

May 4, 2023



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Bea Miller

Dear First Presbyterian family,

It has been a troubling, difficult, painful week. Sometimes life is overwhelming, so overwhelming that we do not know how to pray. In these *beyond belief*, and *should not happen* kind of moments, the scripture that I cling to is from Romans 8, "The Spirit helps us in our weakness for we do not know how to pray as we ought, that very Spirit intercedes with sighs and groans too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." The Spirit takes all the sighs and groans from deep within us, all that is beyond our words, molding all of it by God's will. And then the Spirit whispers everything that we are too pained to name, into the ear of God. The Spirit prays our prayers for us. Even in those times when we cannot pray, the Spirit lifts our hearts to God. When life is beyond my ability to understand, I cling to the knowledge that the Spirit prays my whole heart to God.

The Psalms help us vent all our emotions to God. The Psalms give voice to our confusion, hurt, suffering, anger ~ even anger at God. And most Psalms end in praise. But there are times when I'm not ready for praise. There are times when life is so overwhelming that I cannot utter praise ~ even praise of God. Thank God for Psalm 88. Psalm 88 is the only Psalm that does not end in praise. I take this as a gift; as scripture acknowledging that sometimes things are too hard for praise. This one Psalm helps me to know that it is ok to just be where I am. And the other 149 Psalms help me find my way back to praise.

It has been a troubling, difficult, painful week but God is with us. The Spirit is praying our prayers. The Psalms are expressing all our emotions. We know God's love. And with God's love we care for each other, as we send all the love we have to the King family.

May the Peace of Christ be with us all,

Pastor Bea



Please join us for worship this Fifth Sunday of Easter at 10:00 am

Sermon by Rev. Bea Miller

Sermon based upon Acts 7:55-60 and Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Liturgist: Duke Ferrell

Ushers/Greeters: Neil Tatum, Betty Hudson

Just a reminder:

You will NEVER get an email or text from the church or your pastor asking you to purchase gift cards because we are busy or in a meeting.

If you receive one of these messages, it will come from an email other than an official church email address or a phone number not in use by a church staff member. Simply report it to the church and delete. Do not respond. We are so sorry for the inconvenience these fraudulent activities (that have been happening for years to churches everywhere-not just here) continue to cause!

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

The safety of our congregation and community are our highest priority. COVID-19 transmission rates are **low** in our area so you may wear a mask based on your personal preference, however, those who are not vaccinated should wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth while anywhere inside the church and sanctuary. People with symptoms, a positive test, or

exposure to someone with COVID-19, should remain at home.



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **the King family** on the passing of **Rob**. He suffered a fatal heart attack and passed away early Friday morning.

Please keep the King family in your thoughts and prayers.

Services will be held at **First Presbyterian Church** on **Saturday, May 13 at 2:00 PM**.

A reception for the family will follow the service. Items needed are sandwiches, fruit and desserts (brownies, cookies, bars, etc.).

If you can help, please contact Pearl Minter ([276 340-3476](tel:276-340-3476)) or Nancy Davis ([276 634-1403](tel:276-634-1403)).



Lemonade on the Lawn this Sunday following the service.

The Weekday School will be having their art show in the fellowship hall on **Friday, May 5 at 6PM** and their last day of school is Friday, May 12.

Presbytery Meeting - Saturday, May 6 at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church, Vinton, VA.

We are looking for a current or past elder to attend this meeting. If you are interested, please let Rita know and complete the online

registration: <https://www.peakspresbytery.org/event/may-6th-presbytery-meeting/>

Summer Community Worship schedule:

June 11 - 11:00 AM at Grace Presbyterian
July 9 - 10:00 AM at First Presbyterian Martinsville
Aug 13 - 11:00 AM at Forest Hills Presbyterian
Sept 10 - 11:00 AM at First Presbyterian Collinsville



First Presbyterian will be a host site for the bloodmobile Tuesday, **May 16 from 1-6**. We encourage folks to become donors! To make an appointment online,

visit: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-resultsdt=WB:DR&ed=05%2F16%2F2023&order=DATE&range=10&sd=05%2F16%2F2023&zipSponsor=24112>

Whether you give blood at your local donation center or at an upcoming blood drive April 1-23, you'll also [get an exclusive American Red Cross and PEANUTS® T-shirt featuring Snoopy](#) as the coolest beagle in town, Joe Cool, while supplies last!

back2school

Jesus said "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!"

For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children"

Matthew 19:14

It is time to celebrate the 17th year of the **back2school** outreach event that has served over 36,000 kids with the efforts of over 20+ churches across our communities and beyond!

Won't you join us in serving these students and making a difference in their lives?

For questions call Tracy Hinchcliff
276-403-4222
Or email

Tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetworkmhc.org

back2school

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

There are many opportunities to let your gifts shine during this great event.

Registration

- Saturday, July 15 (noon– 3pm) at The Uptown Ministry Center
- Tuesday, July 25 (6-8 pm) at The Uptown Ministry Center

Pack the Bus

- At Walmart, Martinsville July 21-23 . Shifts TBD

Filling Backpacks

- At the Future Home of Community Fellowship
700 Commerce Court, Martinsville
Tuesday, August 1 (6:00 pm)

The Big Event

- At The Uptown Ministry Center (Behind Rania's)
Saturday, August 5 (7:30 am) Shifts will be determined

If you can help, please email: Tracy Hinchcliff
tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetworkmhc.org or call 276-403-4222.

Liturgist Schedule

May

7 Duke Ferrell
14 Sharon Kirby
21 Jerri DeVault
28 Billy Kirby

June

4 Jack Kirby
11 **no liturgist needed**
18 Pearl Minter
25 Sharon Kirby

May Birthdays



- 1 Janet Fentress
- 3 Georgette "Jerry" Bishop
- 5 Amy Mason
- 8 Gavin Luther
- 10 Sandra Shank
- 11 Bonnie Price, Emily Beard
- 12 Monica Stevens, Patricia Christenbury, Pearl Minter
- 17 Heath Russell
- 19 Annie B. Boyd, Taylor Shank
- 20 Christal Kelly
- 22 Hayden Cundiff, Joanna Wood
- 27 Jacob Wingfield, Kent Williams

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Rob King, Ryan Bachelor (niece of N. Davis), Sue Benfield, Georgette Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Mike Boswell, Marilyn and Ernest Bremner, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Bud Buffkin, Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Marge Dunn, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Judy King, Betty Carol and Harold Lamm, Mary Manning, Maggie Pilson, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, Jane Rothrock, David Seamon, Beth Sibbick (N. Moore), Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.



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).

Grace Network Donations

The 2nd quarter food donation is canned greens (turnips, collards, etc.)

For the month of March, the food pantry at Grace Network served 121 clients which means we were quite busy most every day and a lot of food went out the door.

For this 2nd quarter, our church has been assigned greens: spinach, mixed, collards, etc. This is a popular item and we often don't have any. In this same area we could also use canned potatoes, beets and tomatoes. Most of these items are fairly inexpensive and all would be greatly appreciated.

Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

Hygiene Items are always needed (optional)

- *Toilet Paper
- *Bath Soap
- *Dish Detergent
- *Feminine Products
- *Toilet Paper
- *Deodorant
- *Deodorant
- *Toothpaste
- *Laundry Detergent

**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*



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 sent 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/images/2020_Peaks_Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf

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

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Martinsville, VA 24112

STAFF

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THE SESSION

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

Class of 2024

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

Class of 2025

Ron Rebman: Mission/Outreach

Sue Legg: Stewardship and Communication

Monica Stevens: Christian Education

TRUSTEES

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

2025: William Kirby, Gale Legg

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