

October 21, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder Dr. Denny Casey

Week of October 17, 2021

“Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn— shout for joy before the Lord, the King.”

- Psalm 98: 1a, 4-6

Lately, I’ve been thinking about music and the vital role music plays in our spiritual life. I love the different expressions music affords us in worship. One of the best things about it, everyone can participate in different ways – instrumentally, as a soloist, in the choir, and when the entire congregation sings together. The pandemic, of course, has had an impact on our ability to fully participate, but the Lord surely hears what’s in our heart if not the melody from our lips.

I like this psalm because it directs us, in a simple yet profound way, to the purpose of music in worship - to praise and worship the Lord. From the text, the psalmist calls us: to be inspired to create new music - something fresh and vibrant to exalt the great works of God; to share our joy and jubilation in exhortations to the Lord; to employ instruments and voices to make different musical expressions to the Lord; and, that all the earth can worship God with music.

The PCUSA *Directory for Worship* describes music as an expression of prayer:

Song unites the faithful in common prayer wherever they gather for worship whether in church, home, or other special place. The covenant people have always used the gift of song to offer prayer ... Congregations are encouraged to use diverse musical forms for prayer as well as those which arise out of the musical life of their own cultures” (W-2.1003). In worship music is not to be for entertainment or artistic display ... Music as prayer is to be a worthy

offering to God on behalf of the people" (W-2.1004).

So, our tradition calls us in our musical offerings, to direct attention to God, in praise and thanksgiving. When we sing, our voices unite in community prayer and praise to God – not for our own entertainment and not to draw attention to ourselves, but rather focused on worshipping God. Singing can take place whether we are in church or not, wherever we may be gathered. We are encouraged to use creativity and diversity in our offerings, incorporating cultural expressions, empowering all of God's people.

As followers of Jesus, music is a powerful means of nurturing each other along our journey of faith together. Paul urged the Colossians, "... with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God (Col 3:16). Singing together in worship gives us a chance to express the message of His love in our heart. It is a powerful ministry of teaching and inspiration that we share together. Whether our heart calls out, "Create in me a pure heart, O God" (Ps. 51:10), or joyfully exclaims, "And He will reign forever and ever" (Rev. 11:15), the power of music that comes from exalting God lifts our spirits and grants us grace.

Let us sing to the Lord today a new song!

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-second Sunday after Pentecost either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Dr. Denny Casey

Trusting Enough to Let Go

Based upon Mark 10:17-31 and Job 23:1-9; 16-17



Reed Stone Moore

April 16, 1937 - October 19, 2021



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Reed Moore on his passing October 19, 2021. Reed was a lifelong member of FPC and he will be dearly missed.

A visitation will take place at the family home at 1208 Sam Lions Trail today, October 21 from 5 - 7 pm. Funeral services will be held on Friday, October 22 at 11:00 am at FPC with Dr. Dwight Christenbury officiating. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery.

The full obituary can be found
at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/martinsville-va/reed-moore-10407407>



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

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/>.



In Honor of Laura Buffkin

Joseph, Susan & Sam Smith

In Honor of Gene Stanley

Joseph, Susan & Sam Smith

The Hensley Family: Fran, Bill, Brant Hensley; Chery, Jason, Jackson and Miles Carlyon

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Reed Stone Moore, Family of Cynthia Dobrkiski, 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, 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: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*

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)

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

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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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