

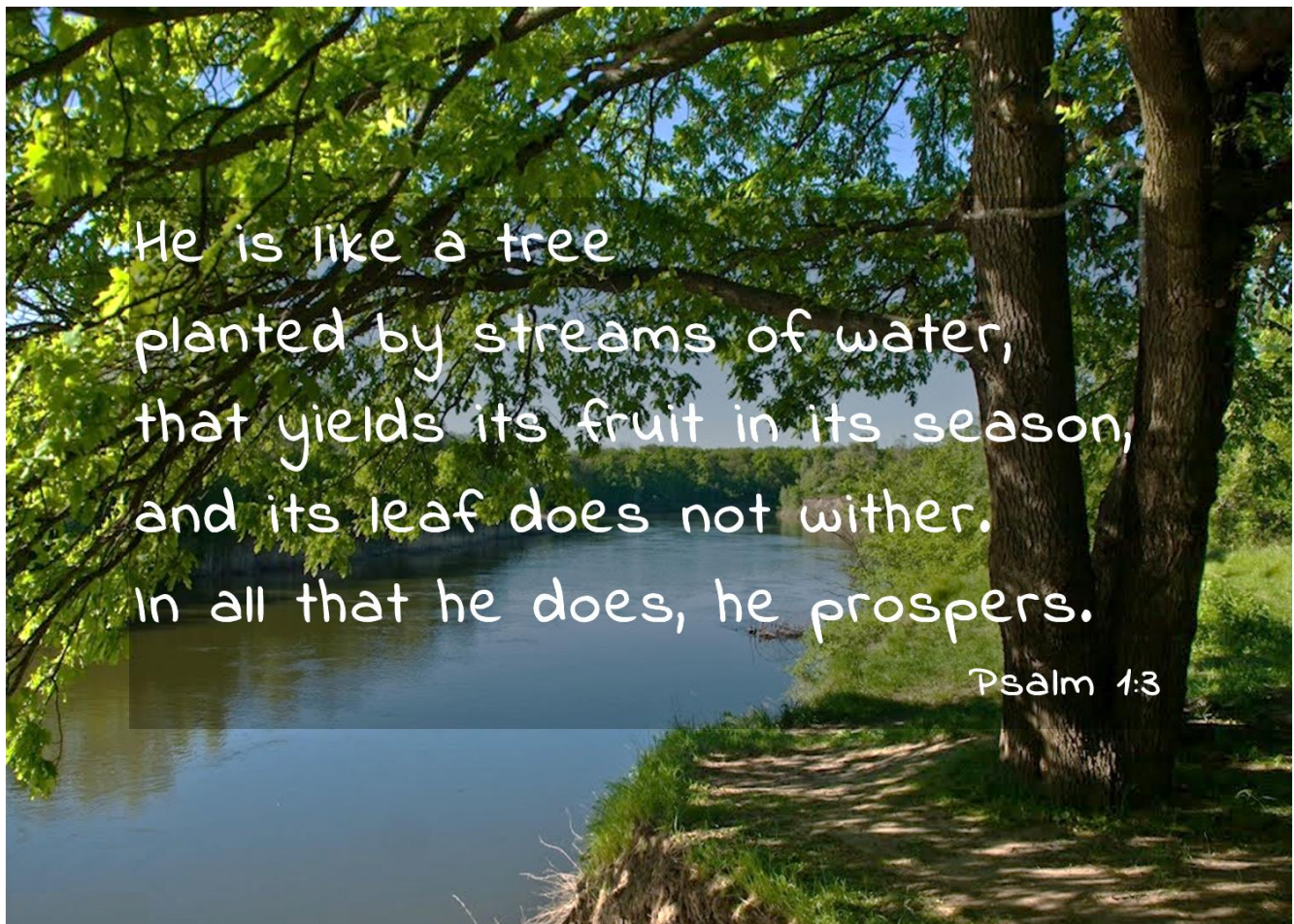
# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue  
Martinsville, Virginia

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 22, 2024

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

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 



**Sermon based upon Mark 9:30-37 and Psalm 1**

**Our Mission**

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

*The Service for the Lord's Day  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

PRELUDE

*Andante Cantabile*

Émile Paladilhe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: Little children, the one who welcomes you is here in word and bread and wine.

**People: Little children, young and old, all the baptized: welcome to the place of hope.**

Leader: Little children, Jesus calls us all into the circle of his arms. Come.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

GTG#475

Public Domain

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

Merciful God,

**In your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasure we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

*Silent prayers of confession may be offered.*

CONFESSIONAL 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)

GTG#581

**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.**

SACREMENT OF BAPTISM FOR

Leo Hayes Fitts-Bernard

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)

**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.**

CONGREGATIONAL VOW:

**With joy and thanksgiving,  
we welcome Leo into Christ's church;  
for we are all one in Christ.  
We promise to love, encourage, and support him,  
to share the good news of the gospel with him,  
and to help him know and follow Christ.**

HYMN

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

\*\*GTG#547

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Liturgist

*Psalm 1*

(OT pg.489)

ANTHEM

*Touch That Soothes and Heals*  
Chancel Choir

G. DeMey/T. Keesecker

Second Reading:

Pastor

*Mark 9:30-37*

(NT pg.45)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Seek Ye First*

GTG#175

Karen Lafferty © 1972 CCCM Music CCLI License # 2244459

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia!

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

\*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

Liturgist

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;  
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our King;  
One with His rising freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;  
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children, joyfully now God's praise we sing.

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Go in Grace and Make Disciples*

POSTLUDE

*Grand Jeu*

Josse-François-Joseph Benaut

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\*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

**Wanted: Faithful Elders to share our Lord's Supper** with members who are not able to attend services. This is an opportunity to visit and share with other members by extending our Lord's Supper to all who want to be served. Training is provided for anyone interested in serving as part of First Presbyterian's **Extended Table**. Reach out to Nancy Davis (276-634-1403 or [davistwo@comcast.net](mailto:davistwo@comcast.net)) for more information on how you can serve others through this vital ministry.



**Facilities Fall Clean-Up Day is Saturday, September 28th from 8:00 AM to Noon.** There is a signup sheet in the narthex listing various needs. So, bring your gloves, shovels, rakes, weed-eaters, wheelbarrows, paint brushes and lots of energy! Contact Dru Rothrock at 276-732-0495 for more information.

**Four Rivers Community Mental Health Walk** will take place **Saturday, September 28th** from 10:00 AM to noon at the Smith River Sports Complex (below the amphitheater). Four Rivers is one of the groups selected by our youth to receive part of the 2023 Pentecost offering retained by FPC.

**There will be a Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 29** for the purpose of electing church officers for the Class of 2027. Candidates are Judy King, Nancy Moore and Johnny Pinkard as elders and Duke Ferrell and Joe Williams as trustees.



**Also on Sunday, September 29th, join us for a Potluck lunch** following the worship service where we will discuss responses to questions from Good Futures. Reach out to Pearl Minter if you can provide help.

**The Session will meet Monday, September 30th at 6:00 PM** in the session room.

**Updates on Rev. Cheryl Peeples' grandson** Asa's illness can be found at CaringBridge, web address <https://www.caringbridge.org>. Type Asa Peeples' name in the search bar and create a free account, if you do not already have one. The account has his picture on it.

**Handbell and Choir rehearsals are each Wednesday.** 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.

**Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center** (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (toothpaste)** (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.



# CHURCH CALENDAR

## Sunday, September 22

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary, including Sacrament of Baptism  
for Leo Hayes Fitts-Bernard, great grandson of  
Ed Linker

## Wednesday, September 25

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room  
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

## Saturday, September 28

8:00 AM-NOON Facilities Call Clean-Up Day  
10:00 AM-NOON Four Rivers Mental Health Walk

## Sunday, September 29

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary  
Congregational Meeting and Potluck Lunch

## Monday, September 30

6:00 PM Session Meeting

## Wednesday, October 2

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room  
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

## Sunday, October 6

9:00 AM **Communion Sunday**  
Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary

## Wednesday, October 2

No Handbell Rehearsal  
No Choir Rehearsal

## Sunday, October 13

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary

## Wednesday, October 16

No Handbell Rehearsal  
No Choir Rehearsal

## Saturday, October 19

8:00-9:30 AM Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)

## Sunday, October 20

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary

## Wednesday, October 23

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room  
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

## Thursday, October 24

Presbytery Meeting @ Raleigh Court PC in Roanoke

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Drema Austin, Brooke Cundiff and family on the passing of Brooke’s stepfather, Family of Brad (Amanda) Russell, Family of Patricia Collins (Jennifer Nease’s mother), Anne Abercrombie, Sue Benfield, Jerry Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Steve Edgerton, Marge Dunn, Teri Ferguson, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Martin Ford, Gary Francisco (Shanna King's father), Juanita Griffin (J & B Williams), Daniel Handy, Jennifer Holland (N. Davis), Dr. Mervyn King, Marvin Hudson, Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, 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.

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
September 22	Mary Linker	Ron Rebman, Nancy Baker
September 29	Jack Kirby	Randy and Martha Rollins
October 6	Sharon Kirby	Billy and Sharon Kirby
October 13	Pearl Minter	Neil Tatum, Betty Hudson
October 20	Joan Montgomery	Johnny and Ashby Pinkard
October 27	Ashby Pinkard	Monty Montgomery, Betty Hudson

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



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September 22

### **THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:**

**What about us gives you hope for our future as a congregation?**

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