

October 29, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

October 28, 2020

"Dear Children, let us not love with word or tongue, but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

We've all heard the expression "actions speak louder than words", I'm sure. Knowing God's message for you and not acting on that command is limiting what God can do through you and the effect that message can have on others. I heard this story that truly spoke to that point to me.

Shortly after World War II came to a close, Europeans began picking up the pieces and attempting to rebuild their lives. Much of their homelands were in ruins. A sad and common sight was starving orphaned children everywhere in the streets.

Early one morning, an American soldier was making his way back to his barracks in London when he noticed a young boy staring into the window of a bakery as fresh doughnuts were being placed in the window to cool. The soldier turned the corner, stopped, and got out of his jeep. By this time, the little guy's face was firmly pressed against the window. As the soldier came near, he heard the boy sigh and begin to walk away.

The soldier's heart went out to the little boy when he stopped him and asked, "Son, would you like some of those?" The boy replied, "I sure would!" The soldier went inside, bought a dozen doughnuts, put them in a bag, and walked back to where the boy was standing. "Here you go, young man."

As he turned to walk away, he felt a tug at his jacket. He turned around and the child asked quietly, "Mister, are you, God?"

Well certainly none of us are ever truly God but we can never be more like God than when we lovingly give to others in need. The world, much like the little boy in the story, will recognize God's Spirit in you when you show His loving care through you in your actions. Today let your actions speak louder than your words.

Blessed be your days,

Pastor Mark

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Congregational Meeting, Sunday, November 8, 2020

for the purpose of discussion of the reduction of the number of elders from 9 to 7. The meeting will take place **via Zoom at 11:30 AM** on November 8.

An invitation to participate will be sent out next week.



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

A Reversal of Thought

Minute for Mission

Sharon Kirby

As most of you know, I am the Steeple Views editor. I volunteered to take over as editor when Gael Chaney decided to step down. I was coming off the session but still wanted to serve the church in some capacity and this was a good fit with my hectic schedule.

I've served nearly two years now as the steeple views editor- and I'd like to thank you all for being patient with me as I try to fill the very big shoes Gael left behind.

One of my favorite missions is our community breakfast, which happens on the third Saturday of every month. It really is a true joy to work with members of this congregation in the Marge Dunn kitchen. Let me tell you, we have a great time together! We catch up on what is going on with each other and our families, we laugh ALOT and there's a decent amount of good-natured teasing, especially if Nancy Davis is working.

While the breakfast means a lot to me, it means so much more to so many more.

- It's a hot, homecooked meal in a beautiful and peaceful place.
- It's a time to give thanks and count our blessings
- it's an opportunity for fellowship with our neighbors and friends.

Without generous giving from the members of this congregation, this special mission would not be possible. We are all blessed in some way and are charged with sharing our gifts with those who may not be as blessed. Now more than ever before, we are serving a community in need. Please continue to give generously and submit your pledge cards so that we can continue this treasured mission. Thank you!

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.

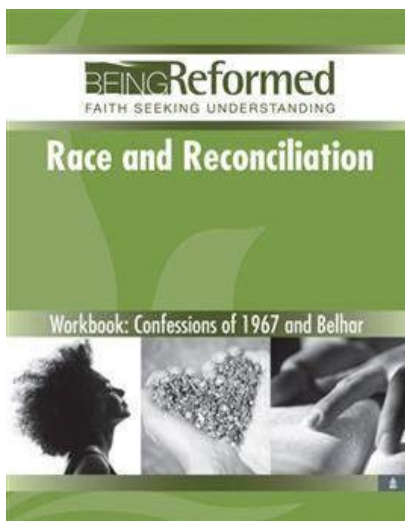
Everyone will enter and exit through the narthex doors (main entrance only) where they will be screened before entering the sanctuary.

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.

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)

Happy Birthday!

- 2** Colton Sanders
- 3** Bill Hensley, Elizabeth Harris
- 5** Neil Tatum
- 6** Brooke Cundiff
- 7** Christy Kropp
- 8** Donna Lawhon
- 15** Steven Minter
- 18** Donna King
- 21** Henry Grady III Moore
- 23** Sue Benfield
- 24** Judy Ware
- 25** Jean Hill
- 27** Joe DeVault, Leanna Blevins



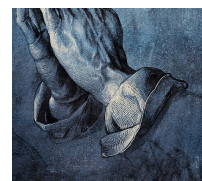
Prayer Requests

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), Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Daniel Handy, Helen Hawkes, Anne Holland (sister of Pearl Minter), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, 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.

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

steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Church Office Phone: 276-632-3431

Our mailing address is:

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff, Pastor, pastor@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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

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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