

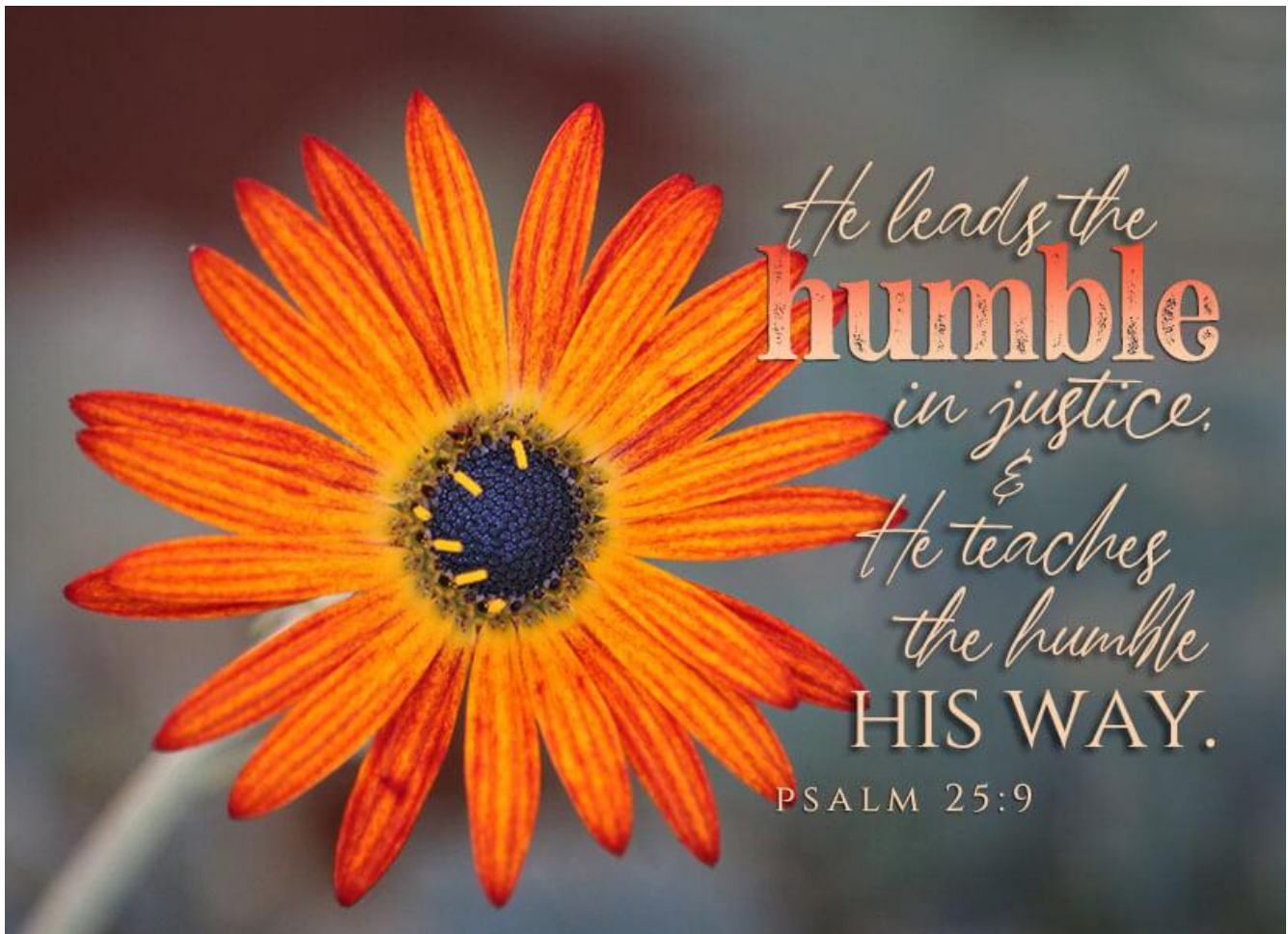
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026

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

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 



Sermon based upon *Matthew 21:23-32* and *Psalms 25:1-9*

Our Mission

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

The Service for the Lord's Day
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE	<i>Great God of Might and Glory</i>	L. Smith
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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Pastor
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MINUTE FOR MISSION		Facilities
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*CALL TO WORSHIP		Liturgist
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One: Our faith draws us together this day.
May we trust enough to open our ears and our hearts.

**All: We have heard of God's miracles in other times;
our ancestors have kept the story alive for us.**

One: Give ear, all people, to God's word for today.
Taste the bounty of God's blessing here and now.

**All: We long for a faith that makes sense today.
We want to keep the story alive for new generations.**

One: God's revelation is for all people, near and far.
God is waiting to communicate with you and me.

**All: May God have mercy on us and all people.
Surely God's will shall be made known to us.**

*OPENING HYMN	<i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i> Public Domain	GTG 65
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Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

Eternal God,

In whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

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. (x2)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Liturgist

Psalms 25:1-9

(OT pg. 502)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor

ANTHEM

Show Me, Teach Me, Lead Me
Chancel Choir

Nancy M. Raab

Second Reading:

Pastor

Matthew 21:23-32

(NT pg.23)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

One: In life and in death we belong to God.

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

One: In a broken and fearful world

All: 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.

One: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

All: 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!"

One: With believers in every time and place,

All: We rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

GTG 169

Public Domain

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

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

More Love to Thee

arr. C. Berry

***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**

Softly and Tenderly

GTG 418

Public Domain

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

"Come home, come home!

You who are weary, come home."

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,

calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Seek Ye First

GTG 175

Karen Lafferty © 1972 CCCM Music CCLI License # 2244459

***Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!***

POSTLUDE

Have Thine Own Way

Pollard/Stebbins

Barbara Duncan, guitar

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.

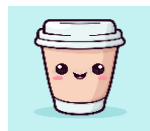
Need help hearing the service? Receivers connected to the sound system are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher.

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

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Laura Stevens by her family.



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 is hosted by Joe and Jerri DeVault.

2¢'s a Meal Offering will be taken today. Your gift helps to alleviate hunger and poverty locally and around the world. Please use the provided envelopes. Thanks for your offering.

The Session will meet Monday, September 28th at 4:00 PM in the session room.

Rita, our office manager, will be out of the office Wednesday, September 30th – Tuesday, October 6th. Contact Vickie for any general needs, or Pastor Bea for any urgent matters.



Our Fall Church Partnership picnic will be on Sunday October 11th, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, at Jack Dalton Park. Join us for food, fellowship, fun and games, and live music! Members of FPC, Grace PC, and Collinsville PC are all invited! More details to come in the weeks ahead. Questions, text Ione (310) 951-5138 or Taylor (276) 732-9525.



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 Wed. Nov 25, 1-4 pm. Go to <https://forms.gle/ThBsPawUTfbcAZ5X7> to complete the volunteer form. 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.

Email Blast Correction:

We are grateful to Ed and Jean Linker who donated the cupola in memory of Jean's father, Walter Smith Stone.



With cupola



Cupola removed



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

Family of Laura Stevens, Barbara Adams (Patsy Stanley), Ernest Bremner, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Bob Davis, Nancy Davis, Marge Dunn, Sandra Ford, Michelle Handy (Pearl Minter's daughter), Randy Lawson (P. Stanley), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Marion Miller, 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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 27

9:00 AM
10:00 AM

2-Cents a Meal Offering

Sunday School
Worship in Sanctuary
~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday –Friday

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Weekday School

School in Session
Lunch Buddies

Monday, September 28

4:00 PM

Session Meeting

Wednesday, September 30

5:30 PM
6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal
Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 4

9:00 AM
10:00 AM

Communion

Sunday School
Worship in Sanctuary
~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 5

11:00 AM

Presbyterian Women's Circle Meeting at KG

Wednesday, October 7

5:30 PM
6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal
Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 11

9:00 AM
10:00 AM

Sunday School
Worship in Sanctuary
~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

1:00-5:00 PM

Community Picnic at Jack Dalton Park

Tuesday, October 13

9:00 AM

Cooks Who Care

Wednesday, October 7

2:00 PM
5:30 PM
6:30 PM

Worship Meeting in Session Rm
Handbell Rehearsal
Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 17

8:00-9:30 AM

Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS	2ND CUP
September 27	Billy Kirby	Bob Wuetefeld, Barbara Duncan	Joe and Jerri DeVault
October 4	Sharon Kirby	Bill and Suzan Kirby	Janet Fentress, Judy King
October 11	Ione Linker	Joe and Jerri DeVault	Gale and Christy Buck
October 18	Mary Linker	Duke and Liz Ferrell	Ione Linker, Mary Linker
October 25	Pearl Minter	Randy and Martha Rollins	Joe and Susan Smith

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

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