

December 24 & 31, 2017



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Sunday, Dec. 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship, 11:00 AM

December 24 is split between the seasons of Advent and Christmastide. When the 24th falls on a Sunday, Advent is the shortest it can be. Everyone is invited to worship together to celebrate the last Sunday of Advent at **11:00 AM**—there will be no 8:30 service. The morning service will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:00 PM

At **6:00 PM**, our Candlelight Christmas Eve service will have something for the whole family with a Christmas pageant telling the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, scripture readings, and carols. We end the service by lighting candles, symbolizing taking the light of Christ out into the world.

The focus of the two services is different. We hope you can join us to celebrate both Advent and Christmas this Sunday!

[View this email in your browser](#)

What's Happening at FPC

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 24

Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering for hunger projects in our Presbytery and beyond

Fellowship & Refreshments, 9:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

Sunday School, 9:45 AM, Children 4 yrs-2nd grade, Room 11-12 under the Sanctuary; Adult class, Session Room (Room 134, upper level)

Chancel Choir, 10:30 AM, Choir Room, warm-up before service

Traditional Worship, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

Ushers: Monty Montgomery, Milt Davis, Nancy Davis, Buck Flythe, Joan Montgomery



Liturgist: Tracy Hinchcliff
Communion Servers: Volunteers needed
Lock up: Denny Casey

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 PM, with children's pageant acting out the Christmas story

Liturgist: Peter Marshall
Unlock & Lock: Denny Casey

Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided all morning in the nursery under the Sanctuary.

The Service for the Lord's Day, December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture Lessons

Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Sermon by Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

"Changing Roles"

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Additional Lectionary Readings for Sunday

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Full text of lectionary readings

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=51>

Next Two Weeks at FPC

Nativity of Jesus Christ

Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25

Church office closed

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Church office closed

Wednesday, Dec. 27

Steeple Views Deadline for email update, 4:00 PM. Please email information to Gael Chaney, steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleva.org.

NO Prayer Shawl Ministry

NO Sanctuary Ringers or Chancel Choir

Thursday, Dec. 28

NO Praise Band

Sunday, Dec. 31

Unlock: Johnny Pinkard

NO 8:30 service today



Fellowship & Refreshments, 9:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

Sunday School, 9:45 AM, Children 4 yrs-2nd grade, Room 11-12 under the Sanctuary; Adult class, Session Room (Room 134, upper level)

Chancel Choir, 10:30 AM, Choir Room, warm-up before service

Traditional Worship, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

Ushers: Monty Montgomery, Jerri DeVault, Joe DeVault, Lang Mauck, Bill Stone

Liturgist: Victoria Esarey

Preacher: Elder Denny Casey

Lock up: Victoria Esarey

New Year's Day, Monday, January 1

Holy Name of Jesus

Church office closed

Presbyterian Women's Circle will meet **Jan. 8.**



Tuesday, Jan. 2

Cooks Who Care to be announced later

Steeple Views Deadline, 4:00 PM. Please email information to Gael Chaney, steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleva.org.

Session, 7:00 PM, Session Room (December meeting)

Wednesday, Jan. 3

Sanctuary Ringers, 5:45 PM, Handbell Room

Chancel Choir, 7:00 PM, Choir Room. New singers are welcome to join!

Thursday, Jan. 4

Praise Band, 7:00 PM, Chapel

Twelfth Day of Christmas, Friday, Jan. 5

Epiphany, Saturday, Jan. 6

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12



Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Jan. 7

Communion Sunday, both services

Prep/Clean-up: Pinkard (8:30), Edgerton/Ferguson

Contemporary Worship, 8:30 AM, Chapel

Fellowship & Refreshments, 9:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

Sunday School, 9:45 AM, Children 4 yrs-2nd grade, Room 11-12 under the Sanctuary; Adult class, Session Room (Room 134, upper level)

Chancel Choir, 10:30 AM, Choir Room, warm-up before service

Traditional Worship, 11:00 AM, Sanctuary

Ushers: Dennis Casey, Rob King, Denise Unterbrink, Tom Unterbrink

Liturgist: Lang Mauck

For a complete calendar of what's happening at FPC Martinsville, visit our website: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/calendar.cfm.

Pastor's Corner

Following the Christ Child

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but to the interests of others.
Philippians 2:4

A famous psychologist, Dr. Karl Menninger, once gave a lecture on mental health and was asked during a question and answer segment, "What advice would you give to someone who felt a nervous breakdown coming on?" Without hesitation Dr. Menninger replied, "Lock up your house, go across the railroad tracks, find someone in need and find a way to help that person." His point was that, when we become so focused on our own problems and circumstances, we can become withdrawn and inwardly frozen, which may effectively remove us from active participation in the life that God has given us. This will prevent us from ever being what God intends for us to be, including serving others effectively. We can freeze in our own tracks!



Following Christ is not an exercise of protecting our own interests but rather a grateful response of our hearts for what God has already done for us. We respond by reaching out to others and lovingly serving them in God's holy name. When I look back on tough times in my own life, times when I have felt sorry for myself for some reason or another, I've experienced release from my anxiety by changing my focus to others and getting myself involved in serving. Routine self examination is healthy. An obsession with self is not.

As we enter the event of Christmas and into the New Year, be reminded that our gift from God in the Christ child has already been given to us as believers and followers of Him. So today if we find ourselves frozen in our tracks by a difficult situation, shift that focus from ourselves to Jesus and find someone to serve in His name. Receive the gift of life that God gave us in the Christ child and start the New Year by sharing His gift focused on the life of another! The weight will seem lighter and we can get moving once again.

*Merry Christmas,
Pastor Mark*



This Sunday

Christmas Joy Offering

Our congregation participates in several special PC(USA) offerings. Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



2-Cents-a-Meal

Free Breakfast Receives Grant

Our Free Community Breakfast has been awarded a \$1,000 grant from Presbytery of the Peaks' 2-Cents-a-Meal offering. Your donations help support hunger projects in our own community, as well as our region and abroad.

Christmas Poinsettias

Nearly 50 poinsettias were donated to decorate the Sanctuary in loving memory or in honor of loved ones this Advent. A complete list of the dedications will be in the Christmas Eve service bulletin and posted on a bulletin board near the church office.



Prayer Concerns

The following members and friends of our congregation need our prayers: Ralph Shank Jr., Steven and Diann Yohn (Community Breakfast participants), Doc Altizer, Walter Anderson, Jack Beane (M. Stevens), Sonny Benfield, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Dot Bryson, Kimberly Bryson, Elaine Button, Evelyn Clark, Ernie Cobb (M. Dunn), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra B. Cox, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Ed Pace, Amy B. Peck, Anne Peterson, Charles "Pete" Peterson (Anne's brother in-law), Barbara Regen, Posey Riedel (A. Pinkard's sister), Doris Smith, Betty and Gene Stanley, Sarah V. Wells, Roger Williams (V. Esarey), 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).

Thank You

Gifts to the Church
In memory of James H. Ford
Reed S. Moore

Happy January Birthdays!

- 4 Marie Thompson
- 6 Iliene Hite
- 7 Buck Flythe, Rob King, Elena King
- 9 Jennifer Nease
- 10 Jim Beard
- 16 Wendy Luther, Billy Kirby
- 17 Jake Sanders, Grace Anne Edgerton



19 Helen Flythe
21 Bonny Pace
24 Greg Darnell, Lillian Hatchett
26 Bud Buffkin
28 David Garland
29 Rusty Reaser, Alan Ferguson, Jack Kirby
31 Mattie Wingfield

Birthdays are taken from the church directory. If you would like yours added, please call or email Rita in the church office: 632-3431, office@fpcmartinsvilleva.org.

Please remember

Grace Network & SSRC Shelter

Breakfast muffin mix (in pouches, not cornbread) is our assignment for October through December for Grace Network's food pantry. **Deodorant, toothpaste, bath soap, feminine products, dish detergent, laundry detergent, and toilet paper** are also distributed to food pantry clients. These personal care and household items are also needed at the SSRC shelter (former Rainbow House/CAFV). Boxes for donations to both ministries are in the church hallways.

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/

Steeple Views is published weekly.

DEADLINE for submission of articles is Tuesday evening. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Gael Chaney, Editor
steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleva.org

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THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Milton Davis

Class of 2017

Denny Casey: Facilities

Cindy Edgerton: Worship

Victoria Esarey: Congregational Care

Class of 2018

Jerri DeVault: Stewardship

Nancy Moore: Communications

Monica Stevens: Christian Education

Class of 2019

Bill Manning: Administration

Teri Ferguson: Fellowship

Paul Cannaday: Mission/Outreach

TRUSTEES

2017: Bob Davis, Joe DeVault

2018: Monty Montgomery, Henry Moore

2019: Reed Moore, Ralph Shank