

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025

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

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 



Laity Sunday

Our Mission

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

The Service for the Lord's Day
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Timeless Canon
Sanctuary Ringers

J. Pachelbel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cindy Edgerton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

One: The world belongs to God.

All: The earth and all its people.

One: How good it is, how wonderful

All: To live together in unity.

One: Love and faith come together,

All: Justice and peace join hands.

One: If Christ's disciples keep silent

All: Even stones will shout aloud.

One: Open our lips, O God,

All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

*OPENING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation
Public Domain

GTG 463

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

CALL TO CONFESSION

Cindy Edgerton

One: Just as the prophet Isaiah assured God's people so many years ago,
he assures us now that God is our salvation.

**All: It is because of this confidence and because of God's promise,
that we are free to approach God in confession.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Cindy Edgerton

God of peace,

**We confess we are a people of fear. We let anxiety rule our days and worry our nights.
We have been distracted by nerves and focused on tension. We confess we have ignored
your command to not be afraid. Forgive us, O God. Calm our hearts, settle our stomachs,
and renew in us the ability to find comfort in you.**

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

Cindy Edgerton

The prophet Isaiah assures us:

God is building a new heaven and a new earth; the former things will not be remembered
or come to mind. Forgiven and freed, rejoice in what the Lord is creating in you, in me, in
all creation.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Cindy Edgerton

One: And as a freed and forgiven people, we share what we have been given.
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

One: God of the earthquake and the silence, quiet in us any voice but your own,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit we might hear,

**All: And in hearing we might believe, and in believing we might act,
making way for your new creations. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Liturgist

Hebrews 11:7-12, 23-31

(NT pg. 225)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Like a Tree Planted by the Water*
Chancel Choir

**Sandra T. Ford

MESSAGE Surrounded by Faith and Rooted in Love

Janet Fentress

Hebrews 12:1-2

(NT pg. 226)

Ephesians 3:14-19

(NT pg. 193)

Martha Rollins

Colossians 2:6-7

(NT pg. 200)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Janet Fentress

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

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

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

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

In a broken and fearful world

The Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,

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

To unmask idolatries in church and culture,

To hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

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

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, 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!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Chorus

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (chorus)

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
We will work with each other; we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride: (chorus)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (chorus)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Barbara Duncan

Almighty God, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son.
Therefore, in confidence and trust we pray for the church.

Lord, hear our prayer.

O God, enliven the church for its mission

That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.

Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

We pray for the church throughout the world and we pray for our church.

**We are grateful for the future God has prepared for us as First Presbyterian,
Martinsville.**

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace,

That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others,

That all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves.

We pray for all who are struggling with any need, illness, concern.

Lord be with them and provide all that is needed.

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We pray for ourselves and our ministries. Lord, you have called us to serve you.

Grant that we may minister in your name, with your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and we the welcome of your embrace.

We pray as Jesus taught us to pray:

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

Call to Offering

Liturgist

One: In a world filled with blessings we celebrate our privilege and our responsibility to share those blessings.

All: We celebrate our God of overwhelming blessings as we worship through the offering of our tithes and gifts.

Offertory

How Firm a Foundation
Sanctuary Ringers

J.W. Hollis

***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

One: Loving God, before we give to you, you have given to us.

All: All we offer we have received from you.

One: We thank you for your goodness, and we praise you for your bountiful works, through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain].

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Janet Fentress

Be strong in the truth of God. Bear witness to the gospel. Persevere in the face of evil.
Persist in your commitment to Christ. Live without fear. Love without reserve.
May the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you
always.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Peace I Leave With You

David H. Williams

POSTLUDE

This Little Light of Mine

Mark Hayes

*Please rise in body or in spirit

**Used by permission

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

The flowers at the pulpit are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Margaret and Robert Pannill by Margie Allen and family.

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

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Joe and Jerri DeVault on the passing of Jerri's brother, John Mack Snow, on November 1st, 2025 in Martinsville, VA.

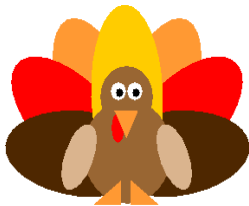
The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Ford and Felecia Childress on the passing of Ford's brother, Edward Hendricks "Hank" Childress, on October 16th, 2025 in New Orleans, LA.



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

There will be a Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 23rd for the purpose of electing church officers for the Class of 2028. Elder nominees are Nancy Davis, Lone Linker, and Taylor Shank.

The next Session Meeting is Monday, November 24th at 4:00 PM in the session room.



The Weekday School will be using the kitchen and fellowship hall on **Thursday, November 20th** to prepare and serve a Thanksgiving feast to the children.

The church office will be closed November 26-28 for Thanksgiving. The Weekday School will be on fall break November 24-28.

The Martinsville Handbell Ensemble will perform a Christmas concert **Saturday, December 6th at 4:00 PM** at the First United Methodist Church (146 East Main Street, Martinsville). Janet Fentress is a member of the ensemble. Still Water, Smith River Singers small group, will also perform.



Chancel Choir and Sanctuary Ringers rehearsals are Wednesdays (unless otherwise noted) in the Music Workshop room. Join the **Sanctuary Ringers rehearsals at 5:30 PM**, and the **Chancel Choir for rehearsal 6:30 PM**. Reach out to our Interim Music Director, Craig Campeau, if you are interested in joining either, or both choirs.

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.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

The church office will be closed November 26-28 for Thanksgiving.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of John Mack Snow (Jerri DeVault's brother), Family of Hank Childress (Ford Childress' brother), Sue Benfield, Bud Buffkin, Anna Beth Burton (L. & D. Ferrell), 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, Jodi White (sister of P. Marshall/G. Chaney), persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries, and families and areas devastated by severe weather.



Today I am thankful for....

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
November 16	Lynn Pritchett	Bill and Suzan Kirby
November 23	Taylor Shank	Joe and Jerri DeVault
November 30	No liturgist needed	Bob Wuestefeld, Barbara Duncan
December 7	Lynn Pritchett	Duke and Liz Ferrell
December 14	Ron Rebman	Randy and Martha Rollins
December 21	Martha Rollins	Billy and Sharon Kirby
December 24 Christmas Eve	Sam Smith	TBD
December 28	Sam Smith	Monty and Joan Montgomery

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

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, November 16	Laity Sunday
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	Second Cup in Fellowship Hall
3:00 PM	Raleigh Ringers at First Baptist Church
Monday –Friday	Weekday School
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	School in Session
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch Buddies
Monday, November 17	
1:00 PM	WDS Board Meeting
Wednesday November 19	
9:00 AM	Garden Club in FH
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, November 20	
10:30 AM	Stewardship Meeting
11:00 AM	WDS Thanksgiving Feast in FH
Sunday, November 23	2 Cents a Meal Offering
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	Second Cup in Fellowship Hall
Monday, November 24	
4:00 PM	Session Meeting
Tuesday, November 25	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday November 26	Thanksgiving Holiday
	Office Closed
Thursday, November 27	Thanksgiving Holiday
	Office Closed
Friday, November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday
	Office Closed
Sunday, November 30	1st Sunday of Advent/5th Sunday Musicfest
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	Second Cup in Fellowship Hall
Saturday, December 6	
4:00 PM	MHE at First United Methodist (146 E. Main St.)
Sunday, December 7	Communion/2nd Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	Second Cup in Fellowship Hall