

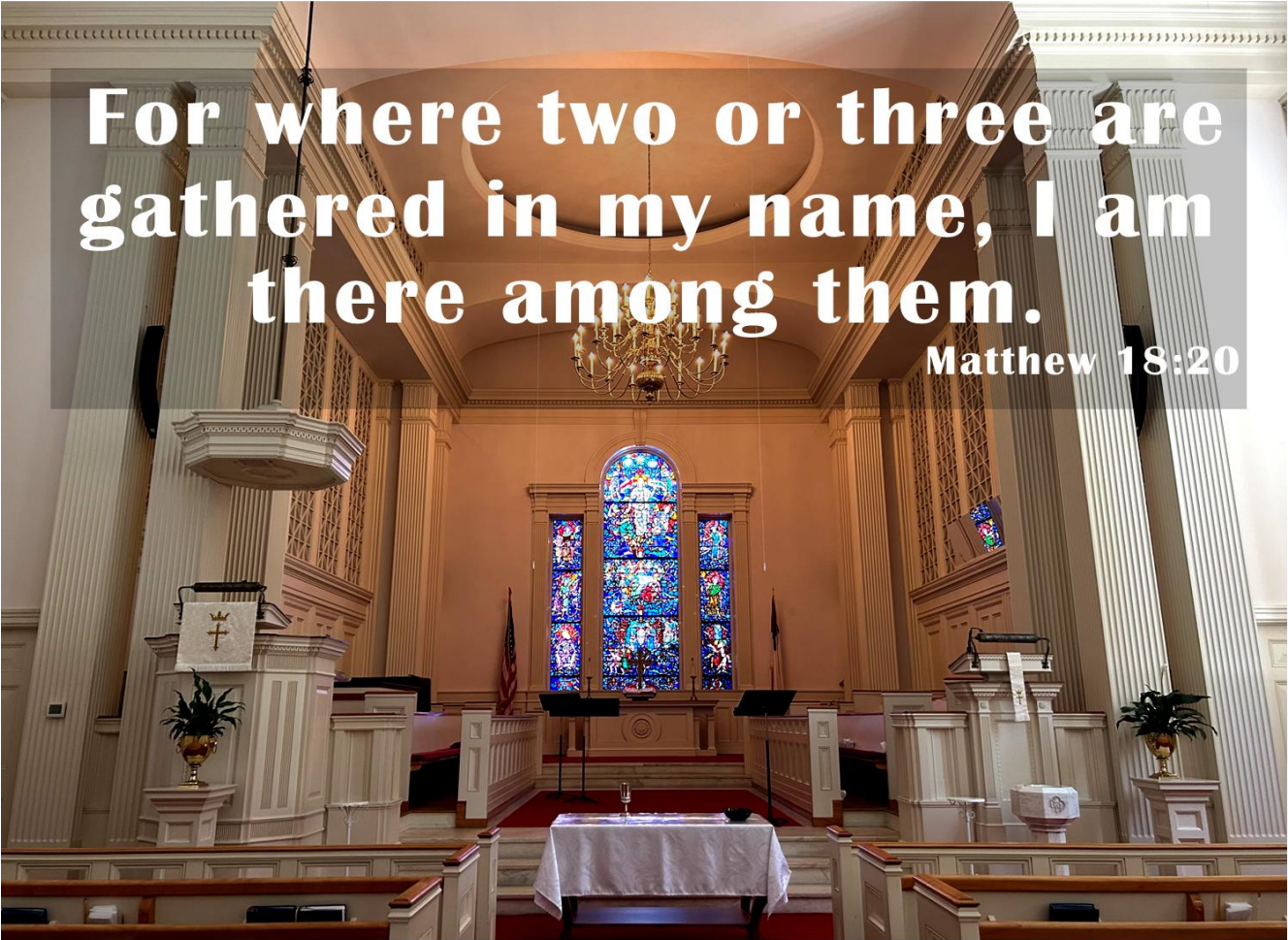
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday
September 6, 2026

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

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation

A photograph of the interior of a church, showing a large sanctuary with high ceilings, tall columns, and a large stained glass window at the front. A white-clothed altar is in the foreground, and pews are visible on either side.

**For where two or three are
gathered in my name, I am
there among them.**

Matthew 18:20

Sermon based upon *Matthew 18:15-20* and *Romans 13:8-14*

Our Mission

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

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

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE *Processional* Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

One: Owe no one anything, except to love one another;
All: For the one who loves another had fulfilled the law.
One: The commandments are summed up in this word,
All: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
One: Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
All: Love is the fulfilling of the law.

*OPENING HYMN *Give Praise to the Lord* GTG 550
(sing to tune of O Worship the King)
Public Domain

Give praise to the Lord, and sing a new song;
amid all the saints God's praises prolong;
a song to your Maker and Ruler now raise,
all children of Zion: rejoice and give praise.

With timbrel and harp and joyful acclaim,
with gladness, O God, we praise your great name;
for now in your people good pleasure you seek;
with robes of salvation you cover the meek.

In glory exult, all saints of the Lord;
with song in the night high praises accord;
go forth in God's service and strong in God's might
to conquer all evil and stand for the right.

For this is God's word: the saints shall not fail,
but over the earth their power shall prevail;
all kingdoms and nations shall yield to their sway.
To God give the glory; sing praises for aye.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

Holy God,

We have not been faithful to your commands. We have been more ready to condemn than to console, more eager to justify ourselves than to work for understanding. We often feed the flames of dissent instead of welcoming the freeing power of forgiveness. Sometimes, when we gather as two or three, instead of welcoming your presence, we talk about others. Lord turn us to a new way of being that we might always remember to treat all others with respect, kindness and love.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSIOAL 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

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

All: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

We Are Forgiven

GTG 447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

(repeat once)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Liturgist

Romans 13:8-14

(NT pg.162)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor

ANTHEM

Love One Another
Chancel Choir

Thornhill/Nix

Second Reading:

Pastor

Matthew 18:15-20

(NT pg.20)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

One: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

All: The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

One: Sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

All: And binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

One: The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed,

All: Claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

One: In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage

All: To pray without ceasing,

One: To witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

All: To unmask idolatries in church and culture,

One: To hear voices of peoples long silenced,

All: And to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

One: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

All: We strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

One: With believers in every time and place,

All: We rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

I Come with Joy

GTG 515

Brian Arthur Wren © 1968, 1971, 1995 Hope Publishing Company, CCLI License #2244459

I come with joy a to meet my Lord, forgiven loved and free,
In awe and wonder to recall, His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share each proud division ends,
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord, His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known; we see and praise Him here,
We see and praise Him here.

Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,
And as His people in the world, we'll live and speak His praise,
We'll live and speak His praise.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

Elevation

Boellmann

***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-***

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor

Invitation to Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful to give you thanks and praise, O God of mystery and miracle. When there was darkness, you made light. When we cried out to you from captivity, you claimed us as your own. When we forgot our love for you, you did not forget us, sending your prophets to turn us around and renewing your promises with a bow in the sky, the parting of the sea, your own Son.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Thank you, Jesus – for your teaching and healing, your challenging and feeding, your living and dying and rising, that we might be raised with you, and with all the world as you continually make all things new.

Dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who join in this feast, that we may be one in ministry in your name. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in Martinsville and in the world.

**All glory and honor are yours, Holy God, through Christ and in the unity of the Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.**

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 HYMNBrethren, We Have Met to Worship* (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

GTG 396

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Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses' sister aided him.
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we'll sit down.
Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*Text: Oxford University; Music © 1957, ren. H W. Gray Company. Alfred Publishing Company. Used by permission. CCLI License #2244459**POSTLUDE***Prelude in D Minor*

J.S. Bach

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

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Laura Stevens, daughter of Monica Stevens and the late Randy Stevens, and the sister of Daniel Stevens, who passed away on Tuesday, September 1st, 2026, in Martinsville, VA. The white rose at the lectern is placed in loving memory of Laura.



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 Joe and Brenda Williams.

The church office will be closed Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day. The office will re-open at regular hours on Tuesday. Also, the **Weekday will be back in session on Tuesday**. Watch out for children having fun!

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.



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. The KSOC was founded and began performing sacred masterpieces of

classical music in 1993. Sacred music pieces—including Handel's Messiah, Brahms' Requiem, and Mendelssohn's Elijah—were banned under Communist rule. As the Iron Curtain lifted and this music became known to Ukrainian musicians, they described it as "an explosion of light." The gospel lives and breathes in the powerful pieces of music they share. It is their greatest joy to proclaim its message of hope, peace, and salvation through their musicians to the world. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken as part of the concert.

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Laura Stevens, Barbara Adams (Patsy Stanley), Ernest Bremner, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Bob 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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 6

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Communion

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 7

Labor Day - Office closed

Tuesday, September 8

9:00 AM

Cooks Who Care

Tuesday –Friday

Weekday School

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

School in Session

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Lunch Buddies

Sunday, September 13

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

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

~Lemonade on the Lawn

Sunday, September 27

2-Cents a Meal Offering

9:00 AM

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 6	Cindy Edgerton	Monty and Joan Montgomery	Joe and Brenda Williams
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 Wuetefeld, Barbara Duncan	Milt and Nancy Davis

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

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



Tuesday – 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.**