

November 26, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff
November 25, 2020

"What then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us then who can be against us? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:31, 37-39

All of us are afraid of something, but changing "being consumed by fear" into "living in respect and knowledge of what can truly harm us" is no easy task. We imagine every unfavorable outcome of every situation until the "what ifs" turn into "the never tried". So how do we conquer our fears?

Consider this situation. Years ago, during one of my many moves, my daughter was helping clean and pack boxes in my garage when a nest of field mice was discovered. A blood curdling scream was heard from my daughter as she dropped the box and ran out of the garage. Looking in the box I discovered a mother mouse with a number of newborn naked babies shivering in the night air. At first my daughter didn't even want to look in the box but as I began to describe how cute they were she began to draw closer. Her heart began to change and her fear turned to compassion. She insisted we move the mice family away from the house but provide some warm bedding and protection from the outside elements. Together we made the move to a hollowed-out tree in the field behind the house and backed away.

While mice can certainly make a mess of any place they choose to inhabit, these tiny creatures are certainly no match for humans hundreds of times their size. But a little bit of compassion allowed our attitude of fear to change and find a

way to look at life differently. How often do we make a problem so much bigger than it ought to be? In a moment of strength or fear too often we choose fear.

The Apostle Paul assures us in the Romans 8 passage above that our fears can be transformed into respect if we enlist the comfort of knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God we have been shown in Christ Jesus! Armed with Gods strength we are able to overcome any fear life may present from a mouse to a giant our backs are covered. We can stand tall, prepared and ready to respond with heart and conviction, in Jesus holy name.

Blessed be your days,

Pastor Mark

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After much consideration a decision was made to suspend in-person worship until further notice.

Due to growing concerns of COVID in many areas we feel it is safer to return to virtual services on Facebook. Adult Sunday School will return to 9:00 a.m. and will continue to take place on Zoom.

Please join us on Sunday as we begin the Christmas season with the **First Sunday of Advent**. We will be live on Facebook at 10:00 a.m. You will continue to receive the order of worship each week from **Rita Bateman** <mail@icnsend.com>

We want each and every one of you to remain safe and healthy during the Christmas season into the new year. We pray that the new year will bring hope to us all.

sermon by Pastor Mark Hinchcliff

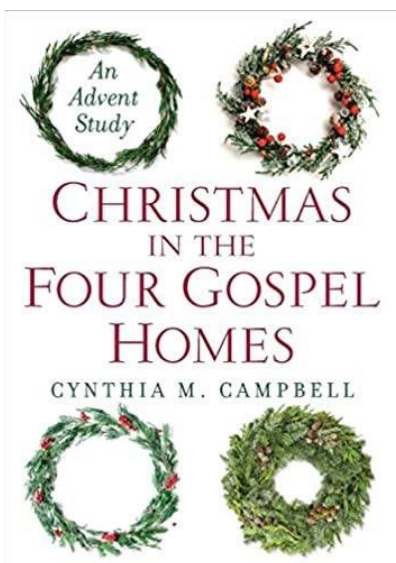
The Results Are In, God's Elect is You!

Based upon Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 and Mark 13:24-37

Announcements

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Adult Sunday School



Please join us for the next adult Sunday school course, by Zoom, beginning November 29 at 8:30 AM.

The PCUSA bookstore offers this description:

“How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*, beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns reimagine each of the four Gospels as a “house,” which the church visits at Christmas. In each section, Cynthia M. Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel. Suitable for individual or group study, *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* creatively reimagines the season and inspires new and exciting reflection for Advent.”

Email d.a.casey@comcast.net or call **Denny Casey (276) 224-3906** to sign up or to get your copy. Make a check for \$9.25 payable to “First Presbyterian Church” with “Adult Sunday School book” on the memo line

Earth Care

From the Dec/Jan 2021 *Mother Earth News*: The worst thing to throw into the recycling bin: lithium-



ion batteries. They can explode and catch fire when broken or crushed by machinery (one recycling company's transfer station burned down. The culprit: one such battery). Visit www.Call2Recycle.org to find a battery drop-off center in or near your zip code.



Have you an appliance or heavy object you'd like to allow the church to recycle? Call Victoria Esarey 276 732 9110 to see if Earth Care can lighten your load.

Youth Ministry

The Youth will be meeting on **Sunday afternoons at 12pm.** Grab a snack or lunch & join us on **Zoom!** If your middle or high school child would like to join us, please contact Sam at sam@peakspresbytery.org for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

Email Communications

If you think you are not getting regular emails from the church, make sure your contact information is up to date with the church office. Also, check your junk or spam mail folder, and add email from **Rita Bateman, Mark Hinchcliff**, from "mail@icnsend.com" (email domain) and, **Steepleviews** to your safe senders list. If you are unsure how to do this contact Denny Casey at [276-224-3906](tel:276-224-3906).

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

Happy Birthday in December

- 1 Anne Vipperman Madonia
- 2 Carol Belcher
- 3 Dru Rothrock
- 4 Ashby Pritchett



- 9** Chris Wingfield, Joan Montgomery
11 K.J. Joyce 14 Dr. Mervyn R. King
15 Helen "Pat" Baumann, Kim Boyd
17 Matthew Mason
18 Bill Kirby
20 Evan Hatchett
22 Grayson Russell, Vera Jane Kuhn
24 Jackie McLachlan
26 Smith Chaney
27 Cathy Stone, Gael Chaney, Nancy B. Moore
28 Brenda Williams

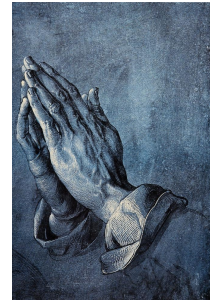


Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Buck Flythe, Family of Sara "Ellen" Burroughs (Rita Bateman's aunt), Doc Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), 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, 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

Peanut Butter

Please stay safe, stay healthy

The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 4th quarter is **18 oz. peanut butter**. 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!

NOVEMBER Bath Soap, Toilet Paper, Toothpaste

DECEMBER Dish Detergent, Deodorant, Laundry Detergent

**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*

Blessings, Tracy

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/

Steeple Views is published. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

stepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, 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

Rob King: Facilities

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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