

December 31, 2017



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

What's Happening at FPC

First Sunday after Christmas Day, 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 Dennis Casey

Lock up: Victoria Esarey

Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided all morning in the nursery under the Sanctuary. Children's Worship is offered for age 4 through 2nd grade during the 11:00 service after the Time with Young Disciples.

[View this email in your browser](#)

The Service for the Lord's Day, December 31, 2017

First Sunday After Christmas Day

Scripture Lessons

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Revelation 21:1-6a

Sermon by Elder Dennis Casey

"The Precious Gift of Time"

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Full text of lectionary readings

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=55>

Next Week at FPC

Monday, January 1, New Year's Day

Holy Name of Jesus, 8th Day of Christmas

Church office closed

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



Tuesday, Jan. 2, 9th Day of Christmas

Cooks Who Care, 9:45 AM & 5:30 PM. Susan Pilson is chef; cook in the morning, package in the evening session.

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, 10th Day of Christmas

Sanctuary Ringers, 5:45 PM, Handbell Room

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

Thursday, Jan. 4, 11th Day of Christmas

Praise Band, 7:00 PM, Chapel

Friday, Jan. 5, 12th Day of Christmas

Saturday, Jan. 6, Epiphany

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



Sunday, Jan. 7, Baptism of the Lord

Unlock: Johnny Pinkard

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

Communion Servers: *Ron Rebman, +Harold Lamm, Jean Williams, Lynn Pritchett, Heidi Pinkston, Shane Pinkston, Cindy Edgerton

Lock up: Duke Ferrell

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

Coming Soon

Congregational Supper **Monday, Jan. 8, 6:00 PM**

Everyone is invited to our (sort of) monthly Congregational Supper on Monday, January 8, at 6:00 PM. After dinner, most committees will be meeting in various

rooms around the church. Please join us!

Congregational Meeting **Sunday, Jan. 14, 12:05 PM**

There will be a brief congregational meeting on Sunday, January 14, at the end of the 11:00 AM worship service.

New Officer Installation and Ordination **Sunday, Jan. 21, 11:00 AM Worship**

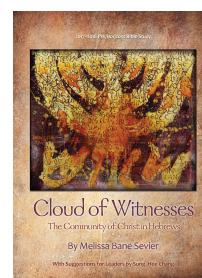
Newly elected elders will be ordained and/or installed during the 11:00 AM Worship Service: Denny Casey (2nd term), Ron Rebman, Kym Tatum, and Sharon Kirby, who will fill the vacated term of Jeri DeVault. Trustees Milt Davis and Duke Ferrell will be installed.

Many thanks to our officers who are finishing their active terms this year: Elders Cindy Edgerton and Victoria Esarey, and Trustees Bob Davis and Joe DeVault.

Also Next Week

Presbyterian Women Circle **Monday, Jan. 8, 10:30 AM**

The Presbyterian Women's Circle will meet on Monday, January 8, instead of the first Monday, which is New Year's Day. The lesson will be #5, "In Community with the Tradition of the Past," focussing on Hebrews 3:1 through 6:11.



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 times of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Special envelopes will be in the pew racks on Sunday.



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 remember the event of Christmas and enter 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.

*Happy New Year,
Pastor Mark*

Prayer Concerns

The following members and friends of our congregation need our prayers: Jane Townsend, Family of Clay Gravely, Doc Altizer, Walter Anderson, Jack Beane (M. Stevens), Sonny and Sue 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), Ralph Shank, Jr., 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).

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) was our assignment for October through December for Grace Network's food pantry. Since we have not yet received our January–March assignment, you may continue with the muffin mix or the following: **Deodorant, toothpaste, bath soap, feminine products, dish detergent, laundry detergent, and toilet paper** are also distributed to food pantry clients. These and all kinds of 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

Church Office Phone: 276-632-3431

Our mailing address is:

First Presbyterian Church
1901 Patrick Henry Ave.
Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff, Pastor, pastor@fpcmartinsvilleva.org

Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist, 276-734-0212

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

Kim Tankersley, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleva.org

Mary Lewis Johnston, Weekday School Director, wds@fpcmartinsvilleva.org

Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleva.org

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

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