

February 17, 2022



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Devotional for the Week of February 13, 2022

Elder, Dr. Denny Casey

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2 (New Revised Standard Version)

A strange thing happened the other day. I had just picked up a few things at the grocery store and decided to get my car washed. After the car was washed, I pulled into one of the vacuum cleaning stations on the side of the building. It was cold outside, so I left the motor running while I cleaned the inside. After vacuuming the driver's side floorboard, I closed the door, thinking I would vacuum the passenger's side next. But as soon as I closed the door, all the doors instantly locked with all my keys, mobile phone, and wallet inside - and the car was still running!

Since my phone was locked in the car, I went inside the car wash office to use their phone to call my wife to see if she could bring over the spare key she keeps. One of the attendants kindly offered her personal phone when suddenly it occurred to me, I don't know my wife's number. She recently changed her number and I had it loaded in my phone - the one locked in my car. The car wash was about two miles away from our apartment so I thought I could walk home if I had to. I called the apartment office to see if they had her new number on file and if they didn't, to ask if they would deliver a message to her for me. No luck there - no one answered.

So, the attendant offered to give me a lift to the apartment office. As it turned out, the office was closed that day, so she then drove me to our apartment. I just remembered my wife had a dentist appointment scheduled for the same time, so I could be outside until she returned. The prospect of waiting outside, as cold and uncomfortable as that sounded, was about the best I could do under the circumstances. As it turned out, the dentist had postponed her appointment, so she was there at the apartment. After I told her what had happened, she grabbed her keys and drove me to my warm and waiting car. What a morning!

Once I got the groceries put away, I had a chance to reflect on all that had happened and how fortunate I was to have first the car wash attendant and then my wife there to help me. A strong feeling of appreciation came over me. Appreciation, not only of those who were directly in my path that morning but also appreciation, in a larger

sense, of how we rely on each other every day. Being helpful and considerate to others are traits that 'grease society's wheels' and I thought about this verse from Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Two kind people bore my burdens that morning and granted me a bit of grace. To me, they were living examples of the meaning of this verse and what it means to '...fulfill the law of Christ'. We don't have to look very far to see plenty of examples of people looking out for themselves, but I think, if we stop and look around us, we can see even more examples of people looking out for others; everyday people building the body of Christ, one kind deed at a time. There's more than one way to say, 'love your neighbor.'

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the many lessons I am learning and the importance of becoming a spiritual Christian and fulfilling the law of Christ by seeking and following His guidance. May I grow in grace and wisdom, humility and kindness, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit I may be of service bearing the burdens of my brothers and sisters in Christ. This I ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

In Christ,  
Denny

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## ***The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!***

**The safety of our congregation and community** are our highest priority. In light of increasing infections due to the OMICRON variant and in order to follow state and local guidelines and CDC recommendations, we strongly recommend that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth while anywhere inside the church and sanctuary.

**The church office will open for limited appointments.** Please call to schedule. Please enter at the narthex for Sunday worship and during the week use the back door at the portico.

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Please join us for the seventh Sunday after the Epiphany either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Dr. Denny Casey  
***Sermon on the Plain: Part II***

Based on Luke 6:27-38 and Genesis 45:3-11, 15

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Please welcome **Spencer Koger** as our Interim Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church. He was our guest organist in January and we are delighted he is willing to serve in an Interim capacity for the next several months.

Spencer is a native of Bassett and graduate of Christopher Newport University with a B.A. in Communication Studies and Leadership Studies.

He comes to us with extensive tutelage under Peter Ramsey, Organist of Pocahontas Baptist Church and Kevin Kwan, Choral Master and Principal Organist of Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Norfolk, VA and 11 years private piano instruction under Claudia Dean Switzer.

We have charged Spencer with bringing our music program back to pre Covid standards.

Also, he is overseeing long over due maintenance and cleaning of our organ, so we know he will be quite busy in the months ahead.

Please stay through his postlude on Sunday and give him a warm welcome to our church family!

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## Upcoming Events



**The Community Breakfast is this Saturday, February 19.** Volunteers are needed to cook and prepare from 7-8:30 a.m. and to serve and clean up from 8:30-10:00 a.m. The breakfast will remain in a drive-thru format until further notice. Contact **Jerri DeVault** if you are available to help ([276-252-2162](tel:276-252-2162), [jerride@embarqmail.com](mailto:jerride@embarqmail.com)).

**The Session** will meet Monday, February 28 at 7:00 pm in the session room.

Plans are underway for **confirmation class** to take place this Spring. If your child (8<sup>th</sup> grade or older) has not been through confirmation and would like to take part, please contact Sam ([sam@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.org)). For those already signed up, more details will be coming soon!

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## Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Anne Peterson Family, Rob & Shanna Francisco-King Family, Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Judy Epperly (Nancy Baker), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Troy Spencer (Pam Rakes' father), Scott Stevens (M. Stevens), Bruce Thomas (M. Stevens), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), persecuted Christians and all troops in defense of freedom throughout the world.

Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, ([276](tel:276-632-3431)) [632-3431](tel:276-632-3431), [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org).



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## Congregational Care and Fellowship

If you are in need of prayer, a meal, transportation, etc...due to a death in the family or the birth of a baby, please reach out to the Congregational Care and Fellowship committee by contacting Pearl Minter at [276 340-3476](tel:276-340-3476).

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## Grace Network Donations

The 1st quarter 2022 food donation item is **Baking Mix (small) or Flour**



Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

### **Hygiene Items - We are always in need of these items!**

*\*Items may be brought to church but please call the office to make sure Rita is there. Alternatively, you may drop off at Grace Network, Monday - Friday, 9-2 PM*



## Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

**Steeple Views** is published weekly on Thursdays. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** [fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com). If you send to another email address, the information may get lost and subsequently not included in the newsletter.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

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## Presbytery of the Peaks

For updates and announcements, please click on the link below or copy and paste into your web browser:

[https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020\\_Peaks\\_Postings/PP\\_Aug18\\_2020.pdf](https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020_Peaks_Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf)

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## Our Mission

Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other

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**Printed copies of *Steeple Views*** are available at church. Current and back issues are also on our website:

[www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter)

### **Useful Links**

FPC website:

[www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/) or [www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/](http://www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/)

FPC online directory: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com/](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/)

FPC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA](http://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA)

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org/](http://www.peakspresbytery.org/)

Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org/](http://www.pcusa.org/)

Daily Bible Readings: [www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/)

**Church Office Phone:** [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)

### **Our mailing address is:**

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

### **STAFF**

Sam Smith, Youth and Family Ministries Director, [sam@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.org)

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Spencer Koger, Interim Director of Music, [srk86879@gmail.com](mailto:srk86879@gmail.com)

### **THE SESSION**

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

#### **Class of 2022**

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

#### **Class of 2023**

Billy Kirby: Administration

#### **Class of 2024**

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

### **TRUSTEES**

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

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