

September 28, 2023



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Bea Miller

Dear First Presbyterian family,

When people we love are in pain, it is difficult to know how to respond ~ or even how to pray. We can never really *know* the pain of others. We may be able to come close with empathy and compassion but no matter how much we try to walk in someone else shoes ~ it is not our journey to make. Our journey of empathy and compassion is to stand with, to sit with, to be present with our loved ones who are in pain. We need not say anything, presence is a comfort ~ like knowing Jesus is with us. When we are present in moments of pain, the Christ in us touches the Christ in others. The touch of Christ always brings healing.

And when distance prevents us from being physically present, our prayers are the touch of Christ too. Words are not necessary. God knows those for whom we pray, better than they know themselves. Our inescapable God is already in them and with them. Praying for those in pain can be as simple as sitting in God's love, saying, "God, I love you and I'm here to pray," as you hold an imagine of a situation or a person in your heart. In contemplative prayerful moments like this, the heart of Christ in us and the heart of Christ in those for whom we pray, opens the path toward healing ~ even at a distance. It is the love of God that connects us, no matter the distance.

Openhearted, contemplative prayer is what Paul describes in Romans 8:26-27, "The Spirit helps us in our weakness for we do not know how to pray as we ought, that very Spirit intercedes with sighs and groans too deep for words.

And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." This scripture affirms that the Spirit takes all the sighs and groans from deep within us, all that is beyond our words, and molds all of it by God's will ~ God's will for us and for those in our heart. And then the Spirit whispers everything that we are too pained to name ~ and that we do not even know to name ~ into the ear of God. The Spirit prays for us. In a broken and fear-filled world, the heart of Christ ~ the heart of the Spirit of our Living Lord ~ connects and heal us.

May all hearts know the healing of Christ,

Pastor Bea



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

Sermon by Pastor Bea
based upon Philippians 2:1-13 and Psalm 78:1-7

Liturgist: Joe DeVault
Ushers/Greeters: Monty and Joan Montgomery

Liturgist Schedule

October

1 Joe DeVault
8 Cindy Edgerton
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

Circle Meeting is Monday, October 2 at King's Grant at 11:00 AM. Gale Chaney will be leading the lesson. If you are not a King's Grant resident, please sign in at the front desk and purchase your lunch ticket for \$11 upon arrival.

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.



GRACE NETWORK PUMPKIN PATCH

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

First Presbyterian will work on Sunday October 1 from 1-5. The workers that afternoon will be Milt and Nancy, Monty and Joan, Joe and Jerri and Johnny and Ashby.

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

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

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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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