

May 21, 2026



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Bea Miller

Dear First Presbyterian family,

Today (May 21) is the 25th anniversary of my ordination. I imagine that given all the Pastors pictures on the wall outside the Session room, 25 years may not sound like much. But as a woman, who has served as Pastor for 25 years, it puts me in a small group within our denomination. Ordained women serve many rolls both within and beyond the walls of the church. But for the most part, the roll of Pastor has been reserved primarily for men. That is changing now. But it has been a gradual change.

When I was first ordained, active female clergy spoke with us, to help us know what to expect. One of the things I remember being told is to always wear a black suit. And to keep a black suit in the office should we be caught without and need to be "seen" somewhere. While I'm sure that newly ordained women are not being told what to wear, there are still a lot of expectations and differences to navigate. And yes, choices about appearance are still important. I had an intern who only wore leggings, sometimes leggings with see-through panels. While she heard nothing from me, because it was her journey to discern, she did hear comments from the congregation. Serving as a female Pastor is always interesting.

It has been a blessing and privilege to Pastor in the PC(USA) for 25 years. And I look forward to the years to come.

Peace be with you.

Please be with you,

Pastor Bea



Please join us for worship this Day of Pentecost at 10:00 AM

Sermon by pastor Bea

based upon Acts 2:1-21 and John 7:37-39

Liturgist: Pearl Minter

Ushers/Greeters: Joe and Jerri DeVault

2nd Cup: Joe and Brenda Williams

Liturgist Schedule

May

31 Susan Pilson

June

7 Ashby Pinkard

14 **Community worship at Grace Presbyterian**

21 Ron Rebman

28 Ione Linker

2nd Cup Schedule May

May 31 - Ione and Mary Linker

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

AS of 5/22

Monday - Thursday 9:30am - 3pm

Friday - Closed

If you need to conduct office business outside these hours, please call to make an appointment.

BEWARE: Two members of our congregation recently received **scam** emails that purported to be sent by Pastor Bea asking for help with the purchase of gift cards. PLEASE remember, SHE WILL NEVER ASK you to purchase anything on her behalf with the promise to pay you back. If you have questions about any email communications from her, please call or text her or Rita!

Be Aware!

**Protect yourself
from scammers!**

Watch for emails, texts or calls that might be fraudulent and do not trust communications (even if they sound legitimate) that ask for personal information, money or gift cards.

You will NEVER get an email from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.





2026 Graduates. If you have a child or grandchild that is graduating high school or college, we want to recognize them. Please send their information to the church office by **May 10th**, as they will be recognized June 7th.

From the Weekday School

Hello everyone!

We are officially out for the school year! It's hard to believe that my first year as director is under my belt. I would like to thank everyone for being so welcoming this year. For the next couple of weeks, I will be sharing some recaps of the last few weeks of school.

This week I'd like to talk about our art show. We were able to raise \$526 in donations! The kids did a wonderful job during the performance and the walls looked amazing with all the artwork.

The art show fell at the end of teacher appreciation week and I'm happy to say we were able to honor our teachers with flowers at the art show.

Also, I'd like to thank Joan and Ashby for bringing lunch for the weekday school staff. We truly appreciate it!





May Birthdays

- 1** Janet Fentress
- 5** Amy Mason
- 8** Gavin Luther
- 10** Sandra Shank
- 11** Bonnie Price, Emily Beard
- 12** Monica Stevens, Patricia Christenbury, Pearl Minter
- 13** Jane Fitzgerald
- 14** Farrell Pace
- 17** Heath Russell
- 19** Annie B. Boyd, Taylor Shank, Will Franck
- 20** Christal Kelly
- 22** Elizabeth Pritchett
- 22** Havden Cundiff, Joanna Wood



27 Jacob Wingfield, Kent Williams, Virginia Seamon
29 Edward M. Linker
30 Ronald Rebman

June Birthdays.

1 Christopher Crimmins, Gage Lawson, Reid Lawson
3 Riley Wood
8 Shanna King
9 Susan Smith
10 Betty Hudson, Cindy Edgerton
12, Lt. Col. David King
16 Ainsley Russell
18 Susan Pilson
19 Stephen (Steve) Fitzgerald
23 Basil Boyd David Price
24 Dr. Denny Casey
26 Ann Reaser
29 Caroline Kirby



Congregational Care and Fellowship

If you are in need of a [prayer shawl](#), or know someone that could use one, please pick one up from the narthex and be sure to sign it out. If you have any questions, please reach out to **Susan Pilson**.

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 **Susan** at [276 340-7288](tel:2763407288).



Stephen Berkley Fitzgerald

June 19, 1950 - April 25, 2026





The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of **Stephen Berkley** on his passing, April 25.

A service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Martinsville, **Saturday, June 6th at 2PM**. A reception for the family will follow the service.

The full obituary can be found
at: <https://www.norrisfuneral.com/obituaries/Stephen-Berkley-Fitzgerald?obId=48347085>



Sarah Frances Persinger Altizer

January 23, 1943 - May 18, 2026





The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of **Sarah Altizer** on her passing, May 18 at Kings Grant.

A memorial service, followed by a reception, will be held at **2:00 on Tuesday, May 26** at First Presbyterian Church in Martinsville.

The full obituary can be found at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/martinsville-va/sarah-altizer-12892070>



Marvin Hudson

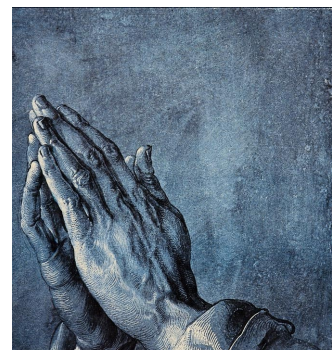
The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Betty Hudson and family on the passing of her husband, **Marvin Hudson**, on Wednesday, May 20th.

The family has requested that there be no phone calls or visits until next week. We ask that you please be respectful of the family's privacy during this time. The service will be private.

The full obituary can be found at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/martinsville-va/sarah-altizer-12892070>

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS Family of Marvin Hudson, Family of Sarah Altizer, Family of Neil Fine, Family of Kitty Bridges Smith (Catherine Bridges' daughter), Family of Steve Fitzgerald, Barbara Adams (Patsy Stanley), Ernest Bremner, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Randy Lawson (P. Stanley). Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Marion Miller, Leslie Naradikian (Marion Miller's



daughter), Maggie Pilson, Cecil Robbins, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, 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.



Grace Network Donations

2nd Quarter Food Donation Item is Grits



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

ALSO in need of plastic grocery bags and empty egg cartons (dozen size). These can be deposited in the bins inside the Narthex

Hygiene Items are always needed (optional)

- *Toilet Paper
- *Bath Soap
- *Dish Detergent
- *Feminine Products
- *Deodorant
- *Toothpaste

*Laundry Detergent

**Items may be brought to the church or dropped off at Grace Network, Monday
- Friday, 9-2 PM*



Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views is published weekly on Thursdays, unless the Church office is closed. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Wednesday afternoon by 3 PM

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com. For time sensitive announcements, please send to skirbycwj@gmail.com **and text** [276 806-9709](tel:2768069709)

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/peaks-postings/>

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: Liz Ferrell

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2026

Billy Kirby: Administration

Susan Pilson: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Anne Madonia: Think Tank

Class of 2027

Nancy Moore: Stewardship

Johnny Pinkard: Facilities

Judy King: Worship

Class of 2028

Ione Linker/Taylor Shank: Mission/Outreach

Nancy Davis: Christian Education

TRUSTEES

William Kirby, Gale Legg, Sharon Kirby, Dru Rothrock, Duke Ferrell, Joe Williams

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