

March 11, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mark Hinchcliff

March 10, 2021

“What good is it for man to gain the whole world. Yet forfeit his soul?”

Mark 8:36

How many times has somebody emphatically told me to stop worrying about what I can't control and focus my efforts on what I can? Does that sound familiar to anyone else? When it comes to our life, we have nothing to say about our birth and little to say about our death. But it's all that time in between that our decisions are made. Are you letting life circumstances control you or are you controlling your own destiny with God's help?

I know what you're probably thinking, as a good Calvinist Presbyterian I should be saying God predestined my life, so I have no control over it. But I am a firm believer that God allows us all to experience our own mistakes and inspires us to do better through the Holy Spirit. Don't let life pass you by when you have the God-given ability to make some things happen.

You can't control the length of your life, but you certainly can control the way that you use it.

You can't control your facial appearance, but you can control your expression.

You can't control the weather, but you can control the moral atmosphere around you.

You can't control the distance of your head above the ground, but you can control the loftiness of the contents in your head.

You can't control the annoying attitudes of those around you, but you can control your own tendencies to develop similar faults.

We all have our faults and our tendencies to perpetuate bad habits. It may seem sometimes that we can't change today, but with God's help, nothing that may happen tomorrow is beyond our control today! Learning lessons from yesterday is within our control but changing history is not.

So why worry about what's out of your control? Let's get busy controlling the things that depend on us right now. Let God have the glory.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

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Fourth Sunday in Lent

Please join us on Sunday for the **Fourth Sunday in Lent**. We will be live on Facebook at 10:00 a.m.

sermon by Pastor Mark Hinchcliff.

Not of This World but God's

Based upon Ephesians 2:1-10 and Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Beginning today through **Easter Sunday, April 4**, you will have the opportunity to give to **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

Checks should be written to the church with '*One Great Hour*' in the memo. Contributions may also be made online designating '*One Great Hour*' in the

optional note field.



Upcoming Events

Lenten Bible Study

February 17 - March 31

Earth Care

Save the date if you would like to help with property clean-up in the areas behind the church on **March 20**.

Lenten Bible Study

February 17 – March 31

7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Seven Marks for Church Vitality

PCUSA Missions Board - Matthew 25 Program

Lent is the period in the church year between Ash Wednesday and Easter, and most of us think of it as a time of personal introspection, spiritual reflection, and scriptural meditation centering on Jesus' life, death, and his ultimate resurrection. Our study this year will call us to prayerfully study scripture and examine what it means to be called to be Christ's Church. Just as God calls each of us to live an abundant life as a child of God, Jesus calls his church to live a vital life of service and discipleship. What does it mean to be a vital congregation? What would that look like? How would we go about increasing our vitality and discipleship? These are exactly the questions that will drive our study and form the background for exploring our mission as Christ's Body in this place and time.

God calls us together as a congregation, binds us together through the Holy Spirit, and sends us out into the world bearing the love and grace of Jesus Christ. You are a vital part of our church family and we need your presence with us as we join in study to discern God's call to FPCM today.

The study will start **Ash Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**, and will be held every Wednesday evening at 7 through March 31. Look for your Zoom invite in your email in the coming week. May God bless us in this work.

Contact Monica Stevens at mlkstev@hotmail.com if you have further questions.



"After the Storms: Humanitarian Response in Times of Disaster"

Guatemala, because of its geographic location, is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters – earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, drought, hurricanes, floods, landslides. Last fall, while the people of Guatemala were dealing with the additional distress of a pandemic, Hurricanes Eta and Iota hit the Alta Verapaz department – taking lives, destroying roads, homes, and cropland, and displacing entire communities.



Hear about what CEDEPCA's Disaster Ministry is doing in terms of preparedness and response at **"After the Storms: Humanitarian Response in Times of Disaster," the next Virtual Journey to Guatemala on March 24 at 7:30 Eastern Time**. Because a portion of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering goes directly toward CEDEPCA's disaster ministry in Guatemala, you will see firsthand the impact of your contribution. Speakers will include Francisco Reyna of CEDEPCA and Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo

of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The presentation, in English, will be a mix of music, breakout room interaction, videos, and live interviews, and will explore the larger theme of helping vulnerable populations without doing long-term harm.

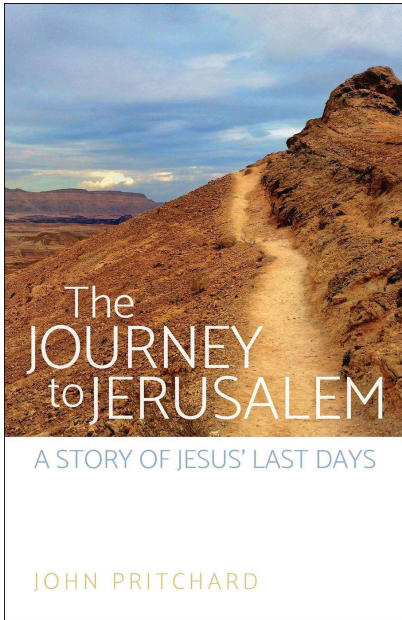
Pre-registration is required

at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMuduqspjwrHdG2ZEgHJsIDDaX3_ENvqE9A.

A donation of \$11 is suggested for each participant. All are welcome.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about how to join the meeting

Sunday School - Lenten Study



Begins: **February 21**

Meets at 9 am on Zoom (runs for seven Sundays).

From the publisher:

"In this imaginative retelling, John Pritchard explores the Gospel of Luke by looking through the eyes of the disciple John. *The Journey to Jerusalem* follows Luke's account from Luke 9:51, as Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem." Perfect for individual or group study, *The Journey to Jerusalem* provides weekday readings for Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, along with a poem for each Saturday. Questions for reflection and discussion are also included."

The study will begin this Sunday (Feb 21) at 9 AM by Zoom and run for seven Sundays.

For more information, contact Denny Casey, d.a.casey@comcast.net.

Youth Ministry

The youth will be doing a **Lenten** study beginning **Sunday, Feb. 21** that will mirror the Wednesday evening adult study on the *Seven Marks for Congregational Vitality*. We'll think about what it means to be a vital congregation and ways to increase our vitality by exploring scripture & questions to reflect on what it means to be The Church.

We will continue meeting

Sunday afternoons at 12 pm, still on **Zoom**.

If your middle or high school child would like to join us, please contact Sam at sam@peakspresbytery.org for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

Margaret Mead famously said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."

Earth Care "Won't You Be My Neighbor Day"

March 20, 9 am - Any day can be a beautiful day in the neighborhood – and



"Won't You Be My Neighbor Day" is no exception! "Won't You Be My Neighbor Day" is a day to remember and honor Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and children's TV host of "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood". **Meet at the church at 9 am** to help clean up the stream behind the church building and other neighborly things.

The PCUSA website for Earth Care Congregations is:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>

Denny Casey has remarked that the website is "like peeling an onion." But be not overwhelmed, just go poke around a bit to see how seriously Presbyterians are taking this idea of caring for our Earthly home.

Technology Corner

There have been some reports of emails from "RITA BATEMAN" going to junk mail folder.

Members should check their junk mail folders and add emails from RITA to the safe senders list: here's how the email sender appears:

RITA BATEMAN mail@icnsend.com

If there are emails in your junk mail folder, you should select:

1. "never block sender"
 2. "never block sender's domain" and
 3. "never block this group or mailing list"
-

Our Deepest Sympathy

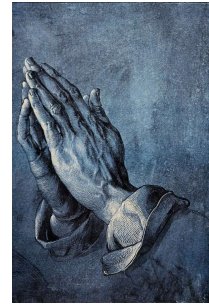
Condolences to the family of Anne Lackey on the passing of Anne's brother, William Franklin "Bill" Mattox. Bill died Friday, March 5, 2021 in Martinsville, VA. The full obituary can be found

at: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/martinsvillebulletin/name/william-mattox-obituary?pid=197958909>

Condolences to the family of Dru Rothrock on the passing of Dru's brother, Jim Rothrock, who died Wednesday, March 10.

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:



PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Jim Rothrock (Dru's brother), Family of Bill Mattox (Anne Lackey's brother), Ken Beavers (Pastor Mark's nephew), Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Laura Buffkin, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra and Mark Dobrinski (brother and sister-in-law of Cynthia), Daniel Handy, Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Jim Murray (Judy King), Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gene and Betty Stanley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), 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 Soup



The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 1st quarter is **canned soup**. 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*

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/

Steeple Views is published. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Rob King: Facilities

Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

TRUSTEES

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

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