



The Messenger

P.O. Box 1088 / 6930 Cold Harbor Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor
The Rev. Darren W. Utley, Associate Pastor


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March 2019

FROM THE PASTOR



Spring, we hope, is right around the corner. And with Spring a preacher's heart turns to thoughts of Lent and Easter! Ash Wednesday will be March 6th and we are hoping you will come and participate in a brief but thoughtful service led by our Student Intern Marcy Wright. This will be held in our sanctuary at 6:30pm.

Starting on March 10th, we will be having our Lenten Small Groups on a variety of times and locations. There will be signup sheets for each of the hosts since we want to limit the size of each group. The book we have chosen for this year is one which I first became familiar with a number of years ago when it was a series of lectures offered at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Dr. Ken Bailey served as a missionary to the Middle East throughout his career. While there he taught as a Professor of New Testament in two of our Colleges in that region. The reason why this is important for you to know is that his book The Cross and the Prodigal: Luke 15 Through the Eyes of Middle Eastern Peasants will help us to see how the first hearers of the parable of the Prodigal Son heard what Jesus was saying.

Please look for the announcements of times, locations and leaders for these small groups. We are hoping to have a large percentage of our congregation involved in this. I personally feel that your understanding of God's grace and mercy will be heightened by reading this volume and discussing it with new and old friends in a small group.

Some books are available now, please see me for these early copies. The rest should be in very shortly. If you are uncomfortable accepting a free book from the Church, you can simply earmark a donation of \$15, "Study book" and place your check in the offering plate or drop it by the office.

It is my hope and prayer that we all use this season of Lent to prepare our hearts and minds for rehearsing the good news of Jesus Christ's resurrection this Easter Sunday.

In Christ's love,



Member News



to **Sharon Eshler** on the death of her mother, Helen Perkins who passed away on January 7; to Rev. Bob Temple on the death of his wife, Betty who passed away on January 13th; to **Gerry Rudolph** and family on the death of his wife, Lynne who passed away on January 26; to **Marsha Young, Bryant Lowery** and families on the death of their aunt, Theo Verlander who passed away on February 18 and to **Linda Gruenhagen** and family on the death of her mother, Carrie Kennedy who passed away on February 22. Please keep all of these families in your prayers.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Anna Barrowclough's** brother, **Beverly Burts**, **Becky Clark**, **Dwight Clark's** uncle **Ray**, **Danny Couch's** brother, **Paul**, **John Crowe**, **Tanner Franklin**, **Fran Hansbrough's** sister, **Jane**, **Kristy Harden's** brother-in law, **Tony Bausone**, **Marshall Hart**, **Ken & Rae Hayden's** friend, **Bill Smith**, **Ken Moore**, **Virginia Phipps**, **Jean Plott's** sister **Helen**, **Mark Price's** brother-in-law, **Doug Jewell**, **Donna Richbourg's** great nephew, **John**, **Peggie Rosen's** sister **Alice**, **Leslie Vance**, **Nancy Walls**, and all those who serve as missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation. Also remember those who need jobs and those in our congregation who are unable to attend church regularly due to illness or limited mobility.

Please remember our shut-ins: Evelyn Bailey, Ann Barlow, Voncile Baughman, Marie Blatt, Ruth Gatewood, Inez Hill, Stan Hiner, Laverne Longest, Myrtle Muire, Nancy Norment, Mack Perkins, Louise Setchel, Emerson & Sheila Shaw, and Bootsie Stevens.

(Please update Pastor Steve or Pastor Darren as often as possible if you wish to keep your name or your loved one's name on this list.)



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
We give thanks to you for your support of Special Offerings, our collective witness to the love of Jesus Christ. By participating in Special Offerings, your congregation joins other churches to change lives around the world - through ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, Christian Formation, education and witness. Thank you for the following support to Special Offerings: On January 8 we received \$1,628.80 for the Christmas Joy Offering. Your congregation's gifts, when combined with that of others will share the love of Christ with those in need. Again, thank you for giving to enable all people to know God's life-giving welcome in Jesus Christ.

Bryce Wiebe, Director
Special Offerings, PCUSA

Dear Fairfield family,
Jimmy and I would like to say thank you for your cards and prayers after the recent passing of Jimmy's father. Your love and support have helped carry us through a difficult time.

Donna Carson



We welcome **Barbara vanSteenburgh** into our church family! Barbara will be received on Sunday March 10 at the 11:00am service. Her address is 7536 Walnut Grove Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. Her home phone number is 746-8206. Please help us give Barbara a big Fairfield welcome!



Sam Patterson.....	March 1
McKenzie Johnson.....	March 2
Courtney Street.....	March 2
Becky Cumins.....	March 3
Paige Lake	March 4
Charlotte Pritchett.....	March 4
Dennis Sulser.....	March 4
Cindy Carey.....	March 5
Austin Brown.....	March 7
Becky Settle.....	March 7
Amy Wenninger.....	March 7
Amanda Clennan.....	March 8
Jane Welborn.....	March 8
James Trexler.....	March 9
Barbara Pearson.....	March 10
Dwight Clark.....	March 11
Jennifer France.....	March 12
Sam Price.....	March 12
Bill Thompson.....	March 12
Steve Trexler.....	March 12
Brian Wash.....	March 12
Jan Fadeley.....	March 13
Grayson Palmore.....	March 14
Katy Underdown.....	March 14
Micah Clark.....	March 15
Amy Atkinson.....	March 16
Buck Smith.....	March 16
Jimmy Carson.....	March 17
Zac Edwards.....	March 18
Logan Edwards.....	March 18
Mack Perkins.....	March 18
Emily Cunningham.....	March 21
Stuart Davis.....	March 21
Vicky Brady.....	March 25
Everleigh Mueller.....	March 25
Julie Gee.....	March 26
Celeste Underdown.....	March 26
Dale Berry.....	March 27
Victoria Tanner.....	March 28
Alison Dunn.....	March 29
Keith Franklin.....	March 29
Pam Roberts.....	March 29
Jean Kirwan.....	March 30
Brooke Bessette.....	March 31
Rachel Young.....	March 31

Bill & Phyllis Kerns.....	March 21
Jake & Sharon Eshler.....	March 25
Wayne & Cindy Carey.....	March 29

Special Dates

- Word Day of Prayer, *March 1*
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *March 3*
- Ash Wednesday, *March 6*
- First Sunday in Lent, *March 10*
- Daylight-Savings Time begins, *March 10*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *March 17*
- First Day of Spring, *March 20*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *March 24*
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 31*

Lenten Sermon Series: God on the Move

“Jesus didn’t stay in one place for long. His earthly ministry was one of moving from one place and encounter to the next. He also moved through every part of the human experience, encountering everything from temptation, to joy, to suffering and even death. This series helps us reclaim the movement of Jesus’ ministry from temptation to condemnation, through his teaching and miracles and finally through the story of his death and resurrection. The comforting truth of Lent is that as we delve deeper into our own self-examination, we find that we are not alone. God is still on the move in our lives, walking with us every step as we travel the road to Easter.”

Mar. 10	God Moves... into the Desert Luke 4: 1-13
Mar. 17	God Moves... past All Obstacles Luke 13: 31-35
Mar. 24	God Moves... over the Fence Luke 13: 1-9
Mar. 31	God Moves... down the Road Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32



Lenten Small Groups

As Steve mentioned in his front page article, here is a breakdown of the small groups that will be starting on **March 10th**. If you are interested in joining a group, ***please call the church office and let us know which group and how many people.***

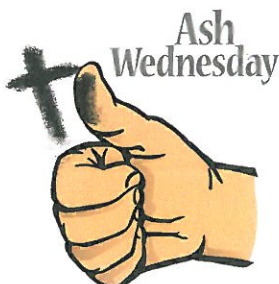
- A. Stuart Settle will lead a small group on Sundays, 4:30pm here in the church library. The group begins on March 10th.
- B. Martha Houchins will lead a small group in her home (8244 Marley Drive) on Sundays. There will be a small meal at 6:00pm and the study will begin at 6:45pm. This group begins on March 10th.
- C. Steve Starzer will lead a small group in his home (8285 Carrollton Ridge Drive) on Monday evenings at 7:00pm. This group begins on March 11th.
- D. Darren Utley will lead a small group in his home (10241 Korona Drive) on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. This group begins on March 14th.
- E. Beth Young will lead a small group in her home (8468 Brittewood Circle) on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. Snacks will be provided. This group begins on March 14th.

The small groups will be using the book, The Cross and the Prodigal: Luke 15 Through the Eyes of Middle Eastern Peasants. The small groups will meet for five weeks.

To God you Shall Return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually - that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can't untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know that we don't have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin's power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends - one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral - meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we're always safe in God's love.



Join us on Ash Wednesday this year, Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30 in the sanctuary. Come to a meditative service, preparing our hearts for the Lenten season, with the imposition of ashes as we set forth with Jesus on the journey to the cross.

Let's Get Together!

Bill Dobson's Men of the Church Group

Every second Tuesday the men of the church get together for breakfast and a devotion to get their day going right. They meet at the Cold Harbor Restaurant around 6:00-6:30am to eat together and discuss projects and/or ideas of things the men of the church can do for our church family and groups that need our help. This group is for men of all ages! The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 12th**. Call Billy Putze 804-338-3233 with any questions about the men of the church activities. You never have to reserve a seat, we will always have an opening for you.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry strives to provide love and comfort by prayerfully crocheting and knitting prayer shawls and lap robes for those going through a trying time or loss in their life. We celebrate and also joyfully give baby blankets to new parents.

If you would like to join this worthwhile ministry, we would welcome you the first Wednesday of every month.

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is **Wednesday, March 6** at 10:30 in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough

The Super Singles

The Super Singles are a group of single, divorced and widowed members who get together on the second Sunday of each month and go to lunch! This month they will be going to Gus' Italian Café on Bell Creek Road on Sunday, **March 10th** right after the 11:00am service. Join us! We will meet in the parking lot at 12:15pm and car pool over.

Joyful Reader's Circle

The Joyful Readers' Circle will meet on **March 12th, 7:00pm** in Room #14 at church. This month we will be discussing the book, "Free Days with George" by Colin Campbell. Sue Putze will lead the discussion.

Every woman is welcome to attend. This group meets on the second Tuesday night of each month from September to June.

Barbara Wash

Mission Trip in Planning Stages

Fairfield Presbyterian Church is going to be going to Newport, NC with the semi-tentative dates of April 27 and returning on May 2/3. We will be working with UMCOR (the United Methodist Relief agency which is working in coordination with our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.) Newport has been identified as a community which has the greatest need following the storms that devastated that area last year.

We can use more volunteers! If you are interested, please contact Danny Guertler (804-543-2939 or guertlers@comcast.net)

Can't go but would like to help? Please consider making a donation to defray the costs of the trip by earmarking your gift "N.C. Mission Trip".





BIG NEWS! Summer Camp Registration is Open! Don't let the dreary winter weather get you down, start thinking about summer today! Visit www.CampHanover.org to learn about summer camps for campers entering grades 2 through 12. You can find answers to common questions, descriptions of camp sessions, and lots more information!

Sign up today to ensure the session and dates you want!

Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions (MCEF)
www.4mcef.com

MCEF needs Volunteer Drivers to help seniors in Mechanicsville: MCEF Senior Rides needs volunteer drivers for seniors who can no longer drive themselves. The Senior Rides program helps our seniors stay in their homes by giving rides to medical appointments, to the grocery store or to do personal business. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and choose the rides to fit their schedules. MCEF pays for volunteer driver training, provides insurance and reimburses the drivers \$.25 per mile. If you can share 8-10 hours per month and have a desire to help our seniors, please contact MCEF Senior Rides at (804) 357-9360, or by email at : Office@4mcef.com <<mailto:Office@4mcef.com>>



NURSERY
Volunteers

9:00am Infant/Toddler Nursery Schedule

Mar. 3	Mitzi Marker & McKenzie Marker
Mar. 10	Sandra Brewster & Hannah Reasor
Mar. 17	Linda Daugherty & Angela Blue
Mar. 24	Beverly Burts & Karen Couch
Mar. 31	Majken Whitaker & Allison Letourneau

9:00am Kid's Worship

Mar. 3	Angela Schwartz
Mar. 10	Deb Utley
Mar. 17	Pattersons
Mar. 24	Donna Hohman
Mar. 31	Donna Hohman

10:00am Infant/Toddler

Mar. 3	Majken Whitaker & TBD
Mar. 10	Molly Zweckbronner & Brenda Blue
Mar. 17	Jennifer France & Cathy Wenninger
Mar. 24	Melanie Rubeck & TBD
Mar. 31	Pam Roberts & Molly Zweckbronner

11am Infant /Toddler

Mar. 3	Anne Young & Nikki Glass
Mar. 10	Angela Schwartz & Jan Fadeley
Mar. 17	Pam Gigliotti & Donna Hohman
Mar. 24	Beth Patterson & Dale Woodfin
Mar. 31	Angela Blue & Nikki Glass

Notes from your Session

February proved to be a busy month for your Elders' meeting. We accomplished a great deal. In the course of our time together we:

- heard a positive report from the *auditors* with their thanks to Gene Rosen for his outstanding work as treasurer.
- joyfully received a report from the *Deacons* on the good work they are doing. Learned of their plans to honor the longest tenured member of this congregation. Learned of their plan to reinvigorate the homebound communion program.
- approved enthusiastically the new *photo-directory* program that will be done in house and not involve the selling of photos.
- endorsed a Boy Scout's *Eagle project* to renew the nature trail on our grounds.
- learned that our retention pond passed inspections for the County with some minor work needed. We thanked the *Bay Group* for their deeply discounted efforts on our behalf. We thanked as well *Sandy's Plants* for the loan of equipment needed to complete that work.
- talked about preparing for *Easter* and all of our guests by reviewing our signage and making improvements accordingly.
- celebrated the fifth anniversary of *Darren's ordination* to ministry and his five years ministering with us!
- sought volunteers to attend a Presbytery *Stewardship event* to be held at Three Chopt Church.
- approved the plan presented by Personnel as requested by Steve for him to take his *sabbatical* (under his terms of call) over three years by taking one month each year. This sabbatical plan is in addition to his regular vacation and study leave and is granted after his over seven years of continuous service to our congregation. It will have no financial implications for our church.
- learned from Adult Discipleship of their plans for the Lenten *small group study* of the book The Cross and Prodigal by Kenneth Bailey, who was a Professor of NT in two of our Middle Eastern colleges. We will meet in various homes and signup sheets will be available soon.
- heard that Steve will lead our *Fifth Sunday lesson* for March 31st.
- rejoiced that 20 young people and adults will be travelling to Altoona, PA the week after school finishes to do *mission work* there in that financially depressed community.
- were touched to learn that a generous donor has given us money to do an *outreach program* to bring more people to worship this Easter.
- discussed the possibility of doing an *early morning Sunday chapel service* as an outreach to the community for those whose schedules make it difficult for them to attend worship regularly. This would be a matins service with communion and held in the Union Classroom, if the Session deems it worthy.
- concluded our evening by joyfully approving the reception and *baptism of Stephen Sheldon*, step brother of Elder Wyatt Wills.

submitted by Steve

Under-Age Thinking...

DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.

PUZZLE

Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.

Lightbulb	Seedling	Sun	Flame	Apple	Fish	Hand
Star	Whale	Flower	Fish	Crab	Egg	Flower
Wings	Snake	Bird	Moon	Lizard	Snake	Tree
Spider	Apple	Snake	Leaf	Goat	Fish	Sheep
Cloud	Elephant	Person	Candle	Monkey	Key	Star
Head	Chicken	Flame	Rabbit	Cat	Smiley	Person
Plant	Shell	Wings	Flame	Spider	Goat	Mountain

Day 1 (light) ____ Day 2 (waters) ____ Day 3 (land and plants) ____ Day 4 (heavenly bodies) ____
 Day 5 (birds and water animals) ____ Day 6 (land animals and people) ____ Day 7 (God rested) ____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2

(Answers on back of newsletter)



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

Fairfield Presbyterian Church Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 5th
2:00pm - 7:00pm

To schedule an appointment please

- church office (804) 730-7164
- visit redcrossblood.org
- call 1-800-RED CROSS
- walk-ins are always welcome

Remember to drink plenty of water, eat a good meal,
and bring a photo ID. If you have any questions
regarding donating please call 800 542-5663.

American Red Cross

1-800-RED CROSS | redcrossblood.org

March 2019

Fairfield Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
SMALL GROUP STUDY A) Led by Stuart Settle, Sundays, 4:30pm in the Church Library B) Led by Martha Houchins, Sundays, 6:45pm at her house C) Led by Steve Starzer, Mondays, 7:00pm at his house D) Led by Darren Utley, Thursdays, 7:00pm at his house E) Led by Beth Young, Thursdays, 7:00pm at her house					1 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Compass Basketball Games (FC, 29, 30, 32) 10:00 AM Youth Sunday Practice (sanctuary) 1:00 PM NBC Choir Practice (#19)	2 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Compass Basketball Games (FC, 29, 30, 32) 1:00 PM NBC Choir Practice (#19) <i>Youth Group help with Compass Basketball</i>																																																																																				
3 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:00 AM A Heart for Service study (#19) 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM NBC Worship Service (FC) 11:00 AM Traditional Service (sanctuary) MCEF Collection <i>Transfiguration of the Lord Youth Sunday</i>	4 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practices (FC)	5 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM Blood Drive (HH) 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practices (FC) 7:00 PM Christian Ministry Teams (HH) 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (#20) 7:00 PM Evangelism Team (#19) 7:00 PM Missions Team (#14)	6 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM GCP Muffins for Moms (HH) 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#32) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (Sanctuary) 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study (Choir Room) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Christian Yoga Class (#29) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (Family Center)	8	9 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Compass Basketball Games (FC, 29, 30, 32) 1:00 PM NBC Choir Practice (#19) <i>Youth Group help with Compass Basketball</i>																																																																																				
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31 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM NBC Worship Service (FC) 11:00 AM Traditional Service (sanctuary) 4:30 PM Small Group Study A (#26) 6:45 PM Small Group Study B <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i>	<div> <div>February</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>April</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
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Youth Group News

Mar. 2 Youth Sunday Practice, 10:00am

Mar. 3 Youth Sunday!

Mar. 9 Youth help with Compass basketball

Mar. 10 Youth Group, 4:30pm

Mar. 16-17 High School Retreat at Camp Hanover

Mar. 17 Talent Show Rehearsal

Mar. 22 Talent Show, 6:30pm

Mar. 24 Youth Group, 4:30pm

Mar. 31 No Youth Group - Spring Break

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Bible Quiz

In John 9, Jesus' disciples ask whether a certain man or his parents sinned, causing his disability. Jesus says, "Neither. ... [It was] so that God's works might be revealed in him." What was this man's disability?

A. Deafness

B. Lameness

C. Blindness

D. Epilepsy

Answer: C (See John 9:1-7.)

PUZZLE

Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.

1	3	4	5	3	5	2
4	5	2	5	5	4	3
3	6	5	4	6	5	3
6	3	6	3	6	5	6
2	6	6	1	6	1	4
6	5	3	6	5	7	6
3	6	7	4	6	6	3

Day 1 (light) _____

Day 2 (waters) _____

Day 3 (land and plants) _____

Day 4 (heavenly bodies) _____

Day 5 (birds and water animals) _____

Day 6 (land animals and people) _____

Day 7 (God rested) _____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2



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