

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Communion Sunday
February 2, 2025

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

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation



Sermon based upon 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 and Jeremiah 1:4-10

Our Mission

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

*The Service for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Communion Sunday*

PRELUDE

Walk In The Light

Robert J. Hughes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: From the very beginning, God calls us.

People: God sets us apart with a meaning and a purpose.

Leader: We come up with excuses to avoid our calls, for we are afraid.

People: But God reassures us in many and various ways through the course of our days.

Leader: Even if we face trials and hardship,

People: God is with us and sustains us.

*OPENING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

GTG#463

Public Domain

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor
God, our Deliverer,
We confess that we are too reluctant to speak and live according to your truth. We grow comfortable with the way things are, passively condoning injustice. We see ourselves as “insiders” excluding those we consider “outsiders.” We find it easier to pluck up and pull down, to destroy and overthrow, than to build and plant. Forgive us, O God, for being timid disciples. Empty us of fear and shame, and fill us with love that is humble and patient and kind. We pray this in the name of the One who humbled himself, Jesus the Christ, Amen.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSATIONAL RESPONSE “Kyrie” PH#572
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Pastor

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE Pastor
Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.
People: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (Gloria Patri) PH#579
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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS
First Reading: Liturgist
Jeremiah 1:4-10 (OT pg.698)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES Pastor

ANTHEM Lloyd Larson
Taste and See That The Lord Is Good
Chancel Choir

Second Reading: Pastor
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NT pg.175)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Though I May Speak

GTG#693

Hal H. Hopson © Words: 1972 Hope Publishing Company
Music: 1972, 2015, 2018 Hope Publishing Company CCLI License #2244459

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain; as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

*The Doxology

PH#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

Invitation to the Table

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south
and from east and west
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,
when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
he took bread,
blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened
and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's Table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast he has prepared.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Praise to you, O God, for all your works.
You created the world and called it good
and made us in your image to live together in love.
You made a covenant with us,
and even when we turned from you,
you remained faithful.
Therefore with all creation we praise you:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Serving of the Great Feast

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.

*SENDING HYMN

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

GTG#753

Text and Music ©1967 OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213
REPRINTED/STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE ##741009-A

Make me a channel of your peace: Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace: where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace: it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The Star of Bethlehem: A Choral Benediction

Edward McGrath

POSTLUDE

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Gordon Young

*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 welcome and thank Elder Monica Stevens for filling in at the pulpit while Pastor Bea is away.

The FPC Women's Circle Meeting is Monday, February 3rd at King's Grant at 11:00 AM. Nancy Davis will be leading lesson 6, Climate Change. If you are not a King's Grant resident, please sign in at the front desk and purchase your lunch ticket for \$12 upon arrival.

The Community Breakfast is Saturday, February 15th. Cooking begins at 7:00 AM and breakfast is served from 8:00 - 9:30 AM. Reach out to Judy King (276-340-8101) if you are available to cook, serve, or clean.

The next Presbytery Meeting is Thursday, February 20th in person at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church (701 Church St SE). It will be a full day (8:30 AM-3:00 PM) and includes lunch. Registration opens February 10th.



Update on church finances: pledged income for 2024 was \$220,700. 2025 pledges total \$194,000. If you have made a pledge for this year, thank you! If you have not, please consider making one. Pledge cards are available at the office.

Handbell and Choir rehearsals are each Wednesday (unless otherwise noted on the calendar). If you are interested in joining, **handbells begin rehearsal at 5:30 PM** in the session room and the **choir meets at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. New folks are always welcome! Talk with Spencer if you have any questions. *If inclement weather, Spencer will reach out to members concerning rehearsals.*

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (juice 40-64 oz)** (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.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday – 9:30 – 2:00 PM

PRAYER CONCERNS

Nathan Toms Family, Martha Ingram Family (Amy Mason's mother, Michael & Matthew's grandmother), Anne Abercrombie, Sue Benfield, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Jerri, DeVault, Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Doug Goldstein, Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Jamelle Waid Linker (Ed Linker's daughter-in-law), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Betty Stanley, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, C.J. Swinney (great-grandson of P. Minter), Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, James Walker, Lil Wall, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, Jodi White (sister of P. Marshall/G. Chaney), persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries. Areas and families affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton and wildfires in California.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025

RISE AGAINST HUNGER EVENT

at

First Presbyterian Church

10 am to Noon

Please complete a Rise Against Hunger Registration Form by February 9 to guarantee your participation. After next Sunday, it will be based on space availability. We don't want empty spaces so we will be expanding our recruiting area.

If you have questions, reach out to Ron Rebman.



Come and help pack 12-14,000 meals.

Let's help give children hope.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 2	Communion Sunday
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
Monday –Friday	Weekday School
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	School in Session
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch Buddies
Monday, February 3	
11:00 AM	PW Circle Meeting at King’s Grant
Wednesday, February 5	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
Sunday, February 9	Deadline to register for Rise Against Hunger Event
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
Wednesday, February 12	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
Saturday, February 15	
8:00-9:30 AM	Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)
Sunday, February 16	
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
Wednesday, February 19	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
Thursday, February 20	
8:30 AM-3:00 PM	Presbytery Meeting, Blacksburg PC (in person)
Sunday, February 23	2 Cents a Meal Offering
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
Monday, February 24	
4:00 PM	Session Meeting
Wednesday, February 26	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
February 2	Gale Buck	Randy and Martha Rollins
February 9	Ashby Pinkard	Monty Montgomery, Betty Hudson
February 16	Billy Kirby	Bob Wuesterfeld, Barbara Duncan
February 23	Ione Linker	Billy and Sharon Kirby

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