

May 28, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

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Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

May 27, 2020

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9

If someone were to put down your hometown, your school, your spouse or a relative, whether you agreed with the comment or not, you're probably going to become defensive or even insulted! Coming from a state that regularly proclaims everything there, is "bigger or better" many times people are put off with me before I even say a word. Somehow hitting too close to home in our built-in response to proclaim ourselves number one, not number two, only builds tension in a new relationship rather than showing our pride. We come back with an insult rather than pointing out good things on both sides which we can share in God's blessings together.

I recently heard a story about a gathering of people from around the globe who were asked to tell a little about where they were from and what was great or unique about that place. You can imagine it didn't take long for rivalries to arise. The original goal of the leader was to form friendships from strangers to build a strong bond focusing on each other's strengths for the benefit of the whole community. The more boasting that took place the quicker the divisions arose! Seeing this, the conference leader stopped the process and threw out the question, " **We all have our bright spots but what is the greatest thing in the world?"**

Hearing no response, the leader offered a possible answer that "**We can walk away from yesterday!**" Being able to learn from our past, and not live in our past, is the very definition of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The good news of the Christian faith is

that we can walk away from yesterday. Throughout Scripture figures like the Apostle Paul can walk away from Saul of Taurus as a persecutor of Christians to a champion in leadership of the early church. Matthew by the grace of God walked away from being a corrupt tax collector for Caesar to follow Jesus into a new life. And the prodigal son could walk away from his moral failures back into the forgiving arms of his father. All of this because God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) has made it possible for no one to be tied to a past from which there is no release!

During this pandemic no one, world-wide, has been left unaffected in its path. Walk away from your mistakes of past self-centeredness, of which we all fall victim to, and seek God's direction in our gradual re-entry into health and financial security. Humanity will make mistakes along the way in this uncharted journey. With God's help we can learn to make decisions for the benefit of all. Show grace as you were given grace!

God Bless You All,

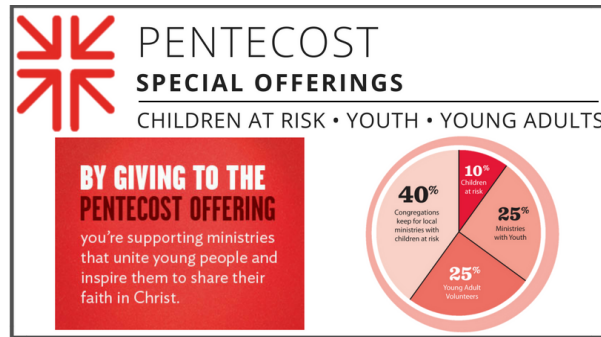
Pastor Mark

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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.

Stewardship Special Offering Opportunity: Pentecost Sunday



Please give generously to support the [PC\(USA\) Pentecost Special Offering](#), which will help support our own children as well as youth ministries around the world. This year, Pentecost Sunday falls on **May 31st**.

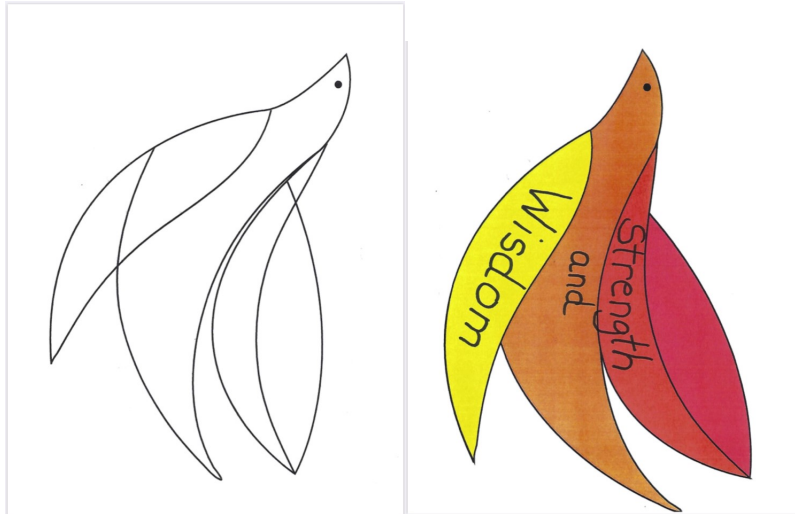
On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what He is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, His plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ ([Ephesians 1:10](#)).

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. 40% of the offerings collected from our church stays with our church, and 60% is used by national programs and initiatives that support young adults, ministries with youth, and children at risk.

By supporting this offering, you are helping to shape a positive future for young lives, for our church and for our world. Please give generously to this offering on Pentecost Sunday, or anytime.

Online donations can be made from [our church's homepage](#) using the PayPal button in the lower right hand corner. You may also send a \$25 gift to the Pentecost Special Offering by texting YOUNG to 20222. If you prefer postal mail, we will be mailing each church family a stamped envelope addressed to the church for receiving checks for tithes or any special offering.

As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost Sunday, I'm inviting everyone to decorate a prayer dove that doubles as a flame. After you have decorated & colored it as much or as little as you wish, write a word or two on what you are asking God's help with right now.



Then on or before Sunday, take a picture of yourself and your family with your completed doves (or just a picture of the dove) and share it with us on Facebook or email it back to me.

Even though we can't all be together on Pentecost Sunday, this can help us continue to be a little more connected with one another.

Blessings, Sam



The church office and facility remain **CLOSED**. For the safety and health of our staff, please stay home. Even though we are in Phase 1, 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.

Parents of Graduating Seniors!!



If you have a high school or college senior that will be graduating this spring, please forward their information so that we can all celebrate and recognize this outstanding accomplishment!

Child's name, if HS senior, please include future plans. If college senior, name of college and program of study/degree.

Include your name along with siblings and grandparents.

Please forward to skirbycwj@gmail.com.

Kids' Perspective

Want to know how children feel about being quarantined during the coronavirus time? Our very own **Norah Cundiff** was interviewed for a podcast on this very topic! You can listen to it here: <https://realkids.buzzsprout.com/92055/3527881-real-kids-real-stories-with-norah-from-virginia>

Would your child or grandchild be interested in being interviewed as well? Contact Brooke Cundiff for details (bchnfamily@gmail.com or 276-340-6124)



Through a partnership between Carilion's Community Outreach and Robert L.A. Keeley Healing Arts program, local churches and organizations are ringing their bell towers during shift change as a way to honor and support health care workers who are caring for our community during this time. First Presbyterian is participating in this! Listen for our bells at 7 AM and 7 PM!

Adult Sunday School

We are so blessed to have this opportunity to study God's Word together.

Please let Denny or Sam know if your are interested;

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.

FPC Earth Care Meet-UP



Mark your calendar for the first **FPC Earth Care** meet-up!

When: Wednesday, June 3, 3:00 PM

Where: Zoom (invitation will be provided)

In this informal and virtual get together, we will be sharing what we learned at a recent Earth Care Workshop in Roanoke and what the *Presbyterians for Earth Care: An Eco-justice Network* is all about. And, the best part is we will be discussing how we, as Christians, want to respond to the call for the care and stewardship of God's creation.

Earth Care is energizing! Together, we will be brainstorming specific actions we might take in worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

Earth Care can be practical and fun too, with profound implications for the life, work, and witness of God's people.

Earth Care can involve all ages, and even neighbors who are not part of our congregation.

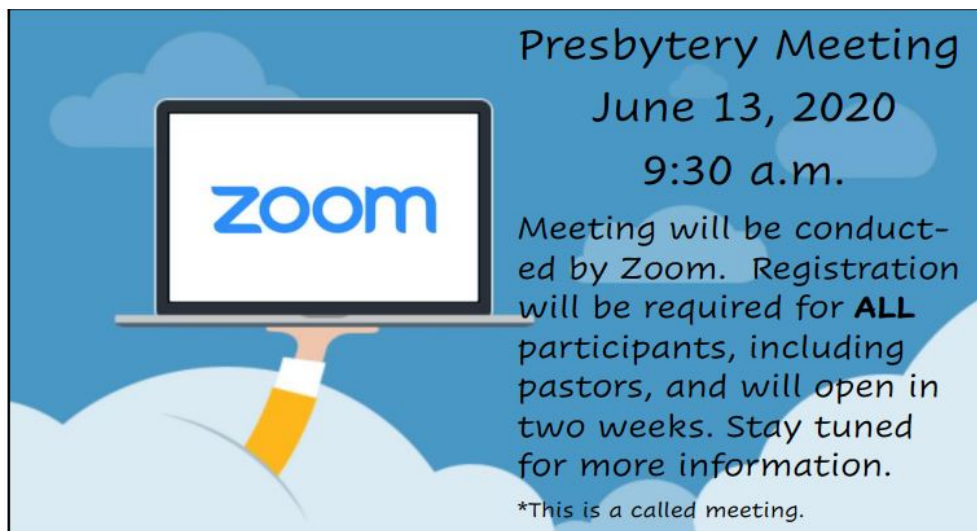
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To sign up or for more information, contact Victoria

Esarey (276) 732-9110 or Denny Casey (276) 224-3906

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;" -
Psalm 24

Presbytery Meeting

A graphic with a blue background and white clouds. On the left, a hand holds a laptop displaying the Zoom logo. On the right, text provides details about a presbytery meeting.

Presbytery Meeting
June 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Meeting will be conducted by Zoom. Registration will be required for **ALL** participants, including pastors, and will open in two weeks. Stay tuned for more information.

**This is a called 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

Ron Rebman - ronreb85@gmail.com 276-634-1254

Jerri DeVault - jerride@embarqumail.com 276-252-2162

Monica Stevens - mlkstev@hotmail.com 276-632-8075
Tracy Hinchcliff - tracyhair60@gmail.com 409-330-0847
Judy Ware - je_ware@yahoo.com 336-601-2316
Judy King - jpk1944@gmail.com 276-340-810

Happy Birthday in June

- 1** Gage Lawson, Reid Lawson
- 3** Riley Wood
- 8** Shanna King
- 9** Susan Smith
- 10** Betty Hudson, Cindy Edgerton
- 11** Tracy Hinchcliff
- 12** Lt. Col. David King
- 16** Ainsley Russell
- 18** Susan Pilson
- 23** Basil Boyd, David Price
- 24** Dr. Denny Casey
- 26** Ann Reaser, Sarah V. Wells
- 29** Caroline Kirby



Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers: Doc Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Marilyn 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 uncharted 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.peakspresbytery.org/

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

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

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steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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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