

October 22, 2020



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

October 21, 2020

"But those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

Many years ago, when I was about to graduate high school, I remember making the decision in my heart to pursue a career in some form of art because of the pleasure it gave me. I felt I had some raw form of talent and what could be better than developing something I enjoyed from a hobby to a career? Unfortunately, my father disagreed! I don't know how many times I heard "There's a reason the phrase starving artist was developed." In his well-meaning but demonstrative way, I heard, "No son of mine is going to starve. You're going to business school and that's final!"

In my mind, I was being told you can't. You're not good enough. There's no way you can do anything other than what my father wanted me to do. I would like to think I just wanted to follow my heart, but in reality, I know I was just acting out of spite. So, I quit school, got married young, started fathering children, and began the life of starving my father was talking about. So, then I went back to school to major in accounting to succeed. Needless to say, I took forever to graduate in a field that I hated.

Along the way, in college, I became active in campus ministry and then in a family church that didn't belong to my parents. It wasn't long that I was recruited to be a Youth and Young Adult Leader with that church. My faith became my own and Philippians 4:13 became real in "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". But a financially lucrative business career now became the support from God to use art skills in God's ministries. God saying yes, to others saying no, eventually lead me into ordained ministries where I am now.

A children's poem by Shel Silverstein seems to sum up God's message to me entitled Listen to the Mustn'ts. Maybe there's a message for you too.

Listen to the MUSTN'TS child,
Listen to the DON'TS
Listen to the SHOULDN'TS

The IMPOSSIBLES, the WON'TS
Listen to the NEVER HAVES
Then listen close to me—
Anything can happen, child
ANYTHING can be.

So, listen to Jesus' message to "Soar on eagles wings, to walk and not be faint." A heart that belongs to God will help you find your way!

Pastor Mark

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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

Providing for the Future

Based upon Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Minute for Mission

from the Treasurer

In our Minute for Mission this morning I was asked to briefly share some financial information about our Church. Our church has been very blessed financially this year.

For the year 2020, we had 68 pledges made that totaled \$190,000. As of now, we have received \$144,000.

In May we received a Paycheck Protection Program loan from the Small Business Association in the amount of \$58,400. This was part of the Government response to the Corona Virus pandemic. The total loan will be forgivable.

Since March we have received bequests of approximately \$200,000 from church members

Year to Date our expenses are \$24,000 under budget at \$259,000. So far about 90% of the money we have spent this year has been for building maintenance, utilities, and salaries.

In closing, I want to thank our membership for the support shown since we had to shut down the church building back in March. We have continued to receive pledges which have allowed us to stay current on our obligations. If anyone has any questions please let me know.

Thank you,

Henry Moore

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)

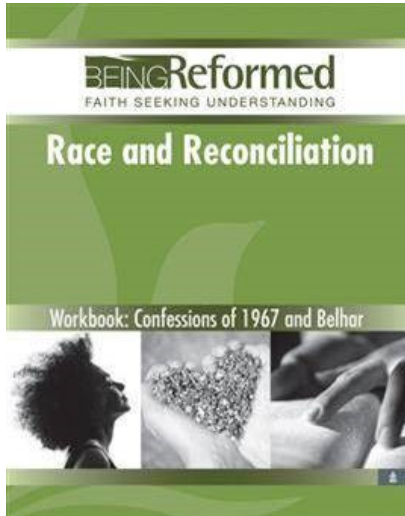
Plan to arrive early - by 9:45 for screening by an usher/screener.

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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Adult Sunday School

This is the workbook we are going to be using for our next adult Sunday school course, by Zoom, beginning October 4 at our **new meeting time, 8:30 AM.**

The PCUSA bookstore offers this description of ***Race and Reconciliation***:

“Claim the ministry of reconciliation in a world and a church deeply divided by race, nation, gender, economic status, and religion.”

From the Confession of 1967 and the Confession of Belhar as confessional standards for the Church, former stated clerk of the PC(USA) Cliff Kirkpatrick

reflects on the themes of reconciliation, unity, and justice in a hurting world.

Sessions are:

- A Providential Coincidence
- A Confession of 1967
- A Call for Reconciliation in Society
- The Confession of Belhar
- Unity, Reconciliation, and Justice
- Two Sides of the Same Coin

Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding is a series of biblically based studies that provide adults with a foundational understanding of the Reformed faith. Each six-session study—written by well-known and respected scholars—features Scripture, in-depth commentary, and questions for reflection.”

Email d.a.casey@comcast.net or call Denny Casey (276) 224-3906 to sign up or to get your copy. Make a check for \$13 payable to “First Presbyterian Church” with “Adult Sunday School book” on the memo line.

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)

Prayer Requests



These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:



PRAYER CONCERNS

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!

OCTOBER Toilet Paper, Feminine Products, Deodorant

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

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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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