

July 2, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

July 1, 2020

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."
James 1:2-4*

Whenever some athlete or superstar in any field wins the big prize and is asked "What are you going to do now?", you know what the answer is going to be. "I'm going to Disneyland!" Disneyland with all of its theme adventures and rides, for as long as I could remember, proclaimed itself to be "the happiest place on earth". So, in moments of celebration why wouldn't anyone want to be in such a place? But even Disneyland may have overlooked messages of "unhappiness" certain themes may portray.

A Disneyland water-ride, based on its movie "Song of the South", to many of its fans {me included} may just see cartoon figures singing happy tunes. To others, painful memories of historical slave labor on Southern Plantations come to mind. To this group, the ride reminds them of systematic inequality and oppression that stares them in the face today. Our historical heritage not only calls us to positive strides forward for the future but also requires recognition of a painful past for others. A happy future for the whole may not be possible without addressing the pain of the past.

In my college studies of Art History and Humanities, I recall a story told about two great artists of the past: Henri Matisse and Auguste Renoir. The two were great friends and found together often. Renoir was 28 years the elder and in his failing physical years of his life was confined to his home with extreme arthritis. Matisse visited Renoir almost daily during that time and witnessed his friend continue to complete masterpieces with a brush literally strapped to his arm. When Matisse asked why Renoir continued to paint when he was in such agony, Renoir replied, "The beauty remains, the pain passes."

Like Renoir, we can merely walk away when the pain becomes too intense. Or we can see beyond the pain, address the past, and find a lasting beauty together in our future. God wants to use painful experiences of our lives and create something beautiful in us working towards an image closer to the Creator. Let God complete that image in you!

Pastor Mark

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back2school

Well, Back2School is close upon us and we are in full steam ahead getting ready to take care of the little ones in our community. As in years past, we are part of the "City Cluster" of Martinsville as we join our church friends from First Baptist, Starling Ave. Baptist, Broad Street Christian, First United Methodist, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Christ Episcopal and Integrity Life Church in providing new shoes, socks and backpacks for all children that register from Pre-K through 12th grade.

This event that will take place on **August 1**, keeps on getting bigger and we are proud to be a part of this mission. However, we need your help to be successful. As in previous years, you have the opportunity to sponsor a child for just \$20. That will provide the backpack and shoes and an extra pair of shoes for a child overseas in a poverty-ridden community. This year will look very different, though, with dealing with Covid-19. But we are determined to move through and help the children that will need our help more than ever before. Many folks are laid off and with the added burden of that along with getting their kids back in school; you can imagine the stress level of many families in our community.

Another opportunity to help is providing socks for the kid's new shoes. Since we are not in church each Sunday, it is difficult to collect items, so we will be glad to purchase socks if you would like to give a monetary donation for that. You can just

add that to your sponsorship or as a separate donation.

The actual registration and event will also be very different as this we will be a curbside for both. We will not be able to wash the children's feet and connect like we have in the past, but we have some things that we are working on to make it just as memorable. We are working with the schools to get the word out to the families and we hope that we have a great turnout. Our City Cluster goal this year is to serve 300 kids. The location for the event will still be at Albert Harris Elementary and we will setup drive up stations for foot measuring by paper and issue appointments.

Although we will not need as many volunteers as before, we will still need volunteers to provide the service. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please let me know and I can answer any questions you have. Social distancing and precautions will be in place for safety.

So, please consider supporting this mission and join me in prayers for all our endeavors in reaching the kids that need it the most. If you have a child or a grandchild in your family, you probably know how difficult it has been for them to get through all of the changes in their lives. But, when you think of a child in our community that is in a home that is poverty ridden, unloving and possibly abusive you know that our work is precious. Thank you for your support, your heart and your generosity!

In Christ,

Tracy Hinchcliff,
Back2School City Cluster Coordinator
(409) 330-0847



Be sure to join the Facebook live worship service this Sunday at 10 AM. The info will be sent via text message and will include the link to the service. You may also join by navigating to our Facebook page, scrolling down to the "videos" section of the page and simply clicking on the video at 10 AM.

"Bill of Rights or A Righteous Bill"
Based upon Matthew 11:16-19 and Psalm 45:10-17

Congregational Meeting

"Due to not only the pandemic, social distancing and isolation to curb the spread of the disease, the world will ever be changed in the way we conduct our day-to-day lives. The work of the church has been complicated where far reaching, innovative ways to extend God's message to God's people will require our best leadership. Whether you require your grandchildren to show you how to turn your phone on, or you are highly skilled in computer technology, **we need your help.**" - Pastor Mark

On **Sunday July 12th, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. a virtual congregational meeting will be held** to fill an unexpired Session term and to elect the Nominating Committee for future leadership. Please exercise your voting rights as your responsibility to the church. You can participate and here's how....

- If you haven't used **Zoom**, it's similar to "Facetime" or "Skype" and most find it easy to learn.
- One of the best features of **Zoom**, is you can use it on just about any device with a camera and a microphone (smartphone, laptop, iPad, etc.). You can even just dial in with any phone.
- You can download the add-on from the **Zoom.us** website or the **Zoom app** from the Android or Apple store and it's free. We highly recommended you do that ahead of time so you can test your device and connection at: zoom.us/test.
- We will have a test connection on **Wednesday July 8th at 6:00 p.m.** and everyone will get an invitation with the link and call-in number.

In the meantime, **please let Denny Casey (276-224-3906) know if you have any questions or issues – the sooner the better.**



Volunteers Needed for Reopening!

As we prepare to reopen parts of the building we need your help. If you are healthy and are not at-risk, please consider volunteering. Below you will see brief descriptions of some of the main responsibilities:

1. Building Team - will prepare the building by posting signs, closing off open spaces and rooms; taping off some areas of the building; the sanctuary and restrooms will be marked for physical distancing
2. Cleaning Team - will remove all bibles, hymnals and other items from the pews; clean and disinfect before and after services; work with staff to make sure all the commonly touched surfaces and furnishings are cleaned regularly
3. Screeners - screen congregants as they enter the narthex; check temperature eblast using a digital thermometer; communicate health guidelines and best practices; facilitate use of hand sanitizer dispenser; provide masks and gloves as need
4. Ushers - welcome congregants and work with screeners on Sunday morning to assist with safe distancing and seating; prepare collection plates, count offerings, deposit collection; take names of everyone in the service

More detailed descriptions will be provided with a checklist for each area. Please let Rita (632-3431, ritaofficefpc@gmail.com) know which teams(s) you are willing to serve by **Monday, July 13**. We will then schedule training sessions for each team using Zoom or telephone.



Vacation Bible School

Compassion Camp: Coming Soon!

First Presbyterian, in partnership with other churches in Martinsville & Eden, will be offering a virtual at-home Vacation Bible School program this summer.

Although we are sad to not have our in-person VBS or Camp Peaks programs this year, we are excited to offer this unique opportunity.

VBS Activities: Compassion Camp will contain typical VBS elements such as crafts, games, music, a daily bible story; as well as some new elements such as a daily yoga session and a communal art project. Some stations will be led through video formats, while others will be provided in a Family Pack to be done together as a family.

Who's Invited? Compassion Camp will be available to participants, preschoolers-rising 6th graders, July 27-31. While each day's session will be sent out via email each morning, you will be able to complete each day's session at your leisure.

Materials & Supplies: The week before VBS, families will receive a list of materials and supplies that you will need for VBS. These are items you will likely have readily available in your household.

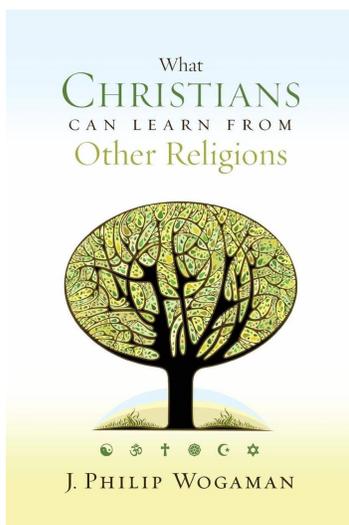
Registration: Most families with elementary age children are already on our Family Ministry email list and will be set to receive this program. If you are not on the email list or if you have grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, or neighbors that would like to receive this program, please contact Sam at sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu or 276-224-2811 to be added to the list.



Presbytery of the Peaks has decided to publish a cookbook!! They are continuing to collect recipes from all over the Presbytery. Please email your recipes to **Theresa Underwood**, Peaks PW Treasurer. Her email address is: tundwood@aol.com.

We have so many good cooks in our congregation. It would be lovely to have our church participate!!

Adult Sunday School



This is the book we will be using for the next Sunday school class beginning on June 14 and will run for about 10 weeks. We will be offering the class by Zoom. Books are being ordered. Anyone interested in joining the class contact Denny Casey d.a.casey@comcast.net or (276) 224-3906. Denny will be creating a schedule and would like to encourage leaders or co-leaders to sign up to lead one (or more) classes.

Here's a blurb from the PCUSA bookstore:

"Examining other religions provides Christians the opportunity to more deeply understand their own beliefs. Learning about other religions is not the same as

learning *from* other religions, which can have great value to Christians who wish to strengthen their faith.

In this book's ten easy-to-read chapters, Wogaman shows readers what Christians can learn from different religions, such as Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and even from atheism. From these religions, Christians can achieve insight into love, sin,

ritual, the importance of myth to convey truth, the foundational roots of Christianity, the dark side of Christian history, and many other important ways to see and interpret the world and to understand God. The book concludes with a chapter on what other religions can learn from Christianity.

Perfect for church study groups, each chapter ends with questions for discussion.”

Youth Sunday School

Our Youth Sunday School class will continue to meet via **Zoom** on **Sunday afternoons from 3 - 4:00pm**. Starting this week we will be taking a deeper look at our faith, how we worship, practice Sabbath, & what it means to be a Presbyterian. We'll also take time to check in, hang out, and maybe even play some games! If your middle or high school child would like to join us, now would be a great time to, please contact Sam (sfsmith@mail.roanoke.edu) for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

Doc Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Dot Bryson, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra Bryson Cox, Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Daniel Handy, Helen Hawkes, Anne Holland (sister of Pearl Minter), Dot Jones (Denny Casey's mother-in-law), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gavin Russell, Gene Stanley, 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.

Please remember Canned Tuna or Canned Meat for Grace Network

Dear Friends,

Grace Network is continuing to help those in our community during the Covid-19 situation in partnership with the Harvest Foundation, the United Way, Salvation Army, Community Fellowship and the Henry County Food Pantry in Bassett. We have all come together to provide food boxes for those in need and will provide 5 locations to

pick up these boxes each Monday from 9-2.

Grace is blessed to be part of this effort and when this is all over, we will go back to our regular services in providing financial services and food through our regular processes. The assigned food items from our church partners will become even more important on the other side of this quarantine with so many needing extra help to get back on their feet.

The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 2nd quarter is **canned tuna or other canned meats like chicken or ham**. Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever. Please stay safe, stay healthy and please keep us in your prayers as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Blessings, Tracy

A Note from the the Editor

Although regular church services have been cancelled and we are no longer meeting in person, I hope we all try to stay in touch with one another using any possible medium. Phone calls, face time, emails, etc. It is important that we look after one another during these difficult times and it's good to know we are not alone. While there are no regular happenings to report on, I would like to send out Steeple Views on a weekly basis so please feel free to share any news or updates with me and I will do my best to include them in the newsletter. skirbycwj@gmail.com or 276 806-9709.

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/

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Treasurer: Henry Moore

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Kym Tatum: Fellowship

Class of 2021

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Monica Stevens: Worship

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Pamela Rakes: Communications

Betty Hudson: Congregational Care

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2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

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