

May 14, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

May 13, 2020

What gives you hope?

“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey them as slaves, you are slaves to the one you obey, whether you are slaves to sin, which leads only to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? Romans 6:15,16

The pressure all around us to compromise our true convictions is ever-present and probably the greatest battle we will ever fight! We all experience the pressure of our peers in some form or another daily. A child talks back to a parent or teacher, an underaged teenager sneaks out of the house to attend the forbidden party, or a corporate executive decides to choose unethical tactics to gain an unfair advantage. We are all challenged with the question of what's right verses what's legal in our head or in our actions sometime in our lives!

As Christians we are called to stand firm in the convictions placed upon our hearts by God but we sometimes fall victim to the pressure of our peers around us in our human broken nature. Most of the time we end up feeling better about ourselves if we stick to our principles but in our minds, we weigh the possibilities of losing a friend, our job, or something else important. Christians are always called to stand on the side of righteousness but we don't always respond that way. So, what should give us hope of achieving the desired effect in the right way?

The grace of God is a special gift that allows us all an opportunity for a “do over” when we make the wrong choices in life because of peer pressure. But taking that grace for granted should never be an option! Jesus died for our sins to be forgiven so a second chance at righteousness is nothing to be taken lightly. Choose to be grateful and obedient to Jesus. The friends you keep will always have influence on the decisions you make so choose your friends carefully! And lastly choose to please God when divided between pleasing God and pleasing friends!

God gave us the most precious gift of all in life itself. In this time of the pandemic respect God and respect Life in the decisions ahead. The hope of a better life ahead lays with Jesus! Choose wisely.

Pastor Mark

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



Be sure to join the Facebook live worship service every Sunday at 11 AM. The info is sent via text message and includes the link to the service. You may also join by navigating to our Facebook page, scrolling down to the "videos" section of the page and simply clicking on the video at 11 AM.

Parents of Graduating Seniors!!



If you have a high school or college senior that will be graduating this spring, please forward their information so that we can all celebrate and recognize this outstanding



accomplishment!

Child's name, if HS senior, please include future plans. If college senior, name of college and program of study/degree. Include your name along with siblings and grandparents.

Please forward to skirbycwj@gmail.com.

Kids' Perspective

Want to know how children feel about being quarantined during the coronavirus time? Our very own **Norah Cundiff** was interviewed for a podcast on this very topic! You can listen to it here: <https://realkids.buzzsprout.com/92055/3527881-real-kids-real-stories-with-norah-from-virginia>

Would your child or grandchild be interested in being interviewed as well? Contact Brooke Cundiff for details (bchnfamily@gmail.com or 276-340-6124)

Presbyterian Women



The videos for lessons **six, seven, eight, and nine** from the DVD for the Bible Study on ***Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*** by Eugenia Anne Gamble is available **on the PW YouTube channel**.

Links are: <https://youtu.be/68Wm-vPuhw0>;
<https://youtu.be/QVd8T9Oyic0>; <https://youtu.be/68Wm-vPuhw0>



Through a partnership between Carilion's Community Outreach and Robert L.A. Keeley Healing Arts program, local churches and organizations are ringing their bell towers during shift change as a way to honor and support health care workers who are caring for our community during this time. First Presbyterian is participating in this! Listen for our bells at 7 AM and 7 PM!

Adult Sunday School


We are so blessed to have this opportunity to study God's Word together.

Please let Denny or Sam know if your are interested; d.a.casey@comcast.net or sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu.

Youth Sunday School

Our Youth Sunday School class will continue to meet via **Zoom** on **Sunday afternoons from 3-4:00pm**. Starting this week we will be taking a deeper look at our faith, how we worship, practice Sabbath, & what it means to be a Presbyterian. We'll also take time to check in, hang out, and maybe even play some games! If your middle or high school child would like to join us, now would be a great time to, please contact Sam (sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu) for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

Presbytery Meeting



Presbytery Meeting
June 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Meeting will be conducted by Zoom. Registration will be required for **ALL** participants, including pastors, and will open in two weeks. Stay tuned for more information.

*This is a called meeting.

To Register for this event, please visit:
<https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/>

Festival of HOMILETICS

Preaching a New Earth: Climate and Creation

Be inspired by God's Word proclaimed by some of the nation's finest ministers and teachers. Experience the fellowship of hundreds of preachers. Learn and worship in an atmosphere that is dynamic, friendly, nurturing, and prophetic. Come renew, refresh, and recharge your spirit.

Scripture's first description of God is as creator. God brought the world into existence and all that makes up the world as we know it. But God realized that caring for creation could never be a sole endeavor. We are charged with that co-tending, and preachers are challenged with imagining and preaching about an ecological God. Our God is committed to, dependent on, and immersed in all the Earth provides, sustains, and yet, needs our help to bring the fullness of God's creative work to bear. Our God needs our help to speak the truth about where and how God's Earth groans for renewal, even resurrection, how our very climate changes are God's cries for help. The 2020 Festival of Homiletics theme invites preachers to imagine their own role in God's creative work, to be courageous in preaching about God's creative activity, and to claim boldly our role in caring for God's creation, when God's very creation is at stake.

MAY 18-22, 2020

ONLINE AND FREE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Even though the doors to the church building are closed and our congregation is dispersed into our individual homes for the foreseeable future, we are still bound to each other through the love of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Your Agape Team has been working to contact all of the members of our congregation to touch base with you, visit with you, and check on your needs. The Agape Team will contact you periodically, but if you want to talk or if you need help with getting groceries or supplies before they contact you, please feel free to contact any of our Agape Team. We are here for you. Also, each of us is charged to care for one another, so if you feel God calling you to reach out to others please do so. We are all Christ's church together.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God...There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:7; 18

Grace and Peace to all of you from the Agape Team

Denny Casey - d.a.casey@comcast.net 276-224-3906

Ron Rebman - ronreb85@gmail.com 276-634-1254
Jerride DeVault - jerride@embargumail.com 276-252-2162
Monica Stevens - mlkstev@hotmail.com 276-632-8075
Tracy Hinchcliff - tracyhair60@gmail.com 409-330-0847
Judy Ware - je_ware@yahoo.com 336-601-2316
Judy King - jpk1944@gmail.com 276-340-810

Please Help!

Critical Need For Blood and Platelets

Right now, eligible and healthy donors are strongly urged to make an appointment to provide lifesaving blood products to patients.



Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers: Doc Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Dot Bryson, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra Bryson Cox, Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Daniel Handy, Helen Hawkes, Anne Holland (sister of Pearl Minter), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gavin Russell, Gene Stanley, 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 Tuna or Canned Meat for Grace Network**

Dear Friends,

Grace Network is continuing to help those in our community during the Covid-19 situation in partnership with the Harvest Foundation, the United Way, Salvation Army, Community Fellowship and the Henry County Food Pantry in Bassett. We have all come together to provide food boxes for those in need and will provide 5 locations to pick up these boxes each Monday from 9-2.

Grace is blessed to be part of this effort and when this is all over, we will go back to

our regular services in providing financial services and food through our regular processes. The assigned food items from our church partners will become even more important on the other side of this quarantine with so many needing extra help to get back on their feet.

The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 2nd quarter is **canned tuna or other canned meats like chicken or ham**. Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever. Please stay safe, stay healthy and please keep us in your prayers as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Blessings, Tracy

A Note from the the Editor

Although regular church services have been cancelled and we are no longer meeting in person, I hope we all try to stay in touch with one another using any possible medium. Phone calls, face time, emails, etc. It is important that we look after one another during these difficult times and it's good to know we are not alone. While there are no regular happenings to report on, I would like to send out Steeple Views on a weekly basis so please feel free to share any news or updates with me and I will do my best to include them in the newsletter. skirbycwj@gmail.com or 276 806-9709.

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

Church Office Phone: 276-632-3431

Our mailing address is:

First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Ave.
Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff, Pastor, pastor@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Sam Smith, Youth and Family Ministries Director, sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu

Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist, 276-734-0212

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

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director,

contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2020

Denny Casey: Christian Education

Ron Rebman: Administration

Kym Tatum: Fellowship

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Stewardship

Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Communications

Betty Hudson: Congregational Care

TRUSTEES

2020: Milton Davis, Duke Ferrell

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

Copyright © 2020 First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, VA, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

