

January 23, 2025



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views Meditation Elder Monica Stevens

Voices 1

January 22, 2025

Psalm 146

It seems that from the time I wake up until the time I go to sleep, I am surrounded by a variety of voices from the internet, the radio, television, movies, periodicals, books, and conversations with real people. These voices try tell me what to think, who and what to like or dislike, what to do and how to do it. Many of these voices have conflicting messages, but the one thing they all have in common is that they believe they are solely and absolutely correct in their views and plans for what I should do. It is exhausting sorting through so many messages to find the truth.

Psalm 146 praises God and teaches us that we are happiest when we look to God for our help and hope. In the list of the things that God has done and continues to do for us, the things that are important to God, we are given a model for living. Starting at verse 5 we read:

*"Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
Whose hope is in the Lord their God,
Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them,
Who keeps faith forever;
Who executes justice for the oppressed;
Who gives food to the hungry.*

*The Lord sets the prisoners free;
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
The Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over strangers;
He upholds the orphan and the widow...*

We are not God, and we cannot do what God can do, but we can value and care for creation, and we can nurture the creative spark in ourselves and others. We can live our lives being as faithful as we can to God's righteousness by caring for those who are victims of injustice and oppression, those who are in need of food, shelter, healthcare, and a safe community. Our work often includes providing direct care for the needs of people we know. Also, living within God's righteousness can include working to change systems, policies, and practices that create and perpetuate the oppression of exclusion, poverty, substandard living conditions, hunger, and a life with no hope. It is God's nature to show us and not just tell us the right way to live. When the voices of the world clamor for our attention and obedience, look to emulate the way God cares for us and our path will become clearer and the false and empty voices will fade into insignificance.

Loving Father, in times of uncertainty and confusion, help us look to you and the way you care for all of us, so that we will know how to live and how to share your love with others. Silence those voices that lead us away from honoring you, and strengthen our will to follow your example. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



*Please join us this third Sunday after the Epiphany at 10:00 AM

Sermon By Pastor Bea

based upon 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a and 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Liturgist: Cindy Edgerton
Ushers/Greeters: Bill and Suzan Kirby

***There will be no live Facebook feed this Sunday, January 26 or on February 1.**

Liturgist Schedule

January

26 Cindy Edgerton

February

2 Gale Buck

9 Jack Kirby

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.

Think Tank Meeting - Monday, January 27 at 2 PM in the session room.

Session Meeting - Monday, January 27 at 4 PM in the session room.

Women's Circle Meeting - Monday, February 3rd at 11 AM at King's Grant. Lesson six, Climate Change, will be led by Nancy Davis.



Beginning this Sunday, We will begin registering people participating in our **March 1** meal packing event.

Happy January Birthdays!

- 7** Elena King
- 10** Dr. James Beard
- 16** Billy Kirby, Wendy Luther
- 17** Grace Ann Crimmins
- 18** Mary Elizabeth Pilson-Bazemore
- 21** Bonny Pace
- 23** Milt Davis

- 28** David Garland
29 Jack Kirby, Rusty Reaser
31 Mattie Wingfield
-

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

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, Teri Ferguson, 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, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, James Walker, 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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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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