

October 6, 2023



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Bea Miller

Dear First Presbyterian family,

Jesus loves beyond the rules: eating with outcasts, healing on the sabbath, turning over tables in the Temple, forgiving the seemingly unforgiveable. Jesus, as the enfleshment of God entering human history, shows us that the essence of God is love ~ abundant, generous, beyond belief love.

We all know that sometimes love is given in rules ~ like the 10 Commandments. We first learn love through rules lovingly given by our parents: don't touch the hot stove, look both ways before crossing the street, use your words. Rules are important.

When Jesus loves beyond rules, he is allowing relationships and connections to grow. It is the love of Jesus that connects us to each other and to God. Eating with outcasts, Jesus brings people into community. Healing on the sabbath, shows us that God is always healing us and the world. God's ability to heal is not constrained by our human expectations and limitations. Turning over the tables, reveals that God's house is not a place for profit ~ or a place that separates people by what they have. And forgiving the seemingly unforgiveable, is the grace and love we all need to reconnect to others and to God. God's love is our foundation as Jesus fills us with all the love we can possibly receive. It is this immense love that enables us to live as beloved children of God, created in God's image to reflect God's love in the world. Beloved children of God, following Jesus ~ this is who we are!

This poem (with the voice of God in italic) from "The Two-Way Clock: Poems" by Sydney Carter, speaks to our life of loving beyond the rules:

Show me the book of rules
the good boy said
I'll be obedient.

The rules of God
are in this Holy Book
the parson said.

But how can I
be sure that
you are right?

You can't be sure.

*I have created you
in my own image.
Do you think that I*

*Crave for security?
Go out upon
a limb, the way I do:*

*Create a world,
be crucified,
and be obedient*

Only to what you are.

Get thee behind me
Satan, the good boy said
I only want

To see the book of rules
to be obedient.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Bea



Please join us for worship this Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Pastor Bea
based upon Exodus 20:1-17 and Psalm 19

Liturgist: Janet Fentress
Ushers/Greeters: Joe and Jerri DeVault

Liturgist Schedule

October

8 Janet Fentress
15 Janet Fentress
22 Liz Ferrell
29 Billy Kirby

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

Oct 7 - Community Resource Day at Grace PC

Oct 12 - Kiwanis Pancake Day

Oct 21 - Community Breakfast

The Justice and Mercy Commission of the Peaks Presbytery is pleased to offer a learning workshop entitled "Let's Talk About It: Facing Racism." Using biblical scripture and engaging dialogue, the workshop is designed to facilitate introductory

conversations on the topic of systemic racism while empowering clergy and lay leaders to spread the “good news” of community to the broader Church. **The workshop is Saturday, October 14 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM) at Grace Presbyterian Church (218 Fayette St., Martinsville).** For more information and to register go to <https://www.peakspresbytery.org/event/facing-racism-workshop-southside-neighborhood/>

Think Tank meeting - Monday, October 16 at 2:00 PM in the session room.

Officer Training on October 16 at 5:30 PM for active session members and elders elect.



Community Breakfast

Breakfast is Saturday, **October 21st.** Team leaders are Sharon and Billy Kirby. If you are able to help cook, serve or fellowship, please contact Sharon at [276 806-9709](tel:2768069709) or

skirbycwj@gmail.com.



GRACE NETWORK PUMPKIN PATCH

Please consider serving by manning the patch for a shift or a day.

Please call Tracy Hinchcliff to schedule your day or shift ([276-403-4222](tel:2764034222)).

Happy October Birthdays!

1 Shane Pinkston



- 5** John Abercrombie, Nancy Baker
- 6** Jane Ford
- 9** Cole Tatum
- 11** Fran Hensley, Richard Lawhon
- 15** Joe Smith
- 16** Emily Kelly, Liz Knighton
- 19** Mike Ware
- 23** Nancy Brown
- 26** Eileen Powell, Melissa Jessup

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Steve Edgerton, 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, 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

Rev. Bea Miller, Interim Pastor, rev.millerb@gmail.com

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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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