

August 17, 2023



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Elder Monica Stevens

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when
 when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
 running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
 running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
 which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
 Life forevermore.

This Psalm is one of the suggested lectionary readings for this coming Sunday. It is a Psalm that would have been recited or sung as families would make their way to Jerusalem on one of their thrice yearly pilgrimage journeys. The familial unity described in this Psalm refers to the individual family units making the journey, and also to the family that was formed by all of the pilgrims journeying together for the purpose of worshipping God together in Jerusalem. The unity that is formed prepares the people of God for God's blessing. Unity is compared to the blessing of the priestly anointing of Aaron. The oil that anoints Aaron's head is poured out so freely that it runs down his beard and onto his robes, not only consecrating his head, but his whole being as well. Unity is also compared to the dew of Hermon falling on the mountains. Even in the dry season when dew is the only moisture that falls, it is plentiful enough to produce a harvest of grapes. God's blessing on

the familial unity of God's children is poured out so freely that all are blessed and all are sustained by its life-giving nature.

One of the highlights of my summer has been the series of second Sunday worship services when the congregations of the four local Presbyterian Churches have each taken a turn hosting the members of the others three churches for a joint worship service. It has been a joy to share worship and fellowship with our individual church families and our extended local Presbyterian family. We have been blessed to renew previous friendships and to make new friends. We have also been blessed to share those things that make each congregation unique and those things that we share in common through our faith. As our family ties with the larger community of Presbyterians are strengthened, we will all be blessed to see the ways in which God is calling us to work together to spread the good news of Jesus Christ through the varied gifts that we bring to our life together. I am looking forward to next month's service at First, Collinsville, and I sincerely hope we can make these services an annual occurrence.

One of our hymns from this past Sunday's worship¹ underscores the importance of the unity found when we worship together. The hymn proclaims that in our unity with each other, we are one in the Spirit and one in the Lord, that we will walk with each other to spread the Word of God, that we will work with each other to bring dignity to all, while we praise our Triune God. As a result, people will know that we serve Jesus Christ because we love one another. May God bless the witness of our unity as we walk, work, and worship together in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Amen.

¹ "They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love", Peter Schloss, 1966



Please join us for worship this Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost at **10:00 am**

Sermon by Elder Monica Stevens

based upon Genesis 45:1-15 and Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Liturgist: Kym Tatum

Ushers/Greeters: Milt and Nancy Davis

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.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

10 AM - 3:30 PM, Monday - Thursday and by appointment if necessary.
Voicemail will be monitored.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

August 19 - Community Breakfast - Bill and Suzan Kirby are leaders

August 26 - Presbytery of the Peaks meeting Zoom only meeting.

August 28 from 1-6 PM - Red Cross Blood Drive in FH

August 28 - 2 PM Think Tank Meeting

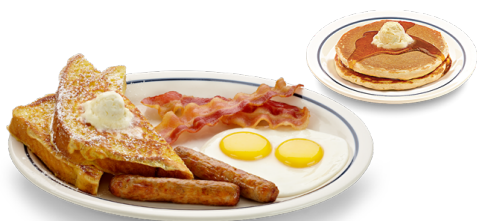
Directory Pictures - Has your family changed? Kids gotten older? New family members? If you would like your Instant Church Directory picture updated, please send a suitable picture to the office. Pictures may be emailed or given to a staff member.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Janet Fentress has agreed to be the Chair of Presbyterian Women for the coming year. Nancy Davis will continue as Historian. The next meeting will be **Monday, September 11, 2023** at King's Grant. More information to follow.

Summer Community Worship schedule:

Sept 10 - 11:00 AM at First Presbyterian Collinsville



Community Breakfast this Saturday! If you are able to help in any capacity, please contact **Suzan Kirby** at [276 358-0075](tel:2763580075) or [276 638-2587](tel:2766382587).



First Presbyterian Church will host a bloodmobile in the Fellowship Hall Monday, **August 28 from 1-6**. Donors are needed. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Nancy Baker at nbaker08@comcast.net or [\(276\) 638-7923](tel:(276)638-7923).

Liturgist Schedule

August

20 Kym Tatum

27 Milt Davis

September

3 Nancy Davis

10 ****no liturgist needed****

17 Jerri DeVault

24 Joe DeVault



GRACE NETWORK PUMPKIN PATCH

Please consider serving by manning the patch for a shift or a day.

It's a great way to serve the community and support our mission. It's super easy and fun. Call Tracy Hinchcliff to schedule your day or shift ([276-403-4222](tel:276-403-4222)).

The pumpkins will arrive on **Friday, September 22 at 4pm** and if you have a youth or young adult team that would like to help unload, just let Tracy know.

August Birthdays

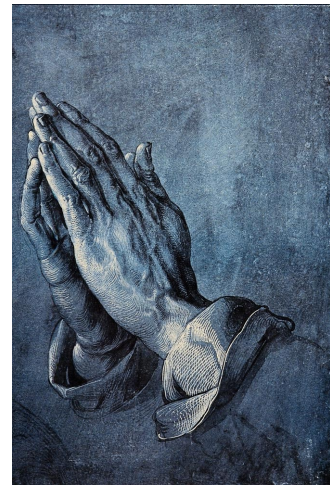
- 2 Dwight Christenbury, Lynne Beeler
- 3 Marjorie Dunn
- 5 Bob Richeson
- 6 Walt Flythe Jr.
- 9 John Luther, Liz Ferrell
- 10 Frances Bledsoe
- 11 Melissa Wingfield
- 12 Beth Lawson
- 13 Chuck Cundiff
- 17 Maggie Pilson
- 21 Bill Stone
- 22 Johnny Pinkard, Kym Tatum, Patsy Stanley
- 23 Anne Abercrombie
- 24 Nanette Smith
- 29 Joe Williams, Stuart Beard



These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Connie Anderson, Ryan Bachelor (niece of N. Davis), Sue Benfield, Georgette Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Mike Boswell, Marilyn and Ernest Bremner, Catherine Bridges, Bud Buffkin, Ruth Decker Chaney, Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Marge Dunn, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Gary Francisco (Shanna King's Father), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol and Harold Lamm, Darrel Lemke (N. Davis), Mary Manning, Maggie Pilson, Lauren Prince, Randy Rollins, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, Bob Wuestefield (husband of Barbara Duncan), persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.



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 Pearl Minter.

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 at [276 340-3476](tel:2763403476).

Grace Network Donations

[3rd quarter food donation item is 4lb bag of sugar](#)



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 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. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Wednesday evening.

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

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

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:

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

Rev. Bea Miller, Interim Pastor, rev.millerb@gmail.com

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Vickie Blair, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Spencer Koger, Director of Music, adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator,

worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

Class of 2024

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

Class of 2025

Ron Rebman: Mission/Outreach

Sue Legg: Stewardship and Communication

Monica Stevens: Christian Education

TRUSTEES

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

2025: William Kirby, Gale Legg

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