

June 4, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

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Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

June 3, 2020

"The Lord our God is righteous in everything He does"

Daniel 9:14

"Righteous". When you hear that word what does it mean to you? Do you hear a positive meaning as in "doing the right thing" or do you hear negativity as in "acting self-righteously, only doing what benefits you"? As a Christian, "God's righteousness" means God's character is to always do the right thing. We look to God's direction and actions in the Living Word (Jesus), the Written Word (Scripture), and Holy Spirit to guide us in what God considers righteous.

That being said, when I hear of demands to do the "right thing" by raising awareness of racism by peaceful protest, that turns violent, that sparks blanket hate against the very group we're now asking to restore order and provide protection, it may be hard to discern what the "right thing" is in God's eyes! Even people of deep faith may be questioning, "Where are you God in these horrific actions and what would you have us do?" In many cases we can't hear God's answer when we won't stop telling God what God needs to do. Doing God's will comes about, in most cases, by responding in obedience to that charge given by God. Divine will may come from our inspired action from the Almighty.

So when people are at risk or dying from an unseen virus, when attempts to save lives causes restrictions at home or loss of jobs, when loss of livelihood cause poverty and hunger, and when all of this coupled with historical wrongdoing cause frustration, anger, and rage, where do we go for the right answer? We go to God and listen for

His direction. And when you get that direction, speak the convictions put upon your heart and listen to others who may have different direction than you and let God put us all together with kindness and understanding.

By the love of Christ,

Pastor Mark

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"Why Should You Care So Much?"

Based upon 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 and Psalm 8

Be sure to join the Facebook live worship service every Sunday at 11 AM. The info is sent via text message and includes the link to the service. You may also join by navigating to our Facebook page, scrolling down to the "videos" section of the page and simply clicking on the video at 11 AM.



The church office and facility remain CLOSED. For the safety and health of our staff, please stay home. Even though we are in Phase 2, folks aren't supposed to be in the building until things are officially opened. Even then guidelines will have to be followed. You will be given notice when you can return. Thanks for your adherence and understanding.

The code to enter FPC has been changed. If you have need to enter the building and do not have a fob you will need to call the office and set an appointment time with a staff member. If you wish to have a key fob please call the office and leave a message. By having a key fob it will allow us to know when someone enters the facilities. We are trying to be proactive about disinfecting areas if we know someone has been there.

Anyone entering FPC must use the back door at the portico. All other doors are to remain closed with no entry. You are required to wear a mask to enter. Please help us to maintain a COVID-19 free facility by staying home if you are sick or have been in contact with the virus in the past 14 days.

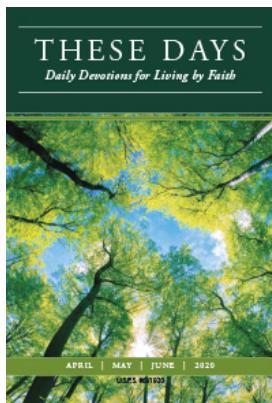


We are called to make a difference, and one good place to start is by taking the **21-Day Racial Justice Challenge**, which is well suited to individuals, churches and mid councils. The challenge invites us to do something every day to raise awareness about the perniciousness of racism and encourage action in response to that awareness. The PC (USA) has joined several nonprofits, organizations and school systems in adapting the challenge for our use.

To access resources and an example of how the challenge works:

presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21



June Devotions

Here's a link for the June devotions from **These Days**:

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Default.aspx?ContentID=14604&Title=These-Days>

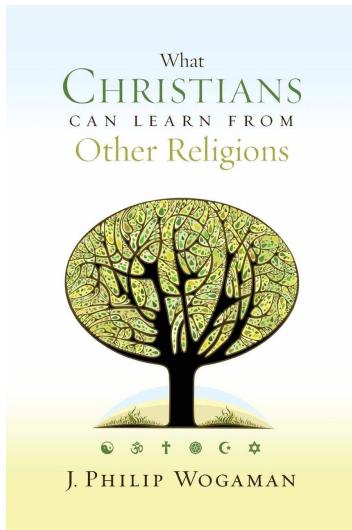




Presbytery of the Peaks has decided to publish a cookbook!! They are continuing to collect recipes from all over the Presbytery. Please email your recipes to **Theresa Underwood**, Peaks PW Treasurer. Her email address is: tundwood@aol..com.

We have so many good cooks in our congregation. It would be lovely to have our church participate!!

Adult Sunday School



This is the book we will be using for the next Sunday school class beginning on June 14 and will run for about 10 weeks. We will be offering the class by Zoom. Books are being ordered. Anyone interested in joining the class contact Denny Casey d.a.casey@comcast.net or (276) 224-3906. Denny will be creating a schedule and would like to encourage leaders or co-leaders to sign up to lead one (or more) classes.

Here's a blurb from the PCUSA bookstore:

"Examining other religions provides Christians the opportunity to more deeply understand their own beliefs. Learning about other religions is not the same as

learning *from* other religions, which can have great value to Christians who wish to strengthen their faith.

In this book's ten easy-to-read chapters, Wogaman shows readers what Christians can learn from different religions, such as Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and even from atheism. From these religions, Christians can achieve insight into love, sin, ritual, the importance of myth to convey truth, the foundational roots of Christianity, the dark side of Christian history, and many other important ways to see and interpret the world and to understand God. The book concludes with a chapter on what other religions can learn from Christianity.

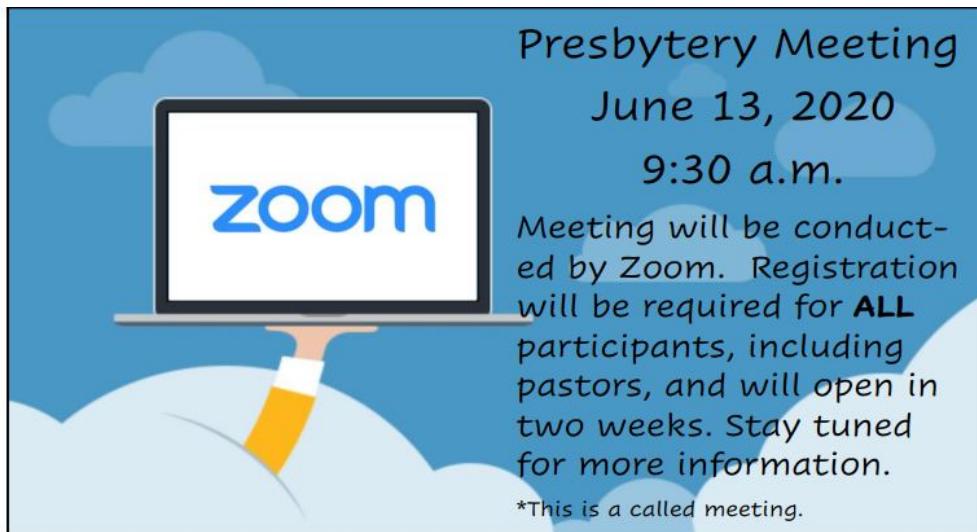
Perfect for church study groups, each chapter ends with questions for discussion."

Youth Sunday School

Our Youth Sunday School class will continue to meet via **Zoom** on **Sunday afternoons from 3 - 4:00pm**. Starting this week we will be taking a deeper look at

our faith, how we worship, practice Sabbath, & what it means to be a Presbyterian. We'll also take time to check in, hang out, and maybe even play some games! If your middle or high school child would like to join us, now would be a great time to, please contact Sam (sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu) for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

Presbytery Meeting



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Even though the doors to the church building are closed and our congregation is dispersed into our individual homes for the foreseeable future, we are still bound to each other through the love of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Your Agape Team has been working to contact all of the members of our congregation to touch base with you, visit with you, and check on your needs. The Agape Team will contact you periodically, but if you want to talk or if you need help with getting groceries or supplies before they contact you, please feel free to contact any of our Agape Team. We are here for you. Also, each of us is charged to care for one another, so if you feel God calling you to reach out to others please do so. We are all Christ's church together.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God...There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:7; 18

Grace and Peace to all of you from the Agape Team

Denny Casey - d.a.casey@comcast.net 276-224-3906
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Judy Ware - je_ware@yahoo.com 336-601-2316
Judy King - jpk1944@gmail.com 276-340-810

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers: Doc Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Merilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Dot Bryson, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra Bryson Cox, Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Daniel Handy, Helen Hawkes, Anne Holland (sister of Pearl Minter), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gavin Russell, Gene Stanley, 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.

Please remember **Canned Tuna or Canned Meat for Grace Network**

Dear Friends,

Grace Network is continuing to help those in our community during the Covid-19 situation in partnership with the Harvest Foundation, the United Way, Salvation Army, Community Fellowship and the Henry County Food Pantry in Bassett. We have all come together to provide food boxes for those in need and will provide 5 locations to pick up these boxes each Monday from 9-2.

Grace is blessed to be part of this effort and when this is all over, we will go back to our regular services in providing financial services and food through our regular processes. The assigned food items from our church partners will become even more important on the other side of this quarantine with so many needing extra help to get back on their feet.

The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 2nd quarter is **canned tuna**

or other canned meats like chicken or ham. Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever. Please stay safe, stay healthy and please keep us in your prayers as we navigate these unchartered waters.

Blessings, Tracy

A Note from the the Editor

Although regular church services have been cancelled and we are no longer meeting in person, I hope we all try to stay in touch with one another using any possible medium. Phone calls, face time, emails, etc. It is important that we look after one another during these difficult times and it's good to know we are not alone. While there are no regular happenings to report on, I would like to send out Steeple Views on a weekly basis so please feel free to share any news or updates with me and I will do my best to include them in the newsletter. skirbycwj@gmail.com or 276 806-9709.

Our Mission

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

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

Useful Links

FPC website:

www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/ or www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/

FPC online directory: members.instantchurchdirectory.com/

FPC Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA

Presbytery of the Peaks: www.peaks presbytery.org/

Presbyterian Church (USA): www.pcusa.org/

Daily Bible Readings: 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

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THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2020

Denny Casey: Christian Education

Ron Rebman: Administration

Kym Tatum: Fellowship

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Stewardship

Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Communications

Betty Hudson: Congregational Care

TRUSTEES

2020: Milton Davis, Duke Ferrell

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

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