

July 1, 2021



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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**Pastor's Corner**  
**Rev. Mark Hinchcliff**  
**June 30, 2021**

"As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all that you do; for it is written; "Be holy because I am holy" 1 Peter 1:14-16

I never knew how much my life would have to change until I pursued a career as a Special Agent for the Federal Government! Not only did my past have to be squeaky clean, but my family, the friends I kept, even the extended family I had married into, had to pass that same clean background test that I did if I were to have any chance of being approved. After a year and a half of testing and multiple interviews, I had to voluntarily give up three years of income tax returns for scrupulous audited examination. While the audits were taking place, other federal Agents were canvassing my neighborhood conducting random interviews questioning those who may or may not know me about my personal character. All of this just to determine if I could be considered worthy as a candidate.

Although when I went into inquiring about becoming a Special Agent, I felt pretty good about being an honest upstanding guy. But having others examine every aspect of my past life to determine a possible future life starts to make one question every decision you ever made. And if I had to account for every misstep I took, was there enough grace in the world to survive? Well to this day I credit my faith in God as the grace I needed, that anyone needs, to survive such an ordeal.

To read a piece of Scripture, like the one above from 1 Peter, who could stand if God would make all of us account for every time, we fell short? To have God say, "Be holy because I am holy", and stand as our judge, be unachievable without God's grace. Our faith is a small price to be seen as worthy. But obedience through a sincere desire to change and follow God's example can move us to be better. Not perfect, just better. Holiness means to set aside for purity. Holiness is the everyday business of every Christian. It shows itself in the decisions we make and the lifestyles we live, hour by hour, day by day.

Some people never strive to become mature believers. The first step to holiness is to be obedient. It won't be easy but look at your response to the life you have been given by God. If your response in the past wasn't the best, ask for God's forgiveness and do better in the future. The result just might be a deeper and fuller life closer to God's plan for you. Jesus said it like this, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled".

Be grace-filled in your days to come.

Pastor Mark

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

If you **have not** been fully vaccinated please wear a mask and continue to practice social distancing.

**The church office will open for limited appointments.** Please call to schedule. **If you are not fully vaccinated PLEASE WEAR A MASK.** Thanks for your cooperation and understanding. 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 fifth Sunday after Pentecost either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10 am.

#### ***Independence or Interdependence?***

Based upon Mark 6:1–13 and 2 Samuel 5:1–5, 9–10

Sermon by Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

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***Presbyterian Men***

**The Presbyterian Men Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Conference is Saturday, July 17** and will be via Zoom beginning at 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$25 per person or a max of \$75 for 3 or more.

**Information on how to register will be available soon.**

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### ***Compassion Camp 2021: The Sequel is Coming Soon! Register NOW!***

We will once again be offering a virtual at-home Vacation Bible School program this summer. Although we are sad to not have an in-person VBS or Camp Peaks program this year, we look forward to those returning next summer.

**Who's Invited?** Compassion Camp 2021: The Sequel will be available to participants, preschoolers-rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders, **July 26-30**. While each day's session will be sent out via email each morning, you will be able to complete each session at your leisure. This event is FREE so invite your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors.

**Materials & Supplies:** The supplies you will need are items you will likely have readily available in your household. A list of supplies will be available soon & help with supplies will be available to anyone who requests.

**Registration:** You can find more information & register your children [HERE](#) or please contact VBS co-directors Sam Smith at [sam@peaksprebytery.org](mailto:sam@peaksprebytery.org) or Debbie Norton at [dnorto02@leeu.edu](mailto:dnorto02@leeu.edu) if you have any questions.



What can we pick up for you? Contact **Victoria Esarey** 276 732-9110 or email [vesarey@gmail.com](mailto:vesarey@gmail.com). These items will be broken down into parts, making them more valuable as recyclables.

### **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 Lynn Pritchett at [276 252-6068](tel:2762526068).

### **Prayer Requests**

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS**



Family of Sarah Vicki Wells, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Kimberly Bryson, Laura Buffkin, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra and Mark Dobrinski (brother and sister in-law of Cynthia), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gene and Betty Stanley, 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) 632-3431, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org).

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***Please remember***

### **Potato Products**



The 3rd quarter food donation item is **Potato Products (mashed, scalloped)**

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*

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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%20Peaks%20Postings/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/)

**Steeple Views** is published. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor [steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

**Church Office Phone:** 276-632-3431

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### STAFF

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

Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist, 276-734-0212

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

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Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, [contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

### THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

#### Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Rob King: Facilities

Monica Stevens: Worship

#### Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

#### Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

### TRUSTEES

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

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