FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026

https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation



Celebrating Stewardship Year-Round

Our Mission

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

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

*Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Tree of Life* P. Chopin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Gale Buck

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

We gather
To meet the Spirit of God in each other, as we allow the Spirit to refresh, encourage, and strengthen us.
We gather
To enjoy God as we give thanks for the friends in Christ that surround us.
We gather
To be and share the Love of Christ.
Lord God, **you are with us.**
Lord God, you are
Generous, forgiving love.
You are
Our protector, provider, comforter. Our refuge and our strength.
You are
God of all, the source of all good, our all in all.
You bless us with
Strength and all that is needed for each new day.
You bless us with
Freedom. The freedom to live abundantly, worship, and enjoy creation and each other.
You bless us with
Freedom to love you.

*OPENING HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation* GTG 36

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For the fruit(s) of all creation, thanks be to God;
for the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

(continued on next page)

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Liturgist

Forgive us for

Judging others, being impatient, avoiding responsibility, neglecting others, holding grudges, being selfish, complaining, ignoring God's Word, and turning a deaf ear.

Forgive us for **our pride.**

Forgive us for

Not putting God first.

Not loving God with our whole heart.

Not loving our neighbors, and for not loving ourselves.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit

Grant us humble understanding and compassion enabling us to forgive.

Ease our worry, anxiety and fear.

Forgive us and move us away from sinfulness.

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 Liturgist

You forgive us

Through the power of your Holy Spirit, helping us to be kind and enabling us to realize that we make mistakes and wrong choices.

You forgive us

Through your grace and love.

We are forgiven to live as

Giving, loving, listening people who treat others as we want to be treated.

We are forgiven to live as

Faithful, grateful servants of God and of one another.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE Liturgist

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

***People: 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)

ANTHEM Created to Serve R.E. Schram
Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Liturgist

Nurturing God, your Word is

Reassuring, comforting, healing, inspirational, supportive, a source of strength and encouragement for living.

Your Word is

Our guide, our light, a lamp unto our feet.

Through your Word prepare us to

Be a community that helps and encourages others, as together we care for our neighbors, making the world a better place ~ a place where we can venture into uncertainty without fear.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The point it this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

Acts 2:44-47a

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the good will of all people.

Luke 6:37-38

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

Hebrews 13:12-16

Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the came and bear the abuse he endured. Fore here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, and other wellsprings of nourishment.
For the Word of God among us. For the Word of God within us.
People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR SPECIAL *Your Servant I Will Be* Mark Patterson

THE TREE OF LIFE E. Gale Buck

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Liturgist

The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* GTG 738

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O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Liturgist

Loving God, you call us to pray:

For the church

May we seek God's guidance and encouragement, sharing God's love with a vast community of believers in our country and in the world and with people of other traditions and customs.

For our church

As we look beyond ourselves, caring for others and seeking ways to serve.

For our church

For growth, survival and strength that supports our spiritual health and joyful worship as we share God's love.

For Creation

We are grateful for the beauty and wonder that inspires us and we pray that as good stewards we will leave the world better than we found it. May we take care of our beautiful world.

For the nations of the world

We pray for peace. For the end of wars and freedom from hunger. We pray that God's world will live together in God's peace.

For those with special needs

We pray for healing, comfort, help, respect, and love for all who are in need.

For the needs of others

We pray for protection, security, and care. We pray that needs are met.

For those near and dear to our hearts

We pray that they may be held, nurtured, protected, enfolded in God's love.

We pray for healing, peace, and comfort.

We pray for safety, security, and freedom from fear.

We pray for peace, love, happiness, and good health.

For those near and dear to our hearts

We thank God and pray that they may have their best life.

We pray as our Lord and Savior 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

Our whole liturgy has been a reflection of your commitment to our mission and ministry ~ using your words. This service is a reflection of who we are as First Presbyterian Martinsville.

Again, using your words:

We give and pledge

To serve others

In Obedience to God's commandments,

To support the mission of our church.

We give and pledge so that

We can do God's will.

So that

We can live as good stewards.

So that

Others may know God's love, as we share God's love in the world.

So that

Our church can grow and thrive.

So that

We can serve others.

So that

We can reach out to our congregation and beyond to the community with service.

So that

We can Develop respect for all.

Offertory *I Will Sing Unto the Lord* D. Wolford

***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

We give thanks

For all our many blessings.

For life itself, for each new day.

For church, family, friends, health, home, food, and for our planet.

We give thanks

For God.

For God's love, grace, and presence in our lives.

For God's Creation.

For the freedom to worship God.

We ask God's blessing on our offerings

On our pledges.
On our offerings of time, service, and money.
On the ways we use our offerings and pledges in our church, community, and world.
On the love we can share and the ways we care.
On the ministries we provide for each other and our community.

We ask God's blessing

That we may be encouraged in service as we serve with joy.
That we may thrive as God's people and use our energy and treasures to support God's kingdom. In the name of the one who teaches us to love one another, we pray. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)* GTG 69

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I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest* sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Gale Buck

Lord, you have knit us together
To support and serve one another and our community.
To help us know we are all connected.
To care for one another.
You have knit us together
In fellowship, laughter, and love for each other.
You have knit us together
As a family.

Lord, bless us as we leave this place
That we may go out refreshed and encouraged to spread God's love.
That we may be safe, healthy, a protected from evil.
That we may have peace.

Lord, dismiss us to

Go out and show the world Christ's love.
Be more Christ-like. To be better people.
To know God's care until we gather again.

Lord, dismiss us to

Be lights of God's love and truth, walking the path God has chosen for us. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing* T. Dudley-Smith/Stainer

POSTLUDE *Together We Serve* D.C. Damon
with Lynn Pritchett on flute

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.

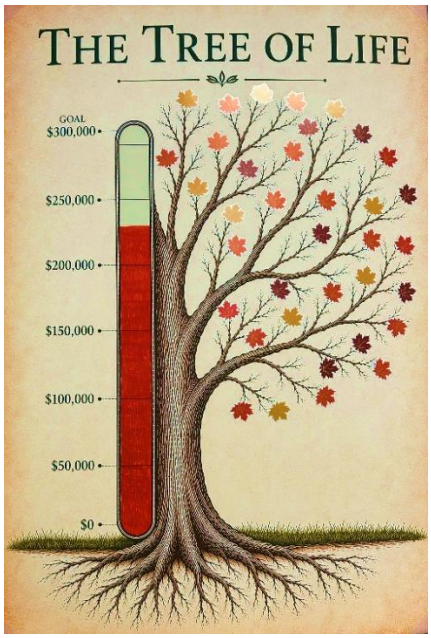
ANNOUNCEMENTS



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 hosts are Joe and Brenda Williams.

Pastor Bea is on study leave today through November 14th. She will be at Montreat with Women of the Wellspring. If pastoral care is needed call the cell phone (276-734-8830) and leave a message or text and she will get back with you as soon as possible.

Stewardship Update: As of November 5th, 37 pledge cards have been submitted totaling $233,865.



Please join us for a Church Work Day on Saturday, November 14th, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM as we prepare our grounds and building for the upcoming holidays. Volunteer tasks will include cleaning the church grounds, cleaning interior walls and doors and deep cleaning the kitchen. Your help in making our church look its best for the season is greatly appreciated. Reach out to Johnny Pinkard for more information.



The Session will meet Monday, November 23rd at 4:00 PM in the session room.

Please join us for a Stewardship Luncheon following the worship service on Sunday, November 15th. We look forward to gathering in thanks and gratitude for God's provision and your continued generosity.



The church office will be closed November 25th-27th for Thanksgiving. The Weekday School will be on fall break November 23rd-27th.



Jack Kirby is offering technical support as part of his Sophomore service project. He is available to assist any church member needing help with smartphones, tablets, laptops, smartwatches, and other devices. He is available by appointment and can also make house calls. Please reach out to him directly by text at 276-734-7460 or email at kirbyjack@carlisleschool.org to schedule an appointment. When you contact him, please include a brief summary of the technical issue so he can come prepared.



Call for Volunteers! The FPC Mission Committee is participating with Grace PC and other local churches to put on a Community Thanksgiving Meal. We need a lot of volunteers to sign-up and come to an organizing meeting on Sept. 21 at 6pm at Grace PC. The meal event will be on Wednesday, November 25th, 1-4 PM at Albert Harris Elementary School. ALL VOLUNTEERS must register, click this link: https://theharvestfoundation.jotform.com/262773861253160 even if you registered with the Grace PC link. Questions, text Ione (310) 951-5138.

When you do your grocery shopping be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (*various household items and toiletries*) and **Grace Network** (*Pancake Mix*). 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 - 4:00 PM
Friday 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM
If you need to conduct office business outside these hours, please call to make an appointment.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Barbara Adams (Patsy Stanley), Ernest Bremner, Evelyn Cannaday, Smith Chaney, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Bob Davis, Nancy Davis, Marge Dunn, Sandra Ford, Besty Ham, Michelle Handy (Pearl Minter's daughter), Jennifer Holland (M & N Davis), Elizabeth Jackman (M. & D. Davis), Randy Lawson (P. Stanley), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Marion Miller, Skyler Oaks (P. Minter), Maggie Pilson, Ann Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Rebecca Smith (P. Stanley), 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.

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS	2ND CUP
November 8	Nancy Moore	Monty and Joan Montgomery	Joe and Brenda Williams
November 15	Lynn Pritchett	Bob Weutefeld, Barbara Duncan	Stewardship Luncheon
November 22	Martha Rollins	Johnny and Ashby Pinkard	Janet Fentress, Judy King
November 29	Ron Rebman	Bill and Susan Kirby	Joe and Jerri DeVault
December 6	Randy Rollins	Ron Rebman, Judy King	Joe and Susan Smith
December 13	Taylor Shank	Joe and Jerri DeVault	Ione and Mary Linker
December 20	Ashby Pinkard	Duke and Liz Ferrell	Gale and Christy Buck
December 24	TBD	TBD	N/A
December 27	Gale Buck	Randy and Martha Rollins	No Second Cup

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 8	**Stewardship Narrative**
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
Tuesday, November 10	
9:00 AM	Cooks Who Care
Wednesday, November 11	
2:00 PM	Worship Meeting in Session Room
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, November 15	**Commitment Sunday**
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	~Stewardship Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
Monday, November 16	
1:00-4:00 PM	Session Training
Wednesday, November 18	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, November 21	
8:00-9:30 AM	Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)
Sunday, November 22	
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall
Monday, November 23	
4:00 PM	Session Meeting
Wednesday November 25	Office Closed ~ Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday, November 26	Office Closed ~ Thanksgiving Holiday
Friday, November 27	Office Closed ~ Thanksgiving Holiday
Sunday, November 29	**1st Sunday of Advent/Music-fest**
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, December 6	**2nd Sunday of Advent/Communion**
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall
Monday, December 7	
11:00 AM	Presbyterian Women's Circle Meeting at KG
Tuesday, December 8	
9:00 AM	Cooks Who Care