

August 4, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

August 2, 2022

Life Together

Ephesians 4:1-6

“Therefore, I encourage you to live as a people worthy of the call you received from God.

Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you all together. You are one body, and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.” (CEB)

Outside my kitchen window is an oak tree that has probably been there for the better part of fifty years. One of the tree’s most interesting features is the large burl that has formed on its trunk on the side of the tree facing the house. When we moved in, there were two smaller burls, but over the last twenty years they have continued to grow to the point where they have closed the gap between them and they are growing together. Burls are a collection of woody cells called callus tissue which cause a disruption in the growth pattern of the trunk of a tree as a result of damage from insects, bacteria, fungi, or an injury. While they may look diseased, they generally don’t interfere with the growth of an otherwise healthy tree and allow the tree to keep growing.

We are also familiar with callus tissue that builds up on various parts of our body to protect them from the wear and tear of repetitive use. Think of the fingertips of guitar players, the lips of brass players, and the feet of dancers and runners. If we have the misfortune to break a bone, our body sets to work healing the bone by deploying special cells to the break site to first form a soft callus that will hold the bone together, and later replacing that with a hard callus, and then finally after about six weeks replacing the callus with regular bone.

Whether on trees or on people, calluses are a special kind of helpful hardening that

serves a protective and healing function. Calluses of this nature are good. What's not so good is when we form a metaphorical callus around our heart—our thoughts and emotions. This hardening usually begins as the result of an emotional trauma. The trauma can be the result of circumstances such as a great loss, or intentional abuse or injury by another person. In the short term, a protective layer around our emotions might help us to "make it through" the pain of the initial injury, but unlike helpful calluses, if hardness of heart is allowed to remain, it gets harder and more impenetrable and it stunts the growth and interactions of the affected person. The longer and more carefully people nurse their pain, the harder their heart gets and the more isolated and bitter they become.

When we have calluses in places where we don't want them, we soften them with balm and then gently file them away. In today's scripture, Paul describes a loving, accepting, nurturing community that has been called together by God and knit together by the peace and unity of the Holy Spirit. Being an active part of this community provides us with a balm to ease the pain that comes to each of us throughout our lives. Being surrounded by the love and nurture of such a community helps to remove the hardened spots on our psyche much like the gentle motion of the water smooths away the roughness of stones.

Of course, reaping the restorative benefits of living within a Christian community is only half of the story. We are called to BE that community and to be worthy of our calling. That means sharing what we have received from God with others. People who are hurting don't need us to preach at them. They need someone to walk alongside them, to sit with them, to talk with them, and to humbly, gently and patiently share the love and compassion of God through our presence with them. With God's help through the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called to be the balm that helps to heal the hardened hearts in the world.

"Glory to God, who is able to do far more beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21, CEB)

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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 Ninth Sunday after **Pentecost** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Rev. Rusty Reaser

"His Mark"

Based upon Acts 16:16-31 and Psalm 22:1-8, 19-22

Liturgist: Brooke Cundiff

Ushers/Greeters: Neil Tatum, Monty Montgomery



Sunday, August 21 - Lunch immediately following the service to honor all the Ministers, Elders and lay readers whom have faithfully served our church over the past year. Contact Liz Ferrell ([276-734-6376](tel:276-734-6376)) or Rita in the church office ([276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)) if you are available to help cook or serve/clean up in the kitchen

Presbytery Meeting - Saturday, August 20 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.

If you would like to send **Sam Smith** notes of encouragement here is his address:

Sam Smith
3401 Brook Road
Richmond, VA 23227



Marge Dunn is 90!

Her family cordially invites you to a

Life Celebration!

Saturday, August 13

**at First Presbyterian Church
(fellowship hall)**

Drop in anytime from 2 - 4:00 p.m.



In lieu of gifts, you may honor Marge
with a donation to

GRACE NETWORK

FPC COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

or to the

FPC KITCHEN

back2school

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Friday, August 5 at noon, we will be setting up the Uptown Center for the big day. Lots of table moving and physical work to setup foot washing stations and getting ready for the next day.

Friday August 5 at 6pm, We will have an **orientation** at the Uptown Center to familiarize everyone with the flow of the day. If you are scheduled to volunteer, please try to make this orientation so you will know what you will be doing and how. Once the appointments start, it becomes fast and a bit chaotic, so it's important you know what to expect.

Saturday, August 6 THE BIG EVENT, (7:30 am), At The Uptown Ministry Center (Behind Rania's)

Positions needing filling at this point:

Foot washers
 Foot tub and shoe runners
 Back pack brigade
 General direction assistants

IF you are able to help, PLEASE contact Tracy Hinchcliff

[\(276\) 403-4222](tel:(276)403-4222)

Tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetorkmhc.org

***August***

7 Brooke Cundiff
 14 Chuck Cundiff
 21 Nora Cundiff
 28 Milt Davis

September

4 Monica Stevens
 11 Nancy Davis

18 Jerri DeVault
25 Janet Fentress

October

2 Duke Ferrell
9 Liz Ferrell
16 Rob King
23 Shanna King
30 Elena King



1 David Chittum
2 Dwight Christenbury, Lynne Beeler
3 Marge Dunn
4 Bob Richeson
6 Walt Flythe, Jr.
9 John Luther, Liz Ferrell
11 Melissa Wingfield

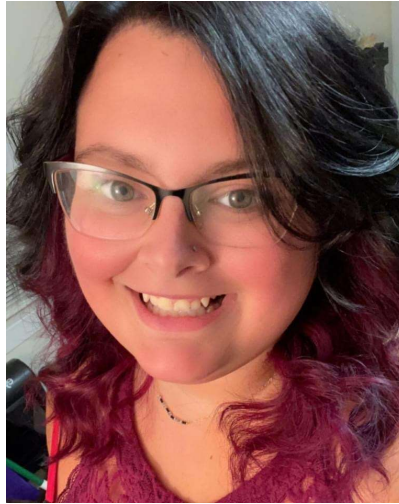
12 Beth Lawson
13 Chuck Cundiff
17 Maggie Pilson Bush
21 Bill Stone
22 Johnny Pinkard, Patsy Stanley, Kym Tatum
23 Anne Abercrombie
24 Nanette Smith
29 Stuart Beard, Joe Williams

welcome baby

Congratulations to **Meredith Seamon Whelan** on the birth of her daughter, **Piper Dakota Whelan**. Piper was born Thursday, June 30, 2022 in Harrisonburg, VA.

Congratulations to **Melissa Seamon Lehman** on the birth of her son, **Nico Daniel Lehman**. Nico was born Friday, June 3, 2022 in Birmingham, AL.

Proud Grandparents are **David Seamon (Gwen)** and **Wendy Luther (John)** and Great-grandparent is **Virginia Seamon**.



Laura "Carrie" Caroline Buffkin

August 12, 1991 - July 27, 2022

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of **Carrie Buffkin**.
Carrie passed away on July 27, 2022.

The full obituary can be found
at: <https://www.vaughanguynnandmcgrady.com/obituary/laura-carrie-buffkin>

Our Deepest Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Virginia Seamon and family on the passing of Virginia's sister, **Nancy Moore Allen**. Nancy, 91, of Graham, NC, passed away Sunday, July 17, 2022.

<https://www.mclurefuneralservice.net/obituary/Nancy-Allen>

Our Deepest Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Sharon Kirby and family on the passing of Sharon's mother, **Sandra Hudnall**, on Monday, July 25, 2022 in Florence, SC.

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Sandra Hudnall (Sharon Kirby's mother), Family of Carrie Buffkin, 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, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, 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.

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. For time sensitive announcements, please sent to skirbycwj@gmail.com

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

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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Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

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

Drema Austin, 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 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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