

June 17, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

June 16, 2021

"Are any of you are suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises."
James 5:13

I love amusement parks! I love everything about them from the rollercoasters, to the theme rides, to the comfort foods, to the smiles on children's faces. You might say the catchphrase of one of the most famous parks of its kind, Disneyland, "The Happiest Place on Earth" describes my affection to a T. It would be hard for me to have a bad time even when some difficulties have happened in the past. One time I locked my keys in the car before I ever got in the gate but rather than postponing my fun AAA was called unlocking my car, charging my account online, and leaving my keys at the will-call booth on my way out. Another time in the midst of my joy in the park I forgot to put on sunscreen and suffered pretty severe sunburn. But again, it didn't stop me from coming back for a second day. No matter how much of a happy place you might find yourself in you can look around and see suffering still happening around you.

Isn't life just like that? Wherever your happy place is, with family or loved ones, walking on the beach, experiencing sunrises or sunsets, someone else may not be having as good a day as you are. We cannot escape suffering in some form or another no matter how hard we try. As much as we want to be, Christians are not exempt. When Scripture in the Bible talks about suffering it speaks of the "human condition" common to us all. Sometimes suffering can be used for correcting, but other times suffering can be to God's glory. Sometimes suffering can be used to build an individual's character, and other times we may suffer for another's benefit. And sometimes we just don't understand why we suffer.

If there's one thing I truly believe, it's that God wants us to experience true joy in the life we have been given. Since everyone suffers, we are called to consider how we respond to it. Like Job, instead of trying to get into God's way only to stay positive and seek God's direction from who's really in control. Maybe you feel your life is in a season of hurt or suffering and like Job you may not know why. Your job, our job, is to turn back to God for help through it. And maybe, your joy can continue even through suffering.

May the grace of God give you peace.

Pastor Mark

The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!

The sanctuary has reopened for in-person worship and will continue with restrictions as before (wear a mask, enter at narthex, social distance) unless otherwise notified.

Virtual services will still be available on Facebook for those that wish to remain at home until they feel safe to return.

[View this email in your browser](#) • [Forward to a friend](#)



Please join us for the fourth Sunday after Pentecost either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10 am.

Seeking a Calming Word from God

Based upon Mark 4:35-41 and Psalm 9:9-20

Sermon by Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 19



Our community breakfast is scheduled for this **Saturday, June 19**, in a **DRIVE-THRU** format. If you are able to help, please contact **Rob King at 340-2263**.



This **Saturday, June 19**, is also pick up day if you have large items that can be recycled: appliances like dishwashers, refrigerators, etc. If you cannot bring these items to the church, please contact **Rob King** to arrange for pickup.



Presbyterian Men

The Presbyterian Men Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Conference is Saturday, July 17 and will be via Zoom beginning at 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$25 per person or a max of \$75 for 3 or more. **Information on how to register will be available soon.**

Congregational Meeting Highlights

June 13, 2021

A congregational meeting following the morning worship service June 13 was held to elect a 2022 nominating committee:

The purpose of the meeting was to take action on the 2020 Nominating committee's report and to approve the sale of 7 cemetery lots owned by the church located at Oakwood Cemetery.

- Brooke Cundiff, 2021 Nominating Committee chair, placed the following in nomination to serve on the 2022 nominating committee: Chuck Cundiff, Monica Stevens, and Janet Fentress. Billy Kirby, an active elder, previously elected by the session will serve as chair. With no other nominations, the nominees were elected unanimously.
 - Brooke recognized and thanked Jerri DeVault, Nancy Davis, and Neil Tatum for their service on the 2021 committee.
 - Billy Kirby, Administration Committee chair, reviewed the history of the church's ownership of cemetery lots at Oakwood Cemetery. He moved the approval for the sale of these lots to Oakwood Cemetery. This motion was approved unanimously.
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Summer Adventure Camp

**JOIN US AT CAMP BETHEL FOR
A SPECTACULAR WEEK OF ADVENTURE
June 20-25, 2021**

Adventure Camp has your perfect mix of wild fun and discipleship activities. Adventure Camp is for active youth who enjoy the outdoors.

For more information: [Adventure Camp, Camp Bethel](#)



**Middle School
Adventure**
for rising 6th-8th graders,
ages 12-15

**High School
Adventure**
for rising 9th-12th graders,
ages 15-18

**New this Summer:
Biking
Rock Climbing
Belaying**



For more info & to register, visit the Presbytery website here: [Adventure Camp | Presbytery of the Peaks \(peakspresbytery.org\)](#)



Compassion Camp 2021: The Sequel is Coming Soon! Register NOW!

We will once again be offering a virtual at-home Vacation Bible School program this summer. Although we are sad to not have an in-person VBS or Camp Peaks program this year, we look forward to those returning next summer.

Who's Invited? Compassion Camp 2021: The Sequel will be available to participants, preschoolers-rising 6th graders, **July 26-30**. While each day's session will be sent out via email each morning, you will be able to complete each session at your leisure. This event is FREE so invite your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors.

Materials & Supplies: The supplies you will need are items you will likely have readily available in your household. A list of supplies will be available soon & help with supplies will be available to anyone who requests.

Registration: You can find more information & register your children [HERE](#) or please contact VBS co-directors Sam Smith at sam@peakspresbytery.org or Debbie Norton at dnorto02@leeu.edu if you have any questions.



What can we pick up for you? Contact **Victoria Esarey** **276 732-9110** or email vesarey@gmail.com. These items will be broken down into parts, making them more valuable as recyclables.

Congregational Care and Fellowship

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 Lynn Pritchett at [276 252-6068](tel:2762526068).

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Sarah Vicki Wells, Family of Dr. Jimmy Jordan, Family of Dwight Blevins (Leanna Blevins-Russell's father), Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Laura Buffkin, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra and Mark Dobrinski (brother and sister-in-law of Cynthia), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gene and Betty Stanley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), 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

Potato Products



The 3rd quarter food donation item is **Potato Products (mashed, scalloped)**

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!

**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*

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

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 steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff
Clerk: Nancy Baker
Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Congregational Care and Fellowship
Rob King: Facilities
Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach
Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication
Betty Hudson: Christian Education

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

TRUSTEES

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker
2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett
2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

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