

May 18, 2023



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Pastor's Corner

**Elder Monica Stevens**

"Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning...You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever." Psalm 30:4-5, 11-12 (NRSV)

Last night storms rolled through our area complete with thunder, lightning, gusty winds, heavy rain, and possibly even some small hail. Every pet we have ever had has been at the very least, uncomfortable during mild storms, and terrified to the point of shivering, cowering, and trying to hide during the more violent storms. I am usually pretty calm during storms, but I have to admit that storms with high winds worry me and make me anxious until they pass. Storms at night amplify my nervousness because I can't see what is going on outside. I keep a close eye on the weather radar, but I admit that the sounds of the wind whipping through the trees and the rain pelting down on the house sometimes cause my imagination to run wild.

This morning when I woke, the only remnants of the storms were the leaves, oak catkins, and small branches littering the ground, and the jewel-like orbs of water hanging from the leaves on the trees and the telephone wires. The sun was shining, the clouds had disappeared, wind was calm, yesterday's pollen had been scrubbed from the air, and the birds were singing and foraging for food as if nothing had happened in the night. Meditating on the contrast between the concerns of the night and the joy and relief of the morning caused Psalm 30 to pop into my head. (portions quoted above)

Most of us would probably prefer to skip the storms of life and bask in the calm of sunny, uncomplicated days, but alas, that just isn't the way life works. Anyone who is human experiences not only good times, but also bad times. It often seems that the good times are too fleeting, and that the difficult times occur too often and stay too long.

The author of Psalm 30 was no stranger to difficulties in life, but knew that even in the deepest, darkest, hardest times life had to offer, God was there to answer his cries for help. The psalmist called on God for help and God answered, turning his fear into joy and praise. Psalm 139 is another of my favorite Psalms. It assures that God is always with us no matter the place or the

circumstances we find ourselves in. There is no place and no circumstance where God cannot find us, surround us with God's love, and care for us in our hour of need.

It is easy for us to envision God with us in the calm, sunny times, but it is more difficult to feel that assurance when we are made anxious, threatened, unsure, and afraid by the storms of life. God, speaking to Israel, and by extension, to us invites us to trust and rest in God's love and care with these words, "Don't fear, because I am with you; don't be afraid, because I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will surely help you; I will hold you with my righteous strong hand."  
Isaiah 41:10 (CEB)

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name! Amen.

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Please join us for worship this Seventh Sunday of Easter at 10:00 am

Sermon by Elder Monica Stevens

**based upon John 17:1-11 and 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

**Liturgist:** Jerri DeVault

**Greeters/Ushers:** Milt and Nancy Davis

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Just a reminder:

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



If you receive one of these messages, it will come from an email other than an official church email address or a phone number not in use by a church staff member. Simply report it to the church and delete. Do not respond. We are so sorry for the inconvenience these fraudulent activities (that have been happening for years to churches everywhere-not just here) continue to cause!

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### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

**Friday 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**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.



**Think Tank Meeting - MONDAY, May 22 at 2PM**

**Session Meeting - MONDAY, May 22 at 6PM**

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### **Summer Community Worship schedule:**

June 11 - 11:00 AM at Grace Presbyterian

July 9 - 10:00 AM at First Presbyterian Martinsville

Aug 13 - 11:00 AM at Forest Hills Presbyterian

Sept 10 - 11:00 AM at First Presbyterian Collinsville

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# Congratulations!

**Hunter Frances Moore** born Monday, May 15 in San Diego, CA to Hillary and Margot Moore. Proud Grandparents are Henry and Nancy Moore and great grandmother is Dee Moore Smith.

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**Gael and Smith Chaney** would like to invite all their First Presbyterian friends to their 50th Anniversary dinner on Saturday, June 10, at the 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake.

If you would like to attend, please reply to Gael ([gael.chaney@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:gael.chaney@alumni.duke.edu), [276-340-8081](tel:276-340-8081)) right away so she can send you the details.

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**GIVE BLOOD**

*You can make a difference.*



American  
Red Cross

**FOR DRIVES MAY 1-19:** In thanks for joining Team Red Cross, all who come to give blood, platelets or AB Elite plasma May 1-19 will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice.

**FOR DRIVES MAY 20-31:** [To help encourage donations around the Memorial Day holiday, all who come to give May 20-31 will receive an exclusive Red Cross beach towel, while supplies last.](#)

**[FOR DRIVES WHERE POWER REDS WILL BE COLLECTED] Eligible donors with types O, B negative or A negative blood are encouraged to make a Power Red donation at this blood drive.**

- o Power Red donors give a concentrated dose of red blood cells during a single donation, allowing them to maximize their impact.
- o During this type of donation, red blood cells are separated from other blood components, and the plasma and platelets are safely and comfortably returned to the donor.

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# back2school

*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*

It is time to celebrate the 17th year of the **back2school** outreach event that has served over 36,000 kids with the efforts of over 20+ churches across our communities and beyond!

Won't you join us in serving these students and making a difference in their lives?

For questions call Tracy Hinchcliff  
276-403-4222

Or email  
Tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetorkmhc.org

# back2school

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

There are many opportunities to let your gifts shine during this great event.

### Registration

- Saturday, July 15 (noon– 3pm) at The Uptown Ministry Center
- Tuesday, July 25 (6-8 pm) at The Uptown Ministry Center

### Pack the Bus

- At Walmart, Martinsville July 21-23 . Shifts TBD

### Filling Backpacks

- At the Future Home of Community Fellowship  
700 Commerce Court, Martinsville  
Tuesday, August 1 (6:00 pm)

### The Big Event

- At The Uptown Ministry Center (Behind Rania's)  
Saturday, August 5 (7:30 am) Shifts will be determined

If you can help, please email: Tracy Hinchcliff  
tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetorkmhc.org or call 276-403-4222.

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## Liturgist Schedule

### May

21 Jerri DeVault

28 Billy Kirby

### June

4 Jack Kirby

11 \*\*no liturgist needed\*\*

18 Pearl Minter

25 Sharon Kirby

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## May Birthdays



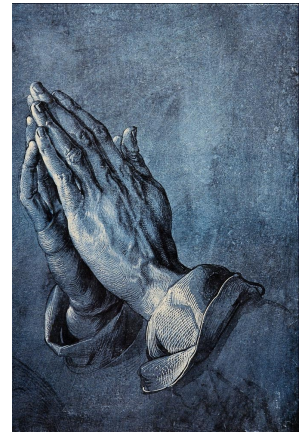
- 1** Janet Fentress
- 3** Georgette "Jerry" Bishop
- 5** Amy Mason
- 8** Gavin Luther
- 10** Sandra Shank
- 11** Bonnie Price, Emily Beard
- 12** Monica Stevens, Patricia Christenbury, Pearl Minter
- 17** Heath Russell
- 19** Annie B. Boyd, Taylor Shank
- 20** Christal Kelly
- 22** Hayden Cundiff, Joanna Wood
- 27** Jacob Wingfield, Kent Williams, Virginia Seamon
- 29** Ed Linker
- 30** Ron Rebman

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**These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:**

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Katheryn (Kaky) King Lewis and Family (Judy King), Family of Rob King, Ryan Bachelor (niece of N. Davis), Sue Benfield, Georgette Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Mike Boswell, Marilyn and Ernest Bremner, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Bud Buffkin, Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Marge Dunn, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Judy King, Betty Carol and Harold Lamm, Mary Manning, Maggie Pilson, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, Jane Rothrock, David Seamon, Beth Sibbick (N. Moore), Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utey, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.



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**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 Pearl Minter.

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 at [276 340-3476](tel:2763403476).

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## ***Grace Network Donations***

### **The 2nd quarter food donation is canned greens (turnips, collards, etc.)**

For the month of March, the food pantry at Grace Network served 121 clients which means we were quite busy most every day and a lot of food went out the door.

For this 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, our church has been assigned greens: spinach, mixed, collards, etc. This is a popular item and we often don't have any. In this same area we could also use canned potatoes, beets and tomatoes. Most of these items are fairly inexpensive and all would be greatly appreciated.

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*

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## Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

**Steeple Views** is published weekly on Thursdays. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Wednesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:**  
[fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com). For time sensitive announcements, please sent to  
[skirbycwj@gmail.com](mailto:skirbycwj@gmail.com)

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

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### 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](https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020_Peaks_Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf)

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#### Our Mission

Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other

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**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](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter)

#### Useful Links

FPC website: [www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/) or [www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/](http://www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/)

FPC online directory: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com/](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/)

FPC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA](https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA)

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org/](http://www.peakspresbytery.org/)

Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org/](http://www.pcusa.org/)

Daily Bible Readings: [www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/)

**Church Office Phone:** [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)

**Our mailing address is:**

First Presbyterian Church



1901 Patrick Henry Ave.  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**STAFF**

Rev. Bea Miller, Interim Pastor, [rev.millerb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.millerb@gmail.com)

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Vickie Blair, Bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Spencer Koger, Director of Music, [adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleva.org](mailto:adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleva.org)

Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator, [worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

**THE SESSION**

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

**Class of 2023**

Billy Kirby: Administration

**Class of 2024**

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

**Class of 2025**

Ron Rebman: Mission/Outreach

Sue Legg: Stewardship and Communication

Monica Stevens: Christian Education

**TRUSTEES**

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

2025: William Kirby, Gale Legg

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