

November 30, 2023



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

## Pastor's Corner

Elder, Monica Stevens

### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING WHAT CHILD IS THIS?



Why is the Christmas carol “What Child Is This” so meaningful to us? Yes, it links a beautiful tune with inspiring words. But it is more than that. It is in the vision behind and beyond the tune and the text where we find the deeper truths.

When we sing “What Child Is This,” we sing of a flesh-and-blood human, born under the most vulnerable of conditions. We sing of Emmanuel, “God with us.”

When we sing “What Child Is This,” we are reminded of infants born in our own life stories, our congregational communities and beyond, down the street and around the world.

The words “so bring him incense, gold, and myrrh” remind us not only of the gifts the Magi offered to the baby Jesus—the perfect gift—but also how we can support those whom God loves with our own gifts.

With the words “the babe the Son of Mary,” we sing of all those who are vulnerable and in need, which includes those who receive support from the Christmas Joy Offering. Emergency and health assistance and educational opportunities are real, human needs—needs that we can help meet.

The Christmas Joy Offering supports retired ministers and church workers and their families through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions as they face medical and emergency costs.

The Offering also supports students in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the church and the world.

Thank you for your generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, and your ongoing prayers for all those it supports. Your gifts make a difference, and bring praise to the babe, the son of Mary.

Loving God, we thank you for the good news of Christmas, and Jesus, the perfect gift. As we hasten to "bring him laud" with loving hearts, bless our gifts and bless our giving to Christmas Joy Offering, that needs may be met, and that all may know of your love. Amen.

Look for Christmas Joy Offering envelopes in the church pews beginning  
**December 10 through December 24.**

---



Please join us for worship this First Sunday of Advent at 10:00 AM

**Sermon by Pastor Bea based on Mark 1:1-8 and Isaiah 64:1-9**

**Liturgist:** Monty Montgomery

**Ushers/Greeters:** Johnny and Ashby Pinkard

---

## Liturgist Schedule

### 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.

---

### **Toons At Noon: Yuletide Keys**

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

I am delighted to announce that I will once again be playing the *Tunes At Noon* Advent Concerts. I want to extend a warm invitation to you to attend. It

is my hope that everyone will embrace the festive spirit that the holiday season brings each Wednesday during Advent from 12:00 noon to approximately 12:30. Join me in this joyous celebration of the holiday season through music.

Throughout the concerts we will embrace the holidays through a blended selection of sacred and secular music for the season. It is my goal to create a magical atmosphere that resonates with the true essence of Christmas.

One Wednesday will be dedicated to exploring the rich musical traditions of different countries. Expect to hear music from Germany, France, Finland, and even Ireland.

Save the dates for these special music events:

Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
Wednesday, December 20, 2023

May the melodies of Yuletide Keys fill your hearts with peace and joy!

In love,

Spencer Koger  
Music Director



---

**FPC Women Circle Meeting** - Monday, **Dec 4 at 11 AM** at King's Grant

---

**Christmas Music** in the sanctuary with Spencer - Wednesday, **Dec 6 at 12 Noon.**

---

**Think Tank Meeting** - Monday, **Dec 11 at 2 PM**

---

## LINK to ADVENT

**Devotionals:** [https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/adv\\_ent\\_devotionals\\_2023.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/adv_ent_devotionals_2023.pdf)

---

**Tunes at Noon** with Spencer. Come enjoy Christmas music on December 6, 13, and 20 (Wednesdays).

---

There will be two services on **Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24**. The **10 AM** service will be a quiet service with communion and no music. **At 5 PM** there will be a candlelight service with communion and music.

---

**Sunday, December 31** will be a **10 AM** service of Lessons and Carols.

---

## *Happy December Birthdays!*



- 1** Anne Vipperman Madonia
- 2** Carol Belcher
- 3** Dru Rothrock
- 4** Ashby Pritchett
- 9** Chris Wingfield, Joan Montgomery
- 10** Marion Miller
- 11** K.J. Joyce
- 14** Dr. Mervyn R. King
- 15** Helen "Pat" Baumann, Kim Boyd
- 17** Matthew Mason
- 18** Bill Kirby
- 22** Grayson Russell
- 24** Jackie McLachlan

**26** Smith Chaney

**27** Cathy Stone, Gael Chaney, Nancy B. Moore

**28** Brenda Williams

---

**These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:**

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Family of Mike Boswell, Family of Vera Dona Wissler (Bonnie Price's mother), Sue Benfield, Georgette Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Marilyn and Ernest Bremner, Catherine Bridges, Bud Buffkin, Cathie Carter (B.



Tatum), Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), 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, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, Bill Vaughan (N. Davis), 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](mailto:fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com). For time sensitive announcements, please send to [skirbycwj@gmail.com](mailto: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](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](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](https://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/)

**Church Office Phone:** [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)

### Our mailing address is:

First Presbyterian Church

1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

Martinsville, VA 24112

### STAFF

Rev. Bea Miller, Interim Pastor, [rev.millerb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.millerb@gmail.com)

Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Vickie Blair, Bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

Spencer Koger, Director of Music, [adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleva.org](mailto:adultmusic@fpcmartinsvilleva.org)

Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator,

[worshiptechnology@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto: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

---

*Copyright © 2023 First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, VA, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

