

**November 18, 2021**



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

---

**Devotional Meditation**  
**Elder Monica Stevens**  
**November 17, 2021**

*Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I (Paul) encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all. God has given his grace to each one of us measured out by the gift that is given us by Christ...His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. Ephesians 4:1-7, 12(CEB)*

Have you ever heard the story of Stone Soup? Three travelers who had been walking a long way entered a town and hoped that they might be able to get something to eat and a place to rest. Unfortunately, whenever they asked any of the townspeople to help them, they were told that the crops had been poor that year and they had nothing to spare. Finally, one of the travelers said that in the face of the town's difficulties, they would teach the town to make Stone Soup so they wouldn't starve. What a miracle! Soup from stones! The travelers gathered up several large, round stones, washed them off and then asked for a fire to be built and a large kettle filled with water to be brought into the town square. When the water in the kettle was boiling, the stones were placed in the pot. One of the travelers sighed and said this soup was going to be good, but it would be so much better if it were seasoned with some salt and pepper. No sooner had they said it, than salt and pepper appeared from someone's pantry. The travelers did the same with carrots, and corn, potatoes, and a bit of meat. Each time people suddenly remembered that they did have a few things left in their larders and soon the vegetables and the meat appeared in the pot. Once the townspeople smelled the aroma of the simmering soup, they wanted to celebrate this miracle of soup from stones and they carried tables, benches, bowls, spoons, loaves of bread, butter, and cheese to the town square. What a night it was! Everyone ate until they were full and there was soup left over. The travelers spent the night comfortably in the homes of the townspeople, and the next day they continued on their journey with the blessings and good wishes of the grateful people.

In Ephesians 4, Paul was teaching Christians then and now how to live together as the church—how to grow into being the body of Christ. Followers of Christ should relate to each other in humility, gentleness, patience, and love so that we may be bound to each other in unity. We have one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, and one God who rules over, through, and in all. But even though we share unity of spirit, God through Christ has given each of us different gifts. He doesn't want us to all serve in the same way, but each of us has been given gifts to use to serve God and build up the body of Christ. Some people have gifts that are readily on display such as leading, teaching, preaching, and pastoral care, but EVERYONE has gifts of one kind or another. These gifts can include: making contact with someone who has a need, or just someone you haven't seen in a while to encourage that person and let them know you were thinking about them; helping with the Community Breakfast and/or cooking treats or meals for those who might need them; using your hands to create something that would brighten the spirits of someone; using your hands to do handy work or yard work at the church or for someone who has a need; sharing in the work of various church committees; helping with worship activities such as recording the Sunday service or helping to light the Advent Wreath, taking the time to sit with or pray with someone in their hour of need. The list of ways to use our gifts is as varied and uplifting as the number of gifts we have been given.

We have each been given gifts to help us meet the various needs within our congregation and community. But sometimes we act more like the villagers at the beginning of our Stone Soup story. We often tend not to acknowledge our gifts, to keep them hidden and not use them. When we hide or deny our gifts, everyone, including ourselves, is poorer for it. When we choose not to share our gifts we begin to think negatively, dwelling on what we believe we can't do or don't have, and we draw into ourselves and away from others. This is a way of living that is quite the opposite of what Paul had in mind for the church.

If we use our gifts and share our gifts, remarkable things start to happen. When one person reaches out, another person is encouraged to do the same, then another, and another. Instead of believing that we have to hoard what we have because resources are scarce, we find that by sharing everyone has more than enough. We discover that while no one person has all the gifts, when we work together, each one doing what they do best, we learn to meet whatever needs arise. In our story, when no one shared, all were hungry, but when each one shared the little they had, all were fed. So it is with life lived in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God.

Loving Father, you have blessed each one of us with gifts that will help to meet the needs of others. Fill our hearts with your love so that we may share our gifts with others and learn to live in the joy that comes from serving you by serving others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

[View this email in your browser](#) • [Forward to a friend](#)

---



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

Sermon by Elder Monica Stevens

**“Serving in the Name of the Servant King”**

Based upon Revelation 1:4b-8 and John 13: 1-17

---



**The church office will be closed** Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 for Thanksgiving.

---

***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.

---

## 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](mailto: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."

---

*Our Deepest Sympathy*

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Amy Mason and family on the passing of Amy's father, **Drewry Wayne Ingram**.

Drewry passed away on November 16. The full obituary can be found at: <https://www.norrisfuneral.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?obId=23110256&source=fb1&fbclid=IwAR2artVIE3BEx7WrgNEjWbkJohLLtMvNbgyw3pstEelh7E-SIC4bJzK4TKc>

---

## Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Drewry Wayne Ingram, 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](mailto: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:2762526068).

---

### *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](mailto: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](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](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

**Our mailing address is:**

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

**STAFF**

Sam Smith, Youth and Family Ministries Director, [sam@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.org)

Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist, 276-734-0212

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director,

[contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

**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

---

*Copyright © 2021 First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, VA, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)



