

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026

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

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 

Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

Psalm 103:2



Sermon based upon *Matthew 18:21-35* and *Psalm 103:1-13*

Our Mission

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

The Service for the Lord's Day
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE

Fugue from Sonata VI

Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Stewardship, Randy Rollins

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

All: Bless God's holy name.

One: God forgives. God heals. God transforms with steadfast love.

All: Bless God's holy name.

*OPENING HYMN

Make a Joyful Noise to God!

GTG 54

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Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!

Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.

Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

Come and see what God has done, great the blessings to the just:
walked the chosen through the sea, brought their enemies to dust.
Let us lift a thankful voice for God's mercies, and rejoice!

Bless the Lord, our refuge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!
By whose justice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt deferred.
When our life's sure end shall come, bring us to your heavenly home.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

Nurturing God,

like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children.

But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSIOAL RESPONSE	<i>Kyrie</i>	PH 572
<i>Lord, have mercy upon us.</i> <i>Christ, have mercy upon us.</i> <i>Lord, have mercy upon us.</i>		
ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS		Pastor
*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE		Pastor
One: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all. <i>All: And also with you.</i>		
*RESPONSE OF PRAISE	<i>We Are Forgiven</i>	GTG 447
<i>We are forgiven. We are forgiven.</i> <i>Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (x2)</i>		
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION		Liturgist
SCRIPTURE READINGS		
	First Reading:	Liturgist
	<i>Psalms 103:1-13</i>	(OT pg.554)
TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES		Pastor
ANTHEM	<i>Make Me a Channel of Your Peace</i> Chancel Choir	Jane Holstein
	Second Reading:	Pastor
	<i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>	(NT pg.20)
One: This is the Word of the Lord. <i>All: Thanks be to God.</i>		
SERMON		Rev. Dr. Bea Miller
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		Pastor
We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.		

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“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor

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

Idyll

E. McDowell

*The Doxology

GTG 606

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

*SENDING HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

GTG 754

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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

Freely, Freely

POSTLUDE

Allegro Maestoso

Handel

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



Please join us for 2nd Cup in the fellowship hall immediately following the worship service. Come enjoy coffee, refreshments, and fellowship. Today's 2nd Cup is hosted by Janet Fentress and Judy King.

The FPC Women's Circle Meeting is Monday, September 14th at King's Grant at 11:00 AM. Our first lesson, Unity in Christ, Wisdom from God in our study book *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*, will be led by Janet Fentress. 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.



to volunteer.

Our next Community Breakfast is Saturday, September 19th. Cooks arrive at 7 am, servers & others about 7:30. We still need some servers and someone on the fruit & to-go station. Contact Mary Linker at 919-548-2452 (text or call)



On Saturday, September 19th at 4:00 PM, the KYIV Symphony Orchestra & Chorus will present the *Greater Love Tour* at First United Methodist Church (146 E. Main St., Martinsville). The program features a blend of sacred classical music and traditional Ukrainian folk songs and brings a message of beauty, faith, and unwavering courage from the heart of Ukraine. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken as part of the concert.



New members and regular attendees will be recognized during our worship service on **Sunday, September 20th.** Following the service there will be Lemonade on the Lawn to celebrate our new friends.

When you do your grocery shopping be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network** (Juice 40-64 Oz). Other needs: toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), dish and laundry detergent, toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, and feminine products. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.



Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

If you need to conduct office business outside these hours, please call to make an appointment.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Laura Stevens, Barbara Adams (Patsy Stanley), Ernest Bremner, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Bob Davis, Nancy Davis, Marge Dunn, Sandra Ford, Michelle Handy (Pearl Minter's daughter), Randy Lawson (P. Stanley), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Marion Miller, Maggie Pilson, Ann Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries, and families and areas devastated by severe weather.

STEWARDSHIP: A Practical Guide for Givers

Our 2027 stewardship campaign kicks off on September 13 and concludes on Commitment Sunday November 15. You may make your pledge, in gratitude for God's blessings, any time.

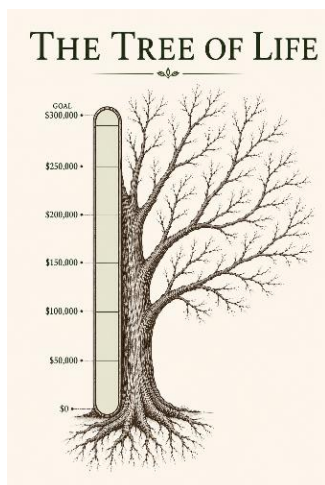
This year, the Stewardship Committee and the Administration Committee set a goal of \$300,000. This will go a long way toward our 2026 budget. Last year's budget was \$545,942.

As you make your pledge, please consider past giving patterns of our congregation:

- We are an older congregation. Of pledges made for 2026, 32% were from ages 65-74 and 61% were from 75 or older. Only 6% were younger.
- Younger givers usually make contributions from regular income, such as salaries, fees and commissions. A 10% tithe or other percentage of income makes sense for them. They also have major expenses for childcare, education, mortgage payments, etc.
- Older givers pay donations from pensions and social security, savings and IRA accounts, investments and sales of assets, like houses. Living expenses are less and tax considerations become important.
- If you are in the older age group, think about the following:
 - Donate appreciated stock and securities. Let the church benefit from the gain (the stock market has been strong this year) and save taxes.
 - Use your traditional IRA account for gifts. For those over 70 1/2, this is a tax-free gift and reduces your required minimum distribution (RMD).
 - If you sold some assets like land or a home that you have owned for a long time, you probably have a big capital gain. Use some of that bonanza as a one-time gift to charity—the church—and take a tax deduction.

How does your pledge contribute to our \$300,000 goal?

- The Tree of Life symbolizes this year's stewardship campaign. As your pledges are received, the Tree of Life shows progress. So, send in your pledge early—before Commitment Sunday, so we can all see the result.



- Last year, we received 45 pledges for \$231,350, an average pledge of \$5,141 (\$428 per month). To reach our goal of \$300,000, we need more pledging units, a higher average pledge or both.
 - With the same number of pledging units, the average pledge is \$6,667 (\$555 per month)

- If we have 50 pledging units (five more), the average pledge is \$6,000 (\$500 per month)

Here is how 2026 pledges break down by size of gift. Is this the year you STEP UP to the next level?

\$10,000+			14 for \$154,000
\$5,000		15 for \$54,000	
\$2,500	16 for \$16,000		
Units pledging and amounts for 2026			

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 13

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday –Friday

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Weekday School

School in Session

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Lunch Buddies

Monday, September 14

11:00 AM

Presbyterian Women's Circle Meeting at KG

Saturday, September 19

8:00-9:30 AM

Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)

4:00 PM

KYIV Symphony Orchestra & Chorus at FUMC

Sunday, September 20

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary/New Members & Regular

Attendees will be recognized

~Lemonade on the Lawn

Sunday, September 27

9:00 AM

2-Cents a Meal Offering

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 28

4:00 PM

Session Meeting

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS	2ND CUP
September 13	Duke Ferrell	Johnny and Ashby Pinkard	Janet Fentress, Judy King
September 20	Liz Ferrell	Ron Rebman, Judy King	<i>Lemonade on the Lawn</i>
September 27	Billy Kirby	Bob Wueteefeld, Barbara Duncan	Milt and Nancy Davis
October 4	Sharon Kirby	Bill and Suzan Kirby	TBD
October 11	Ione Linker	Joe and Jerri DeVault	TBD
October 18	Mary Linker	Duke and Liz Ferrell	TBD
October 25	Pearl Minter	Randy and Martha Rollins	TBD

If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.