

October 14, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder Monica Stevens

October 13, 2021

Praying Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

Father, sometimes a refuge is exactly what I need. Trouble seems to surround me and my strength is gone. I feel overcome by sadness, grief, fear and uncertainty. Let me shelter in your love.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Creation reacts to the stresses in our environment as fires rage, earthquakes convulse, storms pummel, winds howl, and waters rise. Fear and helplessness seek to overwhelm me, but in the refuge of your holy presence I am comforted. You strengthen me and give me hope to do what I can to heal the earth and your people.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved. God will help it when the morning dawns.

Lord, just as water replenishes the earth, your life-giving presence flows through me, reviving my soul and my spirit. You fill me to the brim. You are with me when I rise and you surround me like a blanket when I sleep. You are always with me and you will never leave me.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Abba, so often it seems that the affairs of human beings are a dangerous, confused mess. It seems that people have wandered so far from your path that greed, ambition, selfishness, and power are more important than your values of love,

kindness, justice, mercy, and forgiveness. Teach me to remember that with one word you could cause all of our self-serving golden calves to melt into nothingness. Let me forsake everything that does not honor you so that I may cling to your steadfast love and find my refuge in you.

Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has wrought on the earth. He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

Lord, so often life seems fragile and fleeting. Remind me that in all things you are the source of life now and eternally. There is nothing and no one that can separate us from your love. When things in my life fall apart and crumble, you replace those things with your goodness, righteousness, and mercy. You protect, shield, and defend me as I struggle to live the life you desire for me.

"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

Father, teach me to trust all of my doubts, fears, grief, and anxieties to your care. You are the one true God, Creator of everything that exists. No one and nothing is like you, yet you have created me to be your beloved child not due to any merit of my own, but simply because you love me. This stops me in my tracks. There is nothing I can do but kneel in your presence and let your love wash over me.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Lord, you are as you ever have been and ever will be. Draw me close to you, surround me with your love, and let me find my refuge in you. 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. 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-first Sunday after Pentecost either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Monica Stevens

Embracing the "E" Word

Based upon John 4:1-41 and Isaiah 6:1-9a



Cynthia Dobrinski



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of our dear friend and beloved organist/music director, Cynthia Dobrinski. Cynthia went on to be with her

Lord and Savior Tuesday, October 12, 2021 in Martinsville, VA.

Cynthia has been with us for 20 years and has given us beautiful music on the organ and through her handbell compositions.

Please keep her family in your prayers. Arrangements are unknown at this time.



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



- **A drive-thru Trunk-Or-Treat is being considered** to take place on **Sunday October 31** (tentatively 2-4:00 p.m). In order for this to be feasible, we need a minimum of 12 trunks. If you are interested in participating in this, please contact Brooke Cundiff or Sam Smith no later than October 18.
- Remembering **Doc Altizer** picnic and hike, Saturday, October 16.
- **The Community Breakfast is October 16** 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).
- **Pumpkins are here for the annual Grace Network Pumpkin Patch.** Grace relies on the community to man the patch and it's a great way for our church to serve. Volunteers are needed for **October 16 from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m.** Contact Brooke Cundiff if you are available to help (276-340-6124 or bchnfamily@gmail.com).



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

Pumpkins Are Here!



Pumpkins are here for the annual Grace Network Pumpkin Patch. Grace relies on the community to man the patch and it's a great way for our church to serve. Volunteers are needed for **October 16 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m.**

If you are able to help with either of these shifts, please Contact Brooke Cundiff (276-340-6124 or bchnfamily@gmail.com).

This is a great opportunity for any student looking for volunteer hours!!!

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS "GET TOGETHER"
REMEMBERING
DOC ALTIZER**



Saturday, October 16, 2021

12:00 PM

The Family and Friends of Doc Altizer invite his church family to meet at the **Rocky Knob** Picnic Area on the **Blue Ridge Parkway on October 16th**. The address is **1670 Blue Ridge Parkway, Floyd, Virginia 24091** and is located near **Mile Post 169**. Turn at the Information Center and drive down into the picnic area until you see the family or members of the church!

Due to COVID, we recommend that you bring your own lunch. Bring a chair and plan a relaxing afternoon, visiting with Sarah, Sallie, Becca, and their families.

After lunch, those wishing to walk off their meals, are welcome to join a group hike on the Black Ridge Trail. This trail has a difficulty rating as "moderate". It is a 3 mile loop trail, which joins the Rock Castle Gorge Trail for a small portion of the hike. Everyone knows that Doc dearly loved hiking the Gorge Trail!

Others may choose to relax at the picnic area with Sarah, enjoying the beauty of God's creation in this wonderful setting.

Should you have any questions, **feel free to call or text Johnny Pinkard @ (276) 952-5826**.

Rain Date: Next Spring! :>)

From the Transition Team

When Pastor Mark retired on August 31, our church began the process of finding a new pastor. A Transition Team, made up of Monica Stevens, Denny Casey, and Joan Montgomery was appointed by the Session's Administration Committee. In an effort to keep the congregation informed we want to tell you the work that has been done and the work to be done.

- The Transition Team met with Carl Utley, our General Presbyter, on 9/16/21 for training.
- Responsibilities of the Transition Team are:
 1. Identify and recommend to Session a candidate for Interim Pastor;
 2. Identify Transitional Priorities for Interim start up;
 3. Consult staff and elders about needs from Interim Pastor;

4. Complete the Presbytery's Ministry Information Form (MIF) and seek appropriate approvals. The MIF describes our church in location, membership, mission statement, narrative questions, and top 10 Leadership Competencies, salary range, and basically what we are looking for in an Interim Pastor;
 5. Work with the Interim during transition as requested by Interim; and
 6. Communicate to congregation about transitional process.
- We were charged with interviewing staff and session members for what they wanted professionally and personally in an Interim Pastor. That has been completed.
 - The Transition team met on 9/28/21 to consolidate the interview responses and to begin completing the MIF.
 - The goal is to present the MIF to Session at the October meeting for approval.
 - Upon approval by the Session, the Committee on Ministry, and the Presbytery, the MIF will be submitted to the Presbytery.
 - Candidates will be identified based on matching our needs with candidate applications and the Transition Team can then begin interviewing.
 - The goal is to find an Interim by the end of 2021.

The Transition Team welcomes input from the congregation by contacting Monica at mlkstev@hotmail.com, Denny Casey at d.a.casey@comcast.net, or Joan Montgomery at joanmontgo@gmail.com. We also ask for your prayers during this process.



Earth Care

Earth Care congregations are doing some very interesting things. Would you like to know who is "Blessing the Butterflies," or who is "Waiting for Angels"? Here is a link to pcusa.org that will lead you to discovery:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/category/church-earth-care-stories/>.

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Cynthia Dobrkiski, Family of Gene Stanley, 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, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Reed Stone Moore, Brenda Pendelton (A. Pinkard), Anne Peterson, Scott Stevens (M. Stevens), Bruce Thomas (M. Stevens), 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: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*

**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:

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

Sam Smith, Youth and Family Ministries Director, sam@peakspresbytery.org

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

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director,

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

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