

November 11, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation
Elder Dr. Denny Casey
November 7, 2021

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1

As the calendar year winds down and we enter the season of thanksgiving, I've been thinking about the many things I am thankful for and the importance of expressing gratitude. This psalm came to mind.

We are living in a time when it seems far easier to criticize than praise, to complain than give thanks, and to count our losses rather than our blessings. Yet through Psalm and Scripture we are called to give thanks and praise to the Lord.

The apostle Paul declares, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). So, we are called to give thanks and not just when good things happen, but in all circumstances.

The Bible teaches us, God wants us to have a grateful heart, but how well have we learned that lesson? How often do we stop and find a way to express our gratitude?

When we acknowledge every good thing that happens in our life is the result of God's grace and mercy, we naturally become more thankful. God's grace is not something we can earn or deserve. It is God's gracious gift and in accepting that gift, we become more open to appreciate our blessings every day.

Gratitude changes us. There are many scientific studies about the power of gratitude. Gratitude is associated with greater happiness; improved overall health and emotional well-being; helping us deal with adversity, fear and anxiety; and building stronger interpersonal relationships. Gratitude can bring a greater sense of joy in our heart. With gratitude, we can become more aware of the goodness in our life. In the process, we tend to recognize that the source of that goodness lies at least partially outside ourselves. So, being grateful helps us connect to something larger than ourselves — whether to other people, nature, or a higher power.

Thanksgiving can be so much more than a once-a-year holiday - it can be a daily renewing and reviving spiritual practice...a lifestyle, a disciple's lifestyle.

So, what are you thankful for? Take the holidays and start each day with 2 to 3 minutes of just giving thanks and praise to God. Take time and be grateful, you'll be glad you did.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives. Thank you for your goodness and for your blessings. Thank you for bringing hope through even the toughest of times and for strengthening us for your purposes. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' name we pray, 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. In light of increasing infections due to the Delta variant and in order to follow state and local guidelines and CDC recommendations, **we strongly recommend that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth while anywhere inside the church and sanctuary.**

The church office will open for limited appointments. Please call to schedule. Please enter at the narthex for Sunday worship and during the week use the back door at the portico.



Please join us for the twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Dr. Denny Casey

"Two Small Coins"

Based upon Mark 12: 38-44 and Psalm 146



Stewardship Sunday, November 14

As we pledge our monetary gifts to cover our church's ongoing expenses, please consider...

The Core of Stewardship is Love

"Stewardship isn't an event or campaign. It's a spiritual practice."

"Of course, stewarding financial resources is part of stewardship. But to practice Christian stewardship and be moved by it is to consider how we shepherd our whole lives – through word and habit, and with God and each other – to be expressions of gospel love in the world."

"Like all spiritual practices, including prayer or regular worship attendance, stewardship isn't a one-time event or even seasonal. It's an ongoing commitment with endless opportunity for growth and increased attunement to God's call. What's more, the practice is valuable outside of financial goals. If we quadruple our church bank accounts but aren't transformed into a community of people who are kinder, gentler, more ready to welcome the stranger, more forgiving and more committed to justice, then we may have practiced fundraising, but we didn't find ourselves playing in the deepest wells of real stewardship where real change lives. The thermometer for measuring meaningful stewardship is less the meeting of an annual financial goal and instead the degree to which a church body looks more and more like beloved community."

Excerpt from 'The Presbyterian Outlook' (February 2019)

Community Breakfast, November 20



The Community Breakfast is November 20 and we need your help! Volunteers are needed to cook and prepare from 7-8:30 a.m. and to serve and clean up from **8:30-10:00 a.m.** The breakfast will remain in a drive-thru format until further notice.

Contact Brooke Cundiff if you are available to help (276-340-6124) or bchnfamily@gmail.com).



Earth Care

Did you know that you CAN recycle your pizza boxes?

[From the dominoes website:](#)

MARTINSVILLE, VA

IMPLICITLY ACCEPTS PIZZA BOXES

Recycling guidelines in your area suggest that corrugated pizza boxes are accepted. Please empty your corrugated pizza box and recycle it as you would any other corrugated box. Empty corrugated pizza box acceptability in your area is implied since corrugated boxes are accepted and there's no mention of pizza boxes being prohibited.

SUGGESTION: To help clear the confusion, please contact your local recycling program and suggest they update the guideline to say, "Empty, corrugated pizza boxes are accepted, even if they have food residue on them. Please empty your corrugated pizza box and recycle it as you would any other corrugated box."

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Vera Jane Khun, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S.

Ford), Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Judy Epperly (Nancy Baker), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Brenda Pendelton (A. Pinkard), Anne Peterson, Scott Stevens (M. Stevens), Bruce Thomas (M. Stevens), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), 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.

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 Lynn Pritchett at [276 252-6068](tel:276-252-6068).

Please remember Canned Soup



The 4th quarter food donation item is ****canned soup****
(please NO tomato**)**.

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:** steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org. 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

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

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

Our mailing address is:

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STAFF

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THE SESSION

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Rob King: Facilities

Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

TRUSTEES

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

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