

March 19, 2026



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Bea Miller

Dear First Presbyterian family,

Today's letter is kind of academic.

Textual Criticism is an academic discipline within scriptural studies. The scriptures, mostly ancient Hebrew and Greek texts, were written without modern tools of documentation, cross-reference and preservation. They were written and copied by hand and transported and stored without protection from the elements. The academic discipline of Textual Criticism seeks to find the oldest, most complete manuscripts ~ for us to translate into our English Bible.

In seminary we learn to read the footnotes, in scripture. The footnotes often reference textual differences in various manuscripts. Some of these differences are errors made when hand copying an older version by candlelight. And some attempts to harmonize texts, trying to make different versions of the same story more similar.

When I was in seminary, the original manuscripts were kept under lock and key ~ being preserved ~ in places far, far away. Only those of high position and wealth were able to view the original manuscripts. But today, photos of the original manuscripts are available to students and professors online. So they are being seen with new eyes.

Dr. Elizabeth Schrader, who at the time was finishing her masters in New Testament Studies, found changes made to the oldest most complete manuscript of John 11. Changes that have been part of our translations since the 200's. This week our lectionary scripture is John 11, so we have an

opportunity to engage these changes.

Dr. Elizabeth Schrader's paper was written in 2017 and by 2023 when I got a copy, her work was changing the way we see, know and understand Mary Magdalene. At present, the whole world is considering changes to the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament ~ the "best" (most original/accurate) text of the New Testament ~ based on the work of Dr. Schrader. The Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament is "the" original language version used for all translation and after 9 years of scholarly analysis and peer review, either the words in John 11 will change or the work of Dr. Elizabeth Schrader will become a long footnote in the Bible.

I'm working on a handout for Sunday morning, trying to make these changes clear. We will walk through her findings during the Time with Young Disciples. I hope you can join us.

Also, Sunday morning, Billy will have a Minute for Mission on the Budget.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Bea



Please join us for worship this fifth Sunday in Lent at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Pastor Bea

based upon John 11:1-45 and Psalm 130

Liturgist: Sharon Kirby

Ushers/Greeters: Joe and Jerri DeVault

2nd Cup: Ione and Mary Linker

Liturgist Schedule

March

29 no liturgist needed if we participate in Palm Sunday in the park

April

5 Taylor Shank *Easter*

12 Joe DeVault

19 Barbara Duncan

26 Ione Linker

May

3 Pearl Minter

10 Joan Montgomery

17 Mary Linker

24 Nancy Moore

31 Susan Pilson

June

7 Ashby Pinkard

14 Lynn Pritchett

21 Ron Rebman

28 Martha Rollins

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:30am - 4pm

Friday 9:30am - 2pm

If you need to conduct office business outside these hours, please call to make an appointment.

BEWARE: Two members of our congregation recently received **scam** emails that purported to be sent by Pastor Bea asking for help with the purchase of gift cards. PLEASE remember, SHE WILL NEVER ASK you to purchase anything on her behalf with the promise to pay you back. If you have questions about

any email communications from her, please call or text her or Rita!

Be Aware!

Protect yourself from scammers!

Watch for emails, texts or calls that might be fraudulent and do not trust communications (even if they sound legitimate) that ask for personal information, money or gift cards.

You will NEVER get an email from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.



Lenten Lunches

All **Lenten lunches** will take place at noon with a light lunch and a message. They normally last about an hour.

- March 19 - Starling Avenue Baptist
- March 26 - Chatham Heights Baptist

2nd Cup Training - Thursday, March 19th at 4 PM in the Marge Dunn Kitchen with Milt and Nancy Davis.



Our next **community breakfast** is on Saturday, March 21st. Cooks arrive at 7 am, servers & others about 7:30. If you can help on Saturday, please contact **Mary Linker** at [919-548-2452](tel:919-548-2452) (text or call)

Church Clean-Up Day - Saturday, March 28th beginning at 8 AM. Come help spruce up the church before Easter Sunday. Reach out to Johnny Pinkard, David Price, or Dru Rothrock for more information.

Palm Sunday Service in the Park - March 29th at 9AM at J. Frank Wilson Memorial Park (E Church St Ext.) A potluck brunch will follow the service in our fellowship hall. In the event of rain, the park service will move to the FPC sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service on April 2nd will begin with a potluck dinner at 6PM. At 7PM we will move to the sanctuary for the service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MARTINSVILLE PRESENTS:
BRUSHSTROKES & FELLOWSHIP: A MORNING PAINTING

"Create, Connect, and Celebrate"



JOIN US FOR ART & COMMUNITY

Come discover your inner artist in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. No experience needed! Step-by-step guidance provided. We will be painting the beautiful Bunny Rabbit pictured.

WHEN & WHERE:

- **DATE:** Saturday, March 28th
- **TIME:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- **LOCATION:** First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

EVENT DETAILS:

- **COST:** \$25 PER PERSON (Includes ALL supplies: 11x14 canvas, paints, and brushes)
- **INSTRUCTOR:** Karen Conner, Conner, Local Artist
- **REFRESHMENTS:** Coffee, tea, and light snacks provided
- **AGES:** For Adults & Teens

HOW TO REGISTER:

Space is limited to 20 participants. RSVP by March 20th by contacting:
SUSAN PILSON, 276-340-7288
or susanpilson@gmail.com



2 Peter Marshall
6 Jerry Wood
9 Tyler Price
18 Catherine S. Bridges, Steve Edgerton
21 Emma Wilson, Evan Wilson
22 Martha Rollins

Congregational Care and Fellowship

If you are in need of a [prayer shawl](#), or know someone that could use one, please pick one up from the narthex and be sure to sign it out. If you have any questions, please reach out to **Susan Pilson**.

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 **Susan** at [276 340-7288](tel:2763407288).

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

William W. Regen Family, Barbara Adams (Patsy Stanley)
Sue Benfield, Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel
Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Marge
Dunn, Martin Ford, Marvin Hudson, Liz Jackman
(daughter of Nancy Davis), Randy Lawson (P. Stanley).
Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Leslie Naradikian
(Marion Miller's daughter), Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser,
Cecil Robbins, Sandra Roberts (sister of Kat Walker),
Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee
Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce
Thomas, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted
Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, refugees and
immigrants forced to flee their countries, and families and areas devastated by
severe weather.



Grace Network Donations

1st Quarter 2026 Food Donation Items is Creamed Corn, 15 oz.



2nd Quarter Food Donation Item is Canned Beefaroni, Spaghetti/meatballs, Ravioli, Chili



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

ALSO in need of plastic grocery bags and empty egg cartons (dozen size). These can be deposited in the bins inside the Narthex

Hygiene Items are always needed (optional)

- *Toilet Paper
- *Bath Soap
- *Dish Detergent
- *Feminine Products
- *Deodorant
- *Toothpaste
- *Laundry Detergent

**Items may be brought to the church or dropped off at Grace Network, Monday
- Friday, 9-2 PM*



Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views is published weekly on Thursdays, unless the Church office is closed. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Wednesday afternoon by 3 PM

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com. For time sensitive announcements, please send to skirbycwj@gmail.com **and text** [276 806-9709](tel:2768069709)

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/peaks-postings/>

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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THE SESSION

Clerk: Liz Ferrell

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2026

Billy Kirby: Administration

Susan Pilson: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Anne Madonia: Think Tank

Class of 2027

Nancy Moore: Stewardship

Johnny Pinkard: Facilities

Judy King: Worship

Class of 2028

Ione Linker/Taylor Shank: Mission/Outreach

Nancy Davis: Christian Education

TRUSTEES

William Kirby, Gale Legg, Sharon Kirby, Dru Rothrock, Duke Ferrell, Joe Williams

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