

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue  
Martinsville, Virginia

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 2025

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

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation



**Sermon based upon Matthew 1:18-25 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

**Our Mission**

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

*The Service for the Lord's Day  
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Kirby Family

CONGREGATION AND CHOIR sing *Christ, Be Our Light* (verse 4)

GTG 314

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Leader: Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.

**People: Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

Leader: For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

**People: Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

Leader: For any bitterness that scratches our soul:

**People: Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

Leader: For relationships left in decay and neglect:

**People: Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

Leader: For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

**People: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait,  
the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

This morning, we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope for those in times of waiting. The **second candle** is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The **third candle** is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The **fourth candle** is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of life. Today we acknowledge our pain and the pain we have caused others. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

CONGREGATION AND CHOIR sing

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

ADVENT PRAYER

Kirby Family

Christ Be Our Light!  
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent  
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Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; Behold the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

God of the future,

**You are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Come Lord Jesus come. Come into our hearts. Come into our minds. Come into our souls. Bring us closer in your love as we seek to serve you. Come Lord Jesus, come. Amen.**

*Silent prayers of confession may be offered.*

## CONFESSIONAL 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

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

***People: And also with you.***

## \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (Gloria Patri)

GTG 580

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.***

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Liturgist

*Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19*

(OT pg.540)

ANTHEM

*Is There Room at the Manger for Me?*  
Chancel Choir

Mary Kay Beall

Second Reading:

Pastor

*Matthew 1:18-25*

(NT pg.1)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; and he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*People, Look East*

GTG 105

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People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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

**\*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

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verses 1, 6 and 7)

GTG 88

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O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*God Be with You till We Meet Again*

J. Rankin / W. Tomer

POSTLUDE

\*Please stand as you are able

# *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**

**We welcome and thank Beth Chapman** as our accompanist this morning.

**The flowers in the sanctuary** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of H. Grady Moore, Sr., Hester Stone Moore, H. Grady Moore, Jr., and Reed Stone Moore, by Henry (III) and Nancy Moore, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



**Join us for a 2nd Cup.** Come enjoy coffee and refreshments after the worship service each week and if you would like to help, please reach out to Gale and Christy Buck.

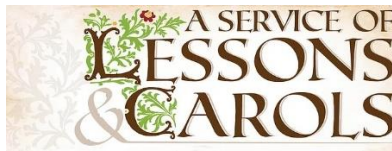
**The Community Christmas Music Program is TODAY at 3:00 PM at the Heritage Center & Museum,** the Historic Henry County Courthouse (1 E Main St, Martinsville). Participants include Beth Chapman, Kat Walker and Virginia King. The building is handicap accessible and admission is free.



**Our Christmas Eve service is Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00 PM** and will be a candlelight celebration with communion and music.



**The church office will be closed** December 24th through January 2nd for Christmas and New Years. **Also, Steeple Views will not be published** the week of December 25th or January 1st.



**Sunday, December 28th will be a service of *Lessons and Carols*.** Join us at 10:00 AM as we sing and read scripture on the First Sunday of Christmas.



**The Christmas Joy Offering** supports retired ministers and church workers and their families through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions as they face medical and emergency costs. The Offering also supports students in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the church

and the world. Look for Christmas Joy Offering envelopes in the church pews **now through December 24th.**

**Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center** (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (Pork & Beans 15 oz.)** (Other needs: toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, toothpaste, feminine products, dish and laundry detergent) when you do your grocery shopping. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Trooper Steven Ball, Family of Erica Walker (niece of Janet Fentress), Family of John Peeples, Sue Benfield, Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Marvin Hudson, Jamelle Waid Linker (Ed Linker's daughter-in-law), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Leslie Naradikian (Marion Miller's daughter), Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Richard Komorowski (M&N Davis), Cecil Robbins, Sandra Roberts (sister of Kat Walker), 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.

## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Friday 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

**The office will be closed December 24 - January 2**

**If pastoral care is needed, please call 276-734-8830**

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sunday, December 21**

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

**4th Sunday of Advent**

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, December 24**

5:00 PM

**Christmas Eve**

Candlelight Service with communion

**Thursday, December 25**

**Christmas Day**

Office Closed

**Sunday, December 28**

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Lesson and Carols

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, January 4**

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

**Communion Sunday/Ordination & Installation of Elders**

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
<b>December 21</b>	Martha Rollins	Billy and Sharon Kirby
<b>December 24</b> Christmas Eve	No liturgist needed	Johnny and Ashby Pinkard Duke and Liz Ferrell
<b>December 28</b>	Sam Smith	Monty and Joan Montgomery
<b>January 4</b>	Randy Rollins	Ron Rebman, Judy King
<b>January 11</b>	Taylor Shank	Bill and Suzan Kirby
<b>January 18</b>	Joe Williams	Joe and Jerri DeVault
<b>January 25</b>	Pearl Minter	Bob Wuestefeld, Barbara Duncan

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

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