

April 9, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Pastor's Corner

Holy Week 2020

"Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. In his name nations will put their hope." Matt. 12:18-21

We've all heard it said, "Life is not fair." And as much as I dislike it, that phrase seems to ring true more often than not. Although who this pandemic infects and sometimes even strikes down is tragic, no one can claim it discriminates one race, one culture, or even one nation from another. Unfortunately, it is world-wide! Although we wish some other circumstance could be a unifying force, nothing brings opposing forces together like a common enemy. We are all being called together to give up some of our comforts in life like our physical social contacts in order to stop the spread.

Other circumstances like a painful breakup, a lost loved one, a phone call delivering the news of cancer, losing a job, or financial strain, all can interrupt our comfortable lives. So where do we go to ease our pain? We rely on our God to help us through and "His Guiding Spirit" to join us together in our common journey back to happiness!

I had a couple of friends in High School and College who were star athletes. Each spent their competitive sports plagued with injuries. Both had their

injuries end their playing of their sports but the difference between the two was that one is a Christian and the other is not. One had hope of a future and the other did not. One knew their sport was temporary and not their identity, and that their identity and hope was in Christ; the other did not.

As Christians, we can look past the now. God sent His Son, Jesus, as the Servant who, by His death and resurrection, makes all the difference for believers giving us hope of life, health, justice and mercy. Through our trust and devotion to Him life has meaning through whatever life may bring. Stay strong in your faith, be cautious and careful in our social distance, and care for each other in these trying times. Lord our hope is in You!

Blessed be your days, Pastor Mark

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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.

April 2

Palm Sunday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFEJT9TjYBs&feature=youtu.be>

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

Community Efforts

Are you interested in making face masks to donate to those in need?

Ashby Pinkard has been making some and dropping hers off at Joann Fabrics where they take care of getting them where they need to go. She's happy to answer any questions regarding the design and construction.



In addition, there are YouTube videos on how to make them and patterns are available at JoAnn's.

This is a very worthwhile project and a wonderful contribution to our community.

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 posted below:

<https://youtu.be/68Wm-vPuhw0>

<https://youtu.be/QVd8T9Oyic0>

<https://youtu.be/68Wm-vPuhw0>

Communication

If you would like to be able to receive TEXT messages on your cell phone and we do not have your number, please call the church office (632-3431) and leave your information. The church office is closed but the messages are being retrieved.



If we have your number and you DO NOT want to receive TEXT messages please let us know so that we can remove your number from the database.



If you are a small business and are worried about keeping your workforce employed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, you need to click on the link below. The SBA website provides all the information you need.

"Our nation's small businesses are facing an unprecedented economic disruption due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. On Friday, March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the CARES Act, which contains \$376 billion in relief for American workers and small businesses."

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>

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.

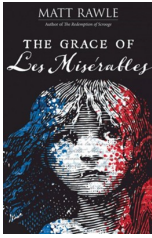
When the first case of the coronavirus in Henry County was reported March 30, the Harvest Foundation announced it would provide \$300,000 in funding to open the site.

"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.

Sunday School



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.

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 fellow members.

Here is an update on financial matters.

The tax code has been amended for 2020 to allow for an individual that does not itemize to receive a tax credit of up to \$300 for charitable cash contributions. For individuals that itemize they can claim a donation allowance of up to 100% of their adjusted gross income. I hope everyone will continue to stay safe. Thanks.

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 276-224-3906
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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.

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), 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.

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/

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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

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