

August 19, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

August 18, 2021

"You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring Word of God. For all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flowers fade but the Word of the Lord endures forever. That word is the good news that was announced to you." 1 Peter 1: 23-25

Each week, after proclaiming the Holy Word of Scripture, I follow up that proclamation with the preceding words from 1 Peter. Those words emphasize not only the permanency but the unchanging Word and promise of God!

In my hometown of many years, San Antonio, Texas, lay a series of old Spanish Missions. Some of these missions lay in ruins and some in various stages of renewal. Probably the most famous of these missions is the Alamo. Most people don't know the Alamo as a religious site but as a fort and battle site which became the inspiration for Texas independence from Spain and Mexico. To see the Alamo today, its stone walls, its series of gardens, capped off by a large memorial monument surrounded by hotels and attractions, a visitor hears and sees memories of the great battle that ensued there but may miss out on the pure emotion in the bravery and horror of battle. But what remains in tack is the presence of God in the midst of endurance in this holy place throughout it all.

The Mission Trail also include Mission Concepcion, Mission San Jose, Mission San Juan, and Mission Espada. At the center of downtown is the San Fernando Cathedral of the same era to which all mileage to the city is measured to the back door. Everywhere in the city, old and new, are constant reminders of San Antonio's religious heritage and the permanence of God's presence! Since the days of the original building of these missions, travelers come and go. Flowers bloom and die. Inventions come to life and become obsolete. Wars are fought and won. Buildings are built and torn down. Worship sites may become monuments. But the Lord God has been the steady rock from the beginning and remains forever.

In this life, our possessions, accomplishments, and even the people around us will disappear. The only thing that will not fade is God: His presence, His Word, His will, and His work. It is these things that will remain permanent. So, let's focus on what's eternal, and not simply waste all our energy on what will fade away. Have faith in God's true promises as God has faith in you.

Pastor Mark

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The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!

If you **have not** been fully vaccinated please wear a mask and continue to practice social distancing.

The church office will open for limited appointments. Please call to schedule.

If you are not fully vaccinated PLEASE WEAR A MASK. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding. Please enter at the narthex for Sunday worship and during the week use the back door at the portico.



Please join us for the thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

"Arm Yourself with a Shield of Faith"

Based upon Ephesians 6:10-20 and Psalm 84

Sermon by Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Community Breakfast



Our community breakfast is scheduled for this **Saturday, August 21**. **We are returning to the in person format with a DRIVE-THRU** option for those that do not feel comfortable coming inside the building.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- *Cooking*
- *Serving*
- *Greeters (hallway and dining room)*
- *Drive-Thru*
- *Clean-up*

More volunteers than usual are needed due to the dining room and drive-thru options.

*If you are able to help, please contact **Brooke Cundiff** at 340-6124.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS
& UPCOMING EVENTS



Please join us in honoring the Reverend Mark Hinchcliff in a retirement celebration after church on [August 22 from 2 to 4 pm](#).

The event will be catered by Rising Sun Breads at **Franck's Place in the King's Grant Community**. The address is 469 King's Way Road, Martinsville, VA.

Masks are required for non-vaccinated persons only



Please contact **Jerri DeVault** if you would like to provide support to **Laura and Budd Buffkin** by cooking a meal or ordering a meal to be delivered to **1403 Askin Street** in Martinsville.

Lasagna, spaghetti, and casseroles that can be frozen would be much appreciated.

Please avoid salting the food.

You may call or text Jerri's cell phone at [\(276\) 252-2162](tel:2762522162). The DeVault home number is [\(276\) 666-3024](tel:2766663024). Please leave a message if you do not connect or email Jerri jerride@embarqmail.com.

Congregational Care and Fellowship

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 Lynn Pritchett at [276 252-6068](tel:2762526068).



What can we pick up for you? Contact **Victoria Esarey** **276 732-9110** or email vesarey@gmail.com. These items will be broken down into parts, making them more valuable as recyclables.

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:



PRAYER CONCERNS

Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Merilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Kimberly Bryson, Laura Buffkin, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra and Mark Dobrinski (brother and sister-in-law of Cynthia), Judy Epperly (Nancy Baker), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, 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

Potato Products



The 3rd quarter food donation item is **Potato Products (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 - 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/

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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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