

**May 13, 2021**



# *Steeple Views*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

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## **Pastor's Corner**

**Rev. Mark Hinchcliff**

**May 12, 2021**

**"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief of all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:6,7**

For those of you who think becoming a Christian is your shield against trials in your life, this message may be disappointing to you. Hassles and struggles are experiences that every human being will experience! God never promised us freedom from trials. God promised us that He would walk with us through the trials and help us endure our hardships. No one looks forward to those trials, but trials can produce a stronger faith. Helping us withstand the trials is to view every trial as a test. Before gold is pure it must be tested by the intense heat of the fire. The trials that come our way will test our faith, and out of your struggles, your faith can emerge stronger than it ever was before.

I'm sure you've heard me say it before but God is not the source of our struggles but rather the source of our strength. The rigors which the athlete has to undergo are not meant to cause them to collapse but to help them to develop strength and staying power. For the Christian, our trials are not meant to take the strength out of us but to put strength into us. This last year and a half have certainly given us all plenty of trials to test that theory. So let's all look to God to come out on the other side even stronger.

*Pastor Mark*

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## ***Church Reopening!***

**The sanctuary has reopened for in-person worship** and will continue with restrictions as before (wear a mask, enter at narthex, social distance) unless otherwise notified.

Virtual services will still be available on Facebook for those that wish to remain at home until they feel safe to return.

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Please join us for an outdoor service ***at the Smith River Sports Complex at 10 am.*** Plan to bring a lawn chair & pack a lunch. After the service, we'll enjoy lunch & fellowship time together. We hope you'll make plans to attend this special service!

### **Youth Sunday**

Spiritual Message by Kellene Wotring

Based upon Jeremiah 29:11-12 and 1 Timothy 4:12

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The community breakfast is scheduled for this ***Saturday, May 15,*** in take-out format. **Please note that next month we will go back to the in-person format.**

If you are interested in helping, please contact **Rob King at 276 340-2263.** Volunteers should plan on arriving by 7:00 to help set up and prep for the breakfast.

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***This will be an outdoor service at the amphitheater at the Smith River Sports Complex at 10 am this Sunday, May 16.*** There is NO seating available so plan to **bring a lawn chair and pack a lunch. After the service, we'll enjoy lunch and fellowship time together.** There will be several tents set up to provide shading.

The Smith River Sports Complex is located at 1000 Irisburg Road Axton, VA 24054, right past Freedom Baptist Church. You will turn right down Sportsplex Way. Drive until you see FPC directional signs that will guide you toward the amphitheater. (Continuing straight/right will take you to the soccer fields/playground/picnic shelters). Ushers will be around to provide you with your bulletin as you drive in and direct you to a parking location.

**We encourage you to attend this service in person rather than rely on Facebook live due to unknown atmospheric conditions that may occur (i.e. wind). Also, a portion of the service will be muted from Facebook due to copyright restrictions.**

In the event of rain, the service will instead take place in the sanctuary at the church. Should that need arise, that decision will be made Sunday morning by 8 am and will be announced via email/text blasts, on our Facebook page, and the website home page.

We hope you'll make plans to attend this special service and come out to support our youth leading the service!

If you have any questions, please contact Sam ([sam@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.org)).



**The Session** will meet Monday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. This will be an in person meeting in the session room.

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## Summer Adventure Camp

**JOIN US AT CAMP BETHEL FOR  
A SPECTACULAR WEEK OF ADVENTURE  
June 20-25, 2021**

Adventure Camp has your perfect mix of wild fun and discipleship activities. Adventure Camp is for active youth who enjoy the outdoors.

For more information: [Adventure Camp, Camp Bethel](#)



**Middle School  
Adventure**

for rising 6th-8th graders,  
ages 12-15

**High School  
Adventure**

for rising 9th-12th graders,  
ages 15-18

**New this Summer:**

**Biking**  
**Rock Climbing**  
**Belaying**



For more info & to register, visit the Presbytery website here: [Adventure Camp](#)  
[| Presbytery of the Peaks \(peakspresbytery.org\)](#).



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.



Please give generously to support the PC(USA) Pentecost Special Offering, which will help support our own children as well as youth ministries around the world. **This year, Pentecost Sunday falls on May 23.**

On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what He is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, His plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. 40% of the offerings collected from our church stays with our church, and 60% is used by national programs and initiatives that support young adults, ministries with youth, and children at risk.

By supporting this offering, you are helping to shape a positive future for young lives, for our church and for our world. Please give generously to this offering.



***"Reading the Bible with New Eyes: Finding a Life-Giving Faith in Guatemala"***

Without travel to Guatemala to connect us, our mission partner CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America) is offering a "Virtual Journey." For years, Protestants in Guatemala have been taught a narrow Fundamentalism, and now are making new discoveries as they read the Bible.

On this Virtual Journey, learn how a theology based in the love and justice of Jesus Christ is transforming the lives and communities of people in Central America. You will hear testimonies from pastors and laypeople in CEDEPCA's Biblical and Theological Formation program and be led through an eye-opening study of scripture by Dr. Paulo Ueti, Anglican theologian, New Testament scholar, and friend of CEDEPCA.

**Wednesday, May 19, 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvfUorTwiE9yIIYNqI\\_a-](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvfUorTwiE9yIIYNqI_a-)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.  
Suggested donation \$11.

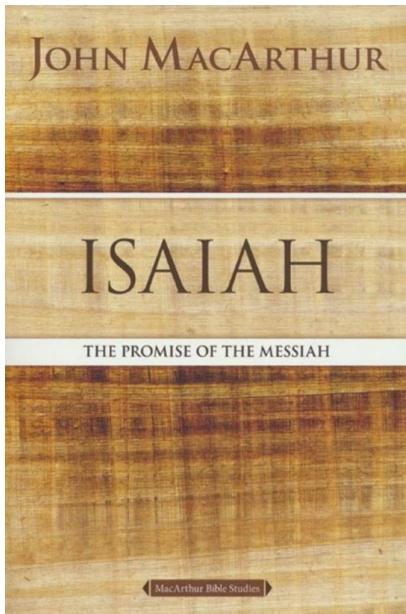
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## Congregational Care and Fellowship

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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## MacArthur Bible Studies: Study of Isaiah



**Begins: April 11 at 8:30 AM - June 13 by Zoom**

The *MacArthur Bible Studies* provide intriguing examinations of the whole of Scripture and continues to be one of the bestselling study guide series on the market today. In this study, Dr. MacArthur examines the words of the prophet Isaiah, showing how God proved to be faithful to his people (and us) by promising to send Messiah who would save them from sin. These latest all-new studies join the ranks of the previously released study guides, now offering readers a comprehensive selection of Old Testament Bible studies by bestselling author and theologian John MacArthur.

Each lesson includes:

- **Drawing Near:** An opening question based on the key theme or topic of the lesson
- **The Context:** Background information on the passage of Scripture being studied
- **Keys to the Text:** Detailed commentary on the passage being studied
- **Unleashing the Text:** Application questions on the passage highlighted in the lesson
- **Exploring the Meaning:** Three key takeaways from the passage

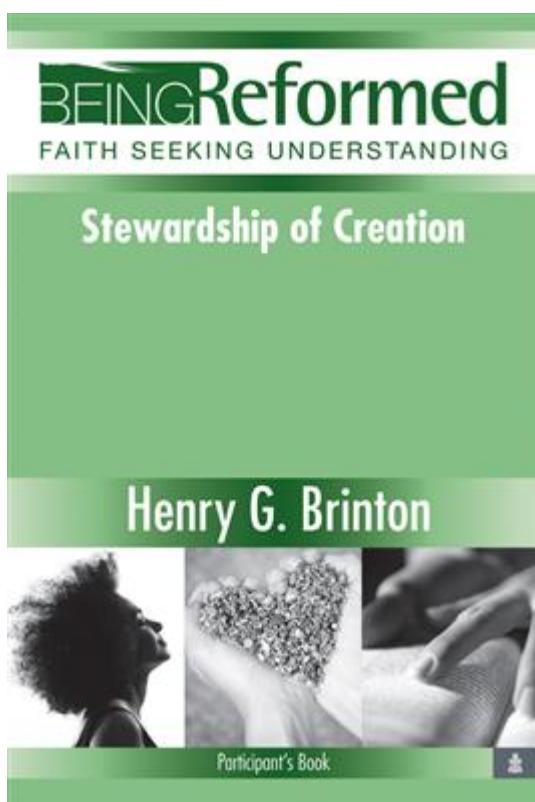
- **Reflecting on the Text:** Reflection questions on the passage highlighted in the lesson
- **Personal Response:** A journaling section to help readers apply the principles

Each study includes an introduction that provides background information to each book of the Bible being studied and a closing "Reviewing Key Principles" lesson to help cement the main themes of the study.

To sign up or for more information, contact Denny Casey ([d.a.casey@comcast.net](mailto:d.a.casey@comcast.net)).

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### Bible Study: Stewardship of Creation



**Begins: April 21 at 7 PM by Zoom for six weeks**

*This is being organized by the FPC Earth Care team*

Description from the publisher:

"Explore the biblical bases for our care of creation along with sessions on being environmentally friendly at home, at church, and in the world."

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

reflection. Each study addresses its subject from a Reformed theological perspective. Lessons are enhanced through the Leader's Guide, which offers helpful suggestions and direction for group study. The main structure for these guides is the rubric Head, Heart, and Hands.

We have borrowed a few books from the presbytery office that will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Sam Smith, [sam@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:sam@peakspresbytery.org), to borrow a copy or you may purchase a copy from the PCUSA bookstore.

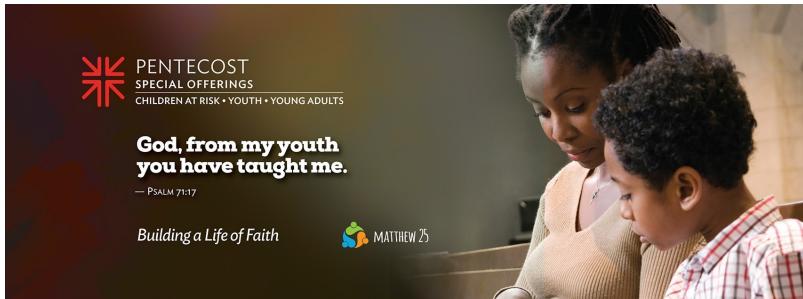
Here's a link to the book (with a link if you'd like to order a copy):

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/680720/stewardship-of-creation-participants-book.aspx>

To sign up and get the Zoom link, contact Denny Casey [d.a.casey@comcast.net](mailto:d.a.casey@comcast.net)

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## Pentecost At Home Faith Formation



Pentecost is the day when we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit, which unites us together as one and helps us to see God at work in our world. The Pentecost Offering also "unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world."

Beginning the week of April 25, and each week leading up to Pentecost Sunday, families, of any size and all ages, are encouraged to utilize the at home faith formation resources linked below as a devotional. Each week you will read the guiding scripture passage, Psalm 71:17 as well as a story of how the Pentecost Offering impacts ministries for children, youth, and young adults. You're also encouraged to work on coloring the Pentecost Mandala and much like with the prayer doves last year, please send pictures of your completed creation to me!

Collect a weekly gift to the Pentecost Offering in your faith formation space and then bring or mail to the church your offering on or before Pentecost Sunday. Your gift not only supports ministries within the PC(USA), but also ministries for children and youth within our own congregation.

Blessings,  
Sam

[Pentecost 2021 Intro](#)  
[Pentecost 2021 At Home Faith Formation](#)  
[Pentecost 2021 Mandala](#)

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## Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:



### PRAYER CONCERNS

Sarah Altizer, Carl and Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Merilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Laura Buffkin, Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Sandra and Mark Dobrinski (brother and sister-in-law of Cynthia), Daniel Handy, Dr. Jimmy Jordan, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Eddie Levi, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Jim Murray (Judy King), Regenia Noel (M. Stevens), Anne Peterson, Gene and Betty Stanley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), Sarah Vicki Wells, 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*

#### Cornbread Mix



The 2nd quarter food donation item is **Cornbread Mix (i.e.: Jiffy)**.

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:

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 [steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org](mailto:steepleviews@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org).

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### **STAFF**

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Cynthia Dobrinski, Music Director & Organist, [276-734-0212](tel:276-734-0212)

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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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