

April 23, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

April 22, 2020

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in the same spirit and purpose."

Philippians 2:1-2

Many years ago, I, like many of us, had a favorite teacher that made a lasting impression on my life. Mine was my high school Trigonometry teacher who was also one of the class sponsors. This teacher spent a lot of time mentoring kids into the right colleges and into the right frame of mind of respect to nurture caring adults. I specifically remember one day in class where a couple of kids were picking on each other by exchanging insults trying to build their own image up by tearing others down.

Not wanting to validate this destructive behavior the teacher stopped everything and made an assignment for everyone in the class to write down two things they liked or admired about each member of the class. The comments were turned in that day and the teacher compiled individual lists to be given to each student the next day. No one saw another's list, only their own!

For the next hour the students spread out and read the comments to themselves. Whispered responses could be heard throughout the room. "Really", or "I would never have guessed anyone felt that way about me," or the occasional "That was really nice!" Classmates stopped berating each other and a general feeling of cooperation and true friendships developed throughout the rest of the semester.

Years went by and one of my friends, who had enlisted in the military, had been killed in an incident overseas. His body had been shipped back for the funeral and many of my friends and I had gathered including my favorite teacher. Viewing the body, the teacher was approached by the soldier's parents holding a worn-out folded piece of paper. Unfolding the paper revealed the list of all the nice things the classmates had said about the fallen soldier that day in class so many years ago. The parents said he carried that list in his wallet wherever he went to give him comfort and confidence for whatever situation life would bring. Several others who heard had done the same thing and we all held one another in that moment.

In this time of stress and uncertainty we may be tempted to second guess decisions made by others even

to the point of mean statements to bolster our own opinions. We are called to maintain our distance from one another and stay in our homes but we are not called to stop caring about one another! As followers of Jesus Christ, our faith draws us together. We are called to encourage one another, fellowship with the Spirit, with tenderness and compassion, making His joy complete by being one in spirit and purpose.

Take this time today to focus on what you love about others and may the God of Grace forgive us of our times of transgression and remind us of the gift of life, love, and community in the days to come. Amen

Pastor Mark

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Weekly Spiritual Messages

A live service will be streamed on Sunday morning. More information is forthcoming!

April 17, 2020: Living for the Day; <https://youtu.be/IHnLSEr23UE> Focus scriptures are Psalm 16 and Psalm 118, verse 24 - Each day is a rich and precious gift from God, with new grace and new opportunities.

April 12, 2020: Easter Sunday Sunrise Video Service - <https://youtu.be/ORJEbI1pyrQEaster>

The video cut off in the final moments of the Sunrise Service video after the Lord's Prayer had started. Here's a link to it so you can listen to after viewing the service video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zaEoxjMYS4>

April 9, 2020: Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Video Message - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG15J7huoyc>

April 2, 2020: Palm Sunday - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFEJT9TjYBs&feature=youtu.be>

One Great Hour of Sharing



I ask you to consider what special gifts you might have to share with the world at this time, and urge you to reach out to each other and discover how much of a blessing it is to share! What might you do to encourage another? We seem to have much more time on our hands than we usually do. How might you invest your time? Do you have special talents that you



have set aside due to the pressures of a busy schedule? I hope that Cynthia is relishing this time alone and is creating more glorious music for praising God! Do you find that your finances are solid? Please check on those that you love, and do not assume that they have enough finances, food, and confidence to be comfortable.

If you would like to give a donation, please consider both our own church, and the One Great Hour of Sharing. There is a PayPal button on our [church's website's homepage](#), and you can discover more information about the One Great Hour of Sharing by visiting this weblink:

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

Presbyterian Women



The videos for lessons **six, seven, eight, and nine** from the DVD for the Bible Study on ***Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*** by Eugenia Anne Gamble is available **on the PW YouTube channel**.

Links are: <https://youtu.be/68Wm-vPuhw0>; <https://youtu.be/QVd8T9Oyic0>;
<https://youtu.be/68Wm-vPuhw0>



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!

Coronavirus Testing Site

(from the WDBJ website)

What is typically Martinsville and Henry County's biggest symbol for fun and entertainment, the Martinsville Speedway, has now become a battleground in the fight against COVID-19 as a testing site.

"If you are not testing you are not finding, so as we begin testing I suspect we will find more cases." said West Piedmont District VDH officer Kerry Gateley.

When the first case of the coronavirus in Henry County was reported March 30, the Harvest Foundation announced it would provide \$300,000 in funding to open the site.

"Bringing everybody to one site to test after a prescreen was what our medical professional thought would be best in this situation." said Allison Rothrock, Harvest Foundation President.

Equipped with 200 testing kits, the site will offer drive-thru testing for Martinsville, Henry County, and Patrick County residents with a doctor's recommendation.

VDH says a space like the speedway is logistically an ideal testing site.

Sunday School



The Adult Sunday School Class will begin the study,



"John, The Gospel of Light and Life", this **Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.**

In preparation, class members are asked to read chapter one in the Participant's Guide provided for this study. Also, please read the first chapter of John in your bibles. Looking forward to "Zooming" with you Sunday!

We are so blessed to have this opportunity to study God's Word together. Please let Denny or Sam know if your are interested; d.a.casey@comcast.net or sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu.

Youth Sunday School

Starting this Sunday, the Youth Sunday School class will be meeting at 3pm on Sunday afternoons for the foreseeable future. For more info, contact Sam at sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu. 276-224-2811

Treasurer's Update Concerning Current Environment

CARES Act Impact on Peaks Churches

The Presbytery website has posted a summary of the CARES Act and its effects on Peak Churches. The article can be found by navigating to the Presbytery website: <https://www.peakspresbytery.org/resources-presbyterian-churches-congregations-worship-virginia/community-voices.html> and selecting the last link titled "CARES Act impact on Peaks Churches (information for April 7 Webinar)"



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
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Please Help!

Critical Need For Blood and Platelets
Right now, eligible and healthy donors are strongly urged to make an appointment to provide lifesaving blood products to patients.



Join us for the Compassion, Peace & Justice Training Day Webinar

Imagine God's Earth and People Restored

April 24, Noon

"We believe that God created this world, called it good and told humans to care for it. We are blessed to have this sacred task." **On April 24**, join virtually with people from across the nation to learn how Presbyterians and partners are answering this call and working for the restoration of God's creation and people. We will explore various ways we are addressing climate change, ecological destruction and environmental racism. Advancing climate justice and just transition to value and protect people who have historically been made vulnerable by economic and environmental injustice will be a special focus. Speakers include: Emma Lockridge Climate and Environmental Justice Organizer at Michigan United Fern Cloud Member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota Tribe and environmental activist Estrella Santiago Pérez Environmental Affairs Manager for a groundbreaking urban land trust project in Puerto Rico

To register, go to: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uXsBdlveRriWYXCePxAc2w

We will also Livestream the event to our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PCUSAWashington/>

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), 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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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

Ed Pace: Facilities

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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