

August 27, 2026



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner **Pastor Bea Miller**

Dear First Presbyterian family,

Sunday's Music Fest will include a patriotic focus in honor of our country's 250th. Please come and support our wonderful musicians, and bring your friends too!

And don't forget to mark your calendars for September 13th and the following 8 weeks as our Session helps us see more clearly who we are and where God is leading us. The Session will use the Time with Young Disciples during those weeks to share key concepts from the book, "The Strategically Small Church." And if you would like to dig deeper, we have a few copies of the book available for you to borrow and read.

In closing I'd like to share a prayer I receive as part of a subscription to the work of Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber. She is a Lutheran pastor who is highly regarded for her preaching, writing and teaching. This prayer resonated with me and I imagine it may resonate with many of you too:

Dear God,

These bodies you gave us ... I mean, there's a lot to love about them. First of all, they can sing – so, good job on that one. And they can laugh at bad jokes and walk across the street to say hi to our neighbor's dog.

And these bodies you gave us can smell fresh lavender and savor the taste of perfectly ripe cantaloupe in August.

And honestly, it's pretty amazing the way the skin of someone we love can feel on our own skin. So, that's pretty cool.

But I do have some notes.

Because these bodies are so fragile. So easily wounded and prone to sickness. They age and get soft and just sort of slowly slip toward the ground like they're really tired of holding it all up.

And then sometimes our bodies stop making insulin or our knees suddenly can't do really simple things for us anymore (like reliably get us up from the damn sofa), or our cells lose their minds and mutate in ways that make us need to remove and/or poison entire parts of these bodies you gave us just so we don't die ...and if I'm honest, that feels like a pretty major design flaw.

But then they can also magically knit themselves back together - which, if I'm honest, is kind of mind blowing. That they can be sliced opened, fixed, closed - and then...somehow... cells come to repair the whole thing, collagen lays down across the incision like the lattice top of our grandmother's apple pie, and one day we are whole again. Crossing the street to say hi to the neighbor's dog. Pretty cool.

These bodies you gave us, God...

please help us be a little more patient when they disappoint us,
and a little more respectful when they need something from us,
and a little more grateful when they take such good care of us.

Because we are just down here doing our best with what we've been given.

Amen.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Bea



Please join us for the Music-fest worship this fourteenth Sunday after
Pentecost at 10 AM

Liturgist: Janet Fentress

Ushers/Greeters: Billy and Sharon Kirby

2nd Cup: Gale and Christy Buck

Liturgist Schedule

September

6 Cindy Edgerton

13 Duke Ferrell

20 Liz Ferrell

27 Billy Kirby

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:30am - 3pm

Friday - Closed

If you need to conduct office business outside these hours, please call to make
an appointment.

BEWARE: Two members of our congregation recently received **scam** emails
that purported to be sent by Pastor Bea asking for help with the purchase of
gift cards. PLEASE remember, SHE WILL NEVER ASK you to purchase anything
on her behalf with the promise to pay you back. If you have questions about
any email communications from her, please call or text her or Rita!

Be Aware!

**Protect yourself
from scammers!**

Watch for emails, texts or calls that might be
fraudulent and do not trust communications

fraudulent and do not trust communications (even if they sound legitimate) that ask for personal information, money or gift cards.

You will NEVER get an email from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Greater Love Tour: Sunday, September 19 at 4PM, First United Methodist Church

From the Music Department **Harmonic Expressions from Whitney**

This Sunday we are celebrating America 's 250th Anniversary. We were founded on the words "In God We Trust." We sing about God in the patriotic hymns, like the ones we will sing Sunday.

But do we take time to think about the words we say or sing? Do we remember God in our celebrations?

*Stanza 4: O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

-Francis Scott Key

KYIV SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORUS PRESENTS

Greater LOVE TOUR

WITH CONDUCTOR VIKTORIIA KONCHAKOVSKA

SEPTEMBER 19 AT 4 P.M.
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
146 E Main Street | Martinsville, VA



[MUSICMISSIONKIEV.ORG/TOUR](https://musicmissionkiev.org/tour)

musicmission KIEV
Музична місія Київ

August Birthdays

3 Marjorie Dunn



- 4** Rita Bateman
- 6** Walt, Jr. Flythe
- 8** Elizabeth (Betsy) Ham
- 9** John Luther, Liz Ferrell
- 11** Melissa Wingfield
- 12** Beth Lawson
- 13** Chuck Cundiff
- 17** Maggie Pilson
- 18** Louise Lindsay
- 21** Bill Stone, Cindy Franck
- 22** Johnny Pinkard, Kym Tatum, Patsy Stanley
- 29** Joe Williams, Stuart Beard
- 30** Josie Louise Crimmins



September Birthdays

- 1** Monty Montgomery, Virginia R. King
- 4** Nancy Davis
- 8** Suzan Kirby
- 10** Autumn Sanders
- 11** Victoria Esarey
- 15** Gwendolyn Seamon
- 16** Judy King
- 20** Jean Williams
- 25** Carolyn Baptist, Gavin Russell

Congregational Care and Fellowship

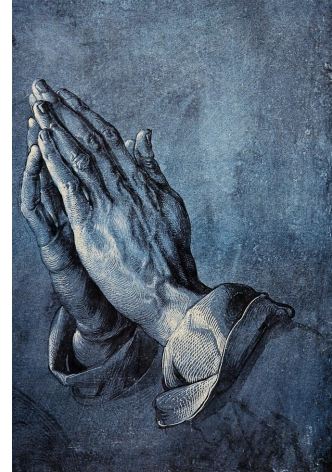
If you are in need of a [prayer shawl](#), or know someone that could use one, please pick one up from the narthex and be sure to sign it out. If you have any questions, please reach out to **Susan Pilson**.

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 **Susan** at [276 340-7288](tel:2763407288).

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Barbara Adams (Patsy Stanley), Ernest Bremner, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Bob Davis, Marge Dunn, Sandra Ford, Michelle Handy (Pearl Minter's daughter), Randy Lawson (P. Stanley), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Marion Miller, Maggie Pilson, Ann Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries, and families and areas devastated by severe weather.



Grace Network Donations

3rd Quarter Food Donation Item is Juice 40-64 Oz.



Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

ALSO in need of plastic grocery bags and empty egg cartons (dozen size). These can be deposited in the bins inside the Narthex

Hygiene Items are always needed (optional)

- *Toilet Paper
- *Bath Soap
- *Dish Detergent
- *Feminine Products
- *Deodorant
- *Toothpaste
- *Laundry Detergent

**Items may be brought to the church or dropped off at Grace Network, Monday - Friday, 9-2 PM*



Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views is published weekly on Thursdays, unless the Church office is closed. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Wednesday afternoon by 3 PM

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO: fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com**. For time sensitive announcements, please send to skirbycwj@gmail.com **and text** [276 806-9709](tel:2768069709)

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor



For updates and announcements, please click on the link below or copy and paste into your web browser:

<https://www.peakspresbytery.org/peaks-postings/>

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/

Church Office Phone: [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)

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THE SESSION

Clerk: Liz Ferrell

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2026

Billy Kirby: Administration

Susan Pilson: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Anne Madonia: Think Tank

Class of 2027

Nancy Moore: Stewardship

Johnny Pinkard: Facilities

Judy King: Worship

Class of 2028

Ione Linker/Taylor Shank: Mission/Outreach

Marlene Davis: Christian Education

Nancy Davis: Christian Education

TRUSTEES

William Kirby, Gale Legg, Sharon Kirby, Dru Rothrock, Duke Ferrell, Joe Williams

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