

December 5, 2024



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Christmas Joy Offering 2024

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace, and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh—fully human and fully God—became one of us. One with us. One among us.

In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles, and triumphs, Jesus became one of us—leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life.

The perfect gift.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us—past, present, and future—who have pointed us to God.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers, and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support the past, present, and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us. Fifty

percent of the gifts smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need. The other half of the gifts given prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Strengthen the church by caring for past and present leaders in need and by building up leaders for the future. The Joy Gift Offerings will be received throughout Advent by placing your offering in the special pew envelopes, or sending your designated contribution to the church office. Share Christ's love by giving what you can to the Christmas Joy Offering.



Please join us this second Sunday of Advent at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Pastor Bea

based upon Luke 1:68-79 and Philippians 1:3-11

Liturgist: Joe Williams

Ushers/Greeters: Billy and Sharon Kirby

Liturgist Schedule

December

8 Joe Williams

15 Gale Buck

22 Sam Smith

29 Joe DeVault

Advent Wreath Lighting Schedule



Dec. 8 - "Cooks Who Care" - Susan Pilson

Dec. 15 - Bell Choir - Janet Fentress

Dec. 22 - Facilities - Neil Tatum

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:30am - 4pm

Friday 9:30am - 2pm

Be Aware!

**Protect yourself
from scammers!**

Watch for emails, texts or calls that might be fraudulent and do not trust communications (even if they sound legitimate) that ask for personal information, money or gift cards.

You will NEVER get an email from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

ELEVATOR IS OUT OF SERVICE

Please park wherever is most convenient and suitable to your specific needs.

Advent devotions will be emailed each week from the office. Printed copies are available upon request by calling Rita at [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431).

The December 8th worship service will be followed by a hymn sing and a potluck lunch.

Session Meeting - Monday, December 9th at 6:00 PM. This will be the November/December meeting.

On Tuesday, December 10th at 9:00 am, Cooks Who Care will meet to prepare a holiday meal. **Pearl Minter** and **Lynn Pritchett** are head cooks for this meal. Please join us at 9:00 am for meal preparation and at 4:00 pm for packing and food delivery. This mission is a great way to help members of our congregation. If you know someone who needs a meal, or if you have questions, please contact **Susan Pilson** [276-340-7288](tel:276-340-7288) or **Ashby Pinkard** [276-952-5826](tel:276-952-5826).

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- **Tunes at Noon** starting **Wednesday, December 4th**
- **The Smith River Singers** will present the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah Monday, **December 9th at 7:00 PM** under the direction of Dr. Pamela Randall featuring soloists Jill Gardner, soprano; Stephanie Davis, mezzo soprano; Ted Federle, tenor; Terrence Taylor, bass; accompanied by a full orchestra with additional numbers by the select ensemble Still Water at the Galilean House of Worship (5078 A L Philpott Hwy, Martinsville). Admission is free but an offering will be collected. Doors open at 6:15 PM. Betty Stanley, Marion Miller, Pat Christenbury, and Gael and Smith Chaney are members of the SRS.

- **The Martinsville Handbell Ensemble** will perform a Christmas concert Sunday, **December 15th at 2:00 PM** at the First United Methodist Church (146 East Main Street, Martinsville). Janet Fentress is a member of this ensemble.



Community Breakfast - Saturday, December 21st with team leaders Neil and Kym Tatum. Cooking begins at 7:00 AM and breakfast is served from 8:00 - 9:30 AM. If you are willing to help cook, serve, or clean up contact Neil ([276-734-2680](tel:276-734-2680)) or Kym ([276-790-9594](tel:276-790-9594)).

🎵 **Toons At Noon:**

The Sounds of Christmas 🎄

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

I am delighted to announce that I will once again be playing the Tunes At Noon Advent Concerts. I want to extend a warm invitation to you to attend. It is my hope that everyone will embrace the festive spirit that the holiday season brings each Wednesday during Advent 12:00 noon to approximately 12:30. Join me in this joyous celebration of the holiday season through music.

Throughout the concerts we will embrace the holidays through a blended selection of sacred and secular music for the season. It is my goal to create a magical atmosphere that resonates with the true essence of Christmas.

Save the dates for these special music events:

- Wednesday, December 4, 2023
- Wednesday, December 11, 2023
- Wednesday, December 18, 2023

May the melodies of Yuletide Keys fill your hearts with peace and joy!

In love,

Spencer Koger
Music Director



Community Breakfast

Team leaders and schedule for the remainder of the year

- December 21 **Kym & Neil Tatum**
- January 18 **NEED LEADER**

Rise Against Hunger



Thank you to everyone who participated in our special Thanksgiving Offering.

Every dollar donated will be used to REDUCE the Mission Budget for 2025 which in turn helps reduce the use of endowment funds in our congregation's budget. Please consider alternative ways to support our Rise Against Hunger

Event. Maybe you want to honor someone who helped you, give a donation instead of a gift-wrapped gift to someone, maybe you are the person who is a difficult person to shop for on someone's list – ask them to make a donation. Any other option you come up with which generates a joyful gift to help people in need. Thank you, The Mission Team



- 1 Anne Vipperman Madonia
- 2 Carol Belcher
- 3 Dru Rothrock
- 4 Ashby Pritchett
- 9 Chris Wingfield, Joan Montgomery
- 10 Marion Miller
- 11 K.J. Joyce
- 14 Dr. Mervyn R. King
- 15 Helen "Pat" Baumann, Kim Boyd
- 17 Matthew Mason
- 18 Bill Kirby

- 21 Vickie Blair
- 22 Grayson Russell
- 24 Jackie McLachlan
- 26 Smith Chaney
- 27 Cathy Stone, Gael Chaney, Nancy B. Moore
- 28 Brenda Williams

Our Deepest Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Shanna King on the passing of her father, **Gary L. Francisco** on December 2. The obituary can be found at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/roanoke/name/gary-francisco-obituary?id=56931888>

Congregational Care and Fellowship

If you are in need of a **prayer shawl**, or know someone that could use one, please pick one up from the narthex and be sure to sign it out. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pearl Minter.

If you are in need of prayer, a meal, transportation, etc...due to a death in the family or the birth of a baby, please reach out to the Congregational Care and Fellowship committee by contacting Pearl at [276 340-3476](tel:2763403476).

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Gary Francisco Family (Shanna King's father), Anne Abercrombie, Sue Benfield, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Nancy Davis, Marge Dunn, Steve Edgerton, Teri Ferguson, Martin Ford, Juanita Griffin (J & B Williams), Daniel Handy, Jennifer Holland (N. Davis), Marvin Hudson, Liz Jackman (N. Davis's daughter), Dr. Mervyn King, Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Susan C. Smith (M. Davis), Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, C.J. Swinney (great-grandson of P. Minter), Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, Jodi White (sister of P. Marshall/G. Chaney), persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries. Areas and families affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.



Grace Network Donations

4th quarter food donation item is
Canned Fruit



Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

ALSO in need of plastic grocery bags and empty egg cartons (any size).
These can be deposited in the bins inside the Narthex

Hygiene Items are always needed (optional)

- *Toilet Paper
- *Bath Soap
- *Dish Detergent
- *Feminine Products
- *Deodorant
- *Toothpaste
- *Laundry Detergent

**Items may be brought to the church or dropped off at Grace Network, Monday
- Friday, 9-2 PM*



Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views is published weekly on Thursdays. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Wednesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com. For time sensitive announcements, please send to skirbycwj@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

Presbytery of the Peaks

For updates and announcements, please click on the link below or copy and paste into your web browser:

<https://www.peakspresbytery.org/peaks-postings/>

Our Mission

Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other

Printed copies of *Steeple Views* are available at church. Current and back issues are also on our website:

www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter

Useful Links

FPC website:

www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/ or www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/

FPC online directory: members.instantchurchdirectory.com/

FPC Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA

Presbytery of the Peaks: www.peakspresbytery.org/

Presbyterian Church (USA): www.pcusa.org/

Daily Bible Readings: www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/

Church Office Phone: [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)

Our mailing address is:

First Presbyterian Church

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Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

Rev. Bea Miller, Interim Pastor, rev.millerb@gmail.com

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Spencer Koger, Director of Music, adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator,

worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2024

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

Class of 2025

Ron Rebman: Mission/Outreach

Sue Legg: Stewardship and Communication

Monica Stevens: Christian Education

Class of 2026

Billy Kirby: Administration

Susan Pilson: Communication

Anne Madonia: Think Tank

TRUSTEES

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

2025: William Kirby, Gale Legg

2026: Sharon Kirby, Dru Rothrock

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