

April 8, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

April 7, 2021

"Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more valuable, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next." 1 Timothy 4:7b-8 NLT

After a year of being somewhat sequestered, with an awaiting pantry of junk food providing momentary comfort, our waistlines have suffered. So as restrictions are slowly lessening the topic of the day for many of us is dieting. We can no longer fit into our pre-COVID-19 clothing, and unless we find a way to shed some of those undesirable habits our lives may be out of control forever. But there are so many trending diets out there which one do we choose? We're tempted to go to the ones that promise almost overnight results, but when those diets end, frequent consequences are a return to old ways sometimes worse than when we started! Diets with long-term lifestyle change seem to be the only true answer.

As I've mentioned, true change only occurs with "permanent" lifestyle changes. A change of heart and spirit! So how about a new routine promoting spiritual fitness? The Scripture above in I Timothy points out that although physical fitness does have some value, the fitness that really matters is spiritual in nature. Can you imagine what a difference it might make to put just a little of that time we might spend on the treadmill working on our spiritual health? How much true permanent change could result in our daily living? Maybe working on our body in Christ could result in greater satisfaction in the image in the mirror and the image of our lives inside and out.

Take a moment out today to assess what your spiritual diet looks like. Does it

include a healthy balance of not only asking God to change what you don't like but also making a commitment to stick to a diet of daily prayer, Scripture reading, meditating on God's Word, and serving another in Jesus' name? Most of us do better if we approach our diets with the encouragement of another. Today I promise to encourage you in your spiritual fitness if you promise to encourage me in mine. But let's start by asking for God's Holy Spirit of encouragement to start every day.

Go with the blessing of our Savior Jesus Christ,

Pastor Mark

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Church Reopening!

The sanctuary has reopened for in-person worship and will continue with restrictions as before (wear a mask, enter at narthex, social distance) unless otherwise notified.

Virtual services will still be available on Facebook for those that wish to remain at home until they feel safe to return. Sign-ups will continue each week by emailing office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org or by phone, 276-632-3431. **Please call by NOON each Friday.**



Please join us on the **Second Sunday of Easter** either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10 am.

sermon by Pastor Mark Hinchcliff

It's Hard to See with Your Eyes Closed

Based upon John 20:19–31 and 1 John 1:1–2:2



Through **Easter Sunday, April 4**, you will have the opportunity to give to **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

Checks should be written to the church with '*One Great Hour*' in the memo. Contributions may also be made online designating '*One Great Hour*' in the optional note field.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. **One Great Hour of Sharing** is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world. Please consider assisting in this great effort. Make checks payable to the church with '*One Great Hour*' in the memo. Contributions may also be made online designating '*One Great Hour*' in the optional note field.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

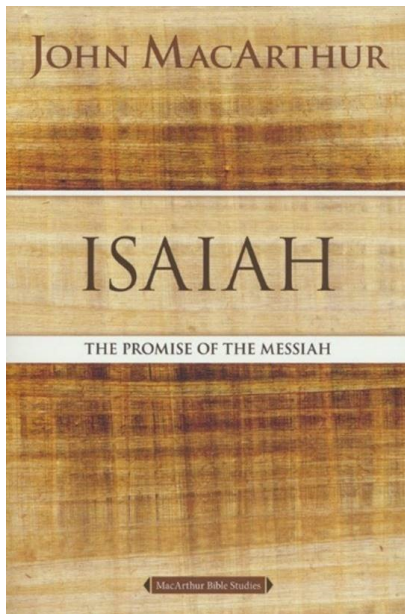
Receives 36% of funds raised and takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so that all may be fed.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

Receives 32% of funds raised and works alongside communities as they recover of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees.

Self-Development of People (SDOP)

Receives 32% of funds raised to invest in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.



Begins: April 11 at 8:30 AM - June 13 by Zoom

The *MacArthur Bible Studies* provide intriguing examinations of the whole of Scripture and continues to be one of the bestselling study guide series on the market today. In this study, Dr. MacArthur examines the words of the prophet Isaiah, showing how God proved to be faithful to his people (and us) by promising to send Messiah who would save them from sin. These latest all-new studies join the ranks of the previously released study guides, now offering readers a comprehensive selection of Old Testament Bible studies by bestselling author and theologian John MacArthur.

Each lesson includes:

- **Drawing Near:** An opening question based on the key theme or topic of the lesson
- **The Context:** Background information on the passage of Scripture being studied
- **Keys to the Text:** Detailed commentary on the passage being studied
- **Unleashing the Text:** Application questions on the passage highlighted in the lesson
- **Exploring the Meaning:** Three key takeaways from the passage
- **Reflecting on the Text:** Reflection questions on the passage highlighted in the lesson
- **Personal Response:** A journaling section to help readers apply the principles

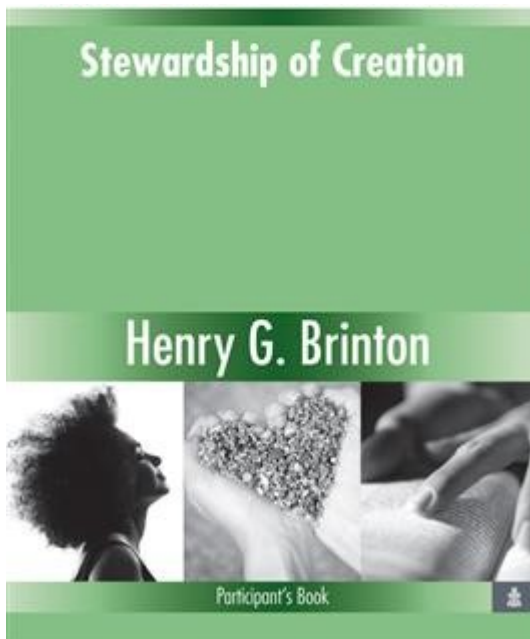
Each study includes an introduction that provides background information to each book of the Bible being studied and a closing "Reviewing Key Principles" lesson to help cement the main themes of the study.

To sign up or for more information, contact Denny Casey (d.a.casey@comcast.net).

Bible Study: Stewardship of Creation



Begins: April 21 at 7 PM by Zoom for six weeks



This is being organized by the FPC Earth Care team

Description from the publisher:

"Explore the biblical bases for our care of creation along with sessions on being environmentally friendly at home, at church, and in the world."

Being Reformed: Faith Seeking

Understanding is a series of biblically based mini-courses that provides adults with a foundational understanding of the Reformed faith. Each six-session study--written by well-known and respected scholars--features

Scripture, prayer, in-depth commentary, and questions for reflection. Each study addresses its subject from a Reformed theological perspective. Lessons are enhanced through the Leader's Guide, which offers helpful suggestions and direction for group study. The main structure for these guides is the rubric Head, Heart, and Hands.

We have borrowed a few books from the presbytery office that will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Sam Smith, sam@peakspresbytery.org, to borrow a copy or you may purchase a copy from the PCUSA bookstore.

Here's a link to the book (with a link if you'd like to order a copy):

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/680720/stewardship-of-creation-participants-book.aspx>

To sign up and get the Zoom link, contact Denny Casey d.a.casey@comcast.net



MATTHEW 25

**Becoming a Matthew 25 Congregation –
April 13, 7:00 p.m.**

Hello Presbytery of the Peaks! You are invited to join in learning how your church can become an official Matthew 25 congregation.

Sy Hughes, Mission Engagement Advisor for the Southeastern US/Presbyterian Mission Agency, will highlight resources and assist congregations who may be considering the Matthew 25 Invitation. The emphasis will be on practical help for congregations as they focus their mission, with Matthew 25 as a guide. To receive the Zoom link for participation in the April 13, 7:00 p.m. event, contact Denny Casey d.a.casey@comcast.net

Becoming a Matthew 25 congregation is relatively simple and involves the following:

#1 Sign up

#2 Continue congregational mission efforts in one or more of the following areas:

- building congregational vitality
- dismantling structural racism
- eradicating systemic poverty

#3 Share your stories of how embracing Matthew 25 is impacting your congregation/community

For more Matthew 25 information <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

Virtual Youth Retreat

The Presbytery of the Peaks Youth Council will be hosting a virtual youth retreat for middle & high schoolers on **Saturday, April 17, 10 am-12 pm** on zoom. More details & registration info can be found here: [PoPYoCo Middle & High School Virtual](#)

A Presbytery of the
Peaks Middle & High
School Virtual Retreat

Wait For It

Romans 8: 24-25

Saturday
April 17, 2021



10am-12pm
on Zoom!

With Keynote speaker: Matthew Aldas

With Music Leader: Cameron Moore



Email sam@peakspresbytery.org for more info



IMAGINE! GOD'S EARTH & PEOPLE RESTORED.

COMPASSION PEACE AND JUSTICE TRAINING DAYS APRIL 7-9
ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS APRIL 18-21

More information coming soon!

A world of justice and reconciliation.
A world that values people and creation over profits.



COMPASSION PEACE AND JUSTICE

Peaks Mission

Compassion, Peace & Justice Training Days, presented by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness and its fellow Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries, traditionally takes place in person at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., on the day before **Ecumenical Advocacy Days**, a weekend-long event in Northern Virginia. For the second

consecutive year, both events will be virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, CPJ Day expanded to three days to provide a breadth of content around this year's theme, environmental justice, without the potential Zoom fatigue of a day-long online event. Each day will start at 11 a.m. Eastern Time and go to 12:30 p.m. On April 7 and 8, there will be small group gatherings at 1:30 p.m. ET. [Registration is free.](#)

Featured speakers this year will be:

- The **Rev. Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes**, a theologian, liturgist, artist, and activist who is the Associate Professor of Worship at **Union Theological Seminary** in New York City.
- **Harry Pickens**, an award-winning performing artist, educator, composer, author, workshop facilitator, and life transformation coach in Louisville, Kentucky.

Plans for additional panelists and speakers are being finalized and will be announced shortly. Like every year, CPJ Days will also feature music and worship.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days are set to take place just over a week later, **April 18-21**, and will have a similar theme of environmental justice this year. [Registration is now open](#), and is \$25 until April 1.

Earth Day

Saturday, April 24



As part of Earth Day week; FPC will be celebrating our care for God's creation by enjoying nature, going on an easy hike, and picking up trash along the way.

Meet at the church at **10 am** and plan for a hike along the Dick and Willie trail. Come out and enjoy the fellowship and being outdoors together! Pack a lunch and bring a water bottle.

Youth Ministry

April Schedule

Sunday, April 11 – Youth Gathering on Zoom (12pm). We will conclude our Lenten study.

Saturday, April 17 – Presbytery Virtual Youth Retreat on Zoom (10am-12pm)

Saturday, April 24 – Earth Care Event: we'll be going for a hike & will pick up trash along the way to help beautify our Earth while also enjoying nature! (plan to pack a lunch & more details to follow)

Sundays April 18 & 25 – No Zoom Gathering on these days but please join us for our Saturday events those weekends instead!

Happy Birthday in April!

- 4** Max Pinkston
- 5** Kathryn Judson, Pastor Mark Hinchcliff
- 7** Bob Davis
- 14** Judy Garland
- 15** Briana Tatum
- 16** Reed Stone Moore
- 17** Barbara Tatum
- 20** Manly Boyd
- 22** Matthew Price
- 23** Gene Stanley
- 30** Lynn Pritchett
- 30** Will Kirby



Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sarah Altizer, Ken Beavers (Pastor Mark's nephew), Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Laura Buffkin, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra and Mark Dobrinski (brother and sister-in-law of Cynthia), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Jim Murray (Judy King), Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Bill Plonk, Gene and Betty Stanley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), 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

Cornbread Mix



The 2nd quarter food donation item is **Cornbread Mix (i.e.: Jiffy)**.

Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

Hygiene Items - We are always in need of these items!

**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*

Presbytery of the Peaks

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/

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

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

Sam Smith, Youth and Family Ministries Director, sam@peakspresbytery.org

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

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

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Rob King: Facilities

Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

TRUSTEES

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

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