

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA>

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 



Sermon based upon 1 John 3:16-24 and John 10:11-18

Our Mission

"Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other."

*The Service for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday of Easter*

PRELUDE *How Can I Keep from Singing* Lani Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor

MINUTE FOR MISSION Dr. Joe DeVault, Reunification Update

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

People: He lays down his life for his sheep.

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

People: He knows us, and we belong to him.

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

People: He speaks, and we listen to his voice.

*OPENING HYMN *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* GTG#801

Public Domain: English Text and Music

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,
and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor

Loving Lord,

Have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us, and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CONFESSONAL RESPONSE | <i>"Kyrie"</i> | PH#572 |
| <p><i>Lord, have mercy upon us.</i> <i>Christ, have mercy upon us.</i> <i>Lord, have mercy upon us.</i></p> | | |
| ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS | | Pastor |
| *THE PASSING OF THE PEACE | | Pastor |
| <p>Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all. People: And also with you.</p> | | |
| *RESPONSE OF PRAISE | <i>(Gloria Patri)</i> | PH#579 |
| <p>Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.</p> | | |
| PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION | | Liturgist |
| SCRIPTURE READINGS | | |
| | First Reading: | Liturgist |
| | <i>1 John 3:16-24</i> | (NT pg.240) |
| TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES | | Pastor |
| ANTHEM | <i>Thy Word</i> Chancel Choir | Michael W. Smith & Jack Schrader |
| | Second Reading: | Pastor |
| | <i>John 10:11-18</i> | (NT pg.103) |
| <p>Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.</p> | | |
| SERMON | | Elder Monica Stevens |
| *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | | Pastor |
| <p>The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)</p> <p>I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.</p> | | |

I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear My voice; I claim you as My choice.
Be still, and know I am here.
I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light
Come and rest in me. *(to Refrain)*

Refrain:

*Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.*

I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see; the lame will all run free,
And all will know my name. *(to Refrain)*

I am the Word that leads all to freedom; I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk, and live. *(to Refrain)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

***O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer: Come and listen to me.***

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

***The Doxology**

GTG#607PH#592

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. ~Amen~***

Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let Your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice Your acceptance until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with Your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The God of Hope Be with You

POSTLUDE

The Festive Trumpet

Brian Glyncannon

*Please stand as you are able

Welcome to our visitors today!

We are glad you are here and we hope you will join us for worship again. If you are interested in joining our church, there are three ways you may do so. They are letter of transfer from your church of previous membership, reaffirmation of faith if you have already been baptized; and baptism and affirmation of faith if you have not been baptized. If you are interested in joining, please ask our pastor, or one of our elders, for more details.

Need help hearing the service? Receivers connected to the sound system are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher.

Please use the friendship register located in the pew to indicate your presence in worship. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please include your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Let the children come to me: Children & Youth of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to actively participate in worship. For those desiring supportive materials, "sermon notes" for young children through older youth are available in the narthex. Clipboards and crayons are also available to take to your pew. Please return them to the narthex after the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We thank Monica Stevens for being with us today while Pastor Bea is away.

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by the Townsend family in loving memory of George Townsend whose celebration of life service is at 2:00 PM today.

Pastor Bea will be away April 15 -May 3 on her pilgrimage in Ireland and Iona in Scotland. While she is away, elders of our church will be on call if pastoral care is needed. Call 276-734-8830 and leave a message or text. You may also leave a message on the church office phone.

The memorial service for George Townsend today at 2:00 PM will be followed by a reception for the family downstairs in the fellowship hall.

A memorial service for Langhorne Mauck is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th at 3:00 PM. A reception for the family will follow the service downstairs in the fellowship hall. Contact Pearl Minter (276-650-8690) if you can help.

The next Presbytery Meeting is Saturday, May 4 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 21206 Timberlake Rd., Lynchburg, VA and will be in-person. Follow this link for more information: <https://www.peakspresbytery.org/new-presbytery-meeting-information/>

There is no session meeting this month since Pastor Bea is away. There is a **Called Session meeting** for all elders and trustees on **Monday, May 13th at 5:30 PM.**

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (Potato products** (boxed mashed, scalloped) (Other needs: toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, toothpaste, feminine products, dish and laundry detergent) when you do your grocery shopping. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Langhorne Mauck, Family of Nanette Smith, Family of George Townsend, Sue Benfield, Jerry Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Marilyn & Ernest Bremner, Evelyn Cannaday, Cathie Carter (B. Tatum), Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Steve Edgerton, Marge Dunn, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Gary Francisco (Shanna King's Father), Juanita Griffin (J & B Williams), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol and Harold Lamm, Mary Manning, Maggie Pilson, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Barbara Tatum, Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, April 21

9:00 AM Sunday School
 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary
 2:00 PM George Townsend Memorial Service & Reception

Monday – Friday Weekday School

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM School in Session
 12:00 AM - 2:00 PM Lunch Buddies in FH

Saturday, April 27

3:00 PM Langhorne Mauck Memorial Service & Reception

Sunday, April 28

2 Cents a Meal Offering
 9:00 AM Sunday School
 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary

| DATE | LITURGIST | USHERS/GREETERS |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| April 21 | Ione Linker | Milt and Nancy Davis |
| April 28 | Joan Montgomery | Billy and Sharon Kirby |
| May 5 | Monty Montgomery | Johnny and Ashby Pinkard |
| May 12 | Nancy Moore | Monty Montgomery, Betty Hudson |
| May 19 | Ashby Pinkard | Ron Rebman, Nancy Baker |
| May 28 | Lynn Pritchett | Neil Tatum, Monty Montgomery |

If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.
 If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday 9:30 – 2:00 PM