

September 8, 2022



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Pastor's Reflections

Dear First Presbyterian family,

The past two years have changed our habits and lives. And now COVID has touched our life together too. Churches everywhere are seeing changes in attendance patterns and volunteerism. All churches are faced with change and challenges. But we are *called* to a time of *transitional ministry*. We have a commission to discover anew who we are and how God is Calling us to live into our future as First Presbyterian Martinsville.

We are standing on the threshold, waiting for God to reveal our next step forward. The foundation of our time of discernment, leading to our transitional step across the threshold, is prayer. We hear, see, and know God in prayer. As I mentioned Sunday, the Psalter was Jesus' own prayer book, and it is ours too. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Christian theologian in Nazi Germany who is attributed with the Barmen Declaration that is part of our Book of Confessions, suggests that the Psalms teach us to pray, and that when we encounter psalms that are difficult for us, we come to realize that someone else is praying, not us. The idea, is that in those times when prayer seems beyond our reach, the community – the great cloud of witnesses - is praying for us. When we pray the Psalms, we join our voices with the saints of every time and place in a grand chorus to God.

About a year ago, the Benedictine Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery introduced me to the book, [Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness](#) by Nan C. Merrill. (I am part of a Lilly Grant program that gathers 16 female pastors at the Monastery every six months for enrichment, respite, and learning.) I have been using this book in my daily devotional life. It has been a blessing to engage the Psalms in new ways. Sometimes, when we have read things over and over, the words become familiar and rote. The language in [Psalms for Praying](#) has opened me anew to the wonders of God in the Psalter. By the grace of God, Scripture (and maybe especially the Psalms) can reflect our heart to God while helping us embrace the Heart of God.

If you have not prayed the Psalms, I invite you to try. Find a translation that is familiar and comforting or one that opens the Psalter anew. As you read, your reading is a prayer. Linger on images or words that catch your attention, hear God asking you to sit and breathe and be with God.

I know that most of you have a wonderful prayer life. Thanks be to God. It is in prayer that we sit with God on the threshold of transition, waiting for God's direction. Our individual prayer, and our worshipful corporate prayer form the foundation for the discernment ahead of us. Thank you for all your prayers for our life and journey together as First Presbyterian Martinsville.

Peace be with you,

Bea

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## ***The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!***

**The safety of our congregation and community** are our highest priority. COVID-19 transmission rates are medium in our area so you may wear a mask based on your personal preference, however, those who are not vaccinated should wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth while anywhere inside the church and sanctuary. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19, should remain at home.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

**Friday 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

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Please join us for worship this Fourteenth Sunday after **Pentecost** at 10:00 AM

**Sermon by Rev. Dr. Bea Miller**

based on Psalm 51; Exodus 32:7-14 and Luke 15:1-10

**Liturgist:** Jerri DeVault

**Greeters:** Rob King, Monty Montgomery

**\*\*Given the recent covid cases within the congregation, the **congregational lunch**, originally planned for this Sunday after the service, will be rescheduled for another time. This is a necessary precaution in order to protect the health of the members of our church.**



**Rally Day is Sept 11.** There will be a blessing for our students, their backpacks and our Sunday school teachers. There will be a congregational luncheon following the service.

**Presbyterian Women's** meeting is **September 12** at 11:00 a.m. at King's Grant. Lunch is \$10, for those that wish to purchase, and you can pay at the front desk. Study books, [Celebrating Sabbath](#), are available in the church office.

**Community Breakfast - Saturday, September 17** led by Chuck and Brooke Cundiff and will be served in person. Contact Brooke ([276 340-6124](tel:2763406124)) if you are able to work.

**Congregational Meeting - Sunday, September 18** following worship to elect nominees for elder (Monica Stevens, Ron Rebman, Sue Legg) and trustee (Gale Legg and Bill Kirby)

### **The Grace Network Pumpkin Patch**



Volunteers are needed to help unload pumpkins on **Saturday, September 24 at 9:00 a.m.** The Pumpkin Patch is open Sept 24 - Oct 31 and volunteers are needed to help sell the pumpkins. The times are divided up in shifts. This is a

great way to help the community! If you are interested in volunteering, please call Sandi Teague [276-340-6822](tel:276-340-6822).

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Thanks to all who helped make my 90th birthday so special with your cards, calls, texts, and party attendance, along with your donations to Grace Network and FPC. God bless and I love each and every one of you! - **Marge Dunn** -

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### Devoted to Devotionals



Spiritual gifts abound at First Presbyterian. We are truly grateful to Monica and Denny for continuing to write weekly devotionals for Steeple Views. It is now time to form a team of writers, taking turns, providing a weekly devotion. If you would like to share your spiritual gifts as part of the team of writers, please contact Bea ([rev.millerb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.millerb@gmail.com), or [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)). The team will gather occasionally to share resources and set a writing schedule. Please prayerfully consider joining the team.

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### Smith River Singers is Back!



If you would like to sing, we welcome you to come to our first rehearsal and sign up. If you can't come until the second or third rehearsal, please let us know that.

**First Rehearsal**  
**Monday, September 12, 2022**  
**6:30 PM**

*Registration*

Return old music and receive new music for this season  
Fill out contact forms.

**7:00–8:30 PM**

*Full choir rehearsal*

Preparation for Christmas concert on December 12

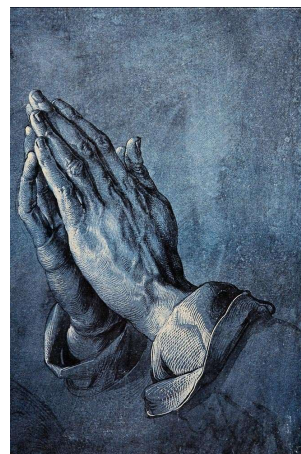
***Rehearsals continue every Monday until the concert.***

First Baptist Church Sanctuary  
23 Starling Avenue, Martinsville.

**These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:**

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Sue Benfield, Georgette Bishop, Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N Davis’ brother), Bud Buffkin, Tommy Cobb, Bobby Davis (Milt Davis’ son), Neill Ferrill (Sandra Ford), Daniel Handy, Melanie Hardy, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Doug Miller (Pastor Bea’s husband), Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, Paul Salmons (M&N Davis), Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.



Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, [\(276\) 632-3431](tel:2766323431), [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto: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 Pearl Minter at [276 340-3476](tel:2763403476).

***Grace Network Donations***

The 3rd quarter 2022 food donation item is **Green Peas** (15 oz.)



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

**Hygiene Items are always needed** (optional)

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



*Steeple Views Reminder*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

**Steeple Views** is published weekly on Thursdays. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Wednesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** [fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com). For time sensitive announcements, please sent to [skirbycwj@gmail.com](mailto:skirbycwj@gmail.com)

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/images/2020\\_Peaks\\_Postings/PP\\_Aug18\\_2020.pdf](https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020_Peaks_Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf)

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## Our Mission

Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other

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**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](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter)

### Useful Links

FPC website:

[www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/) or [www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/](http://www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/)

FPC online directory: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com/](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/)

FPC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA](https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA)

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org/](http://www.peakspresbytery.org/)

Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org/](http://www.pcusa.org/)

Daily Bible Readings: [www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/)

**Church Office Phone:** [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)

### Our mailing address is:

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

### STAFF

Rev. Bea Miller, Interim Pastor, [rev.millerb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.millerb@gmail.com)

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Spencer Koger, Director of Music, [adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleva.org](mailto:adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleva.org)

Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator,

[worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

### THE SESSION

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

#### Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

#### Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

#### Class of 2024

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

**TRUSTEES**

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

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