

May 5, 2022



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

May 5, 2022

### Worship the Lord!

Psalms 100

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that has made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

This past Sunday I had the privilege to participate in the lesson for the confirmation class, and assignment was to lead a discussion on worship. Preparing for this class made me think about how and why worship is central to our practice as Christians and why Presbyterians structure our worship the way we do.

We worship because God because God desires to share a close relationship with us.

We were specifically created to be in relationship with God and with one another.

While we can and should make time each day to commune with God individually or with our family through prayer, meditation, and/or worship, it is vitally important for the life of Christ’s Body, the Church, that we come together in God’s presence as a worshipping community. In our worship we give all glory and honor, praise and thanksgiving to the holy, triune God (God the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God the Sustainer), we encounter the will of God and the ongoing story of God’s work in, through, and for humanity through the reading and proclamation of God’s Holy Word as revealed in the Scriptures, and we are sent out to serve our God by serving others in God’s name. God calls us to be his people, and as his people we respond. God has blessed us with his steadfast love and grace throughout human history, and the ultimate expression of that love is in the life, death, resurrection, and reign of Jesus Christ as Lord, Redeemer, and Savior.

Through Jesus, God redeems us from sin and death and grants us the gift of new life now and forever. We worship Jesus Christ as Lord as he leads us in the worship and service God desires. The Holy Spirit, God the Sustainer, empowers our faithful response to God through our worship and our work. The Holy Spirit provides each of us the gifts we need for the ministry of the Church in the world.

There isn't space in this short meditation on worship to share all that I would like to say about worship, but I do want to mention a few things about the way we worship. God calls us to worship, and when we walk through the doors of the church, God is already there waiting for us.

This is important because it prompts us to come to worship with the expectation that we will be in God's presence together.

There is a definite pattern, flow, and movement in the structure of Presbyterian worship. The first part of the worship service is all about ENTERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD. The prelude invites us in and helps to focus our thoughts on God's presence. The welcome and announcements remind us that we are a community of believers who minister to others in Christ's name. The Call to Worship doesn't call God to us since God is already there, rather, it calls us to acknowledge that we worship in the holy presence of the Creator of all that has been, is now, and ever shall be. The opening hymn is generally a hymn of praise that gives glory and honor to God. Once we acknowledge the holiness and majesty of our God, we realize that we fall far short of God's goodness and righteousness. On our own, we are powerless to heal the rift between God and ourselves, but in the name of Jesus Christ we are called to confess our sins and be redeemed so that we can stand before God as his beloved and forgiven children. Because we are forgiven and restored to right relationship with God, we receive God's peace and share that peace with those who worship with us. We end this first phase of worship by joining our voices in response to God's mercy and goodness in singing the Gloria Patri (Latin for Glory to the Father).

The next section of the service is the very heart of our worship—ENCOUNTERING THE WORD OF GOD READ AND PROCLAIMED. The Prayer for Illumination asks the Holy Spirit to open our heart, minds, and lives to receive the Word of God through the scriptures that are read and the sermon that is preached. Usually two scriptures are read with one taken from the Old or Hebrew Testament and one from the New Testament. Whoever is preaching is charged to faithfully interpret the Scripture lessons so that God's Word is made accessible to the congregation and so that they will be moved to act on the message. Also during this section of the service we include the Anthem or Special Music that should support and amplify the message of the day, and the Time With Young Disciples that seeks to interpret the Scriptures in a way that young members of the congregation can understand. God's Word is for everyone, including children.

The third section of the service is RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD. The hymn of response is sung to support the message of the scripture lessons and sermon. Then the congregation responds by making a corporate statement of faith to underscore our basic beliefs. Next the congregation is led to pray for each other, the concerns of the church, and the concerns of the world as part of our ministry to others. The Lord's Prayer generally concludes the prayers of the people because it is the prayer that Jesus taught his followers to pray and because it highlights the unity we share with Christians throughout the world through our Lord, Jesus. Finally, we offer our monetary gifts and the gifts of ourselves to support the mission and ministry of Christ's church in our local community and in the world. We give in response to the innumerable gifts God has given us through God's grace and we praise God's grace by singing the Doxology.

MOVING OUT INTO THE WORLD WITH THE WORD OF GOD is the last segment of our worship service. Having offered God our praise, confessed our sin and received forgiveness, heard the Word of God read and proclaimed, responded to God by professing our faith and offering our prayers and service, we are now empowered to act on God's Word by becoming living examples of God's love and care in our daily lives. The sending hymn offers us encouragement to be bold in our service to God.

The charge provides our marching orders for the way we are to live, and the benediction empowers us to move forward with God's blessing.

The postlude is meant to lift our spirits and send us out into the world with zeal for serving Christ is all we do.

God calls us to worship because it draws us closer to God and one another. Our worship also strengthens and empowers us to faithfully serve God in all we do.

Thanks be to God for the gift of worship. In the name of the God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit we offer ourselves through our worship and work. Alleluia! 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.

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

Sermon by Elder Monica Stevens

***Because You Are With Me***

Based on John 10:22-30 and Psalm 23

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### **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) if you are interested in helping.

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### **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.

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**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

- **Lemonade on the Lawn** following Sunday's service.
  - **Church Workday** - May 21 beginning at 8 am
  - **The next Presbytery of the Peaks Meeting** is Saturday, May 7 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.
  - VMNH Youth Climate Summit **May 7 at 2:00 PM**
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### **YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT**

**Saturday, May 7 at 2:00PM**



# JOIN TOGETHER TO PLAN A YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT!

**Serve your community**



Student volunteers needed to organize and help host the first annual Youth Climate Summit in Martinsville

**Youth Climate Summit**



Planning will culminate in a summit that combines informative sessions and workshops in a fun atmosphere for rising 9th-12th grade students

**Meet at VMNH on 5/7/22**



First interest meeting at the Virginia Museum of Natural History  
**21 Starling Ave, Martinsville, Saturday, May 7th, 2:00 PM**

**Remote Participation/ Other Questions**

To participate over Zoom, contact Mary Zell Galen at [maryzell.galen@vmnh.virginia.gov](mailto:maryzell.galen@vmnh.virginia.gov) or at 276-634-4150

Youth Climate Summit program is coordinated by Dr. John Ashburn, museum volunteer, of the Climate Advocacy Group

\*\*\*\*Volunteer hours credit given pending approval\*\*\*\*



# back2school

**Saturday, May 7 at 2:00PM**

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?

***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@gracenetnetworkmhc.org](mailto:tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetnetworkmhc.org)  
or call 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**

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## **Prayer Requests**

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

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:2766323431),  
[office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org).

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## **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).

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## **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](mailto: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](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](http://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

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Doug Talbot, Worship Technology

Coordinator, [worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto: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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