

September 17, 2026



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner
Pastor Bea Miller

Dear First Presbyterian family,

Sunday, we kicked-off our study of "The Strategically Small Church." I trust that everyone is taking time to read Chapter 1. Please bring your questions to church on Sunday for our continued discussion. You may also email your questions to: rev.millerb@gmail.com.

Also on Sunday, we will celebrate the new members who have joined with us this year and the frequent visitors who have become part of the fabric of who we are. Please plan to come and join us for a celebratory Lemonade on the Lawn.

I hope you've received your stewardship packet in the mail. If not, please contact the church office. Please take time to read the flyer "Growing our Tree of Life" as we prepare to watch the leaves grow on our Tree of Life chart at church. The Session and Stewardship Committee have offered us a challenge budget. I ask that you prayerfully consider growing your pledge this year.

Peace,

Pastor Bea





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

Sermon by Pastor Bea

based upon Matthew 20:1-16 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Liturgist: Liz Ferrell

Ushers/Greeters: Ron Rebman, Judy King

NO 2nd Cup - There will be Lemonade on the Lawn following the service.

Liturgist Schedule

September

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

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

New members and regular attendees will be recognized during our worship service **this Sunday**. Following the service join us for Lemonade on the Lawn to celebrate our new friends.

A Celebration of Life service for Laura Stevens will be held on Saturday, September 26th at 11:00 AM. A reception for the family will follow the service downstairs in the fellowship hall.

Session Meeting - Monday, September 28th at 4 PM.



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?

- 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)

Is this the year you STEP UP to the next level?

From the Music Department
Harmonic Expressions from Whitney

There's nothing wrong with being a beginner. No one starts at the top.
-Motivational Quote

*You know what Music is? God's little reminder that there's something else besides us
In the universe; harmonic connection between all living beings, everywhere, even the
stars.*

Robin Williams
August Rush 2007

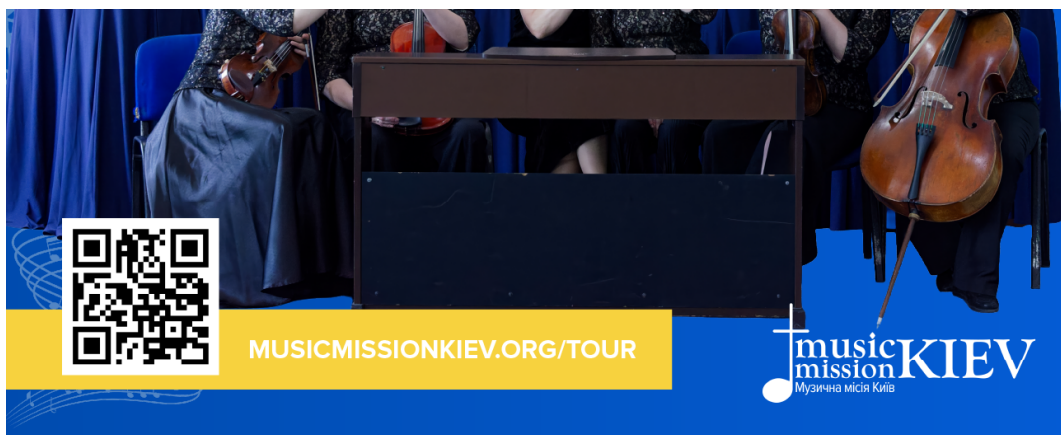
KYIV SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORUS PRESENTS

Greater
LOVE
TOUR

WITH CONDUCTOR VIKTORIIA KONCHAKOVSKA

SEPTEMBER 19 AT 4 P.M.
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
146 E Main Street | Martinsville, VA

The poster features a blue background with a white musical staff and notes in the upper right corner. At the bottom, a group of women, presumably the chorus, are smiling and making heart shapes with their hands. The text is centered and uses a mix of white and yellow fonts.



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



Christman (P. 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, Rebecca Smith (P. Stanley), 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

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/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:276-632-3431)

Our mailing address is:

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STAFF

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worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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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