

April 30, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

April 29, 2020

"And He {Jesus} was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him." Mark 1:13 (NIV)

When you become accustomed to that usual response from people to the question of, "How are you doing?" and you wait for the answer, "Oh I'm doing fine!" but you don't get it. How do you react? Do you automatically stop and delve deeper to find out what may be troubling that person or how you might help? Or do you struggle with what to say and move on? A non response or sometimes even a worse response of pouring out your own troubles, doesn't seem to help anyone. Both parties can be left feeling helpless asking, "Just what can I do?" Helplessness can lead to frustration, depression, uselessness, anger, and eventually hopelessness! So, what's the solution?

For almost the last decade I have lived over 1,500 miles away from my aging father who lived alone. Oh, I would make the occasional flight to see him, check up on any medical issues that may need to be addressed, but most of the time he seemed to be doing fine which left me with a pretty false sense of security of his wellbeing. For years I would call him at 7:00 o'clock on Thursday evenings to get that "I'm fine" response but a little over a year ago an EMT answered the phone saying, "I'm taking your father to the hospital now but I'm not sure if he's going to make it." Fifteen hundred miles away and no one to call, that feeling of helplessness was rapidly heading towards hopelessness! For a moment I just froze and didn't seem to be able to make any decisions or take any action. The other end of the phone line however was pressing me for an answer. "Mr. Hinchcliff, what do you want me to do?"

My fear had led me to an almost total paralysis but fortunately my wife saw the look of shock on my face and took the phone. She passed my medical authorization on for my father and bought me enough time to pull myself together. She reminded me I was a pastor who always knew what to do for other people's family members when similar situations arose. So, I stopped, prayed, and asked for God's guidance to lead me to what to do next. Helplessness is a feeling that all of us will have to experience sometime in our lives. It's an emotion given to us as a gift from God! The key is what we do with that emotion after it becomes a reality. That's when Jesus became the inspiration that I needed in that moment!

I cannot imagine what Jesus was going through with as He went through the temptations in the

wilderness. Being fully human he probably experienced a full range of emotions as I did that could have led to a shut down, yet in the midst of His encounter He was ministered to by divine intervention, strengthened, and encouraged. My father has since passed on but not before I could be by his side and thank God for his life. My hope came from my faith and His working through others around me.

Never forget that God is our hope and our strength. He is very present in times of trouble, waiting to renew us with His Spirit. Next time someone asks you, "How are you doing?" I challenge you to answer honestly and look for how God is going to comfort you in that friend, your prayers, and your faith! So how are we going to get through this Pandemic? You know where to look.

Pastor Mark

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Stated Session Meeting

Highlights

Electronic/Virtual meeting using Zoom

April 27, 2020

1. Mark Hinchcliff led the group in devotions and prayer recognizing God's presence wherever we are no matter what we face.
 2. Mark reported Weekly printed devotionals are being sent out using email blasts, Steeple Views and hard copies. He stated guidelines for reopening after June 10 will be followed.
 3. A website to follow what is being done for National Day of Prayer by the Ministerial Association next week will be sent out.
 4. The nominating committee was asked to prepare a recommendation to fill the unexpired term of Ed Pace, class of 2021.
 5. A congregational meeting will be held July 12, 2020 to elect the 2021 nominating committee. Brooke Cundiff will serve as the elder chair of that committee.
 6. The adult Sunday School class is beginning a study of "John, the gospel of Light and Love." Leaders of this class are needed. Youth are meeting Sunday afternoons using Zoom.
 7. VBS is scheduled for July 27-31. Camp Peaks has been canceled.
 8. The session approved the committee's recommendation that FPC purchase its own Zoom account.
 9. The meeting ended at 8:30 with prayer led by Brooke Cundiff. The next stated session meeting will be June 1, 2020.
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Weekly Spiritual Messages

May 7: Virtual Prayer for the Nations on May 7th, more information is forthcoming.

April 17, 2020: Living for the Day; <https://youtu.be/IHnLSEr23UE> Focus scriptures are Psalm 16 and Psalm 118, verse 24 - Each day is a rich and precious gift from God, with new grace and new opportunities.

April 12, 2020: Easter Sunday Sunrise Video Service - <https://youtu.be/ORJEbI1pyrQEaster>

The video cut off in the final moments of the Sunrise Service video after the Lord's Prayer had started. Here's a link to it so you can listen to after viewing the service video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zaEoxjMYS4>

April 9, 2020: Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Video Message - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG15J7huoyc>

April 2, 2020: Palm Sunday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFEJT9TjYBs&feature=youtu.be>

Parents of Graduating Seniors!!



If you have a high school or college senior that will be graduating this spring, please forward their information so that we can all celebrate and recognize this outstanding accomplishment!

Child's name, if HS senior, please include future plans. If college senior, name of college and program of study/degree. Include your name along with siblings and grandparents.

Please forward to skirbycwj@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday in May

- 1 Janet Fentress
- 3 Georgette "Jerry" Bishop
- 4 Doug Knighton
- 5 Amy Mason
- 8 Gavin Luther
- 10 Sandra Shank
- 11 Bonnie Price, Emily Beard
- 12 Monica Stevens, Patricia Christenbury, Pearl Minter



- 16 Susan Hatchett
 - 17 Heath Russell
 - 19 Annie B. Boyd
 - 20 Christal Kelly, Colleen G. Dallas
 - 22 Hayden Cundiff, Joanna Wood
 - 27 Jacob Wingfield, Kent Williams, Virginia Seamon
 - 29 Edward M. Linker
 - 30 Ron Rebman
-

One Great Hour of Sharing



I ask you to consider what special gifts you might have to share with the world at this time, and urge you to reach out to each other and discover how much of a blessing it is to share! What might you do to encourage another? We seem to have much more time on our hands than we usually do. How might you invest your time? Do you have special talents that you have set aside due to the pressures of a busy schedule? I hope that Cynthia is relishing this time alone and is creating more glorious music for praising God! Do you find that your finances are solid? Please check on those that you love, and do not assume that they have enough finances, food, and confidence to be comfortable.

If you would like to give a donation, please consider both our own church, and the One Great Hour of Sharing. There is a PayPal button on our [church's website's homepage](#), and you can discover more information about the One Great Hour of Sharing by visiting this weblink: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

Presbyterian Women



The videos for lessons **six, seven, eight, and nine** from the DVD for the Bible Study on ***Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*** by Eugenia Anne Gamble is available **on the PW YouTube channel**.

Links are: <https://youtu.be/68Wm-vPuhw0>; <https://youtu.be/QVd8T9Oyic0>;
<https://youtu.be/68Wm-vPuhw0>



Through a partnership between Carilion's Community Outreach and Robert L.A. Keeley Healing Arts program, local churches and organizations are ringing their bell towers during shift change as a way to honor and support health care workers who are caring for our community during this time. First Presbyterian is participating in this! Listen for our bells at 7 AM and 7 PM!

Coronavirus Testing Site

(from the WDBJ website)

What is typically Martinsville and Henry County's biggest symbol for fun and entertainment, the Martinsville Speedway, has now become a battleground in the fight against COVID-19 as a testing site.

"If you are not testing you are not finding, so as we begin testing I suspect we will find more cases." said West Piedmont District VDH officer Kerry Gateley.

When the first case of the coronavirus in Henry County was reported March 30, the Harvest Foundation announced it would provide \$300,000 in funding to open the site.

"Bringing everybody to one site to test after a prescreen was what our medical professional thought would be best in this situation." said Allison Rothrock, Harvest Foundation President.

Equipped with 200 testing kits, the site will offer drive-thru testing for Martinsville, Henry County, and Patrick County residents with a doctor's recommendation.

VDH says a space like the speedway is logistically an ideal testing site.

Adult Sunday School

We are so blessed to have this opportunity to study God's Word together.

Please let Denny or Sam know if your are interested; d.a.casey@comcast.net or sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu.

Youth Sunday School

Our Youth Sunday School class will continue to meet via **Zoom** on **Sunday afternoons from 3-4:00pm**. We will be sampling lessons from Group's Live Curriculum. We'll also take time to check in, hang out, and maybe even play some games! If your middle or high school child would like to join us, now would be a great time to, please contact Sam (sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu) for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

Treasurer's Update Concerning Current Environment

CARES Act Impact on Peaks Churches

The Presbytery website has posted a summary of the CARES Act and its effects on Peak Churches. The article can be found by navigating to the Presbytery website: <https://www.peakspresbytery.org/resources-presbyterian-churches-congregations-worship-virginia/community-voices.html> and selecting the last link titled "CARES Act impact on Peaks Churches (information for April 7 Webinar)"



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Even though the doors to the church building are closed and our congregation is dispersed into our individual homes for the foreseeable future, we are still bound to each other through the love of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Your Agape Team has been working to contact all of the members of our congregation to touch base with you, visit with you, and check on your needs. The Agape Team will contact you periodically, but if you want to talk or if you need help with getting groceries or supplies before they contact you, please feel free to contact any of our Agape Team. We are here for you. Also, each of us is charged to care for one another, so if you feel God calling you to reach out to others please do so. We are all Christ's church together.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God...There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:7; 18

Grace and Peace to all of you from the Agape Team
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Judy Ware - je_ware@yahoo.com 336-601-2316
Judy King - jpk1944@gmail.com 276-340-810

Please Help!

Critical Need For Blood and Platelets
Right now, eligible and healthy donors are strongly urged to make an appointment to provide lifesaving blood products to patients.



Gifts to the Church

In honor of Ed Pace

Henry & Yvonne (Nootsie) Holman
Bonnie's cousins - Beverly, Sandra, Kay and their husbands
Elizabeth and Dudley Walker
Sarah & Doc Altizer to Cooks Who Care in Ed's memory
Ashby and Johnny Pinkard
Catherine B. Lohr, Friendly Ave Baptist Church - All ages, all stages Sunday School Class
Marie Lannom

William & Elizabeth Sibbick
Sandra Pace
Marge Dunn
Susan, Joseph and Sam Smith
Monty and Joan Montgomery
Otha & Sarah Reid
Mrs. Ruby Pace
Betsy & Jerry Jessee
J. B. & Brenda Armstrong
Judy Dyer/ Sarah, Thomas, Eydie, Mollie and Josie Kenny
M/M William Garrett, Jr.
Nancy Penick
CJ & Myrtle Robertson
Jay and Paige Frith
Richard & Joyce Price
Danny & Patsy Hazelwood
Barbara Hyler
First Baptist Church, Collinsville
Bradford Preparatory School Ruby/Pace and Carol Kemp
Judith King
Nancy and Dennis Hoy
Judy Epperly
Tracie Hearer & Jim Frith
William and Fran Hensley
Cathie Carter

In honor of Dr. Don Richmon

Nancy Bondurant
Walter and Helen Flythe
A W Moore

In honor of Dr. Don Richmon

Myra and James Stegall
M/M William Garrett

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers: Doc Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Dot Bryson, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra Bryson Cox, Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Daniel Handy, Helen Hawkes, Anne Holland (sister of Pearl Minter), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gavin Russell, Gene Stanley, 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.

Please remember
Canned Tuna or Canned Meat for Grace Network

Dear Friends,

Grace Network is continuing to help those in our community during the Covid-19 situation in partnership with the Harvest Foundation, the United Way, Salvation Army, Community Fellowship and the Henry County Food Pantry in Bassett. We have all come together to provide food boxes for those in need and will provide 5 locations to pick up these boxes each Monday from 9-2.

Grace is blessed to be part of this effort and when this is all over, we will go back to our regular services in providing financial services and food through our regular processes. The assigned food items from our church partners will become even more important on the other side of this quarantine with so many needing extra help to get back on their feet.

The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 2nd quarter is **canned tuna or other canned meats like chicken or ham**. Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever. Please stay safe, stay healthy and please keep us in your prayers as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Blessings, Tracy

A Note from the the Editor

Although regular church services have been cancelled and we are no longer meeting in person, I hope we all try to stay in touch with one another using any possible medium. Phone calls, face time, emails, etc. It is important that we look after one another during these difficult times and it's good to know we are not alone. While there are no regular happenings to report on, I would like to send out Steeple Views on a weekly basis so please feel free to share any news or updates with me and I will do my best to include them in the newsletter. skirbycwj@gmail.com or 276 806-9709.

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/

Steeple Views is published. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2020

Denny Casey: Christian Education

Ron Rebman: Administration

Kym Tatum: Fellowship

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Stewardship

Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Communications

Betty Hudson: Congregational Care

TRUSTEES

2020: Milton Davis, Duke Ferrell

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

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