

June 9, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

June 8, 2022

Wisdom

Psalms 111 & 112

These psalms have captured my attention and have been the center of much of my meditation for this week. I normally only concentrate on one psalm at a time, but Psalms 111 & 112 belong together. Both are alphabetic acrostic psalms, that is, in Hebrew, each line of the psalm starts with a different letter in the order of the Hebrew alphabet. Both are psalms of praise. Psalm 111 focuses mainly on God's wonderful works, and Psalm 112 elaborates on 111 by focusing on those who honor the Lord.

The first person narrator of Psalm 111 offers sincere and wholehearted praise to God in the assembly of the believers, and by extension, invites them (and us) to do the same. Verses 2-10 of the psalm provide reasons to honor and praise God based on God's works/actions. Because righteousness, honor, majesty, and glory all stem from God's nature, all of God's works are filled with honor, majesty, glory, and righteousness. God revealed his grace, mercy, and power when he brought Israel out of Egypt, providing them with food on the journey, and giving them a land in which to dwell. Out of God's faithfulness, trustworthiness, and justice, God created a redeeming covenant with Israel which taught them how to live together and how to live to honor God.

Verse 11 is very familiar and is the crux of this meditation, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever." If we were to suddenly find ourselves face to face with God, I am sure we would feel an element of terror in our response due to the overwhelming majesty, holiness, and righteousness of God, but that isn't what is meant by "fear" in this case. Here, fear of the Lord refers to giving God the honor, respect, reverence, awe—and yes, commitment and obedience that is due. Psalm 111 tells us that by observing the works of God, we can begin to understand the nature of God, and gain wisdom by learning how to honor the Lord.

Psalm 112 focuses on those who honor the Lord and seek to be obedient to God's will. By honoring God, these people will themselves learn to be righteous, become a

light for others to follow, will deal generously and justly with others, will not be shaken in the face of evil, but will instead remain steady and firm in their faith, and they will share what they have with the poor.

Those who do not honor God, who are wicked in their ways, will, in the end, amount to nothing and find reasons to be angry and upset with those who do fear God.

I think the reason these psalms spoke to me, or that God spoke to me through these psalms, is because I am still reeling from the senseless slaughter of innocent people, the truculent refusal of elected officials to do anything substantive to curb the violence, and the hateful, hurtful diatribes being uttered and broadcast--some of which are portrayed as "Biblical" or "Christian" truths. I needed to know how to find the wisdom to cope in the face of such evils.

These psalms tell us we can find the wisdom we need by looking to God. We learn God's nature by studying God's works and actions throughout history and in our own lives. As we seek to show God the proper reverence, honor, and awe in the way we live, something of God's nature will rub off on us so that we can be a light on the path for others.

Gracious Father, the world is full of things that work to draw us away from you. Help us to stay focused on you and the magnitude of your love, faithfulness, righteousness and justice that you continually pour out on us. Help us to properly honor and glorify you, and grant us your wisdom so that others will may see you through us. We pray this in the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. 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 first Sunday after **Pentecost** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Rev. John Wiederholt

When We Give Up on Character, We Lose Hope

Based on Romans 5:1-5 and Psalm 8

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.



- **Congregational Meeting**, Sunday, June 12 to elect members of the nominating committee to recruit elder and trustee candidates for the class of 2025.
- **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.

Community Breakfast is Saturday, June 18. Please contact **Rob King (276 340-2263)** if you are able to work.





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**.

A Thank You from Pastor Cheryl Peebles

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian,

Thank you for inviting Forest Hills to be a part of your Pentecost service this past week and for asking me to help with the Confirmation Class preparation this spring. It was wonderful to be able to worship with you on such an important day as we celebrated both the beginning of the church at Pentecost and Confirmation. Those new beginnings that come out of strong past experiences are always a reason to celebrate. Confirmation is so important as new commitments are made based on promises that have been made in the past and faith that has been nurtured over time.

I have so enjoyed the opportunity to get to know Will, Heath, and Cole. With their mentors and Sam, we've all explored together what membership in the church is and what makes being Presbyterian special. You are very fortunate to have such great leaders in Sam Smith, Ashby and Johnny Pinkard, and Nancy Davis. It has been a joy to experience the relationships that are strong at First Presbyterian and the care you have for each other during this time we've spent together.

Many Thanks and Blessings,
Cheryl Peebles
Pastor, Forest Hills

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.

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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

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: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:

First Presbyterian Church

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Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

Sam Smith, Youth and Family Ministries Director, sam@peakspresbytery.org

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Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org
Spencer Koger, Director of Music, adulthoodmusic@fpcmartinsvilleva.org
Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator

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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