

June 30, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

June 29, 2022

Words and Actions

Psalm 19:14

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and redeemer."

What is a person of faith, a follower of Jesus Christ, to do? Groups of people who identify themselves as Christians have drawn battle lines and are engaged in internecine confrontation and lob snippets of Biblical text at each other as if they were soldiers throwing hand grenades. The scriptures are used both as accusations against any who disagree and validation of their own zealously held views. Witnessing this supposedly "righteous" warfare makes both my head and my heart ache, and it is very easy for me to imagine God shaking his head sadly and weeping over our obstinacy and foolishness.

One of the things that I love about being Presbyterian and especially being part of the PCUSA is that with God's guidance through scripture and the Holy Spirit, we have thought long and hard over the centuries about who we are and what we believe and we have written it down in our Constitution which consists of the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order. We believe that God has put all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and made him the Head of the Church, Christ's Body. Christ alone calls the Church into being, Christ is present with the Church in both Spirit and Word, and Christ alone rules, calls, teaches and uses the Church as he wills. It stands to reason then, that as followers of Christ, we would look to Jesus to determine how we should treat others and conduct ourselves in the world in Christ's name.

Jesus' whole life was one of love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. Whenever he met someone in need of wholeness and restoration, he healed them. He fed the hungry crowds spiritually and physically. The people he had cross words with and for were those people who cheated people, who placed heavy burdens on people, who denied people access to God, people who talked a good game, but whose lives were the opposite of the values they mandated for others. Even when Jesus was angry he was more about getting people to change their ways than he was about condemning them. Jesus' message was meant to be inclusive and not to shut people out. In John 13 Jesus demonstrated what it means to be a servant leader when he washed the disciples' feet. A little later he tells them, "I give you

a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (v 34-35)

Our Presbyterian tradition tells us that in our church government and, by extension, in our private lives, “God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are in anything contrary to his Word, or beside it, in matters of faith and worship. Therefore we consider the rights of private judgment, in all matters that respect religion, as universal and unalienable.” (BOO, F-3.0101 in the original language from 1788). So how do we know what to think and to do? In Matthew 7 Jesus says, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but are inwardly ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits...A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.” (v15,18) Paul amplifies this idea in his letter to the Galatians when he contrasts works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. In Paul’s list of works of the flesh our ears immediately latch onto sins of a sexual or substance abuse nature , but we tend to skip over the those in the middle such as idolatry, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, and envy. Do you see any of those works of the flesh at work in our world today? By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit, the fruit by which we will know followers of Christ, are (and read these slowly to take them in) love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

When trying to decide what to think, say, and do ask yourself, “Do these thought, words, and actions demonstrate and/or lead to the love, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and justice of Jesus? Do these thoughts, words, and actions demonstrate and/or lead to the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit? Because we are dealing with human beings and human issues no one group of people or set of beliefs will be perfect examples of Godly choices, but Jesus has given us the map by which we can follow the path the most Christ-like path. Jesus has shown us what it means to exemplify the name, “Christian.”

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for your guidance as reveled in Scripture, the life of Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Help us to keep our eyes, hearts, and minds on you as we seek to do your will and to give you glory through all that we think, say, and do. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. 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 Fourth Sunday after **Pentecost** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Dwight Christenbury

Standing Before the Judgement

Based upon Romans 14:7-13 and Isaiah 58:6-12



- **Nominee suggestions** for elders and trustees need to be submitted by Sunday, July 3.
 - **Church office** will be closed Monday, July 4.
 - **The After 3 Summer Program sponsored by P&HCC** will run Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., **June 13 through July 29**. They will remain downstairs and will be using the fellowship hall, kitchen and hallway areas.
-

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.



Elvis Presley is known for leaving an everlasting fingerprint on the world as the first global rock and roll icon. But did you know he was also a blood donor who left a legacy of generosity and community service that continues to this day? You can leave a lasting legacy, too, by making blood donation your signature move this June!

[Just like Elvis Presley, you can share the gift of life.](#)

Those who come to give blood **June 1-30, 2022**, will be automatically entered for [a chance to win a VIP trip to Memphis and Graceland for two!](#)* This trip includes round-trip

airfare for two to Memphis, a three-night stay at The Guest House at Graceland and Elvis Entourage VIP tour, courtesy of Graceland, and \$500 gift card for expenses, plus a custom-wrapped Gibson Epiphone guitar!

Come in to give blood in June for your chance to win this incredible prize package. We'll also send you a \$5 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice.** And you can feel great knowing that your one donation may help save more than one life. Are you ready to rock?



Happy Birthday in July

- 2 William Seamon
- 4 Ben Pinkston
- 5 Paul Cannaday, Sam Smith
- 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
- 28 Madison Sanders



Barbara Smith Barr

May 1, 1930 - June 14, 2022

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Nancy Moore on the passing of Nancy's mother, **Barbara Smith Barr**, on Tuesday, June 14. The full obituary can be found at:

<https://www.norrisfuneral.com/obituaries/Barbara-Smith-Barr?obId=25258636#/celebrationWall>

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

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, Iliene Hite, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol Lamm, Corrie Lawson (niece of Gael Chaney & Peter Marshall), Mary Manning, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, 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

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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STAFF

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Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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Peter Marshall, 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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