

May 21, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

May 20, 2020

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire may be proven genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:6-7

As my days advance into my senior years and my physical and mental fitness diminish, I become acutely aware of my need to get back into shape! My joints ache and my ability to ward off sickness is not near as strong as it used to be. And as much as the world is focused on the Corvid 19 pandemic these days people are still struggling with other diseases both physical and mental every day. But when it comes to treatment for most the prescription from many is the usual prevention techniques of lose weight, watch what you eat, and stay mentally sharp. As a whole, we all would like to find a pill that would restore our health without any real effort because effort initially may involve experiencing pain. Through effort we may build up endurance. And with greater endurance we build up our abilities to ward off disease, have more energy, reduce pain, and enjoy life longer!

We decide it's long overdue to start our get back into shape program so we start on our own. On our own we quickly give up on the program and look for help elsewhere. We may hire a personal trainer but having someone screaming in your face, pushing you into amounts of pain you didn't know possible, may cause you to once again quit the program before seeing any benefit and your health diminishes even more! So, what's the answer?

Being a former federal agent, I began that career with great anxiety of failing the training process of almost two years away from my family and friends. I began in my mid thirties which was almost a decade older than most applicants. I feared I wouldn't be able to compete with younger physically fit candidates as well as the mentally sharp college students with good study habits and test taking abilities. Basically, I felt I was in this on my own without the help and support the others had. But I had something the others didn't and that was a maturity grounded in faith and family! The youngsters who were only looking to have fun quickly were washed out of the program and the remainder looked to the older Christian family man to help them through the program. And I looked to the younger ones to get me back in physical shape to survive.

As the washout rate was growing and our numbers were dwindling, we all saw the need to survive by supporting each other. I tutored several in some of our real-world classes and my beginning inability to run a mile turned into ten miles in military formation with the young recruits. I led a Sunday morning devotion which eventually named me as our group chaplain. In the end our graduation training class yielded thirty-two out of an original seventy-four because we learned how to focus on one and be supported by many!

As Christians we will all face challenges of fitness in our lives. Restoration may require some pain to build endurance in our spiritual as well as physical health. Life can bring hardships and some who focus solely on the individual challenge may not survive. But, may your faith in God provide strength in endurance and a desire to band together where God has provided strength for your weakness through others today!

God Bless You All,

Pastor Mark

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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.

This Sunday's sermon:

"The Spirit Within You"

Based upon Acts 1:1-11 and Ephesians 1:15-23



The church office and facility remain **CLOSED**. For the safety and health of our staff, please stay home. Even though we are in Phase 1, folks aren't supposed to be in the building until things are officially opened. Even then guidelines will have to be followed. You will be given notice when you can return.

Thanks for your adherence and understanding.

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)



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.

Psalms Bible Study by way of Zoom

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

First Presbyterian Church will be hosting a weekly study of the Psalms. Each weekly session will include pertinent information and context for the week's Psalm, reading the Psalm meditatively, listening for God's Word to you in the Psalm, a communal discussion questions and insights, and communal prayer.

When: Thursday evenings from **6:00 - 7:00 pm, beginning June 4**

Where: In the comfort of your home through the magic of **Zoom**

You will need: internet access to Zoom, a Bible, paper and pen for your personal notes and observations, a candle to light during our session

Join us for this opportunity to grow closer to those in our congregation through prayer and study, and to more clearly hear God's call to you through his Word.

To register or to find out more information contact Monica Stevens, mlkstev@hotmail.com, or call (804) 370-9847 by **May 27**.

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.

FPC Earth Care Meet-UP



Mark your calendar for the first **FPC Earth Care** meet-up!

When: Wednesday, June 3, 3 PM

Where: Zoom (invitation will be provided)

In this informal and virtual get together, we will be sharing what we learned at a recent Earth Care Workshop in Roanoke and what the *Presbyterians for*



Earth Care: An Eco-justice Network is all about. And, the best part is we will be discussing how we, as Christians, want to respond to the call for the care and stewardship of God's creation.

Earth Care is energizing! Together, we will be brainstorming specific actions we might take in worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

Earth Care can be practical and fun too, with profound implications for the life, work, and witness of God's people.

Earth Care can involve all ages, and even neighbors who are not part of our congregation.

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To sign up or for more information, contact Victoria Esarey (276) 732-9110 or Denny Casey (276) 224-3906

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;" - Psalm 24

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
Jerri 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/

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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

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