

September 3, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

PASTOR'S CORNER

FPC Martinsville, VA
Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

September 2, 2020

"The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." Genesis 2:7

Breathing. It is the very essence of life as the first action we take after leaving the womb. After that initial shock of a spank on the bottom, we breathe in that wonderful breath of air that seems to begin all earthly functions. Most breathe without thought or effort and pay little attention to this miraculous event until we are deprived of oxygen even for a moment.

How grateful are we for each breath and how much do we take it for granted? If you or a loved one have ever experienced COPD, cystic fibrosis, or a lung-related disease, you know how precious one more breath can be! An individual may go from looking back to how many breaths they have taken to how many breaths are left. Breath not only provides the first action of life but also the last. Everything that lives, breathes.

God breathed and all life came to being. Without the breath of God, we are mere particles of dust, only a potential for life. With the breath of God, we become living beings created in God's image. The simple act of breathing is a powerful act of God's mystery and the more we realize that the closer our relationship can become to the Giver of Life. In a conversation between Jesus and the Disciples shortly after his resurrection, Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me so I am sending you." And with that, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

As much as life and breath are bound together, there is a huge difference between those who are living and those who are alive. Living merely to exist robs those who exist of experiencing God's real joy of living! To be alive is to breathe in the fullness of what God is offering to all of us and provide hope and fulfillment of life to others.

Meditate on what God is offering and receive hope and encouragement to live life with a passion for a better tomorrow.

In His Holy Name,

Pastor Mark

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Be sure to join the Facebook live worship service this Sunday at 10 AM. The info will be sent via text message and will include 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 10 AM.

[If You Seek Ye Shall Find, But What Are You Seeking?](#)
[Based upon Matthew 18:21-35 and Exodus 14:19-31](#)

Announcements

Women's Circle Meetings

The Presbyterian Women's Circle Meetings will begin on Monday, September 7 at 11 am using Zoom. Future meetings will take place the first Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. A study book will be available for those who wish to participate. Books will be located at the back entrance of the church. Please sign your name on the provided sheet if you take a book. You may want to call the church to make an appointment if you don't have a fob to gain entrance. Contact Betty Hudson (bchmhhudson@gmail.com or 638-0467) for more details.

Presbytery of the Peaks

The Presbytery's full-time position of **Communications Director** is now open! Letters of interest with resumes and references will be received through September 17. For more information, please contact Nancy Baker.

Applications for the **Stated Clerk for Presbytery of the Peaks** are being accepted through September 29, 2020. The Stated Clerk is elected for a four-year term and is expected to work up to ten hours per week at an annual stipend of \$12,100, plus professional expenses. See Nancy Baker if you are interested in seeing the Position Description for the Stated Clerk, Qualifications for the Stated Clerk, and the Stated Clerk Application Form. This information will also be shared through the **Peaks Postings**.



Service Saturday September 19 9 am -Noon

(following the Free Community Breakfast)

We will be focusing our recycling efforts that day and will be accepting your donations of aluminum, copper and steel that is completely clean.



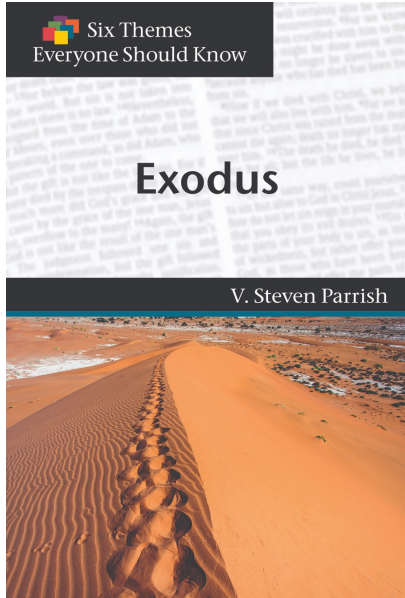
We'll also do some mulching and weeding on the playgrounds.

Contact Rob King for more information

276-340-2263 or rking@piedmontmechanical.biz



Adult Sunday School



Join us for the next adult Sunday school class beginning **August 23**.

(excerpt from the PCUSA bookstore webpage)

“The story of the Exodus has emboldened oppressed people for centuries. In it, God empowers human striving for freedom. Steven Parrish introduces six themes that reveal the character of God. God listened to the captives’ suffering and responded. Through the wilderness, God sustained the people with food, water, and law. God promised to be present to the people. And God is merciful and gracious, as demonstrated in the golden calf episode. This volume includes material for participants and guides for leading all six sessions.”

The class meets Sundays at 9:00 AM by Zoom. Contact Denny Casey d.a.casey@comcast.net for a book and to get your Zoom invite.

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

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), 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, Charlotte Walker (JoAnne Sanders’ mother), 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

Assorted Canned Veggies (Veg-all)

Please stay safe, stay healthy

The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 3rd quarter is **canned assorted veggies**. 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!

JULY Toilet Paper, Feminine Products, Deodorant

AUGUST Toilet Paper, Bath Soap, Toothpaste

SEPTEMBER 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

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/

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

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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

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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