

April 21, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Dr. Denny Casey

Week of April 17, 2022

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Psalm 104:24

As the weather turns warmer, I've had the pleasure of spending more time outdoors and hiking some of the nearby trails. Over the last few weeks, I've marveled at how the forest's browns and grays have turned to a variety of shades of green - those special spring-time greens that signal new life, "Nature's first green is gold" as Robert Frost put it. Red bud and dogwood blossoms splash in beautiful shades of lavender, pink and white along the path as returning songbirds enthusiastically herald the coming of spring. Passing by a stream alongside the trail, it seems to brim in delight as the ripples of rushing water from a recent shower dance over the rounded rocks. I'm reminded of how great and wonderful God's creation truly is and I'm reminded of this psalm.

The psalmist (Psalm 104:24) having taken notice of the diversity of the works of creation, stops and wonders at the sheer number; and not only the quantity but the quality of the works; put simply, 'how great are thy works!' There is such an amazing abundance in the majesty and power of God, and beauty surrounds us and blesses us with serenity, comfort, and increased appreciation.

Everything in nature is wisely designed and made. You don't have to look far to see, there is such a glorious display of God's wisdom - from the tiniest insect to the largest whale. Oh, the things his hands have made!

When God had finished his works of creation, and looked over them, he declared it as good, and God gave human beings dominion over nature. The term "dominion" doesn't mean to dominate or to take over by force, rather dominion is better understood as a careful responsibility to nurture, to care for, the same responsibility God exercises in taking care of us - with compassion and loving direction as a parent looks after a child. We are called to be good stewards of the earth and all of creation. With that responsibility comes wisdom. What misguided, arrogant, and ignorant creatures we must be if we carelessly destroy or exploit any of the works of God with selfish greed or by dismissing wisdom.

Lest we forget, the Lord is the maker and keeper of heaven and earth, and all that is in them and whatever of the riches and good things of the earth we may enjoy, we are only stewards. We need to ask ourselves if we are showing God due respect and reverence in all we do.

All that we are and have belongs to God. We may realize the true value of "all that we are and have" through careful stewardship of God's creation. Stewardship as a way of life lived from the graciousness of God. In gratitude to God and with care for humanity and nature, we seek to live as Christian people in response to the renewal of all creation that God has begun in Jesus Christ.

This Friday, April 22, marks the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day, and I encourage everyone to become involved in some way to help protect God's creation. Take up a project at home to reduce or recycle packaging from the kitchen. Combine trips to the market and errands to reduce gas. Turn off lights that are not in use. Check wasteful thermostat settings. Mulch grass clippings and plant native, non-invasive plants in the yard. Buy locally sourced, organic groceries. Support the congregation's call as an Earth Care Congregation. Creation care can involve all ages and can be a ministry that we, as a concerned congregation, will pass on to our children... something practical and fun...with profound implications for the life, service, and witness of God's people.

This week, as we affirm our commitment to God's creation, we can celebrate and rededicate ourselves to work together toward a happier, healthier, and a greener 2022 Earth Day!

Prayer

Creator God, you made the earth and declared it good. Show us our place in your creation that we may care for the beauty of the earth and work together to face climate change head-on and for cleaner air and purer water in our streams and lakes. Make us resurrection people who bring your renewal to the world. Breathe your Spirit on us that we may share your healing presence with all people and all creatures. Raise us up as signs of new life for your coming reign, through Christ we pray. Amen.

In Christ,
Denny

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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 low 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.

If you are not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask. If you have symptoms, test positive, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 please remain at home.



Please join us for worship this **Second Sunday in Easter** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by
Elder Dr. Denny Casey

Beyond a Doubt

Based on John 20:19-31 and Revelation 1:4-8



More volunteers are needed for the blood drives. FPC has been helping the third Thursday of each month and other times when available. Call Nancy Baker if you have questions or think you would like to be a volunteer. 638-7923

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!



Service is currently at 10:00 a.m.

Please let Rita know by Sunday, May 1st. The Session will tally votes at the May 2nd session meeting and, if a new time is voted in, it will begin June 1st.

Check one:

10:00 a.m. _____

10:30 a.m. _____

11:00 a.m. _____

Announcements

- **Please Vote!** [If you have not already voted for your preferred worship service time, please respond to the email sent out or call the office by May 1st.](#)
- The Session will meet Monday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the session room.
- **The next Presbytery of the Peaks Meeting** is Saturday, May 7 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.
- VMNH Youth Climate Summit **May 7 at 2:00 PM**

YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

Saturday, May 7 at 2:00PM



JOIN TOGETHER TO PLAN A YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT!

Serve your community



Student volunteers needed to organize and help host the first annual Youth Climate Summit in Martinsville

Youth Climate Summit



Planning will culminate in a summit that combines informative sessions and workshops in a fun atmosphere for rising 9th-12th grade students

Meet at VMNH on 5/7/22



First interest meeting at the Virginia Museum of Natural History
21 Starling Ave, Martinsville, Saturday, May 7th, 2:00 PM

Remote Participation/ Other Questions

To participate over Zoom, contact Mary Zell Gaten at maryzell.gaten@vmnh.virginia.gov or at 276-634-4150

Youth Climate Summit program is coordinated by Dr. John Ashburn, museum volunteer, of the Climate Advocacy Group

****Volunteer hours credit given pending approval****



Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Dr. David McConnell, Family of Wiliam K. Walker, Pat Baumann, Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Merilyn Bremner, Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb, Judy Epperly, Daniel Handy, Melanie Hardy, Iliene Hite, Leonard Kelley (M Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Lauren Prince, Troy Spencer (P Rakes' father), Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries due to violence and tyranny.



Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, [\(276\) 632-3431](tel:2766323431), 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 2nd quarter 2022 food donation item is **Saltine Crackers**



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

Hygiene Items - We are always in need of these items!

**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 Tuesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com. If you send to another email address, the information may get lost and subsequently not included in the newsletter.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

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%20Peaks%20Postings/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:

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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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