

November 5, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff
November 4

"But you, dear friends, must continue to build your lives on the foundation of your holy faith." Jude 20

One of the real factors that drew my wife Tracy and I to Martinsville, Virginia was the abundance of beautiful old historic homes. As many of you know, Martinsville was a thriving community fifteen or twenty years ago economically until many of its manufacturing plants were moved overseas. These large and well-maintained homes, some of which dated back to the 1800s, were left behind for a fraction of their previous value. Where many viewed the economic crash in Martinsville as a negative, for someone who always dreamed of owning one of these true craftsmanship homes but could never afford it, there was nothing negative about a buyer's market.

Thanks to historic preservation committees, and the hard work of their owners, many of these homes looked virtually the same as they did over 100 years ago. And if newer homes were built, they were built to mimic the "good bones" of the historic. The historic were built to withstand wind, snow, and rain, year after year, far out living their owners.

Much the same, our faith is designed to last. To withstand whatever harsh conditions life can bring. A life of following Christ is not without seasons of struggles, doubts, life circumstances and even crisis of faith, which take a toll on all of us year after year. Yet, like these historic homes built on a strong foundation, even set-backs can turn into opportunity to restore and regain value through a partnership with God. Faith will stand the tests of time and can be beautiful to see.

As Christian believers, look to the more seasoned Christ followers as role models for our future. There is real value in long term faith. God is in the business of building your faith. Seek that solid foundation that will stand forever today! Blessed be the rock.

Blessed be your days,

Pastor Mark



Congregational Meeting, Sunday, November 8, 2020

for the purpose of discussion of the reduction of the number of elders from 9 to 7. The meeting will take place **via Zoom at 11:30 AM** on November 8.

Please Zoom in a little early (we plan to be on Zoom by 11:20 a.m.), so we can get everyone checked in and be ready when the meeting starts. It is important for members to be in the meeting so we have a quorum to vote. You must Zoom in for your vote to be recognized. Absentee voting cannot be recognized for this meeting.

If anyone has any technical difficulties call or text Sam Smith (276) 224-2811 or Denny Casey (276) 224-3906.

An invitation to participate will be sent out this week.



Church is Open!!!

If you plan to attend, please be sure and familiarize yourself with our re-opening guidelines which have been mailed out to everyone. There will be no in-person offerings for children or youth at this time and we will be continuing **LIVE** streaming our church services, at **10:00 am** on Sundays on our church Facebook page.

sermon by Pastor Mark Hinchcliff

Choose to be Ready

Based upon Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25 and Matthew 25:1–13

Minute for Mission

Dr. Joan Montgomery

In Proverbs we hear *"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

As you know we are in the midst of Stewardship season, a time when we rededicate ourselves and our resources to our church. I want to tell you about a program that I think all of us can support, our Weekday School.

When I say Weekday School, I bet many of you smile as you remember the days when our own children had Mrs. Taylor or Sandra Ford as their teacher. The current Weekday School program offers classes for 2, 3 and 4 year olds and our program runs one-half day, now five days a week. We have 30 children and four teachers. School has been in session since September.

In the past our Weekday School was self-sustaining meaning that tuition from students paid for the salary of staff. This year, due to factors beyond anyone's control, the Weekday School could not balance its budget without help. The Session agreed that this church values this program and for one year only will supplement the budget of the school, if needed, to pay the staff.

As you consider what you will give as part of your Stewardship, please remember the Weekday School and what it means to you and to our church. And last, please keep our students and staff in your prayers as they continue this important ministry of our church.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Update



Imagine being sick, grieving, lonely, or just anxious. Imagine wrapping someone in a warm shawl that was knit or crocheted with prayer in every stitch. That is how the Prayer Shawl Ministry works.

On October 18, during the in-person 10:00 church service, 20 new shawls were dedicated with prayer by the congregation of **First Presbyterian Church**. These shawls represent the love we have for our neighbors and the hope they offer. We ask that the persons receiving the shawl wrap it around themselves as a symbol of God's love and the love of our church.

The shawls are ready to be delivered and the recipient does not need to be a member of our church. To have a Prayer Shawl delivered or mailed, contact one of the Prayer Shawl knitters: *Pat Bauman (634-1341)*, *Sandra Ford (634-1157)*, *Helen Flythe (632-3315)*, or *Joan Montgomery (634-1349)* or call the church office.

We are excited at FPC to reopen the sanctuary for worship!

Please park in the lot near this entrance and maintain a parking space between each car. The elevator will not be used unless there is an emergency. Only the bathrooms across from the office will be open.

Guidelines for Reopening Our Worship Facility

(FPC COVID-19 Response Team approved 6/9; session approved 7/6/20)

Plan to arrive early - by 9:45 for screening by an usher/screener.

Below are the guidelines that we will follow as we begin our in-person services. Please read over them so you will know what to expect the first time you attend.

Everyone will enter and exit through the narthex doors (main entrance only) where they will be screened before entering the sanctuary.

1. Any person not feeling well, sick or has been exposed to the COVID 19 virus within the past 14 days should not come inside the church.
 2. A thorough cleaning with CDC approved disinfectant of frequently contacted surfaces will be conducted prior to and following each worship service.
 3. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance/exit and must be used upon entering and exiting the building.
 4. Congregants are to use the main front doors of the sanctuary to enter and exit through the narthex. All other doors will be locked. Upon entering the sanctuary, congregants should move to the designated pews filling in the pews at the front (nearest the chancel area) of the sanctuary first. After the service has concluded, congregants should exit from the rear first.
 5. Services in the sanctuary require everyone to wear a face covering (over your nose and mouth) at all times and be screened with a digital, infrared thermometer before entering the building. Bring your own mask. A limited number of disposable masks will be available.
 6. The elevator will not be available. Avoid using the bathroom. However, the bathroom across from the church office will be available in emergencies. Services will be shorter.
 7. Disposable gloves are available for congregants upon request and for those counting money or handling bulletins. Washing hands (for at least 20 seconds) is recommended after touching anything.
 8. Social distancing guidelines (Executive Order 61) require a minimum of 6 feet between individuals at all times, with the exception of family members. Seating will be marked (on the pews) to maintain physical distancing.
 9. No item, (collection, plate, communion elements, etc.) are to be passed between attendees. Offerings may be placed in one of the marked containers immediately outside sanctuary doors in narthex. Offerings are encouraged to be made by electronic means - online and through automatic bank transfer.
 10. Congregants are asked to follow along or read softly as the responses, prayers, and statements are led by the worship leaders.
 11. Hymnals and bibles have been removed; however, congregants may bring their own personal or electronic bible.
 12. Congregants are to bring an electronic file or hard copy of the bulletin with them to the service. Hard copies of the bulletin must be removed upon exiting.
 13. While the sanctuary congregation may enjoy live musical accompaniment, those viewing from home are encouraged to sing along.
 14. Greet each other with a nod or wave instead of handshakes, or hugs.
 15. Live and recorded services will continue to be available via Facebook and by DVD.
 16. The nursery will not be available. Children will not come forward for children's worship until further notice. Children should remain with parents at all times.
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Youth Ministry

The Youth will resume meeting on **Sunday afternoons from 3-4pm** still on **Zoom** beginning **Sunday, Nov 15.**

For the first couple of weeks we will be catching up with one another and discussing what we will do for our advent study beginning **Sunday, Nov 29.**

More information will follow via text message.

If your middle or high school child would like to join, now would be a great time to, please contact **Sam Smith**, sam@peakspresbytery.org, for an invite link to the Zoom meeting.

Presbytery of the Peaks

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](https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020%20Peaks%20Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf)

Our Deepest Sympathy



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Clara Hartley. Clara passed away Saturday, October 31, 2020, at Kings Grant Retirement Home.

The full obituary is available online at:

<https://www.wrightfuneralservices.net/obituaries/Clara-Hartley-3/#!/Obituary>

There will be a graveside service on **Friday, November 6, 2020, at 1:00 P. M. at**

Cedar Hills Cemetery, Covington, Virginia, with Pastors Paul Johnson and Tom Wilson officiating. Visitation will be **Wednesday, November 4, 2020, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Wright Funeral Service Chapel.**

Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Clara Hartley, Doc Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Mallory Hall-DeSantis (B. Tatum), Daniel Handy, Helen Hawkes, Anne Holland (sister of Pearl Minter), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gene Stanley, Charlotte Walker (JoAnne Sanders' mother), 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

Peanut Butter

Please stay safe, stay healthy

The new food item for First Presbyterian Church for the 4th quarter is **18 oz. peanut butter**. 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!

NOVEMBER Bath Soap, Toilet Paper, Toothpaste

DECEMBER Dish Detergent, Deodorant, 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*

Blessings, Tracy

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/

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

steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2020

Denny Casey: Christian Education

Ron Rebman: Administration

Kym Tatum: Fellowship

Class of 2021

Lynn Pritchett: Stewardship

Rob King

Monica Stevens: Worship

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Communications

Betty Hudson: Congregational Care

TRUSTEES

2020: Milton Davis, Duke Ferrell

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

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