

March 25, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

March 24, 2021

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

I love and struggle with this Scripture all the time. How can all things work for the good of believers when bad things happen to good people all the time? When tragedy strikes, the only way I know to deal with it is to believe that God is not the source of tragedy, but rather the source of strength to get us through!

During this season of Easter, although I strongly believe God knew what the ultimate outcome was for Jesus from crucifixion to resurrection, I do not believe God caused his suffering and cruelty at the cross. Human actions were responsible for that! God's role was helping humanity understand the salvation that came from Jesus' selfless actions for us.

This story of Adam Welch might help us understand. When Welch's first business venture failed, God gave him a new vision. He would create a business enterprise that would make millions of dollars, enabling Adam Welch to support hundreds of missionaries all over the world. Adam Welch worked hard and created Welch's Grape Juice company. God used him to give literally millions to the work of missions. In hindsight, more was done for the Kingdom of God through Adam Welch staying at home than one man going to the mission field.

When was the last time being fired from a job, or an inspirational figure in your life passing on, turned your life down a different road which ultimately turned out for good when you trusted in God's direction? God's plans are not always our plans, for his plans may often carry even a greater purpose.

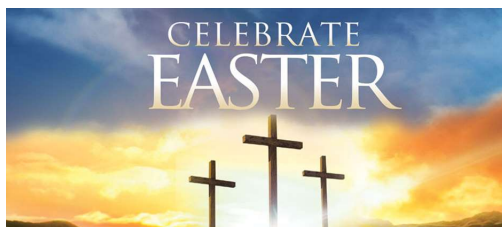
"The Lord works out everything for His own ends, even the wicked for a day of disaster." Even the earthly death of Jesus for the salvation of all!

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

[View this email in your browser](#) • [Forward to a friend](#)

Church Reopening!



The church will REOPEN Easter Sunday for in-person worship. If you plan to attend, you must notify the church office by **NOON Thursday, April 1.**

Please call the office at 276 632-3431. If your call is not answered, **please leave a message with Your Name and the Number of family members attending.**

We will still practice social distancing and you must wear a mask to and during the service. Call to sign up for this special service as we celebrate the resurrected Christ. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m. Worship services will continue to be streamed live on Facebook for those of you that wish to remain at home.



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

sermon by Pastor Mark Hinchcliff

***Learning from Our Mistakes
Celebrated In and Ushered Out***

Based upon Philippians 2:5-11 and Psalm 31:9-16



Maundy Thursday Service

Please join us on **Thursday, April 1**, for the Maundy Thursday service, led by Monica Stevens and Dr. Denny Casey. The service will be available via **Facebook Live at 7 PM**.



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.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. **One Great Hour of Sharing** is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world. Please consider assisting in this great effort. Make checks payable 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.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

Receives 36% of funds raised and takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so that all may be fed.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

Receives 32% of funds raised and works alongside communities as they recover of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees.

Self-Development of People (SDOP)

Receives 32% of funds raised to invest in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – Minute for Mission

The pandemic has stretched the church in many ways – but we are still very much... here. We have continued to worship, build and shape the community, and we have continued to take care of one another. Even without a pandemic, it is a truth and a reminder, that in every time and season, the Church finds itself and its Savior through relationships with those in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the largest way Presbyterians come together to do mission and ministry with those whom we see are in need. Through these gifts, we declare that the Church belongs with people whom we see suffering from natural disasters; those from whom we see COVID-19 took futures and livelihoods, and whole cultures threatened as a result. The Church finds itself with those whom we see are thirsty because of too few water wells, and those struggling for justice, righteousness, and peace.

Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing so that our Church will continue to become as Isaiah said, “repairers of the breach” alongside those experiencing great need. For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray: Meet all the needs for which the world thirsts, Oh God. May your spring of justice, compassion, and peace spring up quickly, and may it spring up quickly in us. Amen.

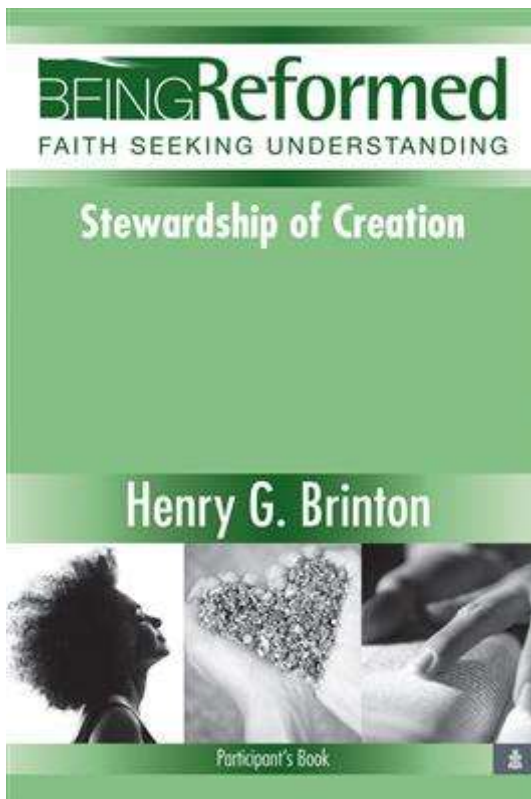
Bible Study: Being Reformed

Begins: April 7 at 7 PM by Zoom for six weeks

Description from the publisher:

“Explore the biblical bases for our care of creation along with sessions on being environmentally friendly at home, at church, and in the world.”

Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding is a series of biblically based mini-courses that provides adults with a foundational understanding of the



Reformed faith. Each six-session study--written by well-known and respected scholars--features Scripture, prayer, in-depth commentary, and questions for reflection. Each study addresses its subject from a Reformed theological perspective. Lessons are enhanced through the Leader's Guide, which offers helpful suggestions and direction for group study. The main structure for these guides is the rubric Head, Heart, and Hands.

We have borrowed a few books from the presbytery office that will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. But the book is optional - all are welcome!

Here's a link to the book (with a link to

order if you'd like a copy):

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/680720/stewardship-of-creation-participants-book.aspx>

Zoom link to come. Questions or want to borrow a book? Contact Denny Casey d.a.casey@comcast.net



MATTHEW 25

**Becoming a Matthew 25 Congregation –
April 13, 7:00 p.m.**

Hello Presbytery of the Peaks! You are invited to join in learning how your church can become an official Matthew 25 congregation.

Sy Hughes, Mission Engagement Advisor for the Southeastern US/Presbyterian Mission Agency, will highlight resources and assist congregations who may be considering the Matthew 25 Invitation. The emphasis will be on practical help for congregations as they focus their mission, with Matthew 25 as a guide. To receive the Zoom link for participation in the April 13, 7:00 p.m. event, contact Denny Casey d.a.casey@comcast.net

Becoming a Matthew 25 congregation is relatively simple and involves the following:

#1 Sign up

#2 Continue congregational mission efforts in one or more of the following areas:

- building congregational vitality
- dismantling structural racism
- eradicating systemic poverty

#3 Share your stories of how embracing Matthew 25 is impacting your congregation/community

For more Matthew 25 information <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

Virtual Youth Retreat

The Presbytery of the Peaks Youth Council will be hosting a virtual youth retreat for middle & high schoolers on **Saturday, April 17, 10 am-12 pm** on zoom. More details & registration info can be found here: [PoPYoCo Middle & High School Virtual Retreat](#) (google.com)

A Presbytery of the
Peaks Middle & High
School Virtual Retreat

Wait For It

Romans 8: 24-25

Saturday
April 17, 2021



10am-12pm
on Zoom!

With Keynote speaker:
Matthew Aldas

With Music Leader:
Cameron Moore



Email sam@peakspresbytery.org for more info



Peaks Mission

Compassion, Peace & Justice Training Days,

presented by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness and its fellow Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries, traditionally takes place in person at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., on the day

before Ecumenical

Advocacy Days, a weekend-long event in Northern Virginia. For the second consecutive year, both events will be virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, CPJ Day expanded to three days to provide a breadth of content around this year's theme, environmental justice, without the potential Zoom fatigue of a day-long online event. Each day will start at 11 a.m. Eastern Time and go to 12:30 p.m.

On April 7 and 8, there will be small group gatherings at 1:30 p.m. ET. [Registration is free.](#)

Featured speakers this year will be:

- The **Rev. Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes**, a theologian, liturgist, artist, and activist who is the Associate Professor of Worship at **Union Theological Seminary** in New York City.
- **Harry Pickens**, an award-winning performing artist, educator, composer, author, workshop facilitator, and life transformation coach in Louisville, Kentucky.

Plans for additional panelists and speakers are being finalized and will be announced shortly. Like every year, CPJ Days will also feature music and worship.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days are set to take place just over a week later, **April 18-21**, and will have a similar theme of environmental justice this year. [Registration is now open](#), and is \$25 until April 1.

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.

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"



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of former member, Marian Campbell. Marian passed away on March 16 in Winston Salem, NC.

A private graveside service has already been held.

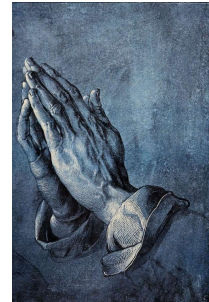
Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Marian Campbell, Sarah Altizer, 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, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Jim Murray (Judy King), Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Bill Plonk, 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

Cornbread Mix



The 2nd quarter food donation item is **Cornbread Mix (i.e.: Jiffy)**.

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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