

February 27, 2025



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner
Pastor Bea Miller

Dear First Presbyterian family,

You are invited to gather in our parking lot on Sunday at 9:30am as palms become ashes. During a brief ceremony last year's hosannah saturated palm branches will become our Ash Wednesday ashes.

A smudge of ash on our forehead is a visible sign of humility and repentance. Ashe is part of the cycle of life. Like when a tree is destroyed in a fire, all that is left is ash. Ashes are left whenever something living, something holy, something vibrant is destroyed.

Biblically, ashes are a sign of repentance and mourning. Job sat in ash and sackcloth. In the book of Ester, Mordecai donned sackcloth and ashes after learning of the imminent doom of the Jewish people at the hands of Haman. And even the king of Nineveh, a Gentile whose nation was hostile toward God's people, covered himself with ashes of repentance after Jonah warned him that Nineveh would be destroyed if the people did not amend their ways. There are many examples of ash as a visible sign of our humility and repentance before God.

We will have a brief litany and discussion on Sunday at 9:30 in the parking lot as we watch the transformation of the palms. And please plan to join us in the sanctuary on Wednesday, March 5th at noon to receive your ashes.

With Lenten blessings,

Pastor Bea



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

Sermon by Pastor Bea

based upon Luke 9:28-36 and Psalm 99

Liturgist: Pearl Minter

Ushers/Greeters: Johnny and Ashby Pinkard

Liturgist Schedule

March

2 Pearl Minter

9 Mary Linker

16 Joan Montgomery

23 Nancy Moore

30 Sharon Kirby

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 BACK IN SERVICE*****

As repairs are being made to the slate roof please refrain from parking on the chapel side of the parking lot until the work is completed.

Due to inclement weather conditions, the February 20th Presbytery Meeting has been postponed to March 6th at QUAKER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in Lynchburg. You will need to register for the March meeting EVEN IF YOU REGISTERED for the February meeting. Click this link to [Register for the March 6th meeting](#) or visit <https://www.peakspresbytery.org/new-presbytery-meeting-information/>

This Sunday at 9:30am you are invited to gather in the back parking area for a brief ceremony as last year's palm branches will become our Ash Wednesday ashes.

The FPC Women's Circle Meeting is Monday, March 3rd at King's Grant at 11:00 AM. Virginia King will be leading lesson 7, Economic Climate Justice. 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.

Ash Wednesday is March 5. We will have a service with the imposition of ashes at noon in the sanctuary followed by a light meal in the fellowship hall downstairs.

Lenten Lunches will be held on Thursdays at 12 Noon and will include a light meal and a short devotional. These are the locations for each week:
March 13 at Chatham Heights Baptist (1235 Chatham Hts. Rd); devotional by Mike Hatfield
March 20 at First Baptist (23 Starling Ave.); devotional by Steve Zimmerman
March 27 at Calvary Christian (515 Mulberry Road); devotional by Adam Herod
April 3 at First Presbyterian; devotional – Andrew Taminger from Holy Trinity Lutheran
April 10 at First Baptist East (1043 Church St.); devotional by Charles Whitfield



The Community Breakfast is Saturday, March 15th. Cooking begins at 7:00 AM and breakfast is served from 8:00 - 9:30 AM.
Please contact Judy King if you are able to help in any capacity.

February 24, 2025 Session Highlights

The February stated session meeting for First Presbyterian Church was held in the session room on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Moderator Bea Miller opened the meeting with prayers for everyone's concerns.

All Elders were present: Billy Kirby, Monica Stevens, Anne Madonia, Ron Rebman, Nancy Moore, Johnny Pinkard, Susan Pilson, Judy King, & Janet Fentress

Guests: Joan Montgomery and Cindy Franck of "Weekday School Task Force Committee" (WSTF) gave a report on the status of our Weekday School, following six weeks of meetings with their committee.

WSTF committee- recommended changes to the Manual of Operations(M.O.O.)based on societal changes following the Covid pandemic with a time line to implement these changes. Also, to give the Task Force approval to continue to go forward and look for a new Director, who will be charged with promoting our preschool within the community, with a fresh new perspective.

The Session unanimously approved – MSP

Devotion- Nancy Moore gave the devotional based on Isaiah 58- “repairing the Breech” as relates to the upcoming “One Great Hour of Sharing”

Moderator’s Report- Bea requested verification of her employment, as related to Doug’s former medical coverage. Liz Ferrell (Clerk) and Henry Moore (Treasurer) signed documents on behalf of the church- MSP

Reviewed request from Beth Chapman to have her late husband, Bob Chapman’s, (former FPC Director of Music), ashes be inurned in our columbarium, with a private family service, with ministers Reverend Keith Ritchey, former First United Methodist and Jon Martins, former Associate Pastor FPC -Martinsville to officiate, followed by a family luncheon in the Fellowship Corridor for family -MSP

Request from Kim Weiderholt, Moderator of the Presbytery Cabinet, for FPC to host an in person Presbytery meeting on Saturday, June 28th to celebrate Carl Utley, General Presbyter’s, last Presbytery meeting and retirement -MSP

Bea advised she would be out of office 4/7/25- 4/12/25 on vacation and needs someone to “man” the pastoral cell phone.

Clerks Report-

Read letter from Beth Chapman requesting inurnment of Bob’s ashes in our columbarium, two outside ministers for the service and luncheon following service in the Fellowship Corridor. -MSP

Voted to approve Janet Fentress’s Building Use Form for Chapman family luncheon following service- MSP

Read letter from Romar Elevator acknowledging FPC’s letter to cancel our service contract.

Shared letter from member, Jane Townsend, thanking “Cooks Who Care” for the delicious meal in January.

Approved the following dates for 2025 Session Meetings:
(The 4th Monday of the month, unless that date falls on a holiday)
3/24, 4/28, 5/19, 6/23, no meeting in July, 8/25, 9/22, 10/27 & 12/1 - MSP

Worship Committee- recommended the following:

"Palm Sunday in the Park" 9 a.m. service with other local churches on April 13 with an inclement weather plan to move service into our sanctuary - MSP

Communion served on (Maunday) Thursday, April 17 by Intinction - MSP

Communion served (trays) on Easter Sunday, April 20- MSP

Worship Information- FPC will host the March 5, Ash Wednesday service at noon, followed by a light lunch- Forest Hills and First Collinsville will be participating

On April 3, FPC will host an Ecumenical Lenten lunch for local area participating churches.

Administration- reported we have received 45 pledges at \$198,740 for 2025
Passed out and reviewed the proposed 2025 Annual Budget with Session. The budget was approved. - MSP

Endowment is up \$51,000. from our last report in December.

We will likely need to take approximately \$257,105* from endowment in 2025

*This amount does NOT include expenses for roof, elevator, HVAC or mold abatement.

Christian Education- Our Adult Sunday school class just completed the book "Half Truths" and will begin a Lenten study devotional on "Grief".

Congregational Care- Susan shared a list of dates for upcoming congregational lunches, Palm Sunday Brunch, Maunday Thursday covered dish supper and "Lemonade on the Lawn"- MSP

Also, reported the next "Cooks Who Care" meal cooking session will be Tues., March 11.

Facilities- Johnny reported the work on our slate roof has been completed with 400 slates replaced by The Durable Slate Company, who also cleaned the gutters along the slate roof.

The elevator has been repaired. We have a contract with American Elevator in Reidsville with quarterly inspections.

Mission- Ron reported at least 80 volunteers from our church, our 3 "sister" churches and friends, have signed up for Sat., March 1 for our 2nd "Rise Against Hunger" meal packing event, with a goal of 14,000 meal bags.

Think Tank- Anne reported a committee meeting with Andrew Palmer, V-P of Leasing for Lester Properties is planned for Thursday, March 6 @ 1:30 p.m. to discuss leasing and potential opportunities for our Education Wing.

Bea closed with our meeting with prayer at 6:20 p.m.

Our next Session Meeting will be held on Monday, March 31, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m. with Anne Madonia providing the devotion.

A makeup Presbytery meeting (for the snowed out February meeting in Blacksburg) will be held at Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg from 9 a.m.-3p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Ferrell, Clerk

2-25-2025



Dear Church Family,

As I mentioned last Sunday during the Minute for Mission, the Worship Committee is excited to try something new for months that have a **5th Sunday**. If you missed that announcement, you can find it on the church Facebook page under Live Services.

The purpose of this initiative is to showcase musical talent within our congregation during these special Sundays. As we embark on our first 5th Sunday worship experience on March 30, 2025, we hope everyone is excited

and interested in this new approach!

I would love to invite anyone who would like to volunteer their time and talents to participate in the service. This is a wonderful opportunity for congregation members of all ages to share their musical gifts. I already have a few things in the works, but I'm eager to encourage broader participation from the church family.

If you or a family member would like to be part of this special service, please let me know by **Sunday, March 16, 2025**, so we can plan accordingly. If you'd like to chat about what we're doing, feel free to see me after church or reach out to me via phone or email.

Thank you all for your time, and I look forward to celebrating this special Sunday together!

Blessings,
Spencer Koger



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Thanks to everyone who signed up to participate in our **March 1** event. You should have received an email confirming your participation.

We are expecting at least 75 people to help pack 14,000 meals. Some members of our church participated in this event last fall and they packed 10,000 meals in 1 HOUR and 40 minutes. World Hunger is Real; thanks again for doing what we can to help those in need.

Happy Birthday in March!!

- 2** Peter Marshall
- 6** Jerry Wood
- 9** Tyler Price
- 18** Steve Edgerton
- 21** Emma Wilson, Evan Wilson

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).

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Bob Chapman, Anne Abercrombie, Sue Benfield, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, 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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THE SESSION

Clerk: Liz Ferrell

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2025

Ron Rebman: Mission/Outreach

Janet Fentress: Worship

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 (co-chair)

TRUSTEES

2025: William Kirby, Gale Legg

2026: Sharon Kirby, Dru Rothrock

2027: Duke Ferrell, Joe Williams

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