

October 15, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

October 14, 2020

"The Lord said to Moses. "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction." Exodus 24:12

Many have heard this story in Scripture and many have heard it differently. If the hearer focuses on a call to Moses from God to meet me on the mountain to pick up a package to immediately deliver somewhere else, then Moses may have missed the call altogether. Rarely if ever does God issue a call without spending some time in the presence of God and meditating on what the message truly means before running off to deliver it. This isn't some kind of Pony Express handoff, it's a personal message for one!

The Scripture above says, "Come up to the mountain and stay here". Another translation says "be here" or "exist here". Is God calling Moses to merely climb the mountain or something much bigger? I think God is saying to Moses slow down and live in the moment and don't miss what is going on all around you. You are in the presence of God who probably has something too important to miss. Just be here.

Decades ago, when computers were just coming into fashion, the general population was told that the biggest benefit of the computer was to give us more free time to spend relaxing. We all know the reality was to do more at a faster pace. And that extra time translated into doing more work with greater expectations. So, if we all are adding to our stress levels and God has something to say to us, we will most likely miss the message.

So, what would our lives look like to be fully present? What would it be like to see God all around us? Would it change our perception of what's important? Would it change our interactions with others? Today let our prayer be to wake me up Lord and let me see what you are doing in my life and in the world right at this moment.

Live into God's grace wide awake,

Pastor Mark

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Church is Open!!!

If you plan to attend, please be sure and familiarize yourself with our re-opening guidelines which have been mailed out to everyone. There will be no in-person offerings for children or youth at this time and we will be continuing **LIVE** streaming our church services, at **10:00 am** on Sundays on our church Facebook page.

sermon by Pastor Mark Hinchcliff

Knowing God's Heart

Based upon Exodus 33:12-23 and 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Help Needed for Community Breakfast This Saturday!



Our free community breakfast is this **SATURDAY, October 17**, in a to-go drive-thru format.

- Volunteers are needed beginning at 7 am to cook & prepare the food; volunteers are also needed to pack & hand out the meals.

- Breakfast starts at 8 AM - Brook will provide further instruction on Saturday.
- Volunteers will only be in the kitchen coming through the kitchen's back door and all food and people entering and leaving from there.

If you are available to help with one or both tasks, please contact **Brooke Cundiff** ([276 340-6124](tel:2763406124)).

We are excited at FPC to reopen the sanctuary for worship!

Please park in the lot near this entrance and maintain a parking space between each car. The elevator will not be used unless there is an emergency. Only the bathrooms across from the office will be open.

Guidelines for Reopening Our Worship Facility

(FPC COVID-19 Response Team approved 6/9; session approved 7/6/20)

Plan to arrive early - by 9:45 for screening by an usher/screener.

Below are the guidelines that we will follow as we begin our in-person services. Please read over them so you will know what to expect the first time you attend.

Everyone will enter and exit through the narthex doors (main entrance only) where they will be screened before entering the sanctuary.

1. Any person not feeling well, sick or has been exposed to the COVID 19 virus within the past 14 days should not come inside the church.
2. A thorough cleaning with CDC approved disinfectant of frequently contacted surfaces will be conducted prior to and following each worship service.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance/exit and must be used upon entering and exiting the building.
4. Congregants are to use the main front doors of the sanctuary to enter and exit through the narthex. All other doors will be locked. Upon entering the sanctuary, congregants should move to the designated pews filling in the pews at the front (nearest the chancel area) of the sanctuary first. After the service has concluded, congregants should exit from the rear first.
5. Services in the sanctuary require everyone to wear a face covering (over your nose and mouth) at all times and be screened with a digital, infrared thermometer before

entering the building. Bring your own mask. A limited number of disposable masks will be available.

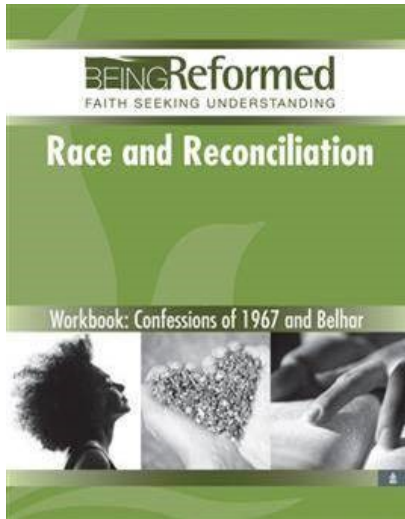
6. The elevator will not be available. Avoid using the bathroom. However, the bathroom across from the church office will be available in emergencies. Services will be shorter.
7. Disposable gloves are available for congregants upon request and for those counting money or handling bulletins. Washing hands (for at least 20 seconds) is recommended after touching anything.
8. Social distancing guidelines (Executive Order 61) require a minimum of 6 feet between individuals at all times, with the exception of family members. Seating will be marked (on the pews) to maintain physical distancing.
9. No item, (collection, plate, communion elements, etc.) are to be passed between attendees. Offerings may be placed in one of the marked containers immediately outside sanctuary doors in narthex. Offerings are encouraged to be made by electronic means - online and through automatic bank transfer.
10. Congregants are asked to follow along or read softly as the responses, prayers, and statements are led by the worship leaders.
11. Hymnals and bibles have been removed; however, congregants may bring their own personal or electronic bible.
12. Congregants are to bring an electronic file or hard copy of the bulletin with them to the service. Hard copies of the bulletin must be removed upon exiting.
13. While the sanctuary congregation may enjoy live musical accompaniment, those viewing from home are encouraged to sing along.
14. Greet each other with a nod or wave instead of handshakes, or hugs.
15. Live and recorded services will continue to be available via Facebook and by DVD.
16. The nursery will not be available. Children will not come forward for children's worship until further notice. Children should remain with parents at all times.



Help Needed at Pumpkin Patch

*We will need help to man the patch on the First Presbyterian Church Day which is **October 17th** from 9-5. You can work a 2-hour interval. Please contact Tracy at 409-330-0847 or tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetnetworkmhc.org if you are interested in helping out at the most cheerful place of the fall! :)*

Happy Pumpkins!



Adult Sunday School

This is the workbook we are going to be using for our next adult Sunday school course, by Zoom, beginning October 4 at our **new meeting time, 8:30 AM.**

The PCUSA bookstore offers this description of ***Race and Reconciliation***:

“Claim the ministry of reconciliation in a world and a church deeply divided by race, nation, gender, economic status, and religion.”

From the Confession of 1967 and the Confession of Belhar as confessional standards for the Church, former stated clerk of the PC(USA) Cliff Kirkpatrick reflects on the themes of reconciliation, unity, and justice in a hurting world.

Sessions are:

- A Providential Coincidence
- A Confession of 1967
- A Call for Reconciliation in Society
- The Confession of Belhar
- Unity, Reconciliation, and Justice
- Two Sides of the Same Coin

Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding is a series of biblically based studies that provide adults with a foundational understanding of the Reformed faith. Each six-session study—written by well-known and respected scholars—features Scripture, in-depth commentary, and questions for reflection.”

Email d.a.casey@comcast.net or call Denny Casey (276) 224-3906 to sign up or to get your copy. Make a check for \$13 payable to “First Presbyterian Church” with “Adult Sunday School book” on the memo line.

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%20Peaks%20Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf)

Prayer Requests



These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:



PRAYER CONCERNS

Doc Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra Bryson Cox, Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Daniel Handy, Helen Hawkes, Anne Holland (sister of Pearl Minter), Mervyn King, Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gavin Russell, Gene Stanley, Charlotte Walker (JoAnne Sanders' mother), 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.



"Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do to you." Wendell Berry

Please remember

Peanut Butter

Please stay safe, stay healthy

The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 4th quarter is **18 oz. peanut butter**. 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!

OCTOBER Toilet Paper, Feminine Products, Deodorant

NOVEMBER Bath Soap, Toilet Paper, Toothpaste

DECEMBER Dish Detergent, Deodorant, 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*

Blessings, Tracy

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/

Steeple Views is published. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

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THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2020

Denny Casey: Christian Education

Ron Rebman: Administration

Kym Tatum: Fellowship

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Stewardship

Rob King

Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Communications

Betty Hudson: Congregational Care

TRUSTEES

2020: Milton Davis, Duke Ferrell

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

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