy going to be allowed in if he doesn't use the soap? Well of course not. The same is true about Christians. If you have the tools available, God's Word, and you don't apply it in your actions, there will not be any change."

The current climate in this country and around the world is a demand for real change. Jesus gave us the means to have our past sins forgiven but ownership of our past is the first step. As we stand covered in our past let Jesus "wash, rinse, and repeat" our sins for a change in our future!

*Pastor Mark*

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# back2school

Well, Back2School is close upon us and we are in full steam ahead getting ready to take care of the little ones in our community. As in years past, we are part of the "City Cluster" of Martinsville as we join our church friends from First Baptist, Starling Ave. Baptist, Broad Street Christian, First United Methodist, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Christ Episcopal and Integrity Life Church in providing new shoes, socks and backpacks for all children that register from Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

This event that will take place on **August 1**, keeps on getting bigger and we are proud to be a part of this mission. However, we need your help to be successful. As in previous years, you have the opportunity to sponsor a child for just \$20. That will provide the backpack and shoes and an extra pair of shoes for a child overseas in a poverty-ridden community. This year will look very different, though, with dealing with Covid-19. But we are determined to move through and help the children that will need our help more than ever before. Many folks are laid off and with the added burden of that along with getting their kids back in school; you can imagine the stress level of many families in our community.

Another opportunity to help is providing socks for the kid's new shoes. Since we are not in church each Sunday, it is difficult to collect items, so we will be glad to purchase socks if you would like to give a monetary donation for that. You can just add that to your sponsorship or as a separate donation.

The actual registration and event will also be very different as this we will be a curbside for both. We will not be able to wash the children's feet and connect like we have in the past, but we have some things that we are working on to make it just as memorable. We are working with the schools to get the word out to the families and we hope that we have a great turnout. Our City Cluster goal this year is to serve 300 kids. The location for the event will still be at Albert Harris Elementary and we will setup drive up stations for foot measuring by paper and issue appointments.

Although we will not need as many volunteers as before, we will still need volunteers

to provide the service. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please let me know and I can answer any questions you have. Social distancing and precautions will be in place for safety.

So, please consider supporting this mission and join me in prayers for all our endeavors in reaching the kids that need it the most. If you have a child or a grandchild in your family, you probably know how difficult it has been for them to get through all of the changes in their lives. But, when you think of a child in our community that is in a home that is poverty ridden, unloving and possibly abusive you know that our work is precious. Thank you for your support, your heart and your generosity!

In Christ,

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

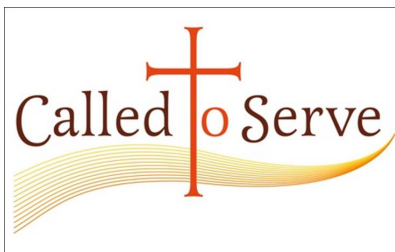
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Be sure to join the Facebook live worship service this Sunday at 10 AM. The info will be sent via text message and will include the link to the service. You may also join by navigating to our Facebook page, scrolling down to the "videos" section of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

“Forced Slave verses Joyful Servant”  
Based upon Romans 6:12–23 and Genesis 22:1–14

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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](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org) or to one of the

Nominating Committee members:

Ex-officio, Mark Hinchcliff

Moderator, Brooke Cundiff [bchnfamily@gmail.com](mailto:bchnfamily@gmail.com)

Nancy Davis [davistwo@comcast.net](mailto:davistwo@comcast.net)

Jerri DeVault [jerride@embarqmail.com](mailto:jerride@embarqmail.com)

Neil Tatum [ntatum98@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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**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.

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## Church COVID - 19 Response Team Update

Our church response team has been working since March to discern the Word of God, learn, plan, and to advise the session and congregation as to best practices in dealing with the pandemic and our church community. In the works are draft reopening guidelines, checklists, and a summary of tasks and duties that will need to be performed in order to reenter the building safely and responsibly.

We are going to need volunteers to: prepare the building; clean and disinfect surfaces; and, act as health and safety screeners for services. We are preparing a detailed list of duties and a checklist but wanted to let everyone know where things stand and what we're working on. Stay tuned for more updates and in the coming weeks the session will be providing more information and direction. Until then, serving God, the health of our church family, and the safety of our entire community are our highest priority.

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# Vacation Bible School

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu) or 276-224-2811 to be added to the list.

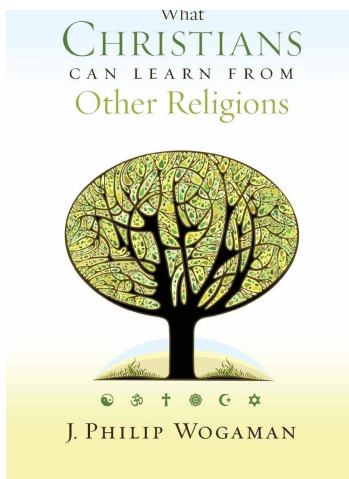


Presbytery of the Peaks has decided to publish a cookbook!! They are continuing to collect recipes from all over the Presbytery. Please email your recipes to **Theresa Underwood**, Peaks PW Treasurer. Her email address is: [tundwood@aol.com](mailto:tundwood@aol.com).

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

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## 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](mailto: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."

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## 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](mailto:sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu)) for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

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## South Sudan/Sudan Mission Network

This year, instead of traveling to Pennsylvania for the annual meeting of the Sudan/South Sudan Network, it is being held virtually next **Monday and Tuesday (June 29 and 30)**. This is a chance to hear first hand about God's work from Mission Co-workers, Presbyteries with established partnerships and South Sudanese. It will be informative and inspirational! Please try to participate as you are able. To register

for this event, please go  
to: [https://form.jotform.com/pghpresby/2020 Sudan Mission Network](https://form.jotform.com/pghpresby/2020_Sudan_Mission_Network)

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## Happy Birthday in July!

2 William Seamon  
4 Ben Pinkston  
5 Paul Cannaday, Sam Smith  
7 Clara Hartley  
12 Betty Stanley, Betty Carol Lamm, Heidi Pinkston  
15 Dick Pilson  
17 Jerri DeVault  
18 Ashby Pinkard, Duke Ferrell  
20 Connor Wotring  
21 Sienna King  
22 Lil Wall  
23 Anne M. Lackey, Carl Bishop, Chris Beeler  
25 Teri Ferguson  
28 Madison Sanders



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## 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, Monty Montgomery, 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](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org).

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***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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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### **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](mailto:skirbycwj@gmail.com) or 276 806-9709.

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### **Our Mission**

**Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other**

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**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/)

**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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Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director,  
[contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

### **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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