

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA>

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 



Sermon based upon *Matthew 16:21-28* and *Romans 12:9-21*

Our Mission

"Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other."

The Service for the Lord's Day
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE

Largo

arr. Hopson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

One: Sing a song of thanksgiving.

All: Declare God's wondrous deeds.

One: For the Lord dwells among the people;

All: The glory of God abides with us.

*OPENING HYMN

This Is My Father's World

GTG 370

Public Domain

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. O, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world. The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
and earth and heaven be one.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

Holy God,

We confess that our love for you and for others has not been genuine. We have not held fast to what is good, and we have lagged in affection for our brothers and sisters. We have not been patient in suffering, nor have we persevered in prayer. We have repaid evil for evil and have failed to live peaceably with all.

Forgive us our sin, free us from fear of the power of evil, and help us trust in the power of your everlasting goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSIOAL RESPONSE

Kyrie

PH 572

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

All: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

We Are Forgiven

GTG 447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (x2)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Liturgist

Romans 12:9-21

(NT pg.162)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor

ANTHEM

Be Still, My Soul

Victor Johnson

Chancel Choir

Second Reading:

Pastor

Matthew 16:21-28

(NT pg.18)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

One: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

All: The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

One: Sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

All: And binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

One: The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed,

All: Claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

One: In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage

All: To pray without ceasing,

One: To witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

All: To unmask idolatries in church and culture,

One: To hear voices of peoples long silenced,

All: And to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

One: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
 All: **We strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**
 One: With believers in every time and place,
 All: **We rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said
(sung to Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak)
 Text: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain (TUNE: CANONBURY)

GTG 718

Take up your cross, the Savior said,
 if you would my disciple be;
 take up your cross with willing heart,
 and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross; let not its weight
 fill your weak spirit with alarm;
 Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up
 and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross; heed not the shame,
 and let your foolish pride be still;
 the Lord for you accepted death
 upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,
 and calmly every danger brave:
 it guides you to abundant life
 and leads to victory o'er the grave.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

Air

A. Boely

*The Doxology

GTG 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. -Amen-

Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

POSTLUDE

Venid, Oh Cristianos

arr. C. Callahan

Welcome to our visitors today!

We are glad you are here and we hope you will join us for worship again. If you are interested in joining our church, there are three ways you may do so. They are letter of transfer from your church of previous membership, reaffirmation of faith if you have already been baptized; and baptism and affirmation of faith if you have not been baptized. If you are interested in joining, please ask our pastor, or one of our elders, for more details.

Need help hearing the service? Receivers connected to the sound system are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher.

Please use the friendship register located in the pew to indicate your presence in worship. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please include your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Let the children come to me: Children & Youth of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to actively participate in worship. For those desiring supportive materials, “sermon notes” for young children through older youth are available in the narthex. Clipboards and crayons are also available to take to your pew. Please return them to the narthex after the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Nannette Smith on her birthday, lovingly by Bonny, Farrell and Dyer Pace and Barry and Dianne Smith.



Congratulations to Mark and Allison (Knighton) Zocchi on the birth of their daughter, Winifred Pearl “Winnie”, on August 5, 2026 in Cambridge, MA. Proud grandmother is Liz “Gommy” Knighton.

2¢'s a Meal Offering will be taken today. Your gift helps to alleviate hunger and poverty locally and around the world. Please use the provided envelopes. Thanks for your offering.



Please join us for 2nd Cup in the fellowship hall immediately following the worship service. Come enjoy coffee, refreshments, and fellowship. Today's 2nd Cup is hosted by Joe and Susan Smith.

People of faith and people of good will know that we are called to care for our neighbors, both on the individual and structural levels. You are invited to join religious and lay leaders from around Martinsville and learn how beloved community leads us to the work of justice, inspired by faith. We will gather at **Smith Memorial United Methodist Church on Thursday, August 27th.** The gathering **will start with a meal at 5:30** (dinner provided, but you are welcome to bring a side or dessert to share), and continue with a discussion of the challenges in our community, and how you can make a difference. All are welcome! This event is presented in partnership with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and you can email sheila@virginiainterfaithcenter.org with any questions.



On Saturday, September 19th at 4:00 PM, the **KYIV Symphony Orchestra & Chorus** will present the *Greater Love Tour* at First United Methodist Church (146 E. Main St., Martinsville). The program features a blend of sacred classical music and traditional Ukrainian folk songs and brings a message of beauty, faith, and unwavering courage from the heart of Ukraine. The KSOC was

founded and began performing sacred masterpieces of classical music in 1993. Sacred music pieces—including Handel's Messiah, Brahms' Requiem, and Mendelssohn's Elijah—were banned under Communist rule. As the Iron Curtain lifted and this music became known to Ukrainian musicians, they described it as “an explosion of light.” The gospel lives and breathes in the

powerful pieces of music they share. It is their greatest joy to proclaim its message of hope, peace, and salvation through their musicians to the world. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken as part of the concert.

When you do your grocery shopping be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (*various household items and toiletries*) and **Grace Network** (*Juice 40-64 Oz*). Other needs: toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), dish and laundry detergent, toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, and feminine products. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.



Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

CLOSED on Friday

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Danny Russell (Gavin Russell's father), 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.

First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, Virginia, Presbyterian Church (USA)

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Church Staff

Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

Rita Bateman, Office Manager

Vickie Blair, Bookkeeper

Whitney Melton, Director of Music

Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator

Weekday School

Niki Grogg, Director

The Session

Moderator, Rev. Dr. Bea Miller,

Clerk, Liz Ferrell

Administration, Billy Kirby (2026)

Congregational Care and Fellowship, Susan Pilson (2026)

Facilities, Johnny Pinkard (2027) Worship, Judy King, (2027)

Christian Education, Nancy Davis (2028) Stewardship, Nancy Moore (2027)

Mission and Outreach, Ione Linker (2028)/ Taylor Shank (2028)

Think Tank, Ann V. Madonia (2026)

Treasurer, Henry Moore

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, August 23

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

2-Cents a Meal Offering

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday, August 24

4:00 PM

Session Meeting

Sunday, August 30

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Fifth Sunday Musicfest

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 6

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Communion

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 7

Tuesday, September 8

9:00 AM

Cooks Who Care

Tuesday –Friday

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Weekday School

School in Session

Lunch Buddies

Sunday, September 13

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 19

8:00-9:30 AM

Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)

Sunday, September 20

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

~Lemonade on the Lawn

Sunday, September 27

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

2-Cents a Meal Offering

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 28

4:00 PM

Session Meeting

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS	2ND CUP
August 23	Barbara Duncan	Randy and Martha Rollins	Joe and Susan Smith
August 30	Janet Fentress	Billy and Sharon Kirby	Gale and Christy Buck
September 6	Cindy Edgerton	Monty and Joan Montgomery	Joe and Brenda Williams
September 13	Duke Ferrell	Johnny and Ashby Pinkard	Janet Fentress, Judy King
September 20	Liz Ferrell	Ron Rebman, Judy King	<i>Lemonade on the Lawn</i>
September 27	Billy Kirby	Bob Wuetefeld, Barbara Duncan	Milt and Nancy Davis

If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.