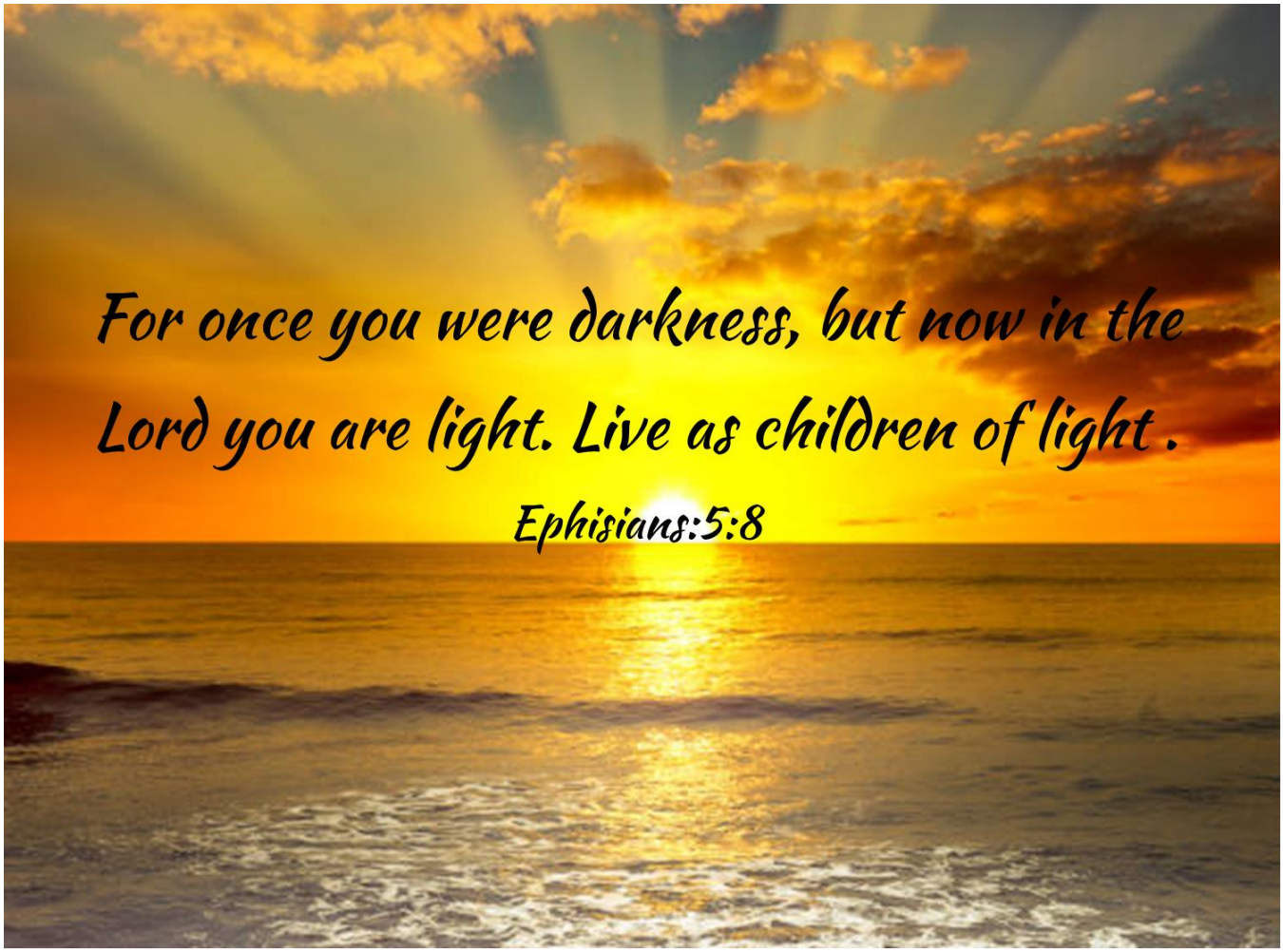
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026

https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation



Sermon based upon John 9:1-41 and Ephesians 5:8-14

Our Mission

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

The Service for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

One: God does not see as mortals see.
We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.
All: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!
One: Once we lived in darkness, but now – as children of light,
we are called to what is good and right and true.
All: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

*OPENING HYMN *Open My Eyes That I May See* GTG 451
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Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsively) Pastor

One: Gracious God,
All: We are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves.
Forgive us, we pray.
One: Bring us into your light
All: that we may see ourselves rightly.
One: Bring us into your light
All: that we may know ourselves loved.

One: Bring us into your light
All: that we may live more fruitful lives.
One: Keep raising us,
All: we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace.
That we may live more fully in the light of your love.

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

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.
(repeat once)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: Liturgist
Ephesians 5:8-14 (NT pg. 194)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES Pastor

CHOIR ANTHEM *Think About His Love* arr. Mary McDonald
Chancel Choir

Second Reading: Pastor
John 9:1-41 (NT pg. 102)

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

1 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can

work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." 10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. 17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, 21 but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" 28 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." 30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Spiritual Blindness

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” 38 He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” 40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: ***Thanks be to God*.**

SERMON Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Pastor

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, not powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* GTG 649

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Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

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 — *Elegy* — William Walton

***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

*SENDING HYMN — *More Love to Thee, O Christ* — GTG 828

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More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!
Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee;
More love to thee, more love to thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest.
Now thee alone I seek; give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;
More love to thee, more love to thee!

Then shall my latest breath whisper thy praise;
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise.
This still its prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;
More love to thee, more love to thee!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION — Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

POSTLUDE — *Prelude in G Minor* — J.S. Bach

*Please rise in body or in spirit

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

Join us for 2nd Cup. Come enjoy coffee and refreshments in the fellowship hall after the worship service hosted by Milt and Nancy Davis.
If you are interested in being a host, there will be a **training session in the Marge Dunn Kitchen Thursday, March 19th at 4:00 PM** with Milt and Nancy.

The Martinsville Garden Club will be using the fellowship hall **Wednesday, March 18th** beginning **at 9:00 AM** for a meeting.

Community Lenten Lunches are Thursdays at 12 Noon

with a light meal and a short devotional.
March 19th – Starling Avenue Baptist Church (932 Starling Ave.)
March 26th – Chatham Heights Baptist Church (1235 Chatham Hts. Road)

Our next community breakfast is on Saturday, March 21st. Cooks arrive at 7 am, servers & others about 7:30. If you can help on Saturday, please contact Mary Linker at 919-548-2452 (text or call).

Church Work Day, Saturday, March 28th beginning at 8:00 AM. All able-bodied folk, any age, are invited to come help spruce up the church before Easter Sunday. Come when you can, for as long as you can. Reach out to Johnny Pinkard, David Price, or Dru Rothrock for more information.

Brushstrokes and Fellowship: A Morning Painting. On **Saturday, March 28th at 10:00 AM** local artist, Karen Conner, will guide you step by step in painting a beautiful Bunny Rabbit. No experience needed. The cost is $25 and includes all supplies. Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be provided. **Space is limited to 20** so reserve your spot now by contacting Susan Pilson (276-340-7288 or susanpilson@gmail.com)

When you do your grocery shopping be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network** (**Creamed Corn – 15 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

William W. Regen Family, Barbara Adams (Patsy Stanley) Sue Benfield, Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Marvin Hudson, Liz Jackman (daughter of Nancy Davis), Randy Lawson (P. Stanley). Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Leslie Naradikian (Marion Miller's daughter), Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, 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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 15	**4th Sunday in Lent**
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall
Monday –Friday	**Weekday School**
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	School in Session
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch Buddies
Wednesday, March 18	
9:00 AM	Garden Club in Fellowship Hall
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 19	
NOON	Lenten Lunch @ Starling Avenue Baptist (932 Starling Ave.)
4:00 PM	2nd Cup Training in the Marge Dunn Kitchen
Saturday, March 21	
8:00-9:30 AM	Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)
Sunday, March 22	**5th Sunday in Lent**
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall
Monday, March 23	
4:00 PM	Session Meeting
Wednesday, March 25	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 26	
NOON	Lenten Lunch @ Chatham Heights Baptist (1235 Chatham Hts. Rd)
Saturday, March 28	
8:00 AM	Church Workday/Clean-up for Easter
10:00 AM	Paint Class in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 29	**Palm Sunday**
9:00 AM	Service at J. Frank Wilson Memorial Park
	(inclement weather location is FPC sanctuary)
	~Pot-luck Brunch in Fellowship Hall

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS	2ND CUP
March 15	Billy Kirby	Bill and Suzan Kirby	Milt and Nancy Davis
March 22	Sharon Kirby	Joe and Jerri DeVault	Ione and Mary Linker
March 29	TBD	Bob Wuetefeld, Barbara Duncan	No 2nd Cup

If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.
If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday – 9:30 – 2:00 PM
If pastoral care is needed, please call 276-734-8830