

April 15, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

April 14, 2021

“Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that the crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” Luke 5:15-16

Have you ever felt like so many people are asking so much of you that you just shut down and want to be alone in silence for a while? I used to raise horses when I was a teenager and when relationship problems would arise, I would get on my prize mare and ride out to the wilderness to be alone. Teenage relationships were like dog years, a few months constituted a long time, and when a breakup would come it was devastating! No one or no thing could console me except the quiet listening ear of that horse. And when I had talked it all out, I would offer a prayer thanking God for sending that horse to listen and for God letting me have a relationship in the first place.

Normally I love being around people but sometimes there's nothing more healing than a little bit of quiet reflection. My thoughts always begin by thinking it's what others put upon me that's the source of my distress but it eventually comes around to my own expectations being too much to handle on my own. John Calvin referred to that as total depravity. You're out of excuses, other people to blame, or options to take but to call on God. It's a shame that God often ends up our, or mine anyway, last resort. But then the Word of Scripture that says "Be still and know that I am God" finally shuts me up and I find peace. When you find your life on overload and you're looking for some way to find peace even Jesus needed that time alone with God.

I came across this list of 12 warning signs that your life may be on overload. See which ones apply to you and decide what you are going to do about it;

Exhaustion-sheer weariness
Detachment from others or responsibilities
Boredom and cynicism
Increased impatience and irritability
Unrealistic view of self, either inflated ego or low self-esteem
Feelings of being unappreciated
Paranoia
Difficulty concentrating or staying on track
Tension in back, neck, or shoulders
Difficulty finding specific words to describe your feelings
Major depression
Suicidal thoughts

Jesus was no stranger to stress, overload, and pressure. But instead of falling victim to neck the pressures around Him, He turned away from the crowds and found God in solitude. Alone with God, He was renewed, strengthened, transformed, and inspired. We can too.

Blessed be your days,

Pastor Mark

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Church Reopening!

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. Sign-ups will continue each week by emailing office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org or by phone, 276-632-3431. **Please call by NOON each Friday.**



Please join us on the **Third Sunday of Easter** either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10 am.

sermon by Pastor Mark Hinchcliff
***Jesus Died for "Our Sins" and
Rose for "Our Redemption"***

Based upon Acts 3:12-19 and Luke 24:36b-48

Community Breakfast



Our free community breakfast is **THIS SATURDAY, April 17**, in a to-go drive-thru format.

Help is needed in the following areas:

1. Putting up and taking down the breakfast signage
2. Prepping for the breakfast; cooking, getting takeout boxes ready, etc.
3. Working the "drive-thru"
4. Cleaning up after breakfast ends

Volunteers are needed beginning at 7am to cook & prepare the food, volunteers are also needed to pack & hand out the meals.

Breakfast starts at 8 AM - Brook will provide further instruction on Saturday.

Volunteers will only be in the kitchen coming through the kitchen's back door and all food and people entering and leaving from there.

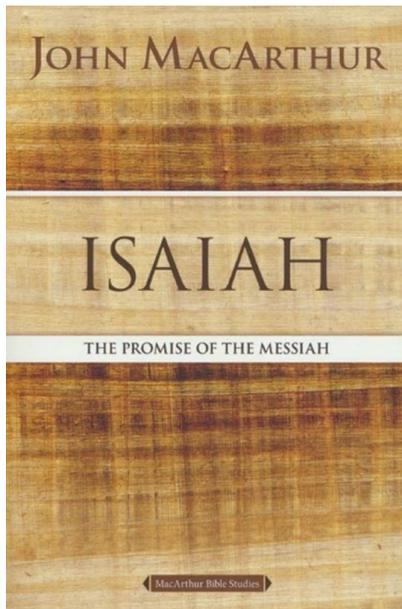
Volunteers must wear a mask while indoors and while delivering meals to drive-thru recipients!

If you can help, please reach out to Brook Cundiff at [276 340-6124](tel:2763406124).

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).

MacArthur Bible Studies: Study of Isaiah



Begins: April 11 at 8:30 AM - June 13 by Zoom

The *MacArthur Bible Studies* provide intriguing examinations of the whole of Scripture and continues to be one of the bestselling study guide series on the market today. In this study, Dr. MacArthur examines the words of the prophet Isaiah, showing how God proved to be faithful to his people (and us) by promising to send Messiah who would save them from sin. These latest all-new studies join the ranks of the previously released study guides, now offering readers a comprehensive selection of Old Testament Bible studies by bestselling author and theologian John MacArthur.

Each lesson includes:

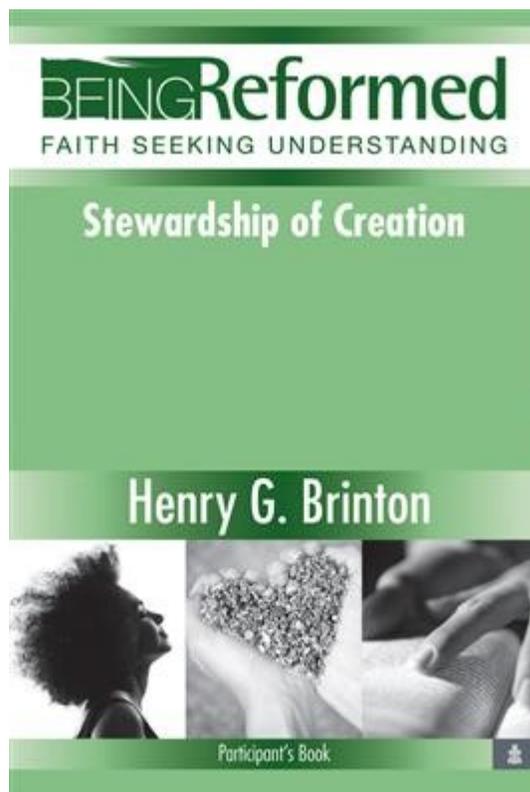
- **Drawing Near:** An opening question based on the key theme or topic of the lesson
- **The Context:** Background information on the passage of Scripture being studied
- **Keys to the Text:** Detailed commentary on the passage being studied
- **Unleashing the Text:** Application questions on the passage highlighted in the lesson

- **Exploring the Meaning:** Three key takeaways from the passage
- **Reflecting on the Text:** Reflection questions on the passage highlighted in the lesson
- **Personal Response:** A journaling section to help readers apply the principles

Each study includes an introduction that provides background information to each book of the Bible being studied and a closing "Reviewing Key Principles" lesson to help cement the main themes of the study.

To sign up or for more information, contact Denny Casey (d.a.casey@comcast.net).

Bible Study: Stewardship of Creation



Begins: April 21 at 7 PM by Zoom for six weeks

This is being organized by the FPC Earth Care team

Description from the publisher:

"Explore the biblical bases for our care of creation along with sessions on being environmentally friendly at home, at church, and in the world."

Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding is a series of biblically based mini-courses that provides adults with a foundational understanding of the Reformed faith. Each six-session study--written by well-known and respected scholars--features Scripture, prayer, in-depth commentary, and

questions for reflection. Each study addresses its subject from a Reformed theological perspective. Lessons are enhanced through the Leader's Guide, which offers helpful suggestions and direction for group study. The main structure for these guides is the rubric Head, Heart, and Hands.

We have borrowed a few books from the presbytery office that will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Sam Smith, sam@peakspresbytery.org, to

borrow a copy or you may purchase a copy from the PCUSA bookstore.

Here's a link to the book (with a link if you'd like to order a copy):

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/680720/stewardship-of-creation-participants-book.aspx>

To sign up and get the Zoom link, contact Denny Casey d.a.casey@comcast.net

Virtual Youth Retreat

The Presbytery of the Peaks Youth Council will be hosting a virtual youth retreat for middle & high schoolers on **Saturday, April 17, 10 am-12 pm** on zoom. More details & registration info can be found here: [PoPYoCo Middle & High School Virtual RetPoPYoCo Middle & High School Virtual Retreat](#)

A Presbytery of the
Peaks Middle & High
School Virtual Retreat

Wait For It

Romans 8: 24-25

Saturday
April 17, 2021



10am-12pm
on Zoom!

With Keynote speaker: Matthew Aldas



With Music Leader: Cameron Moore



Email sam@peakspresbytery.org for more info

Earth Day

Saturday, April 24

As part of Earth Day week; FPC will be celebrating our care for God's creation by enjoying nature, going on an easy hike, and picking up trash along the way.

Meet at the church at **10 am** and plan for a hike along the Dick and Willie trail. Come out and enjoy the fellowship and being outdoors together! Pack a lunch and bring a water bottle.

Earth Care Congregation Certification



To become an Earth Care Congregation, this congregation affirmed an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into their worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

Started in 2010 by the PC(USA), the goal of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.

"It is exciting that **First Presbyterian Church is one of the 276 churches that chose to dedicate themselves to intentional care of God's earth this year.**

Particularly in a time of much uncertainty and worry about the future, this congregation's activities and commitment even in the midst of navigating limitations brought about by COVID-19 brings hope to their community. We believe that First Presbyterian Church will inspire others to respond intentionally to God's call to care for the earth," says Jessica Maudlin, Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

For more information about First Presbyterian Church's earth care program contact Denny Casey at d.a.casey@comcast.net or (276) 224-3906.

To learn more about Earth Care at First Presbyterian Church, visit <http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm?topic=Earth>

For more information on the Earth Care Congregations program visit www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Saturday, April 24, 2021, 9:00 am-12:00 Noon (Will be held rain or shine)

Location: Bassett Service Center 2285 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett, Virginia
(Across from Bassett Office Supply)

Residents of Martinsville and Henry County will be able to dispose of household hazardous waste from 9 a.m. to noon April 24 at Bassett Service Center, 2285 Fairystone Park Highway in Bassett.

The event is free to individuals but not available to commercial businesses.

The site will accept:

- Solvents, such as mineral spirits, paint thinner, turpentine, and acetone.
- Paints, including oil-based, polyurethane, tung oil, deck, or oil-based stains.
- Fuels, such as gasoline, #2 fuel oil, kerosene, diesel fuel, small engine fuel, and heating oil.
- Automobile fluids, such as motor oil, transmission fluids, and antifreeze.
- Lead-acid batteries.
- Computer equipment.
- Cell phones.
- Printer cartridges.
- Up to four boxes of paper per car to be shredded, but only sizes up to 8.5 by 11 inches.

Items that cannot be handled include smoke detectors, compressed gas cylinders, explosives, radioactive materials, household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, drain cleaners, tires, light bulbs, and televisions.

The event is sponsored by Environmental Options Inc., EMI, Henry County, the City of Martinsville, and Bassett Fire and Rescue.

Youth Ministry

April Schedule

Saturday, April 17 – Presbytery Virtual Youth Retreat on Zoom (10am-12pm)

Saturday, April 24 – Earth Care Event: we'll be going for a hike & will pick up trash along the way to help beautify our Earth while also enjoying nature! (plan to pack a lunch & more details to follow)

Sundays April 18 & 25 – No Zoom Gathering on these days but please join us for our Saturday events those weekends instead!

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Bill Plonk, Sarah Altizer, Ken Beavers (Pastor Mark's nephew), 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, Jim Murray (Judy King), 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

Cornbread Mix



The 2nd quarter food donation item is **Cornbread Mix (i.e.: Jiffy)**.

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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