

April 18, 2024



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Elder Monica Stevens

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. 1 John 3:1a

Whenever a baby is born, it seems obligatory for doting relatives to try to decide which side of the family the baby favors. We hear things like, "She has her mother's eyes, but her father's chin." Of course, when the child is very young, familial resemblance is solely in the eye of the beholder, and so, there is very rarely a consensus of opinion.

As children grow and mature into young adults, family traits are much easier to identify. One of my two brothers and I both have my father's blue eyes and my other brother shared my mother's brown eyes. The brown-eyed brother and I shared my father's brown hair, while my blue-eyed brother got my mother's black hair. All three of us shared similar enough facial features that it was readily apparent that we were related even though we are each very different in other ways. However, it wasn't our resemblance that made us a functioning family; it was our relationship with one another. The same is true of God's family.

Jesus addressed God as Abba, Father, and he taught his followers to do the same. Through Jesus, we have been grafted into God's family. This is God's gift to us born out of God's eternal and faithful love. We are called and invited to live in loving relationship with God. The Almighty God who is the author of all creation and who reigns in power and majesty desires to live in relationship with us as our Father, who loves us, provides for us, guides and directs us, protects us, and nurtures us. There is nothing we can do to earn this status;

we can only receive it as grace.

Of course, we are the other half of this familial relationship. As we grow and mature in our relationship with God, we begin to take on qualities, characteristics, and attributes that sharpen our family resemblance to God. God is loving, so we become more loving. God cares for our needs, so we become more nurturing, caring, and protective. God is forgiving, so we become more forgiving. God gives freely of Godself, so we learn to give of ourselves to others without looking for something in return. These changes don't happen all at once, and they don't happen in the same way with every person, but the more time we spend serving God by serving for others, the more we begin to resemble our heavenly Father.

I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other. John 13:34-35 (CEB)

Seeing the love God has for each and all of us, may we learn to love ourselves and one another as God has loved us.

Alleluia! Amen.



Please join us for worship this fourth Sunday of Easter at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Monica Stevens

based upon 1 John 3:16-24 and John 10:11-18

Liturgist: Ione Linker

Ushers/Greeters: Milt and Nancy Davis

Liturgist Schedule

April

21 Ione Linker
28 Joan Montgomery

May

5 Monty Montgomery
12 Nancy Moore
19 Ashby Pinkard
26 Lynn Pritchett

June

2 Ron Rebman
9 *none*
16 Joe Williams
23 Gale Buck
30 Milt Davis

Be Aware!

**Protect yourself
from scammers!**

Watch for emails, texts or calls that might be fraudulent and do not trust communications (even if they sound legitimate) that ask for personal information, money or gift cards.

You will NEVER get an email from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:30-4pm
Friday 9:30-2pm



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Breakfast - April 20 with team leaders Billy and Sharon Kirby. If you would like to volunteer to help set up, cook, serve, clean or fellowship, please contact **Sharon at [276 806-9709](tel:2768069709)**. And if you are not able to volunteer, please consider joining us to eat!

Memorial Service for George Townsend - Sunday, April 21 at 2 PM.
Reception will follow the service.

***Please contact Pearl Minter at [276 650-8690](tel:2766508690)
or pearlrm.pm@gmail.com if you interested in providing cookies, nuts, or
fruit for the reception.***

Memorial Service for Lang Mauck - Saturday, April 27 at 3 PM. Reception
will follow the service.

Pastor Bea will be away April 15 -May 3 on her pilgrimage in Ireland and
Iona in Scotland. While she is away, elders of our church will be on call if
pastoral care is needed. Call [276 734-8830](tel:2767348830) and leave a message or text. You
may also leave a message on the church office phone.

Presbytery Meeting - Saturday, May 4 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church,
21206 Timberlake Rd., Lynchburg, VA. Link for more
information: [https://www.peakspresbytery.org/new-presbytery-meeting-
information/](https://www.peakspresbytery.org/new-presbytery-meeting-information/)



Community Breakfast

Team leaders and schedule for the remainder of the year

- April 20 **Sharon & Billy Kirby**
- May 18 **Suzan & Bill Kirby**
- June 15 **Jerri & Joe DeVault**
- July 20 **NEED LEADER**
- August 17 **Suzan & Bill Kirby**
- September 21 **Brooke & Chuck Cundiff**
- October 19 **Billy & Sharon Kirby**
- November 16 **Nancy & Henry Moore**
- December 21 **Kym & Neil Tatum**
- January 18 **NEED LEADER**

Happy April Birthdays!

- 4** Max Pinkston
- 5** Kathryn Judson
- 7** Bob Davis
- 9** Pastor Bea Miller
- 14** Judy Garland
- 15** Briana Tatum
- 17** Barbara Tatum
- 20** Manly Boyd
- 22** Matthew Price
- 30** Lynn Pritchett, Will Kirby



These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Langhorne Mauck, Family of Nanette Smith, Family of George Townsend, Sue Benfield, Jerry Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Marilyn & Ernest Bremner, Evelyn Cannaday, Cathie Carter (B. Tatum), Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Steve Edgerton, Marge Dunn, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Gary Francisco (Shanna King's Father), Juanita Griffin (J & B Williams), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol and Harold Lamm, Mary Manning, Maggie Pilson, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Barbara Tatum, Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.



Congregational Care and Fellowship



If you are in need of a [prayer shawl](#), or know someone that could use one, please pick one up from the narthex and be sure to sign it out. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pearl Minter.

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 at [276 340-3476](tel:2763403476).

Grace Network Donations

**2nd quarter food donation item is
Potato products (boxed mashed, scalloped)**



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
- *Deodorant
- *Toothpaste
- *Laundry Detergent

**Items may be brought to the church or dropped 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 send 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/peaks-postings/>

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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worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2024

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

Class of 2025

Ron Rebman: Mission/Outreach

Sue Legg: Stewardship and Communication

Monica Stevens: Christian Education

Class of 2026

Billy Kirby: Administration

Susan Pilson: Communication

Anne Madonia: Think Tank

TRUSTEES

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

2025: William Kirby, Gale Legg

2026: Sharon Kirby, Dru Rothrock

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