

November 2, 2023



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Elder, Monica Stevens

***"Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness."
Isaiah43:19 (CEB)***

I love this time of year. I love the coolness in the air after the heat of summer. I love the splendor of the fall foliage after the varied shades of summer green. I also love that fall seems to have a wisdom and mystery about it. I know that sounds silly and/or fanciful, but hear me out. Spring is the season of exuberant rebirth, summer is the season of fullness and growth, and winter is the season of rest and expectant waiting. But fall, glorious fall, is the time of reaping the harvest of the year's goodness, of bringing to fruition the work of the other seasons. Fall is the time for celebrating all that has come before and joyously anticipating the newness that is coming. Fall simultaneously holds the memory of the past and the promise of the future. As I said, I love this time of year.

This fall seems especially evocative of God's presence and providence as we continue the process of discerning God's will for our congregation. As the winds of seasonal change swirl around us, we are also caught up the swirl of ***Kairos***—God's perfect or opportune time. Not only has our congregation been blessed with a plan for repurposing part of our church facility to support the cost of church maintenance, but we have also been presented with the opportunity to join with the congregations of our sister Presbyterian churches to strengthen our combined mission and ministry in Martinsville and Henry County. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months as an

exploratory committee will be formed with members from our church, Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, and possibly First Presbyterian Church in Collinsville. This committee is tasked with talking to the membership of all concerned churches, listening to their thoughts, ideas, hopes, and concerns, and seeking to find solutions that will glorify God and continue a strong, missional, Presbyterian presence in Martinsville for many years to come. This committee will begin its work in January and then report to their respective Sessions in May. Please speak openly in a spirit of Christian love with these committee members and keep them and their work in your prayers.

Lord, our God, We give you thanks that you are always doing new things in our midst for the good of your people. Help us to sense the working of your Spirit and to be led by your Spirit into the future you have prepared for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.



Please join us for worship this Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost at 10:00
AM

Sermon by Rev. John Wiederholt
based upon James 5:13-20 and Jonah 4:8-11

Liturgist: Jack Kirby
Ushers/Greeters: Neil Tatum, Betty Hudson

Liturgist Schedule

November

5 Jack Kirby
12 Sharon Kirby
19 Pearl Minter
26 Joan Montgomery

December

3 Monty Montgomery
10 Nancy Moore
17 Ashby Pinkard
24 Sam Smith
31 Lynn Pritchett

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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:30-4pm

Friday 9:30-2pm

Voicemail will be monitored.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be hosting a dinner on Thursday, November 2 at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for people living with developmental disabilities. Our guests are residents from three group homes in our community. We have received generous contributions to support this effort. The meal will have limited seating to include our guests and those willing to serve our guests. If you would like to participate, please see **Ron Rebman** in the Narthex after worship.

PW Circle Meeting - Monday, Nov. 6 at 11 AM at King's Grant.

Think Tank Meeting - Monday, November 13 at 2 PM.



Commitment Sunday is November 19 when we offer our financial and discipleship gifts to God for the upcoming year. **A potluck will follow the service** so please bring your favorite dish to share and join us for food and fellowship.

Martinsville Churches



Forest Hills



First Martinsville



Grace Community Resource Day

Over the summer, Grace, First Collinsville, First Martinsville and Forest Hills Presbyterian Churches joined together the second Sunday of each month for worship and fellowship. And in October, the other churches helped support Grace's Community Resource Day. Everyone benefitted from the partnership. Pews were full, more voices carried the music, pastors got a respite from preaching, relationships were built and strengthened, and the community got to see a strong, vital, vibrant Presbyterian presence.

Comments from parishioners had similar themes:

- "We look forward to doing it again."
- "We love the sounds of all those voices singing hymns together."
- "Let's plan to do this more and do other things together also."



Forest Hills



Grace Community Resource Day



First Collinsville

2023

Worship  Serve Together

Happy November Birthdays!



- 2 Colton Sanders
- 3 Bill Hensley, Elizabeth Harris
- 5 Neil Tatum
- 6 Brooke Cundiff
- 8 Donna Lawhon
- 15 Steven Minter
- 18 Donna King
- 21 Henry Grady III Moore
- 23 Sue Benfield
- 24 Judy Ware
- 27 Joe DeVault, Leanna Blevins
- 28 Norah Cundiff

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Larry Stanley (Patsy Stanley's brother in-law), Family of Nancy Brown, Sue Benfield, Georgette Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Mike Boswell, Marilyn and Ernest Bremner, Catherine Bridges, Bud Buffkin, Cathie Carter (B. Tatum), Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Nancy Davis, Steve Edgerton, Marge Dunn, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Gary Francisco (Shanna King's Father), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol and Harold Lamm, Darrel Lemke (N. Davis), Mary Manning, Maggie Pilson, Lauren Prince, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, 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

[4th quarter food donation item is Jelly \(28-32oz\)](#)



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 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

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

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:

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STAFF

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worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org

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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