

January 7, 2021



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

January 6, 2021

**"My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for silver and search for it as hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." Proverbs 2:1-5**

Coming from an area of the country with few trees and wide-open spaces, to thick wooded forests where seeing past the highways more than fifty feet or so is almost impossible, I tend to miss a lot of my surroundings every day. The changing of the seasons as the leaves fall from the trees reveal new sights of beauty that I swear I never knew were there. While some may only see beauty in Spring and Summer, others find joy in Fall and Winter. Regardless of your favorite, each of us miss the hidden treasures that may be lurking right in front of us!

So where do you fall, complaining about the trees blocking your view or looking forward to seeing what God is going to bless you with in the next season? Wide open spaces can make your path to your destination clearer and more open to see and appreciate things like wildlife with less distractions to hear God's voice and direction. But there's nothing like the brilliant colors of Fall leaves to marvel at God's wonders of creation. So why do we have to think of our lives as half empty, half full, or without content at all?

In your next conversation with God try not to ask God for things like money or power but rather try asking for wisdom. For God's wisdom can reveal all those hidden treasures we missed along the way. As the proverb says, "it is then that we will have fear of the Lord". It is then that God can open our eyes. Wisdom is often found in things not easily seen. So, look with eager excitement of the wonders God will show you today and the wonders to be revealed tomorrow. Seek the good in every situation. Find the rose among the thorns. As Jesus said, "Seek and you shall find." May this be your New Years resolution that God can help you keep.

Blessed be your days,

Pastor Mark

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### ***First Sunday After the Epiphany***

Please join us on Sunday for the **First Sunday After the Epiphany**. We will be live on Facebook at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Lighting the Way of New Life**

Based upon Mark 1:4–11 and Genesis 1:1–5

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### ***Upcoming Events***

**Sunday, January 10, 2021 Congregational Meeting** to vote on the approval of the pastor's terms of call. The meeting will take place via zoom at 11 AM.

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85395097785?  
pwd=TmNuOS82RGIEbXhacY1eXdUNGRFUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85395097785?pwd=TmNuOS82RGIEbXhacY1eXdUNGRFUT09)

Dial in: 1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 853 9509 7785

Passcode: 162181

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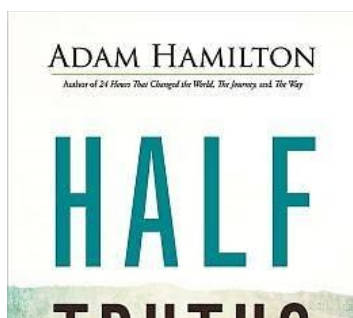
### **Sunday School**

Begins: **January 3**

Adults at 9 am and youth at 12 pm on Zoom

***Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say*** by Adam Hamilton

Here's a description from the publisher:





our world in connection to your word. A good first step may be to look up the definition of your word. It may bring new meaning even to a familiar word.

Throughout the year, I'll drop reminders about our star words & provide opportunities for you all to share how you feel God's presence at work in your life.

I hope you will find this to be a meaningful prayer tool throughout this new year.

Sam Smith

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## Virtual Poinsettias

### In Thanksgiving for/**BY**:

The FPC Family, **Anonymous**  
Rob King, **Judith King**  
Laura & Dewey Milton and  
Daniel Stevens & Alexis Hoferlin, **Monica Stevens**  
The Session, **Victoria Esarey**

### In Loving Memory of/**BY**:

Jim Baker, **Nancy Baker**  
Sonny Benfield, **Sue Benfield**  
Jim Ford, **Sandra Ford**  
Joe Hinchcliff, **Mark and Tracy Hinchcliff**  
Lummie Morris, **Mark and Tracy Hinchcliff**  
Anne R. Hollard, **Pearl R. Minter**  
Inez Spencer, **Pam Rakes**  
Ed Pace, **Joe, Susan and Sam Smith**  
Randy and Andrew Stevens, **The Stevens Family**

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## Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Mildred Marshall (Colleen Dallas' sister), Family of Gene Burroughs (Rita Bateman's uncle), Doc Altizer, Ken Beavers (Pastor Mark's nephew), Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Sandra and Mark Dobrinski (brother and sister in-law of Cynthia), Daniel



Handy, Helen Hawkes, Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Jim Murray (Judy King), Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gene Stanley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), persecuted Christians and all troops in defense of freedom throughout the world.

Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, (276) 632-3431, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org).

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***Please remember***

### **Canned Soup**



The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 1st quarter is **canned soup**. Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

***Hygiene Items - We are always in need of these items!***

*\*Items may be brought to church but please call the office to make sure Rita is there. Alternatively, you may drop off at Grace Network, Monday - Friday, 9-2 PM*

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### **Youth Ministry**

The Youth will be meeting on **Sunday afternoons at 12pm**. Grab a snack or lunch & join us on **Zoom!** If your middle or high school child would like to join us, please contact Sam at [sam@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.org) for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

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### **Presbytery of the Peaks**

For updates and announcements, please click on the link below or copy and paste into your web browser:



## Our Mission

Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other

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**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](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter)

### Useful Links

FPC website: [www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/](http://www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/) or [www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/](http://www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/)

FPC online directory: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com/](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/)

FPC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA](http://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA)

Presbytery of the Peaks: [www.peakspresbytery.org/](http://www.peakspresbytery.org/)

Presbyterian Church (USA): [www.pcusa.org/](http://www.pcusa.org/)

Daily Bible Readings: [www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/)

***Steeple Views*** is published. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

[stepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:stepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

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### STAFF

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Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, [contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

### THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

### Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Rob King: Facilities

Monica Stevens: Worship

**Class of 2022**

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

**Class of 2023**

Billy Kirby: Administration

**TRUSTEES**

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

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