

**April 9, 2020**



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

---

## ***Pastor's Corner***

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

April 1, 2020

*I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothes? Matthew 6:25*

*Did you know that some psychologists claim that 85% of what we worry about will never happen to us? They say 10% of our worries we can do absolutely nothing about, and that only 5% of our worries are legitimate! And if I had to guess, close to 95% of us never spent much of that worry time worrying about a viral pandemic virtually shutting our lives down. While our current situation world wide definitely falls in that last 5% legitimate realm, anxious worry will not solve the problem.*

*While this Covid 19 virus is a serious risk to the health of us all, more people fill hospital beds because of worry than almost any other disease. Headaches, ulcers, heart attacks, mental disorders, and even the common cold can be brought on by worry.*

*Worry is the opposite of trust, and as a Christian believer we are called to put our trust in God's direction in our lives. One of the greatest pieces of advice ever given to humankind is from the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus said:*

*Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to their life?*

*The decision to trust god or to carry the worries of the world yourself is up to you. Either road you take requires an action on your part! One road leads to fulfillment and peace the other road leads to frustration and anxiety. Yesterday I read a post from an old High School friend who spent almost his entire life living alone as a Texas rancher, never marrying, or even pursuing a steady relationship. After almost 60 years of this lifestyle he met and married the love of his life just a few years ago. With the recent mandatory "Stay at Home" regulations he thanked God for the blessing of being ordered spend quiet time alone with his bride. Worry of being shut off from the outside world never entered his mind.*

*In these times of attempting to get this pandemic under control settle in and enjoy the unexpected joy of living that God offers. Choose the road called trust! God's Word will see us through.*

*Be safe and be healthy,*

*Pastor Mark*

[View this email in your browser](#) • [Forward to a friend](#)

---



Pastor Mark is posting weekly spiritual messages via YouTube. They can be accessed by navigating to FPC's Facebook page. In addition, they will be sent out weekly in our Steeple Views newsletter. The links to the messages to date are included below. Simply click on the link and you will be directed to the YouTube video.

**March 26**

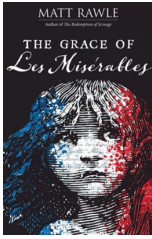
Feeling cut off and hopeless? Today's focus scripture come from Ezekiel 37.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qb1CoziTv4&feature=share>

**March 20**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnZVzinW4p0>

I pray that everyone remains safe and well during this uncertain time in our lives



Our Sunday School series on **The Grace of Les Misérables** continues via Zoom. The adult class will meet at 9am and the youth at 10am on Sunday mornings. Questions on how to join us? Contact Denny Casey or Sam Smith.



Children's Worship & Sunday School continues via digital resources. Parents are encouraged to utilize the resources provided by Sam. Weekly emails will be sent out, if you did not receive and would like to, contact Sam at [sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu](mailto:sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu).

---

The April devotions from **These Days** are being provided for free online by the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. You can find them here:

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Default.aspx?ContentID=14604&Title=These-Days>

---

## Treasurer's Update Concerning Current Environment

Hello to all!

Last week we put out a call to the congregation to remember First Pres in your thoughts, prayers, and stewardship. Many thanks to all for your efforts in this.

On March 30, 2020 the Governor of Virginia issued a stay at home order effective March 30 - June 10, 2020. The date we had last week was April 22, 2020 so it looks like any return to normal worship may be further out.

This week we learned of some efforts from the Peaks Presbytery and I feel they are trying to provide good support to the churches in their area. They are offering an interest free loan to help with cash flow deficiencies, an immediate cash gift of \$1,000, and eliminating any covenants of intent giving by the churches for 3 months. These actions will help the church manage its cash. The Presbytery is also helping us determine if we can qualify for a forgivable loan from the Small Business Administration which may cover utilities, payroll, and payroll related expenses. We hope to learn more later this week.

Please keep our Church, Community, State, Country, and World in your thoughts and prayers as we all work our way through this crisis. If anyone has any suggestions or questions feel free to contact me at 276-732-3296.

A link to our homepage has been provided below. After clicking on the link, look for the "donate" button as illustrated in the picture below. This is a quick and secure way to make a donation to the church. If anyone would like to use it and need some direction, please give me a call.

<http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/>

#### Online Giving

We've set up a special page for making gifts to First Presbyterian Church using your credit card, debit card (if available), or your PayPal account. Your gifts are very much appreciated!



Stay safe/stay well/stay positive

Henry G Moore III



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

Denny Casey - [d.a.casey@comcast.net](mailto:d.a.casey@comcast.net) 276-224-3906

Ron Rebman - [ronreb85@gmail.com](mailto:ronreb85@gmail.com) 276-634-1254

Jerri DeVault - [jerride@embarqumail.com](mailto:jerride@embarqumail.com) 276-252-2162

Monica Stevens - [mlkstev@hotmail.com](mailto:mlkstev@hotmail.com) 276-632-8075  
Tracy Hinchcliff - [tracyhair60@gmail.com](mailto:tracyhair60@gmail.com) 409-330-0847  
Judy Ware - [je\\_ware@yahoo.com](mailto:je_ware@yahoo.com) 336-601-2316  
Judy King - [jpk1944@gmail.com](mailto: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.**



---

### *Our Deepest Sympathy*

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of **Walt Seamon**, who passed away yesterday.

The service will be private given the current COVID-19 situation.

---

### **Prayer Requests**

**These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:**

Family of Walt Seamon, Walt Seamon, Doc Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Dot Bryson, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), 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), Ed Pace, 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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter)

### **Useful Links**

FPC website:

[www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/) or [www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/](http://www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/)

FPC online directory: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com/](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/)

FPC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA](http://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA)

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org/](http://www.peakspresbytery.org/)

Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org/](http://www.pcusa.org/)

Daily Bible Readings: [www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/](http://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](mailto:steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

**Church Office Phone:** 276-632-3431

**Our mailing address is:**

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

**STAFF**

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff, Pastor, [pastor@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Sam Smith, Youth and Family Ministries Director, [sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu](mailto:sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu)

Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist, 276-734-0212

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director,

[contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

**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**

Ed Pace: Facilities

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

---

*Copyright © 2020 First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, VA, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

