

September 10, 2026



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner
Pastor Bea Miller

Dear First Presbyterian family,

On September 13th our Session will begin their overview of key concepts in the book *The Strategically Small Church*, by Brandon J. O'Brien. We have a few copies available if you'd like to preview or read along. The Session will be presenting these key concepts during the Time with Young Disciples for 8 weeks, beginning September 13th.

From reviews of *The Strategically Small Church*:

The smaller church is not a problem to be solved but a strategic advantage that can be leveraged for effective ministry. With insightful cultural analysis, compelling storytelling, and perceptive theological reflection, O'Brien's book gives us new eyes for what God can do uniquely in the small church. With every page turned, the small church becomes less a burden to bear and more a compelling way of life.

This book is a celebration of the strategic, missional potential of small churches, which are often underreported and underappreciated in our bigger-is-better society. O'Brien's winsome and informed reimagining of church success provides a hopeful path forward. Small churches aren't a mistake or relics of a bygone age. They are uniquely equipped participants in God's mission.

Please bring your whole heart to this important discussion.

Peace,

Pastor Bea



Please join us for worship this sixteenth day after Pentecost at 10 AM

Sermon by Pastor Bea

based upon Matthew 18:21-35 and Psalm 103:1-13

Liturgist: Duke Ferrell

Ushers/Greeters: Johnny and Ashby Pinkard

2nd Cup: Janet Fentrress, Judy King

Liturgist Schedule

September

20 Liz Ferrell

27 Billy Kirby

October

4 Sharon Kirby

11 Ione Linker

18 Mary Linker

25 Pearl Minter

November

1 Joan Montgomery

8 Nancy Moore

15 Lynn Pritchett

22 Martha Rollins

29 Ron Rebman

December

6 Randy Rollins
13 Taylor Shank
20 Ashby Pinkard
24 TBD
27 Gale Buck

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:30 AM - 4 PM

Friday - 9:30 AM - 2 PM

If you need to conduct office business outside these hours, please call to make an appointment.

BEWARE: Two members of our congregation recently received **scam** emails that purported to be sent by Pastor Bea asking for help with the purchase of gift cards. PLEASE remember, SHE WILL NEVER ASK you to purchase anything on her behalf with the promise to pay you back. If you have questions about any email communications from her, please call or text her or Rita!

Be Aware!

**Protect yourself
from scammers!**

Watch for emails, texts or calls that might be fraudulent and do not trust communications (even if they sound legitimate) that ask for personal information, money or gift cards.

You will NEVER get an email from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& UPCOMING EVENTS



Community Breakfast, Saturday, September 19. Please Join us! We still need some servers and someone on the fruit & to-go station. Please reach out to **Mary Linker** ([\(919\) 548-2452](tel:9195482452)) if you are able to help.

Greater Love Tour: Saturday, **September 19 at 4PM**, First United Methodist Church

Lemonade on the Lawn and Welcome new members, **Sunday, September 20**



Our **Fall Church Partnership** picnic will be on Sunday October 11th, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, at Jack Dalton Park. Join us for food, fellowship, fun and games, and live music! Members of FPC, Grace PC, and Collinsville PC are all invited! More details to come in the weeks ahead. Questions, text **Ione** ([\(310\) 951-5138](tel:3109515138)) or **Taylor** ([\(276\) 732-9525](tel:2767329525)).

Call for Volunteers! The FPC Mission Committee is participating with Grace PC and other local churches to put on a Community Thanksgiving Meal. We need a lot of volunteers to sign-up and come to an organizing meeting on Sept. 21 at 6pm at Grace PC. The meal event will be on Wed. Nov 25, 1-4 pm. Go to <https://forms.gle/ThBsPawUTfbcAZ5X7> to complete the volunteer form. Questions, text **Ione** ([\(310\) 951-5138](tel:3109515138))

STEWARDSHIP: A Practical Guide for Givers

Our 2027 stewardship campaign kicks off on September 13 and concludes on Commitment Sunday November 15. You may make your pledge, in gratitude for God's blessings, any time.

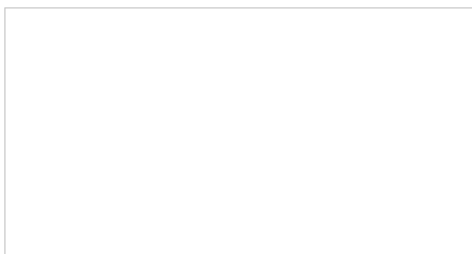
This year, the Stewardship Committee and the Administration Committee set a goal of \$300,000. This will go a long way toward our 2026 budget. Last year's budget was \$545,942.

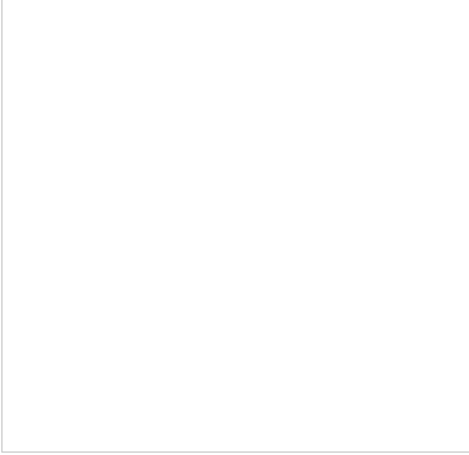
As you make your pledge, please consider past giving patterns of our congregation:

- *We are an older congregation. Of pledges made for 2026, 32% were from ages 65-74 and 61% were from 75 or older. Only 6% were younger.*
- *Younger givers usually make contributions from regular income, such as salaries, fees and commissions. A 10% tithe or other percentage of income makes sense for them. They also have major expenses for childcare, education, mortgage payments, etc.*
- *Older givers pay donations from pensions and social security, savings and IRA accounts, investments and sales of assets, like houses. Living expenses are less and tax considerations become important.*
- *If you are in the older age group, think about the following:*
 - o *Donate appreciated stock and securities. Let the church benefit from the gain (the stock market has been strong this year) and save taxes.*
 - o *Use your traditional IRA account for gifts. For those over 70 1/2, this is a tax-free gift and reduces your required minimum distribution (RMD).*
 - o *If you sold some assets like land or a home that you have owned for a long time, you probably have a big capital gain. Use some of that bonanza as a one-time gift to charity—the church—and take a tax deduction.*

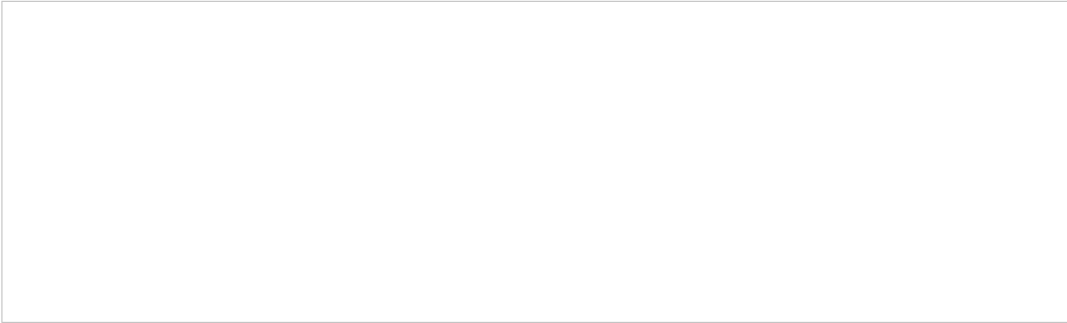
How does your pledge contribute to our \$300,000 goal?

- *The Tree of Life symbolizes this year's stewardship campaign.. As your pledges are received, the Tree of Life shows progress. So send in your pledge early—before Commitment Sunday, so we can all see the result.*



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- Last year, we received 45 pledges for \$231,350, an average pledge of \$5,141 (\$428 per month). To reach our goal of \$300,000, we need more pledging units, a higher average pledge or both.
 - o With the same number of pledging units, the average pledge is \$6,667 (\$555 per month}
 - o If we have 50 pledging units (five more), the average pledge is \$6,000 (\$500 per month)

Here is how 2026 pledges break down by size of gift. Is this the year you STEP UP to the next level?



From the Weekday School

Hello!

It's been a few months but school is back in session! We have had a good first two days!

We did hire a new 4 year old teacher, Amy Clemmons. She is wonderful and brings so much knowledge to our preschool.

We look forward to keeping you updated on our school events.

From the Music Department
Harmonic Expressions from Whitney

The Bible teaches how to properly sing and make music.

"I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding" (1 Corinthians 14: 15b New International Version)

"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5: 19b NIV)

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly...singing to God with gratitude in your hearts" (Colossians 3: 16a and part of b NIV)

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord and extoll him with music and song" (Psalm 95: 1-2 NIV)

God created us and our voices with intention. He knew what He was doing. He tells us when we worship we are to sing and make music as an offering from our hearts and spirit in praise, joy, gratitude, understanding and with intention.

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name" (Hebrews 13: 15 NIV)





September Birthdays

- 1** Monty Montgomery, Virginia R. King
 - 4** Nancy Davis
 - 8** Suzan Kirby
 - 10** Autumn Sanders
 - 11** Victoria Esarey
 - 15** Gwendolyn Seamon
 - 16** Judy King
 - 20** Jean Williams
 - 25** Carolyn Baptist, Gavin Russell
-



Congregational Care and Fellowship

If you are in need of a [**prayer shawl**](#), or know someone that could use one, please pick one up from the narthex and be sure to sign it out. If you have any questions, please reach out to **Susan Pilson**.

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 **Susan** at [276 340-7288](tel:2763407288).

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Laura Stevens, Barbara Adams (Patsy Stanley), Ernest Bremner, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Bob Davis, Nancy Davis, Marge Dunn, Sandra Ford, Michelle Handy (Pearl Minter's daughter), Randy Lawson (P. Stanley), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Marion Miller, Maggie Pilson, Ann Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries, and families and areas devastated by severe weather.



Grace Network Donations

[3rd Quarter Food Donation Item is Juice 40-64 Oz.](#)



4th Quarter Food Donation Item is Pancake Mix



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

ALSO in need of plastic grocery bags and empty egg cartons (dozen size). These can be deposited in the bins inside the Narthex

Hygiene Items are always needed (optional)

- *Toilet Paper
- *Bath Soap
- *Dish Detergent
- *Feminine Products
- *Deodorant
- *Toothpaste
- *Laundry Detergent

**Items may be brought to the church or dropped off at Grace Network, Monday - Friday, 9-2 PM*



Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views is published weekly on Thursdays, unless the Church office is closed. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Wednesday afternoon by 3 PM

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO: fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com**. For time sensitive announcements, please send to skirbycwj@gmail.com **and text** [276 806-9709](tel:2768069709)

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/peaks-postings/>

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:2766323431)

Our mailing address is:

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THE SESSION

Clerk: Liz Ferrell

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2026

Billy Kirby: Administration

Susan Pilson: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Anne Madonia: Think Tank

Class of 2027

Nancy Moore: Stewardship

Johnny Pinkard: Facilities

Judy King: Worship

Class of 2028

Ione Linker/Taylor Shank: Mission/Outreach

Nancy Davis: Christian Education

TRUSTEES

William Kirby, Gale Legg, Sharon Kirby, Dru Rothrock, Duke Ferrell, Joe Williams

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