

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Third Sunday of Easter
Communion Sunday
May 4, 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA>

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation

A background image of a sunlit forest with green trees and a path. A semi-transparent dark rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing the text.

WEeping MAY
LINGER FOR A
Night
BUT JOY
COMES WITH THE
Morning.
PSALM 30:5

Sermon based upon Acts 5:27-32 and Psalm 30

Our Mission

"Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other."

*The Service for the Lord's Day
Third Sunday of Easter
Communion Sunday*

PRELUDE *Yes, I Know My Savior Lives* Lani Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

People: God's steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: Let those who fear the Lord say,

People: God's steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: The Lord is God,

People: God has given us light.

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

People: God's steadfast love endures forever!

*OPENING HYMN *I Love to Tell the Story* GTG 462
Public Domain

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

Refrain:

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. *[Refrain]*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *[Refrain]*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

God of the empty tomb,

When we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and help us to find our voice. When we are afraid to forgive and to love again, forgive us and give us the power to forgive. When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority, join with the weak to make us all strong. When we are confined by our hurts, touch us with your wounded hands and set us free. When our preconceived notions keep us from seeing and hearing you, open our eyes and ears, open our hearts that we may see and know you in all things.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSIOAL RESPONSE

"Kyrie"

PH 572

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

We Are Forgiven

GTG 447

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
(repeat once)***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Liturgist

Psalms 30

(OT pg.505)

THINK TANK UPDATE

Anne Madonia

ANTHEM

Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

Jane Holstein

Chancel Choir

Second Reading:

Pastor

Acts 5:27-32

(NT pg.123)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!

Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Come to the Table of Grace

GTG 507

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Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of love.

Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of joy.

Come to the table of hope. Come to the table of hope.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of hope.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

*The Doxology

PH 592

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. -Amen-***

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In every time and every age, O God,
it is good and faithful that we give you thanks,
for your mercy is sure
and your steadfast love endures forever.

In your compassion you gave us Christ Jesus,
who sets us free from death and leads us to life eternal.

And so, with all creation,
with all the needy and hungry ones,
with all those who have enough and plenty,
with creatures large and small,
with sun and moon and stars,
and with the saints of every age,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, O God, creator of all things.
By your power and love you continue
to deliver your people from bondage,
thwart the designs of evil,
show the way through the wilderness,
turn hardship into righteousness,
and reveal your hand upholding the just.

Blessed are you, O Christ, servant of the universe.
You came among us to feed and heal and teach,
to confound the haughty, to confuse the deceivers,
to challenge the wrong-hearted, and, in all these things,
to give hope to those who long for peace.
Remembering our Lord's self-giving love,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Blessed are you, O Spirit, giver of life.
You give us words when we have none;
you fill us with vision when we have the most need;
you give us voice to proclaim our faith in every hour.
Be our guide and teacher, today and always.

Come now, O Prince of Peace,
Spirit of Love,
Breath of Life.
Bring to all this hurting world the joy that Mary knew,
and teach us to proclaim with her,
"I have seen the Lord!"

In the unity of the Holy Trinity,
in gratitude for this great day of resurrection,
we praise you, God of all that is,
now and forever. **Amen**

Words of Institution

Serving of the Great Feast

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining

GTG 193

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Lord, the light of Your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.

Refrain:

Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.

Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.

Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness. Search me; try me; consume all my darkness.
Shine on me; shine on me. *[Refrain]*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me. *[Refrain]*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Go With God

POSTLUDE

Surely Goodness and Mercy

Roger C. Wilson

*Please stand as you are able

Welcome to our visitors today!

We are glad you are here and we hope you will join us for worship again. If you are interested in joining our church, there are three ways you may do so. They are letter of transfer from your church of previous membership, reaffirmation of faith if you have already been baptized; and baptism and affirmation of faith if you have not been baptized. If you are interested in joining, please ask our pastor, or one of our elders, for more details.

Need help hearing the service? Receivers connected to the sound system are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher.

Please use the friendship register located in the pew to indicate your presence in worship. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please include your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Let the children come to me: Children & Youth of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to actively participate in worship. For those desiring supportive materials, “sermon notes” for young children through older youth are available in the narthex. Clipboards and crayons are also available to take to your pew. Please return them to the narthex after the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Session Visioning meeting is Monday, May 5th at 1:00 PM in the session room. Bring your thinking caps.

Through the Pentecost Offering, you can make an impact for young people. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering is retained this church to make an impact in the lives of young people within our own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Pentecost Offering envelopes are available in the pews now through June 8th.

Our church has had a long-time mission with the American Red Cross. The association began many years ago, with Doris Marshall (Gael Chaney and Peter Marshall's mom), taking the lead. Years later, Mrs. Marshall passed the baton to Nancy Baker, who has faithfully led the mission since that time. We thank Nancy for her years of dedication, finding volunteers for the local bloodmobiles! FPC provides assistance at the bloodmobile, held every third Thursday of the month at the Elks Club (next to the high school). Our job is to check in donors, then serve snacks as the donors prepare to leave. Currently, we need additional volunteers to replenish our group. The more groups we form, the less work for those involved. Please call Ashby Pinkard (276-952-5827) if you are interested. Every pint of blood collected can save up to three lives. Thank you for considering this worthwhile mission.

Cooks Who Care will be preparing another delicious meal for shut-ins on **Tuesday, May 13th**. Come and join in the fellowship and help members by delivering a homemade dinner. We will meet at **9:00 AM** for meal preparations. We also need people that would be willing to deliver meals and visit with the people who will receive the meals. This month the cooks are Joan Montgomery and Ashby Pinkard. Please contact Ashby Pinkard (276 952- 5827), Joan Montgomery (276-252-6060) or Susan Pilson (276-340-7288) if you have any questions. Please come!

Join us for Lemonade on the Lawn on Sunday, May 11th following the worship service.

A Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 18th, immediately following worship, is for the purpose of issuing a Call to our Interim Pastor, Reverend, Dr. Bea Miller to be the Installed Pastor. Terms of Call will be presented at this meeting. Please make plans to attend.

Also on May 18th, we will celebrate our Extended Table ministry during worship and with a potluck lunch following worship and after the congregational meeting.

W E E K D A Y S C H O O L upcoming events:

Art Show - Thursday, May 8th at 6:00 PM

Preschool Graduation - Thursday, May 15th at 6:00 PM

REMINDER: Patrick Henry Elementary School will have **Field Day** on **Friday, May 16th** (rain date Monday, May 19th) and **Awards Day** on **Tuesday, May 20th** and faculty and parents will be using the church parking lot those days. Please keep this in mind if you plan to come to the church during the day that parking may be limited.

Summer Community Worship

Light refreshments will be served following each service.

June 8th - FPC Martinsville at 10:00 AM (1901 Patrick Henry Avenue, Martinsville)

July 13th - FPC Collinsville at 11:00 AM (4500 King's Mountain Road, Collinsville)

August 10th - Forest Hills at 11:00 AM (725 Beechnut Lane, Martinsville)

September 14th - Grace at 11:00 AM (218 Fayette Street, Martinsville)

Handbell and Choir rehearsals are each **Wednesday (unless otherwise noted on the calendar)**. If you are interested in joining, **handbells begin rehearsal at 5:30 PM** in the bell room and the **choir meets at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. New folks are always welcome! Talk with Spencer if you have any questions.

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (creamed corn 15 oz.)** (Other needs: toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, toothpaste, feminine products, dish and laundry detergent) when you do your grocery shopping. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.

Minute for Mission Think Tank Progress Report

In a continued effort to repurpose the vacant space in the church's West Wing, so that the space will be used to further the church's mission and also serve the community, the Think Tank Committee recommended the following two actions to the Session, both of which were approved at the Session meeting on April 28, 2025.

1. The West Wing space will be rented to entities that meet the approval of the Session, such as non-profit organizations; professionals such as counselors, etc.
2. In order to repurpose the West Wing, that section of the church must be rezoned from R-N (neighborhood residential) to R-T (residential transitional). The church will be taxed only on the West Wing. The Session approved the West Wing rezoning.

The rezoning calendar process will be as follows:

- **May 6** – The zoning application is submitted to the Martinsville City Zoning Administrator.
- **May 21** – The Martinsville Planning Commission sets a public hearing date.
- **May 23** – Notices are sent to nearby property owners, and signs are posted.
- **June 18** – The Planning Commission hearing takes place.
- **July 10** – Martinsville City Council approves the rezoning. The rezoning becomes effective 10 days after approval.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Anne Abercrombie, Sue Benfield, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Nancy Davis, Jerri DeVault, Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Doug Goldstein, Marvin Hudson, Jamelle Waid Linker (Ed Linker's daughter-in-law), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, Lil Wall, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, Jodi White (sister of P. Marshall/G. Chaney), persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries. Areas and families affected by hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires.

OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday – 9:30 – 2:00 PM



****Summer office hours will begin Friday, May 23 (Memorial weekend)**

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM and CLOSED on Friday

If you need to conduct office business outside these hours, please call to make an appointment.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, May 4

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Communion

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Monday –Friday

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Weekday School

School in Session

Lunch Buddies

Monday, May 5

11:00 AM

1:00 PM

PW Circle Meeting at King's Grant

Session Visioning

Wednesday, May 7

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal ~ Bell Room

Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Thursday, May 8

6:00 PM

WDS Art Show in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 11

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary & Lemonade on the Lawn

Tuesday, May 13

9:00 AM

Cooks Who Care

Wednesday, May 14

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal ~ Bell Room

Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Thursday, May 15

6:00 PM

WDS Graduation in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 17

8:00-9:30 AM

Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)

Sunday, May 18

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary, Congregational Meeting and
Potluck Lunch Celebrating Extended Table Ministry

Monday, May 19

4:00 PM

Session Meeting

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
May 4	Susan Pilson	Billy and Sharon Kirby
May 11	Lynn Pritchett	Johnny and Ashby Pinkard
May 18	Ron Rebman	Joe and Jerri DeVault
May 25	Martha Rollins	Taylor Shank, Sandra Shank
June 1	Janet Fentress	Ron Rebman, Judy King
June 8	Randy Rollins	Monty and Joan Montgomery
June 15	Gale Buck	Bill and Suzan Kirby
June 22	Joe Williams	Randy and Martha Rollins
June 29	Taylor Shank	Monty Montgomery, Betty Hudson

If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.