

August 5, 2021



# Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

August 4, 2021

*"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from me."  
Matthew 15:8*

Every time I hear a person say we were created in God's image, I have to think to myself what you really mean is, "God was created in an image just like me!" Those countless paintings and images of Jesus with that fair skin and green eyes want to prove that, right? And if God looked like me, God must share my same ideas and actions, right? Well given Jesus's place of birth and surrounding culture Jesus probably not only didn't look like us but his character was counter to most cultures of the time and still a lot of human nature today.

However, that doesn't mean God can't relate to the trials, tribulations, and even our desires of today. After all, God the Father not only sent Jesus the Son to give the world a glimpse of who God was and is but also to experience humanity first hand in order to understand us better. When was the last time any of us were willing to go to such lengths just to understand another who may be counter to our way of thinking? But still Scripture clearly states, "God's ways are not our ways."

So, if you think Jesus is dead and gone leaving us to handle life on our own, you're missing the precious gift of God's Holy Spirit which is right there for the asking to help us through. Although we tend to look at issues from our own perspective and sometimes read into God's Word what we want to hear, God's Spirit can move us into the right perspective according to God's will. All we have to do is believe and proclaim Jesus as Lord! Oh, there's one more thing we have to do and that's listen.

I challenge each of us to come to know and follow the real Jesus. Know Him as He was and is so the image, we come to know of God is of a loving heart. God calls each of us to follow a righteous example of living that involves sacrifice, self-denial, humility, a servant's heart, and a desire to help others. What's your image of God? How much do you resemble the Creator?

Be grace filled in your days to come.

Pastor Mark

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### ***The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!***

If you **have not** been fully vaccinated please wear a mask and continue to practice social distancing.

**The church office will open for limited appointments.** Please call to schedule.

**If you are not fully vaccinated PLEASE WEAR A MASK.** Thanks for your cooperation and understanding. Please enter at the narthex for Sunday worship and during the week use the back door at the portico.

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Please join us for the eleventh Sunday after Pentecost either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

#### **Building Each Other Up In Grace**

Based upon Ephesians 4:25–5:2 and Psalm 130

Sermon by Rev. Mark Hinchcliff



1. **There will be a congregational meeting Sunday, August 8** following the morning worship service to act on the minister's request to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective August 31, 2021. The congregation's action becomes a recommendation to the presbytery which will vote to dissolve the pastoral relationship. The meeting will also be available to those at home on Zoom at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86835092735?pwd=UGNRZ095UU82cEpYMmxta0JBQXhmQT09>  
Dial in: 1 301 715 8592  
Meeting ID: 868 3509 2735  
Passcode: 444475
2. The BIG EVENT for the back2school program will be held on **August 7**.



What can we pick up for you? Contact **Victoria Esarey** **276 732-9110** or email [vesarey@gmail.com](mailto:vesarey@gmail.com). These items will be broken down into parts, making them more valuable as recyclables.

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### Congregational Care and Fellowship

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 Lynn Pritchett at [276 252-6068](tel:2762526068).

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*Happy Birthday!*  **in August!**

- 1** Anne Peterson, David Chittum
  - 2** Dwight Christenbury, Lynne Beeler
  - 3** Marjorie Dunn
  - 5** Bob Richeson
  - 6** Walt, Jr. Flythe
  - 9** John Luther, Liz Ferrell
  - 11** Melissa Wingfield
  - 12** Beth Lawson, Carrie Buffkin
  - 13** Chuck Cundiff
  - 17** Maggie Pilson Bush
  - 21** Bill Stone
  - 22** Johnny Pinkard, Kym Tatum, Laura Buffkin, Patsy Stanley
  - 23** Anne Abercrombie
  - 24** Nanette Smith
  - 29** Joe Williams, Stuart Beard
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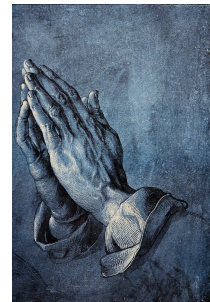
### Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Merilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Kimberly Bryson, Laura Buffkin, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra and Mark Dobrinski (brother and sister-in-law of Cynthia), Judy Epperly (Nancy Baker), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gene and Betty Stanley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), 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](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org).



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*Please remember*

**Potato Products**



The 3rd quarter food donation item is **Potato Products (mashed, scalloped)**

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!***

*\*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*

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## 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)

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### Our Mission

Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other

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**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](http://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/)

**Steeple Views** is published. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor  
[stepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:stepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

**Church Office Phone:** 276-632-3431

**Our mailing address is:**

First Presbyterian Church  
1901 Patrick Henry Ave.  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**STAFF**

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff, Pastor, [pastor@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)  
Sam Smith, Youth and Family Ministries Director, [sam@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.org)  
Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist, 276-734-0212  
Rita Bateman, Secretary/Office Manager, [office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)  
Drema Austin, Bookkeeper, [bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)  
Carol Carter, Weekday School Director, [wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:wds@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)  
Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, [contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:contemporarymusic@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org)

**THE SESSION**

Moderator: Rev. Mark Hinchcliff  
Clerk: Nancy Baker  
Treasurer: Henry Moore

**Class of 2021**

Lynn Pritchett: Congregational Care and Fellowship  
Rob King: Facilities  
Monica Stevens: Worship

**Class of 2022**

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach  
Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication  
Betty Hudson: Christian Education

**Class of 2023**

Billy Kirby: Administration

**TRUSTEES**

2021: David Garland, Ed Linker  
2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett  
2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

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