

December 7, 2023



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Pastor's Corner

**Pastor Bea Miller**

To all of you, the angels of First Presbyterian,  
Wouldn't it be wonderful  
    if Advent came filled with angels and alleluias?  
Wouldn't it be perfect  
    if we were greeted on these December mornings  
        with a hovering of heavenly hosts  
    tuning their harps and brushing up on their fa-la-las?  
Wouldn't it be incredible  
    if their music filled our waking hours  
        with the promise of peace on earth  
    and if each Advent night we dreamed of nothing but goodwill?  
Wouldn't we be ecstatic  
    if we could take those angels shopping,  
        or trim the tree or have them hold our hands  
            and dance through our houses decorating?  
And, oh, how glorious it would be  
    to sit in church next to an angel  
        and sing out hark-the-heralds!  
What an Advent that would be!  
What Christmas spirit we could have!  
An angel-filled Advent has so many possibilities!  
But in lieu of that,  
    perhaps we can give thanks  
        for the good earthly joy we have been given  
            and for the earthly "angels" that we know

who do such a good job of filling  
our Advent with alleluias!

Thank you for being the angels of First Presbyterian,  
Pastor Bea

p.s.

The poem is from [Kneeling in Bethlehem](#) by Ann Weems.

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Please join us for worship this Second Sunday of Advent at 10:00 AM

**Sermon by Pastor Bea Based upon Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8**

**Liturgist:** Nancy Moore

**Greeters/Ushers:** Monty and Joan Montgomery

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## Liturgist Schedule

### December

10 Nancy Moore  
17 Ashby Pinkard  
24 Sam Smith  
31 Lynn Pritchett

### January

7 Joe Williams  
14 Milt Davis  
21 Nancy Davis

**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.

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday 9:30-4pm

Friday 9:30-2pm

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 **Toons At Noon: Yuletide Keys** 

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 from 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.

One Wednesday will be dedicated to exploring the rich musical traditions of different countries. Expect to hear music from Germany, France, Finland, and even Ireland.

Save the dates for these special music events:

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

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

In love,

Spencer Koger  
Music Director



Look for Christmas Joy Offering envelopes in the church pews beginning **December 10 through December 24.**

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**Think Tank Meeting** - Monday, **Dec 11 at 2 PM**

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**Community Breakfast** - **Saturday, December 16.** Team leaders are Brooke and Chuck Cundiff

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**LINK to ADVENT**

**Devotionals:** [https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/advent\\_devotionals\\_2023.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/advent_devotionals_2023.pdf)

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**Tunes at Noon** with Spencer. Come enjoy Christmas music on December 13 and 20 (Wednesdays).

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There will be two services on **Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24**. The **10 AM** service will be a quiet service with communion and no music. **At 5 PM** there will be a candlelight service with communion and music.

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**Sunday, December 31** will be a **10 AM** service of Lessons and Carols.

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## **Community Breakfast**



### **Update for November**

November is a time to focus on gratitude and counting our blessings. We were truly blessed at the Community Breakfast for November. We filled 166 plates with about 85 guests eating with us. I wish we could

have bottled up and shared the energy in the Fellowship Hall. The Mission/Outreach team would like to thank **Nancy & Henry Moore** for stepping up as leaders and all the food preparers, cooks, servers and cleanup crew. Everyone worked together as a well-organized team. Our 300+ eggs were all donated by 3 different sources. God's presence can definitely be felt at First Presbyterian Church.

**December** is now a time of waiting and preparing. The breakfast will **December 16 with Brooke & Chuck Cundiff** as team leaders. Please call Brooke at [276 340-6124](tel:2763406124) if you are available to help.

We will be working on filling the schedule for 2024. If you are contacted to be a team leader please consider sharing your time and talents in a blessed way of serving our community.

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## **Happy December Birthdays!**



- 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
- 22** Grayson Russell
- 24** Jackie McLachlan

- 26** Smith Chaney
- 27** Cathy Stone, Gael Chaney, Nancy B. Moore
- 28** Brenda Williams

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**These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:**

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Family of Mike Boswell, Family of Vera Dona Wissler (Bonnie Price's mother), Sue Benfield, Georgette Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Marilyn and Ernest Bremner, Catherine Bridges, Bud Buffkin, Cathie Carter (B. Tatum), Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Steve Edgerton, Marge Dunn, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Gary Francisco (Shanna King's Father), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol and Harold Lamm, Darrel Lemke (N. Davis), Mary Manning, Maggie Pilson, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, Bill Vaughan (N. Davis), Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.



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**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).

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## ***Grace Network Donations***

**[4th quarter food donation item is Jelly \(28-32oz\)](#)**



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

**Hygiene Items are always needed** (optional)

- \*Toilet Paper
- \*Bath Soap
- \*Dish Detergent
- \*Feminine Products
- \*Toilet Paper
- \*Deodorant
- \*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](mailto:fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com). For time sensitive announcements, please send to [skirbycwj@gmail.com](mailto:skirbycwj@gmail.com)

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

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*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/images/2020\\_Peaks\\_Postings/PP\\_Aug18\\_2020.pdf](https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020_Peaks_Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf)

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Our Mission

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

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**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](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter)

### **Useful Links**

FPC website:

[www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/) or [www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/](http://www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/)

FPC online directory: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com/](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/)

FPC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA](http://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA)

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org/](http://www.peakspresbytery.org/)

Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org/](http://www.pcusa.org/)

Daily Bible Readings: [www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/](http://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](mailto:rev.millerb@gmail.com)

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Spencer Koger, Director of Music, [adulthoodmusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:adulthoodmusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator,

[worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

### **THE SESSION**

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

### **Class of 2023**

Billy Kirby: Administration

### **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

### **TRUSTEES**

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

2025: William Kirby, Gale Legg

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