

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday
September 1, 2024

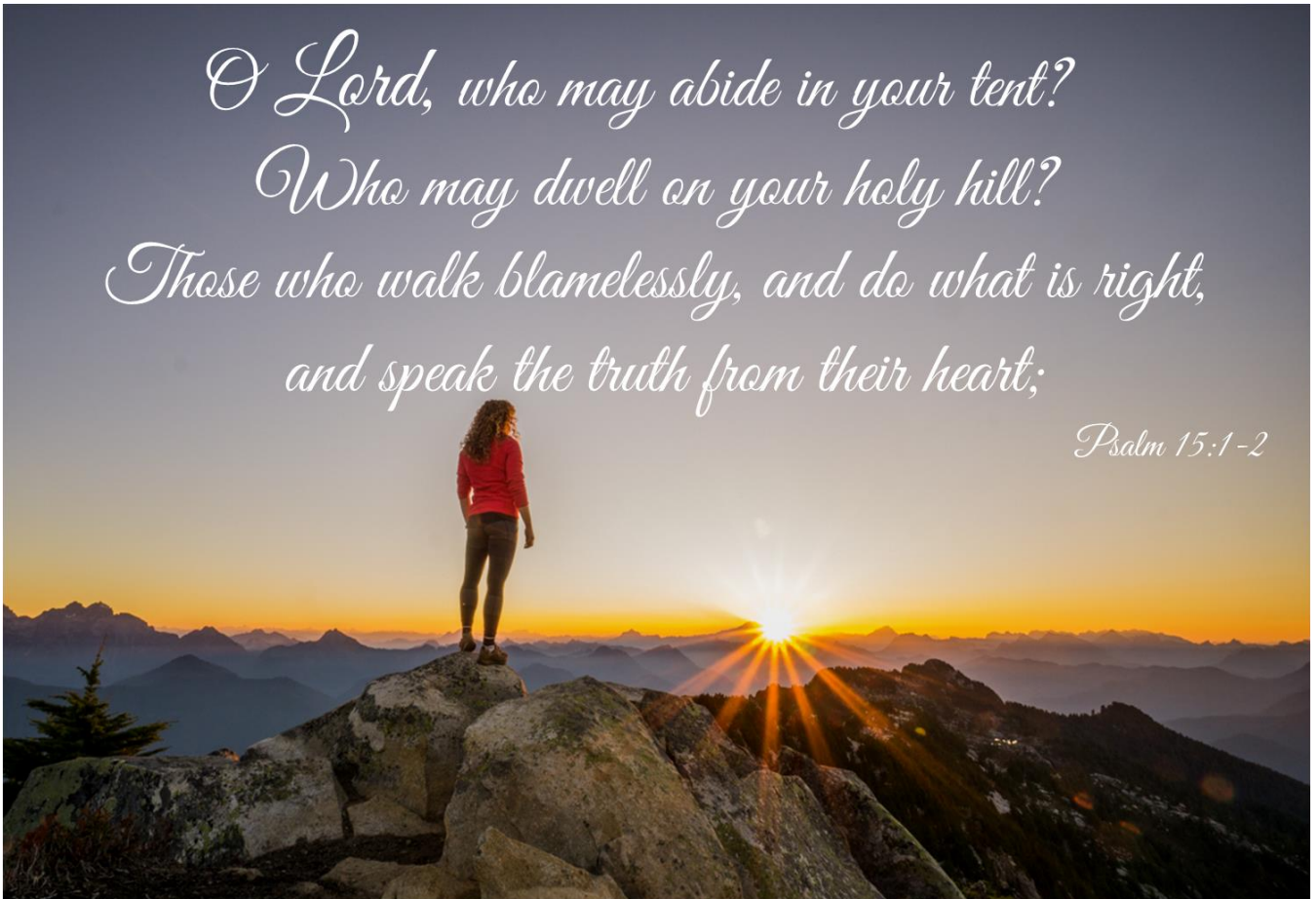
<https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA>

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation



*O Lord, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?
Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;*

Psalm 15:1-2



Sermon based upon James 1:17-27 and Psalm 15

Our Mission

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

*The Service for the Lord's Day
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday*

PRELUDE *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

Leader: Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

People: You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

Leader: Be doers of the Word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

People: Those who look into the perfect law, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act ~ they will be blessed in their doing.

*OPENING HYMN *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* GTG#12
Public Domain

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

God of light,

We confess that we live in the shadows of hypocrisy and self-righteousness. We honor you with our lips, but we have not served you in our hearts. We are satisfied with human traditions and norms and avoid your liberating truth. We have confused meekness with weakness, holiness with social conformity, and anger with righteousness. Forgive us, we pray. By the power of your word save us from the prison of our conceit so that we may serve you with sincere hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSATIONAL 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/PH#579

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

Psalm 15

(OT pg.495)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC

As The Wind Song
Chancel Choir

Shirley Murray/Swee Lim

Second Reading:

Pastor

James 1:17-27

(NT pg.229)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

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

Open My Eyes, That I May See

GTG#451

Public Domain

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!!

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

***The Doxology**

PH#592

**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-**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful to give you thanks and praise, O God of mystery and miracle. When there was darkness, you made light. When we cried out to you from captivity, you claimed us as your own. When we forgot our love for you, you did not forget us; sending your prophets to turn us around and renewing your promises with a bow in the sky; the parting of the sea; your own Son. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thank you, Jesus – for your teaching and healing, your challenging and feeding, your living and dying and rising, that we might be raised with you, and with all the world as you continually make all things new.

Dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who join in this feast, that we may be one in ministry in your name. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in Martinsville and in the world.

All glory and honor are yours, Holy God, through Christ and in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Serving of the Great Feast

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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.

*SENDING HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

GTG#39

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Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever will be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Go in Grace and Make Disciples*

POSTLUDE *A Joyful Trumpet*

Lani Smith

*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

The office will be closed **Monday, September 2** in observance of Labor Day.



The **Weekday School** will be back in session beginning **Tuesday, September 3rd**. Please watch for children having fun!

Our final summer worship service will take place **September 8th** at **First Presbyterian Collinsville** (4500 King's Mountain Road) at **11:00 AM**. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

Presbyterian Women's Circle Meetings kick off on **Monday, September 9th at 11:00 AM**. Meetings will be at King's Grant. If you are not a King's Grant resident, please sign in at the front desk upon your arrival and lunch can be purchased for \$12. If you have not already picked up your book, they are available in the narthex. Look for your name.

The service for **Harold Lamm** will be held at **FPC Monday, September 16th, at 11:00 AM** with a reception to follow. Please reach out to Pearl Minter if you are able to provide food or help.



Facilities Fall Clean-Up Day is **Saturday, September 28th from 8:00 AM to Noon**. Bring your shovels, rakes, weed-eaters, wheelbarrows, paint brushes and lots of energy. Contact Dru Rothrock at 276-732-0495 for more information.

There will be a **Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 29** for the purpose of electing church officers for the Class of 2027.

Also on **Sunday, September 29th**, join us for a **Potluck lunch** following the worship service where we reflect and discuss responses to questions from Good Futures. Reach out to Pearl Minter if you can provide help.

Updates on Rev. Cheryl Peeples' grandson Asa's illness can be found at CaringBridge, web address <https://www.caringbridge.org>. Type Asa Peeples' name in the search bar and create a free account, if you do not already have one. The account has his picture on it.

Handbell and Choir rehearsals have resumed on Wednesdays. If you are interested in joining, **handbells begin at 5:30 PM** in the session room and the **choir meets at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. New folks are always welcome! Talk with Spencer if you have any questions.

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (toothpaste)** (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.

We will return to regular office hours beginning **September 9th**.



Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Friday – Closed

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Harold Lamm, Anne Abercrombie, Sue Benfield, Jerry Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Nancy Davis, Steve Edgerton, Marge Dunn, Teri Ferguson, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Gary Francisco (Shanna King's Father), Juanita Griffin (J & B Williams), Daniel Handy, Jennifer Holland (N. Davis), Dr. Mervyn King, Marvin Hudson, Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 1 Communion Sunday

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, September 2 Labor Day

Office Closed for Labor Day

Wednesday, September 4

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Sunday, September 8

11:00 AM Community Worship at Collinsville PC

Wednesday, September 11

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Sunday, September 15

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, September 16

11:00 AM Harold Lamm Memorial Service

Wednesday, September 18

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

UPCOMING: Saturday, September 28 – Facilities Fall Clean-up Day, 8:00 AM to Noon

Sunday, September 29 – Congregational Meeting and Potluck Lunch following worship

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
September 1	Liz Ferrell	Judy King, Monty Montgomery
September 8 ***	No liturgist/ushers needed	Summer Worship at Collinsville PC
September 15	Ione Linker	Monty and Joan Montgomery
September 22	Mary Linker	Ron Rebman, Nancy Baker
September 29	Sharon Kirby	Randy and Martha Rollins

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

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

SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024
10 AM - 3 PM

📍 Fayette Street between Dunlap & Market

- ✓ FREE Food & Clothing
- ✓ FREE Access to Community Services
- ✓ Fellowship & More!



bit.ly/crd-2024

Vendor Sign-up!
Register by Sept. 10!



Grace Presbyterian Church | 218 Fayette St. | Martinsville, VA 24112
kgperry1988@gmail.com | (276) 632-5783

* Rain Date: Sept. 28, 2024 *

Justice & Mercy Commission
Racial Equity Subcommittee

EXPLORE

Richmond VA
...AND BE TRANSFORMED...!

OCT 10-12

RACIAL EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE

and the

JUSTICE AND MERCY COMMISSION

are committed to exploring and responding to the intersectionality of structural racism, systemic poverty, and Church vitality in America.

Join other members of **PEAKS PRESBYTERY** on a three-day, two-night pilgrimage to Richmond VA to learn of its involvement in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the Civil War and broader VA history

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF
HISTORY & CULTURE

American
Civil War
Museum



Total Cost: \$190 per person
(includes lodging, meals, and transportation while in Richmond)
Registration and \$50 Deposit:
Due in the office by
Sept. 6

(Remaining \$140 due Sept. 19)



In Richmond, travelers will lodge in the historic **RICHMOND HILL Christian Fellowship Retreat Center**, followed by days of touring, learning, and meals

Register Here

Or see the Events tab on the website

for further information:
Vernie Boldern
vernier@peaks-presbytery.org

Session Meeting Highlights

August 26, 2024

- A stated session meeting for FPC was held in the session room at the church Monday, August 26, 2024. Bea Miller, moderator declare a quorum present for the meeting.
- Randy Rollins presented a report on church incorporation. He reviewed the history of church incorporation, listed benefits and disadvantages, and identified costs associated with incorporation.
- Monica Stevens reporting on behalf of the Transition Team commented on the strengths of Bea’s leadership. We are grateful to her for her enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and willingness to be a strong leader.
- Carl Utley, General Presbyter, will be retiring next August.
- Bea will be participating in an online master’s series program September 11-14 and will be working from home. She will lead worship September 15. She plans to be away October 20 for a weekend enrichment class in Asheville and will be attending a moderator’s conference in Louisville November 17.
- There will be a congregational meeting to elect church officers followed by a covered dish luncheon September 29.
- The adult Sunday School class is continuing a study of the book The Misunderstood Jew.
- FPC will host a meal packing event for Rise Against Hunger March 1, 2025. The session gave unanimous approval for having a special offering taken in November to be used in support of the project.
- The meeting ended with prayer led by Bea Miller.



September 1

THIS WEEK’S QUESTION:

In the last few years, what moment stands out as being an example of our congregation at its best?
