

May 20, 2021



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mark Hinchcliff

May 19, 2021

"Which of these three was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? The expert of the law replied, "the one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."
Luke 10:36-37

If you are like me, so often I see someone in need and I want to help but there comes that other voice of caution that takes over and I end up passing by without stopping. When was the last time you pulled up to a stoplight and saw a homeless person or a car broken down on the side of the road and avoided eye contact thinking somehow if you just keep looking forward you would be relieved of the guilt of not helping if you could? I'll admit I have stopped to help on many occasions but I've driven by a lot more.

The Scripture above from Luke is the conclusion to a famous story of the "Good Samaritan" where normally good people failed to help even when they were able. Whatever their reasons only one stopped to help a man so badly beaten he would not have been able to survive without help. Or as the Scripture said the one who showed mercy. In the Old Testament book of Leviticus, the writer tells the reader to, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Those words became the central theme in Jesus' ministry. To love them as yourself in biblical history this kind of love can be translated as "help". Help as a verb as to expend energy, to give assistance, to actively do something! From a Scriptural point of view, the primary measure of our compassion is measured in our actions.

The good news is that we all have the capacity to be an agent for compassion. Whether you have an abundance of money or not, whether you're outgoing or shy, whether you're young or old, it doesn't matter. We all can be used to extend the compassion of God. The goal then is for we who are Christ-followers to always be looking for ways to extend that love to others by incorporating God's compassion into our daily lifestyles. Try not to take the attitude that my church or someone else will help when I can be that agent. Pray that God will give each of us the knowledge and compacity to find a need to help a neighbor today.

Blessed be your days,

Pastor Mark

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The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!

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.



Pentecost Sunday

Please join us Pentecost Sunday either in person or via Facebook live at 10 am.

sermon by Pastor March Hinchcliff

When Will We Truly Understand Each Other?

Based upon Acts 2:1-8, 11-21 and John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15



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.



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

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 \(peakspresbytery.org\)](#).



Compassion Camp 2021: The Sequel is Coming Soon! Register NOW!

We will once again be offering a virtual at-home Vacation Bible School program this summer. Although we are sad to not have an in-person VBS or Camp Peaks program this year, we look forward to those returning next summer.

Who's Invited? Compassion Camp 2021: The Sequel will be available to participants, preschoolers-rising 6th graders, **July 26-30**. While each day's session will be sent out via email each morning, you will be able to complete each session at your leisure. This event is FREE so invite your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors.

Materials & Supplies: The supplies you will need are items you will likely have readily available in your household. A list of supplies will be available soon & help with supplies will be available to anyone who requests.

Registration: You can find more information & register your children [HERE](#) or please contact VBS co-directors Sam Smith at sam@peakspresbytery.org or Debbie Norton at dnorto02@leuu.edu if you have any questions.

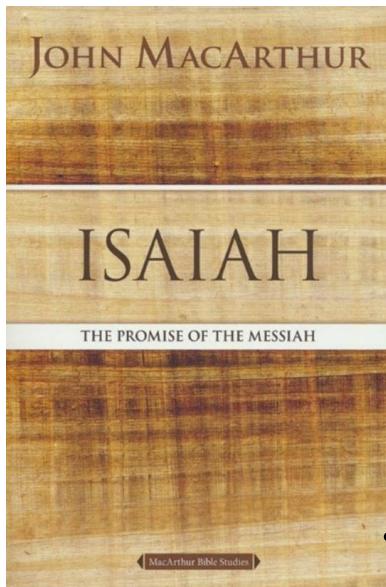


What can we pick up for you? Contact **Victoria Esarey** **276 732-9110** or email vesarey@gmail.com. These items will be broken down into parts, making them more valuable as recyclables.

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).

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).

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:

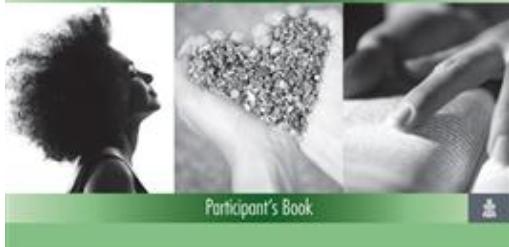
"Explore the biblical bases for our care of creation along with sessions on being environmentally friendly at home, at church, and in the world."

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.



Stewardship of Creation

Henry G. Brinton



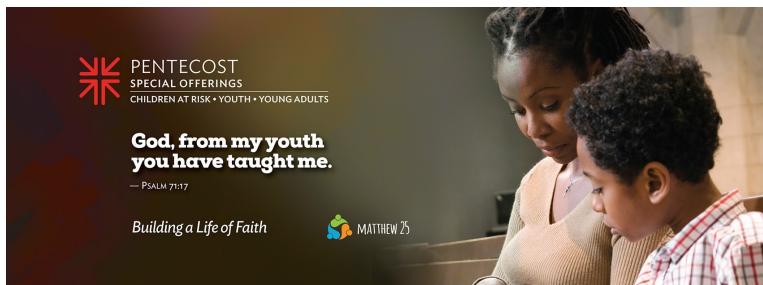
We have borrowed a few books from the presbytery office that will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Sam Smith, sam@peakspresbytery.org, to borrow a copy or you may purchase a copy from the PCUSA bookstore.

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

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 Mandela](#)



Congratulations to **Dr. Kimberly M. Seamon**, who received her medical degree on May 14 from VCU School of Medicine in Richmond. Kimberly will begin her four-year residency in ophthalmology at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Jacksonville in June. Kimberly is the daughter of Dr. David W. Seamon and Wendy Luther and grew up in this church.

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.

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*

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/

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.

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Deborah Burgess, Contemporary Music Director, 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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