

May 26, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

May 25, 2022

Equipped to do everything that is good

2 Timothy 3:15-17

"Since childhood you have known the holy scriptures that help you to be wise in the way that leads to salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus. Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good."

Early in the week I had already selected a different scripture passage for a devotional that was taking shape in my head, but then the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas occurred. I admit I was stunned and too devastated to even think about a devotional at first. Then I was angry at the willful impotence of our leaders to address the factors that contribute to the number of shootings we have in this country. We have heard about the shootings in Buffalo, New York on May 14 in which 10 were killed and 3 injured, and we have heard about the shootings in Uvalde in which 22 were killed and 17 were injured. But just since May 1, there have been 44 mass shootings recorded across the nation in which 61 people were killed and 227 people were injured. Apparently instances of mass murder and injury are so commonplace that the only ones that make the news anymore are the ones with the highest casualty counts and the ones that concern children.

In my grief and fury over these senseless losses, it was very tempting to either start pointing fingers and dividing people even further, or withdrawing and refusing to confront this problem at all. Neither choice was a good or helpful option. I needed to restore some order to my thinking.

With so many different voices shouting their outrage, grief, strongly held opinions, it is hard to listen for the truth, but as Paul reminded Timothy, the scriptures are a good place to start.

When tragedy strikes, we like to go the Bible to read passages of comfort for us and for the victims, and I don't want to downplay that. The love of God is the balm that soothes and heals our aching hearts, but once we have received solace, God requires more of us. We are called to be God's agents in the world working to bind up the

wounds that divide us and seek reconciliation in the name of Jesus Christ. We feel helpless in the face of such senseless tragedy, but here are some scriptures help "equip us to do everything that is good."

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
And what does he require of you
But to do justice, and to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?

Mathew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 25:37-40 "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

In our efforts to do justice, love kindness, love one another, and walk humbly with our God, each of us will most likely be moved to do something different to aid in ending this unholy blight on our nation's citizens. Your response might be to get involved with a political process to affect legislation, or to get involved with supporting mental health agencies that support victims and work to prevent these incidents, or to work with or support community agencies here at home that work to alleviate problems that lead to inequality and unrest. There are many other ways to bring the love of Christ into a hurting world, and we need to stir ourselves to discover how God is calling us individually, and as a congregation, to address these issues in Jesus' name.

Loving Father, send your Holy Spirit to stir up our love and our imaginations so that we will be moved to do the good that you will for your world and your people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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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 **Seventh Sunday in Easter** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Monica Stevens

Why Do You Stand Watching?

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

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

- 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.
- **The Church Office will be closed** Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day.
- **Pentecost Sunday, June 5**, will be a joint service with Rev. Paul Johnson, Chaplain at King's Grant, and Rev. Cheryl Peebles, pastor at Forest Hills. Confirmands will also be confirmed. Lemonade on the lawn will follow the service to celebrate our confirmands.
- **Congregational Meeting**, Sunday, June 12 to elect members of the nominating committee to recruit elder and trustee candidates for the class of 2025.



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.



Imagine being sick, grieving, afraid, or lonely. Imagine that a friendly visitor wraps you in a warm shawl that has been knit or crocheted with prayer in every stitch. That is how the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** works.

Recipients can be anyone, whether or not a member of our congregation. If you know of someone who could use the comfort of a prayer shawl, you may pick one up in the church narthex (foyer) and sign it out on the register. No questions asked. If you need a prayer shawl mailed, contact Joan Montgomery at joanmontgo@gmail.com or at [276-252-6060](tel:276-252-6060), or any member of the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**.

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

June



- 1 Gage Lawson, Reid Lawson
- 3 Riley Wood
- 8 Shanna King
- 9 Susan Smith
- 10 Betty Hudson, Cindy Edgerton
- 11 Tracy Hinchcliff
- 12 Lt. Col. David King
- 16 Ainsley Russell
- 18 Susan Pilson
- 23 Basil Boyd, David Price
- 24 Dr. Denny Casey
- 26 Ann Reaser
- 29 Caroline Kirby

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Ralph Shank, Jr., Family of Robert F. "Bob" McMillan, Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner, Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Mary Brown Morgan (Barbara Tatum), Jim Brunt (N Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb, Nancy Davis, Daniel Handy, Melanie Hardy, Iliene Hite, Leonard Kelley (M Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, 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:2766323431), 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:2763403476).

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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STAFF

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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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