

November 23, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA



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Pastor's Corner

Dear First Presbyterian family,

I pray that you all have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving!

Paraphrasing the Epistle of James, "Faith without imagination is dead." The Spirit of our living Lord is on the loose and cannot be contained, but our imaginations can help us broaden and enrich our experience of the power, majesty, and mystery of God. "The Spirit blows wherever it pleases. You hear the sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going." (John 3:8) Prayerful imagining can help us follow the Spirit.

Our congregation was asked to list the things that are important to us and that make us joyful at First Presbyterian Church. The responses fell into three broad categories with a variety of descriptors for each category. The results are as listed below. Please include this list during your prayer and devotional life. Allow yourself to dream and imagine with God. God will light the path for us to follow.

Our Church Family

- Nurture, care, support, encouragement
- Connections, fellowship, friendships
- Feeling love and kindness
- Shared formative memories
- Shared meals

Worship and Music

Meaningful, reformed, presence of God
Choir, handbells, organ
Contemporary, traditional

Community Outreach and Service

Community breakfast
Elementary school
Weekday school

In January Purpose Labs, helping us discern our purpose as God's people in this place and time, will begin. This series of four workshops will be Zoom gatherings during the noon hour on alternate Mondays. Everyone is invited to attend the Purpose Labs by Zooming from home or work. Rev. Jen Brothers, who serves as Church Leadership Ministry Specialist for the Presbytery of the Peaks, will be our guide for all four Monday sessions. Using Adaptive Change concepts, she will help us discover our purpose as God's people on Patrick Henry Avenue. Our holy imaginings will encourage us as we undertake this Spirit-led process of discerning who God is calling us to be. Please mark your calendar as you plan to attend on all four dates below. If you are busy, plan to eat your lunch during these Zoom gatherings:

Monday, January 16th at noon
Monday, January 30th at noon
Monday, February 13th at noon
Monday, February 27th at noon

Also, please mark your calendar for 5:00 on Sunday, December 11th. It's Chili and a Movie night at First Presbyterian. I'll meet you by the lamppost where it is always winter and never Christmas. Can you guess the movie?

With Thanksgiving blessings,

Pastor Bea



Please join us for worship this First Sunday of Advent at 10:00 am

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Bea Miller**Based on Romans 13:11-14 and Psalm 122****Liturgist:** Billy Kirby**Usher/Greeters:** Billy and Sharon Kirby

From the Music Minister

Greetings and Happy Holidays from the Music Minister,

Church family, it is once again that time of year when the hustle and bustle of the holidays is at our doorstep. To keep our lives calm and reflective during this time I extend an invitation to you all to come and listen to my weekly organ/piano meditation titled – '*An Afternoon of Merry Making*' – featuring Christmas works from all over the world.

During the Advent season the concert series begins on **Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 12:00-12:30 pm and will run weekly on Wednesdays at the same time until Wednesday, December 21, 2022.** However, there WILL NOT BE a concert on **Wednesday, December 14, 2022** as I will be out of the country in Germany. Please be advised that the concert series WILL NOT BE recorded or livestreamed due to copyright infringement. If you wish to attend, you will need to be in-person.

The concert will start promptly at 12:00 and the doors will be open starting at 11:30. The concerts are meant to be a time of peaceful reflection. You are invited to listen, pray, and contemplate the meaning of Christmas through the music provided. My only request is that you hold your applause until the end of each concert.

I am looking forward to seeing you all during the concert series. It brings me the greatest pleasure to be able to spend the holidays with each one of you through music. If you happen to miss any concert do not worry as there are plenty of scheduled musical presentations throughout the Advent and Christmas season.

Also, I wanted to provide an update on organ maintenance. We are still waiting for parts to ship and schedules to align. The organ is scheduled for a Winter Season tuning and we are looking to have everything complete by the Christmas Season. Services are going well, and the organ is functioning for our scheduled services.

It is my hope that the music throughout the holiday season will bless you and add to your holiday enjoyment!

With Great Tidings of Joy,
Spencer

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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.



Session Meeting - Monday, November 28 at 7:00 pm.

Liturgist Schedule

November

27 Billy Kirby

December

4 Jack Kirby

11 Sharon Kirby

18 Joan Montgomery

24 Sam Smith

25 Sam Smith



As you may be aware, **Maggie Pilson** was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. She is having surgery on December 1, where her surgeon, Dr. Friedman, will attempt to remove as much of the tumor as possible.

Maggie and Martha have created a Caring Bridge page so everyone can follow Maggie's journey. The internet link is: caringbridge.org/maggiepilson. *"We deeply appreciate the love and support of our church family. We ask that everyone please keep Maggie and her medical care providers in your prayers. Maggie's strength is remarkable!"*

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sue Benfield, Georgette Bishop, Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Bud Buffkin, Tommy Cobb, Bobby Davis (M. Davis' son), Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Daniel Handy, Melanie Hardy, Marvin Hudson, Lindy Koger (Spencer's mother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Maggie Pilson, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, Paul Salmons (M&N Davis), **David Seamon**, Virginia Seamon, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.



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 4th quarter 2022 food donation item is Jelly (28-32 oz)

Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

Hygiene Items are always needed (optional)

- *Toilet Paper
- *Bath Soap
- *Dish Detergent

- *Feminine Products
 - *Toilet Paper
 - *Deodorant
 - *Deodorant
 - *Toothpaste
- *Laundry Detergent

**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 is published weekly on Thursdays. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Wednesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com. For time sensitive announcements, please sent to skirbycwj@gmail.com

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)

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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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