

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday
September 7, 2025

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

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation



**○ Lord, you have
examined my heart
and know
everything
about me.**

Psalm 139:1



Sermon based upon Philemon 1-25 and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Our Mission

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

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

PRELUDE *"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"* J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

One: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

All: You know when I sit and when I rise. You understand my thoughts from far away.

One: You watch when I walk or lie down. You know all my ways.

All: Even before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you know it completely.

One: You created my inner self.

**All: You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, O Lord.
Wonderful are your works.**

*OPENING HYMN *"In Christ There Is No East or West"* GTG 318
Words and Music: Public Domain

In Christ there is no east or west, in Him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord, close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west, in Him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in Him throughout the whole wide earth.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor

Gracious God,

Our sins are too heavy to carry. Relieve our burden. Forgive in us the things we thoughtlessly do and the things we leave undone. Look deep into our hearts at the things we cannot share and dare not name. Set us free from things we cannot change; open us to the power of your transforming love; grant us grace and courage to grow more and more into your likeness, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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		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	<i>We Are Forgiven</i>	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
<i>Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18</i>		(OT pg.577)
TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES		Pastor
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>"Brother James' Air" (The Lord is My Shepherd)</i> Rev. John Fulcher, pianist	Arr. Carter
Second Reading:		Pastor
<i>Philemon 1-25</i>		(NT pg.215)
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.		
People: Thanks be to God.		
SERMON		Rev. Dr. Bea Miller
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		Pastor
<i>The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)</i>		
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.		

I come with joy a to meet my Lord, forgiven loved and free,
In awe and wonder to recall, His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share each proud division ends,
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord, His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known; we see and praise Him here,
We see and praise Him here.

Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,
And as His people in the world, we'll live and speak His praise,
We'll live and speak His praise.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Arr. Price & Rogers

***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-***

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor

Invitation to the Table

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power.

You made us in your image, setting us in your world to love and serve you and to live in peace with your whole creation.

From generation to generation, you have guided us, sending prophets to turn us from wayward paths into the way of righteousness.

Out of your great love for the world you sent your only Son among us to redeem us and to be the way to eternal life.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor, and power and might, be to our God forever and ever!

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. As one of us, he knew our joys and sorrows, and our struggles with temptation. He was like us in every way except sin.

In him we see what you created us to be. Though blameless, he suffered willingly for our sin. Though innocent, he accepted death for the guilt.

On the cross he offered himself, a perfect sacrifice, for the life of the world.

By his suffering and death, he freed us from sin and death. Risen from the grave, he leads us to the joy of new life.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your 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 are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Lead us, O God, in the way of Christ. Give us courage to take up our cross and, in full reliance upon your grace, to follow him. Help us to love you above all else and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Give us strength to serve you faithfully, until the promised day of resurrection, when, with the redeemed of all the ages, we will feast with you at your table in glory.

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Serving of the Great Feast

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.

*SENDING HYMN

O for a World

GTG 372

Text: Miriam T. Winter @ 1990 Medical Mission Sisters from the Presbyterian hymnal *Glory to God*; Music: Public Domain

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

POSTLUDE

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Arr. Carter

*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

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Carol Rebman by her husband Ron. Today would have marked their 57th wedding anniversary.

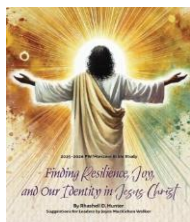
The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Anne Abercrombie who died Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025 in Martinsville, VA. Anne was a faithful member of FPC since 1972. A memorial service will take place Thursday, September 11 at 1:00 PM in the sanctuary of FPC with a reception to follow. The white rose at the lectern is in loving memory of Anne.

We welcome and thank Rev. John Fulcher as our guest pianist this morning.

The Office Complex Committee will be meeting immediately following today's worship service.



Chancel Choir and Sanctuary Ringers rehearsals have resumed in the Music Workshop room. Anyone with some ability to read music, and who can ring a couple of bells is encouraged to join the **Sanctuary Ringers rehearsals at 5:30 PM**, then every Wednesday thereafter. Anyone who can carry a tune is invited to join the **Chancel Choir for rehearsal 6:30 PM**, then every Wednesday thereafter. Reach out to our new Interim Music Director, Craig Campeau, if you are interested in joining either, or both choirs.



The FPC Women's Circle Meeting is Monday, September 8th at King's Grant at 11:00 AM. Our first lesson is, Mary Magdalene, the Tower in our study book *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. If you are not a King's Grant resident, please sign in at the front desk and purchase your lunch ticket for \$12 upon arrival.

Cooks Who Care will meet Tuesday, September 9 at 9:00 AM. Join Liz Ferrell in the Marge Dunn kitchen to prepare a delicious meal for our shut-ins. We also need people that would be willing to deliver meals and visit with the recipients. Reach out to Liz (276-734-6376) if you have questions.



The Community Breakfast is Saturday, September 20th led by Mary Linker. Cooking begins at 7:00 AM and breakfast is served from 8:00 - 9:30 AM. Reach out to Mary (919-548-2452 or yogilinker@gmail.com) if you are available to cook, serve, or clean.

REVISED DATE - Adult Education Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1st at 11:30! Plan on bringing your lunch money to Hugo's back room for an Adult Education Planning Forum. All adults in the congregation are encouraged to attend as we plan future programming with your interests and needs in mind.

Share the Parking Lot. Teachers and staff from Patrick Henry Elementary School are using our parking as the school's parking lot is undergoing extensive drainage issue repairs that will take several weeks to complete.

We are currently looking for music subs for our worship services until we are able to hire a new music director. If they only play piano that will be fine. If you have a suggestion of someone that might be interested, please contact Janet Fentress (276 618-0153) or Judy King (276 340-8101).

~Community Worship~

Our final summer community worship service will take place September 14th at Grace Presbyterian (218 Fayette Street, Martinsville) at 11:00 AM. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (applesauce 24-32 oz. OR 6 count, 4oz cups)** (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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 7	Communion Sunday
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
	Office Complex Meeting in Session Room
Monday –Friday	Weekday School
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	School in Session
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch Buddies
Monday, September 8	
11:00 AM	Presbyterian Women Circle Meeting at King's Grant
Tuesday, September 9	
9:00 AM	Cooks Who Care
Wednesday September 10	
2:00 PM	Worship Committee Meeting
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday September 11	
1:00 PM	Anne Abercrombie Memorial Service/Reception
Sunday, September 14	
11:00 AM	Community Worship at Grace (218 Fayette Street, Martinsville)
Monday, September 15	
1:00 PM	Visioning Meeting in Session Room
Wednesday September 17	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, September 20	
8:00-9:30 AM	Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)
Sunday, September 21	
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
Wednesday September 24	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 25	
10:30 AM	Stewardship Meeting in Session Room
Sunday, September 28	
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
Monday, September 29	
4:00 PM	Session Meeting
Wednesday October 1	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
September 7	Ashby Pinkard	Monty and Joan Montgomery
September 14	No liturgist needed	Service at Grace – no ushers needed
September 21	Billy Kirby	Bob Wuetefeld, Barbara Duncan
September 28	Pearl Minter	Monty Montgomery, Betty Hudson

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

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Anne Abercrombie, Family of Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Angela Calaman Troxell Family (niece of Felicia Childress), Sue Benfield, Bud Buffkin, Anna Beth Burton (L. & D. Ferrell), Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Doug Goldstein, 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.

First Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA)

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Church Telephone: 276-632-3431, FAX 276-632-3802

Pastoral Support: 276-734-8830

E-Mail: office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Website: www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org

Church Staff

Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

Rita Bateman, Office Manager

Vickie Blair, Bookkeeper

Craig Campeau, Interim Director of Music

Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator

Weekday School

Niki Grogg, Director

The Session

Moderator, Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

Clerk, Liz Ferrell

Administration, Billy Kirby (2026)

Congregational Care and Fellowship, Susan Pilson (2026)

Facilities, Johnny Pinkard (2027)

Worship, Janet Fentress (2026)/Judy King, (2027)

Christian Education, Monica Stevens (2025)

Stewardship, Nancy Moore (2027)

Mission and Outreach, Ron Rebman (2025)

Think Tank, Ann V. Madonia (2026)

Treasurer, Henry Moore

Trustees

Moderator, Duke Ferrell (2027)

Joe Williams (2027), Bill Kirby (2025), Gale Legg (2025)

Sharon Kirby (2026), Dru Rothrock (2026)