

January 30, 2025



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views Meditation Elder Monica Stevens

Voices 2

January 29, 2025

Micah 3 & 6

Micah was sent to speak God's truth to the leaders of Judah in Jerusalem. Micah told them that they had dishonored God with their injustice, their corrupt business dealings that defrauded and oppressed the poor and vulnerable, and their unwillingness to hear the truth. They told Micah that he should not preach such things and even went so far to hire "prophets" who would tell them what they wanted to hear. In Micah 3 we read:

*Hear, leaders of Jacob,
rulers of the house of Israel!
Isn't it your job to know justice?—
You who hate good and love evil,
who tear the skin off of them, and the flesh off their bones,
who devour the flesh of my people, tear off their skin,
break their bones in pieces, and spread them out as if in a pot,
like meat in a kettle.*

*Hear this, leaders of the house of Jacob,
rulers of the house of Israel.
You who reject justice and make crooked all that is straight,
who build Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with injustice.
Her officials give justice for a bribe,*

And her priests preach for hire. (CEB)

Micah 6:1-8 is a very familiar passage. It is a courtroom scene in which God brings charges against Israel and demands to know what God has done to “weary” them. Israel’s answer is sarcastically disdainful. In what I imagine to be calm, soft voice, Micah answers their disrespect by saying:

He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you:

To do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God. (CEB)

It sounds like a simple enough formula for living until we realize that these words describe God’s definitions and not our frail human understanding. God’s justice is born from God’s righteousness so that we should treat others fairly and equitably. When we act in the best interest of those within our sphere of influence--giving special care and consideration to the treatment of the most vulnerable—we begin to mirror something of God’s righteousness and justice.

Hesed is the Hebrew word that the CEB version of the Bible translates as faithful love, but *hesed* is one of those words that cannot be contained or defined easily because it represents the very nature of God. Here is a short list of how various versions of the Bible translated *hesed* in this verse: love kindness, love mercy, love faithfulness, love grace, let mercy be your first concern, love goodness, love kindness and loyalty, do what is right, be fair, just and merciful, steadfast love, and unconditional love. All of these definitions capture a small part of the nature of God that Micah tells us we are to emulate as best as we can.

Walking humbly with our God means seeking to live in God’s presence and following God’s will for our lives. It means staying connected to God through prayer, study, and service. It means having enough confidence in God’s promises to share our joys, sorrow, and confessions with God. It means that as we seek to be more faithful, we are better able to mirror more of God’s *hesed* for the rest of the world to see.

When the voices of the world call to us to convince us that they know best, listen to Micah speaking across the millennia to help us gain clarity amidst all the noise.

Gracious and loving Lord,

There are so many different voices that want to claim our attention and loyalty.

Help us to tune them out so that we are better able to do justice, embrace faithful love, and to always walk humbly with you, our Lord and our God.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



*Please join us for the Presentation of our Lord this Sunday at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Monica Stevens

based upon 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 and Jeremiah 1:4-10

Liturgist: Gale Buck

Ushers/Greeters: Randy and Martha Rollins

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

Liturgist Schedule

February

2 Gale Buck

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.

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



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.

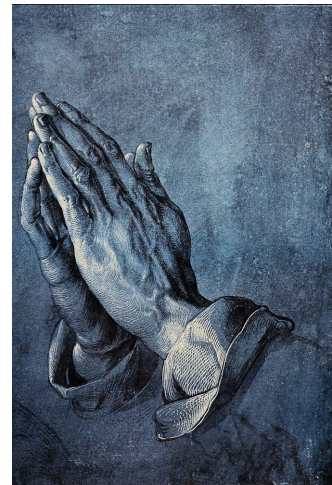
If you are in need of prayer, a meal, transportation, etc...due to a death in the family or the birth of a baby, please reach out to the Congregational Care and Fellowship committee by contacting Pearl at [276 340-3476](tel:2763403476).

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 Utey, 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:

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

Rev. Bea Miller, Interim Pastor, rev.millerb@gmail.com

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Vickie Blair, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org
Spencer Koger, Director of Music, adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleva.org
Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator,
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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