

May 19, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation
Elder, Dr. Denny Casey
May 17, 2022

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10

It's that time of year when graduation ceremonies and words of wisdom are being shared in a parade of commencement addresses. One speech I heard recently was from Rollins College valedictorian Elizabeth Bonker. It struck me first because it was delivered with the use of technology but more importantly, because of the speaker's message.

According to the Rollins College website, Bonker is affected by nonspeaking autism and hasn't spoken since she was 15 months old. But thanks to encouragement from her peers and teachers and from assistive technology, she has overcome many challenges and graduated at the top of her class.

"God gave you a voice. Use it," Bonker told her fellow graduates using text-to-speech software. "And no, the irony of a nonspeaking autistic encouraging you to use your voice is not lost on me. Because if you can see the worth in me, then you can see the worth in everyone you meet."

In her remarks, Bonker evoked Rollins' most well-known alumnus, Fred Rogers (ordained Presbyterian pastor better known as public television's "Mister Rogers"). As a student, Rogers was inspired by the words engraved in a marble plaque on campus that reads "Life is for service." He wrote the words on a small piece of paper that he carried in his wallet throughout his life.

"We are all called to serve, as an everyday act of humility, as a habit of mind," she said. "To see the worth in every person we serve."

After graduating, Bonker plans to use what she has learned to help people who face situations like hers. "There are 31 million nonspeakers with autism in the world who are locked in a silent cage," she said. Her life's work, she said, will be to help them express themselves.

Gifted and called to serve, Bonker embodies the scripture verse from 1 Peter 4:10.

Peter calls us to be good stewards of the spiritual gifts we are given by God and to serve one another as Jesus modeled and taught (Mark 10: 45): "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." Serving others involves more than simply our actions; it involves our hearts and attitudes towards each other while we are serving; it involves sharing the love of God.

The grace that flows into our lives should become an outpouring of blessing in service to others...for the greater glory and praise of God. As it is written in Matthew 5:16: 'In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for the spiritual gifts that I have been given by Your goodness and grace. I pray that I may be diligent to use the gifts and graces that have been given to me for the benefit of the body of Christ and for Your greater praise and glory - this I ask in Jesus' name, amen.

In Christ,
Denny

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The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!

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, however, those who are not vaccinated should wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth while anywhere inside the church and sanctuary. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19, should remain at home.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

If you are not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask. If you have symptoms, test positive, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 please remain at home.



Please join us for worship this **Sixth Sunday in Easter** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Dr. Denny Casey

Farewell Assurance

Based on John 14:23-29 and Psalm 67

Help Needed!

We will return to passing the communion and offering plates on June 5. Help is needed for communion set up and clean up. Contact Liz Ferrell ([276-734-6376](tel:276-734-6376)) if you are interested in helping.

Worship Service Update

Due to a tied voting from both the congregation and the session, the time of worship **will remain at 10:00 a.m.** until an interim pastor is hired. At that time another vote will be taken.



- **[Community Breakfast Saturday!](#)** - Led by Joe and Jerry DeVault. [If you are able to help, please contact Jerri at 252-2162. Please arrive by 7 AM if you are working the first shift](#)
- **Church Workday** - May 21 beginning at 8 am
- **Briana Tatum** will be performing in Puffs at Magna Vista High School May 20 & 21 at 7pm. Tickets are available for purchase on their website.
- Bibles for our confirmands will be set up in the narthex from now through **May 29**. Members of the congregation are invited to sign your name

along with a favorite scripture passage on the inside cover (for example: John 3:16 – Sam Smith) to help give our confirmands a head start on where to find passages of encouragement in their new Bibles.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS PENTECOST

The Pentecost Offering, which benefits youth and young adult ministries of the PC(USA), ***will be collected now through June 5***. A portion of the offering also stays in our own congregation to benefit our own youth ministry. Designated envelopes can be found in the pew racks.

back2school

It is time to celebrate the 16th year of the back2school outreach event that has served over 32,000 kids with the efforts of over 19+ churches across our communities and beyond!

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

Back2school Sunday is June 26! Please wear your t-shirts and post photos of you wearing them.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

Registration

- Saturday, July 9 (9:00-noon) at The Uptown Ministry Center
- Tuesday, July 19 (6-8 pm) at The Uptown Ministry Center

Pack the Bus

- At Walmart, Martinsville July 15-17. Shifts TBD

Filling Backpacks

- At the Future Home of Community Fellowship 700 Commerce Court, Martinsville
Tuesday, August 2 (6:00 pm)

The Big Event

- At The Uptown Ministry Center (Behind Rania's) Saturday, August 6 (7:30 am)
Shifts will be determined

If you can help, please email: Tracy Hinchcliff tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetorkmhc.org

or call [409-330-0847](tel:409-330-0847)

*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

Our Deepest Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of **Ralph Shank Jr.** on his passing early yesterday morning. Additional details on the service will be provided once available.

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Hollis Edward Crowe II Family (L. Pritchett's brother), Pat Baumann, Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner, Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb, Daniel Handy, Melanie Hardy, Iliene Hite, Leonard Kelley (M Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, Troy Spencer (P Rakes' father), Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries due to violence and tyranny.



Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, [\(276\) 632-3431](tel:276-632-3431), office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org.

Congregational Care and Fellowship

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

Grace Network Donations

The 2nd quarter 2022 food donation item is **Saltine Crackers**



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*



Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO: fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com**. If you send to another email address, the information may get lost and subsequently not included in the newsletter.

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



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/

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

Our mailing address is:

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Doug Talbot, Worship Technology

Coordinator, worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

Class of 2024

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

TRUSTEES

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

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