

March 10, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional for the Week of March 6, 2022

Elder Dr. Denny Casey

"Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord. And serve only him.'"

I love it when someone approaches me with a question about something from the weekly lectionary. Not that I'm a biblical scholar or a theological expert by any stretch, but I like the idea that someone is engaged enough in the text that they would want to discuss it more.

Last Sunday's gospel reading was from Luke 4:1-13 and immediately after the service, a church member came up to me and asked, related to verses 5-8 (above), "did the devil really have the power to give Jesus authority over all the kingdoms of the world, or was he just telling Jesus that?" What a great question I thought! And like many good questions, it leads to a great many more questions.

I wondered about how my friend worded the question, "did the devil *really* have the power.." and about how a literal interpretation of the passage might lead us down a rabbit hole, searching for 'evidence' of the origin of the devil's power and his 'official authority.'

But the more I thought about it, the last part of his question, "...or was he (the devil) just telling Jesus that?" seemed like a more fruitful place to start. "I think you're on to something," I agreed. "If we think of the devil as evil personified, and that he took on the role of being the 'standard bearer' of *this world*, he might tell Jesus anything to test his resolve in an attempt to lure him away from God, allying himself with serving the world."

That might sound like an easy test for the Son of God, but for us, real evil is far more shrewd and cunning. The devil allures us with things that are appealing, things that feed our ego. We get snared into thinking that true meaning in life comes from our own glorification and earthly authority. When we devote our energies to the things of

this world, we have less time for God. Maybe that's where the devil's real power comes from.

Jesus shows us, ultimate authority - all honor and glory - belongs to God and to God alone. We might be tempted into thinking that if only Jesus was king of the world, then all our problems would be solved. But Jesus was never to be that kind of king. Playing the world's game, even for a good purpose, would be to risk serving something less than God.

Prayer

Father in heaven, only you are the one true living God whose love endures from one generation to another. Give me an undivided heart to serve you wholeheartedly and without rival. In Jesus' name, I pray. 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.



Please join us for the **Second Sunday in Lent** either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Denny Casey

Undeterred

Based on Luke 13:31-35 and Psalm 27

Children of Ukraine



This youngster lives in one of the children's homes in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine's seventh largest city and the largest in the Dnipropetrovska Oblast. The Dnipropetrovska Oblast borders the two Russian-leaning regions, Donetsk and Luhansk. As of today, March 1, the fighting is 3 hours away. They were hit on Thursday night by rockets from the Russian forces but it's been quiet since.

Many wonder what they can do in this tragic situation. Here's one option. We still have a funding channel open to the children's homes in Kryvyi Rih. The urgent funding needs are generators and food and medical supplies and can still be purchased locally, though they are in short supply. Donations may be made at the following Facebook link and will be sent immediately. Alternatively, grants and donations may be sent to "Peacework" at 620 N. Main St., Suite 306, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Peacework is a volunteer program affiliated with Community College Ministries in Blacksburg. There are no fees. 100% of the donation will go to the orphanages in Ukraine and donations are tax-deductible.

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/650310939581953/>

Steve Darr, Community College Ministries
[540-230-8581](tel:540-230-8581), steve@peacework.org

Upcoming Events and Announcements

CHICAGO on stage at Magna Vista HS March 11-13. Briana Tatum and Caroline Kirby will be performing.

Choir rehearsal and handbell rehearsal start Wednesday, March 16.

Handbells - 6-7:00 p.m.

Choir 7-8:00 p.m.

Easter lilies can be ordered now through Sunday, March 27. Order forms are located in the pews. Put them in with the offering or drop them off at the office.

The Community Breakfast is Saturday, March 19 lead by Brooke and Chuck Cundiff and will be served in a drive thru format. 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. Contact Brooke if you are available to help ([276-340-6124](tel:276-340-6124) or bchnfamily@gmail.com).

Mystery Mission Madness: A mission event for middle & high school youth will be taking place on **Saturday, March 19** from 1-5pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Roanoke. Registration forms can be found here: peakspresbytery.org/winter-retreat Please return forms to Sam or the church office by Monday March, 14. For more info, contact Sam: sam@peakspresbytery.org

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

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Karen Shook Family, Ruth Aaron (Pinkards), Pat Baumann, 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, Iliene Hite, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Dru Rothrock, Troy Spencer (Pam Rakes' father), Scott Stevens (M. Stevens), Bruce Thomas (M. Stevens), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), persecuted Christians and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries due to violence and tyranny.



Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, [\(276\) 632-3431](tel:2766323431), office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org.

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:2763403476).

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. 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

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

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.peakspresbytery.org/

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

Daily Bible Readings: www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/

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

Our mailing address is:

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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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