

February 5, 2026



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Bea Miller

Dear First Presbyterian family,

Sometimes our world just tells us to "Stop."

Remember when it was my habit to go to Sacred Heart Monastery every six months? For the first three days the Sisters kept telling us, "Stop, just stop." We were all Pastors, female Pastors, brought together by a Lilly Grant, so monastic rule following Sisters could tell us to, "Stop." (The Sisters also provided continuing education, respite, worship, fellowship and more.)

When we were ready to leave, the Sisters reflected that for the first three days, "frazzled" was written all over our faces, in our bodies and in our movements. But after 3 days, we began to melt into our own skin, allowing the Divine within to form us. We "stopped" being formed by the anxiety filled frantic world without. And by the 9th day, we were ready to return to the real world, relying more fully on the Divine.

So, as I write we are in our 9th day, how are you feeling?

For me, this time has brought back memories of Covid, like Zoom meetings. I'm grateful to the Session for all that they have been able to do via Zoom! I've also had some nice, unhurried, phone conversations.

Our bodies, need the same cycles as nature. We (us and nature) we are all made of the same stuff ~ the stuff of God's creating. Our bodies have rhythms and cycles. We know that. Before all this weather came in, I told someone that I was feeling the need to hibernate. The weather gave me moments of

hibernation and restoration, even as I dug for buried grass to make Bridget happy. Even Bridget slowed down, she knew I was walking more slowly for a reason. And she didn't want to slide on the ice.

I hope you have taken some time, with your favorite warm beverage, to gaze out your window at the beautiful wonder that is our world ~ to know the nourishing warmth of the beverage and the calming breath of God. I hope you have taken a moment to ponder our utter lack of control and God's complete providence, especially when we just stop.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Bea

p.s.

See you at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church at 11 am on Sunday!



The **Community Worship Service** is at Forest Hills this Sunday, February, 8th
at 11AM

**NEW
DATE**

Community Worship

Join us as we celebrate Rev. Cheryl Peeples' retirement and Forest Hills Presbyterian Church's final worship service. A reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow the service.

**11 A.M.
SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 8**

**FOREST HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

**725 BEECHNUT LANE,
MARTINSVILLE, VA**



Liturgist Schedule

February

15 Cindy Edgerton
22 Janet Fentress

March

1 Duke Ferrell
8 Liz Ferrell
15 Billy Kirby
22 Sharon Kirby

29 no liturgist needed if we participate in Palm Sunday in the park

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:30am - 4pm
Friday 9:30am - 2pm

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

BEWARE: Two members of our congregation recently received **scam** emails that purported to be sent by Pastor Bea asking for help with the purchase of gift cards. PLEASE remember, SHE WILL NEVER ASK you to purchase anything on her behalf with the promise to pay you back. If you have questions about any email communications from her, please call or text her or Rita!

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.





The congregational care committee is currently working on cookies for college students. Please forward names and addresses to **Janet Fentress** ([276 618-0153](tel:2766180153)) or **Susan Pilson** ([276 340-7288](tel:2763407288)). All cookie donations are appreciated to support this mission. Packing will begin following service

on the 15th.



Ash Wednesday is February 18th. There will be a NOON service at FPC followed by light lunch.



All **Lenten lunches** will take place at noon with a light lunch and a message. They normally last about an hour.

February 26 - Calvary Christian Church
 March 5 - First Baptist Church East
 March 12 - First Presbyterian Church
 March 19 - Starling Avenue Baptist
 Mar 26 - Chatham Heights Baptist



Rise Against Hunger excitement is building, and we invite all of you to **register online** for this year's experience, **on Saturday March 7, 2026.**

9-10 am setup, and **10-12 noon**, meal packing! We need your help again this year to help end World Hunger. And it's

also a lot of fun!

Please register online

here: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FPCMartinsville26>. On the linked online form, fill in your information, then the number of family members participating, **in addition** to yourself, in the indicated box.

You can check boxes at the bottom - for volunteering to help **set up** (9-10 am), or to **pack meals** (10-12), or you can check **both**.

FPC contacts for the event are Ione Linker ([\(310\) 951-5138](tel:3109515138)) and Taylor Shank ([\(276\) 732-9525](tel:2767329525)). Call or text with any questions!

February Birthdays

- 1** Dr. David Seamon, Isla King
 - 3** Charles R. Knighton
 - 4** Pamela Rakes
 - 7** Mason Wood
 - 19** Evelyn Cannaday, Sandra T. Ford
 - 21** Sharon Kirby
-

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 **Susan Pilson**.

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 **Susan** at [276 340-7288](tel:2763407288).



Frances Holland Bledsoe

August 10, 1933 - January 29, 2026



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of **Frances Bledsoe** on her passing on January 29.

Visitation will be held from 12:00–1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026, at Collins McKee Stone Funeral Home, with the funeral service immediately following. Interment will take place at Danville Memorial Gardens.

The full obituary can be found at:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/martinsville-va/frances-bledsoe-12729142>

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Frances Bledsoe, Sue Benfield, Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Marvin Hudson, Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Leslie Naradikian (Marion Miller's daughter), Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, 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, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, refugees and immigrants forced to flee



their countries, and families and areas devastated by severe weather.

Grace Network Donations

1st Quarter 2026 Food Donation Items is Creamed Corn, 15 oz.



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 (dozen 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, unless the Church office is closed. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Wednesday afternoon by 3 PM

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 **and text** [276 806-9709](tel:2768069709)

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:

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THE SESSION

Clerk: Liz Ferrell

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2026

Billy Kirby: Administration

Susan Pilson: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Anne Madonia: Think Tank

Class of 2027

Nancy Moore: Stewardship

Johnny Pinkard: Facilities

Judy King: Worship

Class of 2028

Ione Linker/Taylor Shank: Mission/Outreach

Nancy Davis: Christian Education

TRUSTEES

William Kirby, Gale Legg, Sharon Kirby, Dru Rothrock, Duke Ferrell, Joe Williams

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