

February 6, 2025



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views Meditation Elder Monica Stevens

Voices 3

February 5, 2025

Matthew 22:34-40

We are surrounded by a seemingly unending stream of voices that whisper, shout, cajole, and coerce us to see and do things their way. This is nothing new. Even Jesus faced the chaotic voices of society that seemed to speak against everything he said and did. In one such incident, an expert in Jewish Law asked Jesus, "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

The question itself wasn't unusual because Jewish scholars regularly tried to distill the Torah's 613 Laws into the fewest and most succinct sayings possible. However, the intent behind the question wasn't clarification, but as a means to trap Jesus into saying something they could use against him.

Jesus answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

Psalm 146 proclaims that our Creator, our God is faithful forever, wills justice for the oppressed, feeds the hungry, sets the imprisoned free, literally and metaphorically opens the eyes of the blind, lifts up the downtrodden, is righteous and loves those who live in righteousness, watches over strangers, and upholds widows and orphans. Micah proclaimed that what God wants from

humanity is that we live in and show God's justice, that we embrace and share God's faithful love, and that we rely humbly on the grace of God as we live our lives. Jesus, the embodiment of God's love, calls us to recall God's goodness and love and serve God with all that we are by loving and serving our neighbors.

When the voices of the world call out to you, take a moment to consider whether what you are being asked to think, do, or support, mirrors the attributes of God as shown through in the passages we have looked at these past few weeks. Will what the world is asking of us give evidence of God's nature, our love for God, and God's love through us for our neighbor, or will it demonstrate allegiance to some other center for your life? Who will we listen to and who or what will we give our lives to?

Loving God, it is so hard to sort through all of the influences the world places before us. Open our hearts and minds to hear your loving call to us that we may resist temptation to stray away from you. Grant us the grace and strength to live in you, through you, and for you so that those we meet may come to know you, love you, and serve you. We ask this in the love of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Please join us for the Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Rev. Carl Utley

based upon Proverbs 3:5-18; Matthew 25:14-30 and Psalm 138

Liturgist: Ashby Pinkard

Ushers/Greeters: Monty Montgomery, Betty Hudson

Liturgist Schedule

February

9 Ashby Pinkard

16 Billy Kirby

23 Ione Linker

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.

Update on church finances: pledged income for 2024 was \$221,000. 2025 pledges total \$194,240. If you have made a pledge for this year, thank you! If you have not, please consider making one. Pledge cards are available at the office.

*Cooks Who Care will meet in The Marge Dunn Kitchen **Tuesday, February 11th**, to prepare delicious meals for our members in need. Please come join the fun at **9:00 a.m.** to cook or **4:00 p.m.** to pack the meals for delivery. If you can't attend either session but would like to deliver a meal or two please contact **Susan Pilson** ([276-340-7288](tel:276-340-7288)) or **Ashby Pinkard** ([276-952-5827](tel:276-952-5827)). All volunteers are greatly appreciated!*

The Community Breakfast is Saturday, February 15th with team leaders Nancy and Henry Moore. Cooking begins at 7:00 AM and breakfast is served from 8:00 - 9:30 AM. Reach out to Nancy ([276-732-3400](tel:276-732-3400)) if you are available to cook, serve, or clean.

The next Presbytery Meeting is Thursday, February 20th in person at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church (701 Church St SE). It will be a full day (8:30 AM-3:00 PM) and includes lunch. Registration opens February 10th.

Cookie Care Packages for College Students



The Presbyterian Women's Circle will be packing cookie boxes for our college kids this Sunday right after church. If you would like to help, please bring your "fixins" Sunday and we will send them to the kids to let them know we love them and remember them.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

March 1 meal packing event.

To register or for additional information or questions, please reach out to ***Ron Rebman***.

Report on Housing Proposal for Patrick and Henry Community College

In December 2023, the Think Tank met with Brian Henderson, assistant vice president and athletic director at Patrick and Henry Community College (P & H) and discussed the possibility of using the church's educational wing for housing for female student athletes. P & H has an outstanding athletic program (unique for community colleges) but no housing for its participants, many of whom come from outside the local area (community colleges are not allowed to have dormitories). Instead, students must find housing in the local market.

Mr. Henderson stated that apartments and other dwellings had proved "problematic" for his athletes in many cases. After walking through the church's building, he believed it could provide a safe and attractive location, dormitory style, for his students.

A building subcommittee of the Think Tank was created to explore this concept. Over a 10-month period, the subcommittee addressed the following tasks:

- 1.** Met with P & H administration and developed a draft memorandum of understanding defining the roles of the college, the church and the students as individual tenants.
- 2.** Engaged Conrad Knight to provide architectural services and worked on possible renovations of the building to provide a 19-bed college housing facility, plus gathering spaces and kitchen facilities.
- 3.** Obtained cost estimates for construction, electrical, plumbing, security and other construction expenses, plus furniture and kitchen equipment. The total cost totaled \$589,088, including \$52,688 for HVAC replacement of non-working units.
- 4.** Calculated an annual operating profit of \$23,480 based on rent per bed of \$600 per month (double) and \$750 (single) and expenses estimated from current church use.

5. Determined that proper oversight required an adult supervisor living on site, plus as property manager for lease administration and maintenance.

The subcommittee and architect met with students and coaching staff to review the project and revised its initial plans to accommodate suggestions, including adding full kitchen facilities. It also met with P & H President Greg Hodges, Brian Henderson and Jack Hanbury, EVP of Administration. These administrators expressed concerns about the rent rates (too high), and estimated occupancy rates (too optimistic). Further, Dr. Hodges said a on-site supervisor could not be "guaranteed."

The subcommittee evaluated the project's original financial goals for the church and decided it did not meet those goals. Furthermore, even as a mission project, the project was not likely to succeed in light of the college's reservations.

Accordingly, the subcommittee concluded that the college housing project was not feasible.



2 Dr. David Seamon, Isla King

3 Charles R. Knighton

4 Pamela Rakes

7 Mason Wood

19 Evelyn Cannaday, Sandra T. Ford

21 Sharon Kirby

26 Spencer Koger

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.

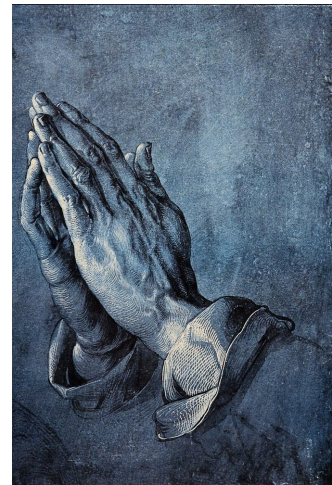
If you are in need of prayer, a meal, transportation, etc...due to a death in the family or the birth of a baby, please reach out to the Congregational Care and Fellowship committee by contacting Pearl at [276 340-3476](tel:2763403476).

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Nathan Toms Family, Martha Ingram Family (Amy Mason's mother, Michael & Matthew's grandmother), Anne Abercrombie, Sue Benfield, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Jerri, DeVault, Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Doug Goldstein, Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Jamelle Waid Linker (Ed Linker's daughter-in-law), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Betty Stanley, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, C.J.

Swinney (great-grandson of P. Minter), Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, Lil Wall, 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 and wildfires in California.



Grace Network Donations

1st quarter 2025 food donation item is
Juice 40-64 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 (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



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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STAFF

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worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

Clerk: Liz Ferrell

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2025

Ron Rebman: Mission/Outreach

Janet Fentress: Worship (co-chair)

Monica Stevens: Christian Education

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

TRUSTEES

2025: William Kirby, Gale Legg

2026: Sharon Kirby, Dru Rothrock

2027: Duke Ferrell, Joe Williams

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