

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

# The Messenge

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

Web Site: www.fairfieldpcusa.org E-Mail: office@fairfieldpcusa.org Office Phone: (804) 730-7164

February 2020



Dear friends,

I can't thank you enough words for the encouragement and

support you have given to me during the time I was compiling and editing my book and your support after its release is nothing but overwhelming to me. Thank you everyone.

I went into this process rather reluctantly. I am not arrogant enough to think that my preaching is on par with those who have had their words published. My family and a couple of trusted colleagues encouraged me to go ahead and do it. Two thoughts are what actually convinced me to do this project. One, I would give my right arm to have a collection of my Dad's sermons. As far as I know there is only one which survived my Mom's cleaning of his office after he died. I wanted my kids to have something that showed what and why their Dad spent his life proclaiming. Two, and equally important to me, was the thought that this book is as much a tribute to Fairfield Presbyterian Church as it might be to any work I have done. A preacher is only as good as the congregation to whom he/she preaches.

You are an exceptional congregation by many different measures. While many of our

congregations sister experiencing are membership declining and some struggling to keep their doors open, your numbers continue to improve year over year. In the over 130 years of Fairfield history and the over 170 years of Beulah history, there is no record of church fights or schisms. Even the most challenging times, Fairfield's move from Harvie Road and Beulah's decision to handled merge, were with prayer, conversation and mutual respect.

I know Darren joins me in our deepest appreciation and admiration for the people that you are as followers of Jesus Christ. It is an honor to be your Pastor and I am glad I could share that admiration with others through the printing of a book.

In Christ's love.



### Member News



Our sympathies go out to Margaret Barlow on the Sending Our death of her sister, Bertha SYMPATHY Harvey who passed away on January 11; to Jo Mitchell

on the death of her sister, Joy Bolte who passed away on January 13; to Kristy Harden on the death of her mother, Donna Weiss Nicholson Hunter who passed away on January 14; to Liz Crowe on the death of her mother, Alice Lee who passed away on January 23rd and to Jerry Williamson on the death of his father, Jimmy Williamson, who passed away on January 27th. Please continue to pray for these people as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: Mary Beth Adams, Beverly Burts' daughter, Cathy, Becky Clark, John Crowe, Stuart Davis, Kathy Dixon's daughter-in-law Cathy, Jack Ward, Deborah Wood's friend, Courtney and friend Madison, 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 members who are unable to get to church: Evelyn Bailey, Ann Barlow, Baughman, Marie Blatt, Ruth Voncile Gatewood, Inez Hill, Stan Hiner, Laverne Longest, Myrtle Muire, Nancy Norment, Calvin & Barbara Pearson, Mack Perkins, Virginia Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, 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 Fairfield.

The efforts of your church have always been greatly appreciated and your support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately save lives.

On January 7, registered 27 donors, 3 donors were deferred and 27 units were collected! We also registered 2 first time donors! Again, thank you for your ongoing support of this important community program. We look forward to the next drive on March 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Christine Hohman



The 2020 Flower Calendar **is up!** Please sign up for a Sunday in 2020 to honor, or celebrate remember, someone special with The flowers are flowers! yours to take home after both services or you can donate

them and one of our deacons will deliver them to a shut-in. The cost is \$25.

### Special Dates

- African-American History Month
- Valentine's Day, February 14
- Presidents Day, February 17
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 23
- Ash Wednesday, February 26
- Leap Day, February 29



Hailey Spott	. February 1
Richard Walden	
Grace Zweckbronner	
Ann Barlow	•
John Crowe	
Jeff Cumins	
Robbie Dobson	
Walt Fadeley	•
Sam Penny	
Erin Reasor	
Katelyn Weis	
Caitlin Walsh	. February 5
Randi Walsh	. February 5
Don Wells	•
Emma Leudesdorff	
Norman Sulser	
Gerry Underdown	
Merrillyn Jones	. February 8
Jamie Fisher	
Bob Haller	
Pat Daugherty	
Brittany Bessette	
Tracy Young	
Daniel Arnette	
Mike Joyce	
Nikki Glass	
Jerry Hughes	February 15
Sawyer Hutchison	February 15
Gene Elmore	February 16
Danny Guertler	
Kristy Harden	February 16
Josh Patterson	February 16
Pamela Walsh	February 16
Diane Richardson	February 18
Melissa Hughes	February 19
Roger Bessette	February 20
Beverly Ward	February 20
Cathy Guertler	February 22
Dorothy Bowen	February 23
Richard Dunn	February 24
Charles Moore, Sr	February 24
Donna Richbourg	February 24
Anne Young	February 24
Bruce Arnette	February 25
Stacy Mueller	•
•	-
Andrew Dunn	February 28

John Weeks ..... February 28



Ivy & John Lightsey	February 1
Robert & Robin Wilson	February 10
Craig & Sandra Brewster	February 14
Jim & Jennifer France	February 14
Hunter & Nikki Glass	February 15
Mark & Marsha Young	February 21
Stacy & Simon Mueller	February 27

# A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Lord of the winds, I cry to thee, I that am dust, and blown about by every guest I fly to thee.

Lord of the waters, unto thee I call. I that am weed upon the waters borne, and by the waters torn, tossed by the waters, at they feet I fall.

Mary Coleridge (186-1907)



## Mosaícs, Music and Munchies

Drop your kids off for an evening of fun! Handy Treasures: The Mobile Pottery Studio, will be coming to Fairfield on **February 23<sup>rd</sup>** from 4:30-6:30pm and **children ages 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade** are invited to attend. There will be pizza, music and everyone will be making a mosaic to take home. Cost is \$12 per person. Send Angela Blue and email and tell her you want to attend! Angela@fairfieldpcusa.org



## 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, February 11.** 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.

#### **FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE**



The Fellowship Circle is a daytime Bible study group for women who do not work

during the day. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30am in the Open Door classroom (#20).

They will meet on February 11 at 10:30am. Please come to our next meeting and give us a try! Call Beverly Burts if you have any questions or need more information at 746-7053.



### THE JOYFUL READERS' CIRCLE

The Joyful Readers' Circle is an evening group of ladies who pick out books to read and discuss. The meet on the second

Tuesday of every month from September to May.

The Circle will meet on February 11, 7:00pm in room #14 to discuss the book: "Where The Crawdad Sings" by Delia Owens. Please feel free to join us!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry skipped our meeting on New Year's Day but we are ready to get back to the knitting and crocheting in February. Seeing the projects being made and discussing new ideas or patterns is always a joy. We welcome you to join us. A new members

is a joy to behold!

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Barlow Parlor. Come see what we are all about!

Anna Barrowclough



The Super Singles is 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 **Outback Steakhouse** on 360 on Sunday, **February 9th** right after the 11:00am service. Please call Melanie Rubeck (730-5994) if you have any questions. Join us! We will meet in the parking lot at 12:15pm and carpool over.



Christian Yoga Classes continue on Thursday afternoons, 3:00pm in the

Foundations Class (room #29). Be ready for a good workout! If you have any questions, please feel free

to contact Willye Fishburne at 559-6762.





Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> this year. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth - a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30pm in the sanctuary on February 26th.



### Líbrary News

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see everything has become new." 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17

It is that time of year for resolutions and fresh starts. As we begin yet another year may we all strive to deepen our commitment to living our Christian faith.

In the library there are many resources that will inspire and encourage us along on our spiritual journey. Look for Following Christ, Fresh Faith and The Journey. In the children's library you will find God Is With You, That Is all You Need, God Loves You Very Much and Me and God.

It is with my hope, that in this New Year, we will all continue to strengthen our Christian walk with God.

Elizabeth Covington



### MISSION TRIP

Fairfield Presbyterian and New Song UMC are partnering together to send a mission team to Newport, North Carolina from April 19-24th this year. We will continue helping to renovate houses that were damaged or

destroyed by Hurricane Florence. We will be doing various construction projects. We will be staying at St. James United Methodist Church. If you are interested in going, please attend the Mission Trip Information meeting on Monday, February 3, 7:30pm in the Open Door Class. Please consider joining our team! If you cannot make the meeting please call Danny Guertler (804) 543-2939 or email him at daguertler@gmail.com



Attention Ladies! Connect Women's Bible Study will restart on Sunday evenings from 4:30-5:30pm beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>. The study will be based off of the book, "40 Verses to Ignite Your Faith" by Laurie Polich Short.

Questions? Email Angela Blue at <a href="mailto:angela@fairfieldpcusa.org">angela@fairfieldpcusa.org</a>. We hope to see you there!

# Epiphany Series: New Year, Same Promises

We continue in the current sermon series for another three weeks. We are focusing on God's promises. Let's spend the first part of the new year appreciating God's unbreakable promises.

Feb. 2	God's Promise of Blessing Ps. 15 & Matt. 5: 1-12
Feb. 9	God's Promise of Guidance Ps. 112: 1-10 & Matt. 5: 13-20
Feb. 16	God's Promise of Freedom Deut. 30: 15-20 & Ps. 119: 1-8
Feb. 23	Jesus' Metamorphosis and Ours 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:16-21 & 1 Cor. 3:16-18



The Adult Discipleship Team is looking to do two Lent Studies this year. They are looking for people to teach and hosts the studies.

#### The studies are:

- "The New Testament You Never Knew" by N. T. Wright and Michael Bird. Subtitled "Exploring the context, purpose, and meaning of the story of God" - 8 session study
- 2) The Grace of Les Miserables which is a 6 session study.

If you can teach, host or even do both please contact Jenny Young at (804)516-6366 or email her at Jennifer.E.Young11@gmail.com.



#### 9:00am Infant/Toddler Nursery Schedule

Feb. 2	McKenzie & Zoe Marker
Feb. 9	Beverly Burts & Karen Couch
Feb. 16	Jenny Lake & Allison Letourneau
Feb. 23	Linda Daughterty & Hannah Reasor

#### Kid's Worship

Feb. 2	Angela Schwartz
Feb. 9	Deb Utley
Feb. 16	Donna Hohman
Feb. 23	Donna Hohman

#### 10am Nursery

Jennifer France & Cathy Wenninger
Nikki Glass & Cathy Wenninger
Pam Roberts Melanie Rubeck
Majken Whitaker & Molly
Zweckbronner

#### 11am Infant /Toddler

Feb. 2	Angela Blue & Donna Hohman
Feb. 9	Angela Blue & Beth Patterson
Feb. 16	Angela Schwartz & Dale Woodfin
Feb. 23	Pam Gigliotti & Anne Young

### $\mathcal{MCEF}$

MCEF will be collecting gently used and new bath towels and washcloths for the CARITAS Healing Place and Men's Shelter on **Sunday**, **February 9** and **Sunday**, **February 16**<sup>th</sup>. The collection bins will be outside the Family Center and in the Sanctuary narthex. Thank you for helping with this important ministry in our area.

The next day to contribute food for the One Stop Shop food pantry is **Sunday, February 2.** 



# Session notes for January 2020

During the stated meeting of your Session on January 21st your Elders . . .

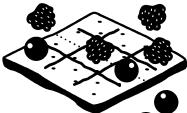
- reviewed and approved the minutes of the December meeting
- reviewed and approved the annual report to the Presbytery and the PC(USA)
- heard that the Deacons are continuing their good work with an excellent new class of Deacons coming on board and taking leadership roles
- learned that two of the main emphases of the Deacons are shut-in ministry and funeral meals
- welcomed the new class of Elders to the team and talked about how we do the work of the leadership
  of the church
- discussed a variety of topics that have been presented for their consideration: is there need for or any real interest in having a columbarium/memorial ground on the Church property?
- heard that some preliminary information gathering had been done concerning using solar panels for the power needs of the church building. learned that the payback period on such an effort would be approximately 7.5 years with our electricity being free and an income source for the church following that period. A team is being assembled to further investigate this possibility
- endorsed adding "Sermons From the Heart" to the new members welcome bag starting with the next new member
- were glad to hear that a number of fairly minor repair and upkeep projects have been or are being done by our facilities management people, including replacing faulty lights
- · approved gladly the plan for Darren's sabbatical as he concludes six years of ministry with us
- learned that the possibility of a lease to own arrangement with Grace United Family Church for the Historic Beulah Church will not be feasible for them but we are very delighted with their continuing relationship with us as tenants/caretakers of that facility
- received the Treasurer's report that we ended 2019 with a surplus that will be held in reserve should it be needed for the general fund
- rejoiced to learn that we continue to make extra payments on our mortgage and are ahead of schedule to retire that debt
- gladly learned that there will be two options for small group study this Lenten season: a discussion around grace presented in the Les Miserable' musical and another one around N.T. Wright's discussion of the world of the Bible
- supported Team Youth in their fundraising for this year's mission trip to Altoona, PA. they will be hosting a pancake breakfast on February 2nd and their annual talent show on March 27th
- gratefully learned that this year's confirmation class has 9 enrollees who are excellent candidates for membership
- learned of Evangelism's plan to once again send out mailers to the community to invite them to Easter worship with us
- elected Fran and Larry Hansbrough to be our Elder-Commissioners to the February Presbytery meeting at Westminster Church Charlottesville



### Under-Age Thinking...

# Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.

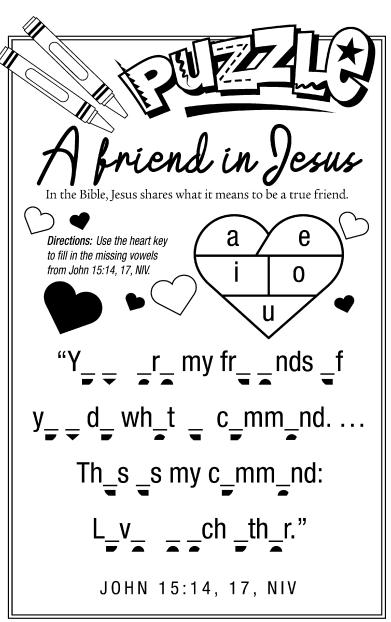


#### What you need:

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Raspberries
- Blueberries

#### What you do:

- 1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
- 2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
- 3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
- 4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
- 5. Using the fruit as X's and O's, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!



Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other." John 15:14, 17, NIV

11:57 AM 01/22/20 Cash Basis

### Fairfield Presbyterian Church Profit & Loss Budget Overview January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Annual Givings	535,701.00
Capital Campaign Income	55,020.00
Church School	1,440.00
Initial Offerings	60.00
Loose Offerings	7,000.00
Mission Givings	18,000.00
Reimbursements	7,200.00
Special Givings	16,020.00
Total Income	640,441.00
Expense	
Administration Program	56,184.00
Christian Formation Committee	13,040.00
Deacons	1,000.00
Evangelism & Publicity Comm	4,980.00
Facilities Management Committee	104,820.00
Finance & Stewardship Committee	115,926.00
Missions	38,900.00
Personnel Committee	270.00
Professional Staff	298,061.00
Worship Committee	7,260.00
Total Expense	640,441.00
let Ordinary Income	0.00
Income	0.00

### February 2020

#### Fairfield Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Gunday	January			March	- Thuay	1 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM Compass Picture Day (HH) 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Compa-
	S M T W T  5 6 7 8 9  12 13 14 15 10  19 20 21 22 22  26 27 28 29 30	2 3 4 9 10 11 5 17 18 3 24 25	S M 1 2 8 9 15 16 22 23 29 30	3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28		ss Basketball Games (FC) 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM New Beginnings Church (Small Kitchen & #14) 11:00 AM NBC Choir Practice (#19) Youth help with Compass
2 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Pancake Breakfast (Heritage Hall) 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (FC) 11:00 AM Traditional Service (sanctuary) MCEF Collection	3 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practice (FC) 7:00 PM Personnel Meeting (#26) 7:30 PM NC Mission Trip Meeting (#20)	4 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practice (FC) 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (#20) 7:00 PM Evangelism Team (#19) 7:00 PM Missions Team (#14)	5 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (Sanctuary) 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	6 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study (#26) 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Chris- tian Yoga Class (#29) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (HH) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (Family Center)	7	8 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Compa- ss Basketball Games (FC) 11:00 AM NBC Choir Practice (#19)
9 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (FC) 11:00 AM Traditional Service (sanctuary) 12:30 PM Super Singles 4:30 PM Youth Group (#31 & 32)	10 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practice (FC)	11 6:00 AM Men of the Church Breakfast (off-site) 10:30 AM Fellowship Circle (#20) 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practice (FC) 7:00 PM Facilities Management Team (#20) 7:00 PM Joyful Readers Circle (#14) 7:00 PM Stewardship Team (#26)	12 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (Sanctuary) 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	13 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study (#26) 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Chris- tian Yoga Class (#29) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (HH) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (Family Center)	Valentine's Day	15 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM New Beginnings Church Hour of Prayer (sanctuary) 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Compa- ss Basketball Games (FC) 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM Garden Club (Heritage Hall) 11:00 AM NBC Choir Practice (#19)
16 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (FC) 11:00 AM Traditional Service (sanctuary) 4:30 PM Youth Group Game Night (#31 & 32)	17 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practice (FC) President's Day	18 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practice (FC) 7:00 PM Session Meeting (#20)	7:00 PM Boy Scout Greenbar Meeting (#20) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (Sanctuary) 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	20 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study (#26) 3:00 PM -4:00 PM Christian Yoga Class (#29) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting (#20) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (Family Center)	21	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Compa- ss Basketball Games (FC) 11:00 AM NBC Choir Practice (#19)
9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM New Beginnings Church Worship (FC) 11:00 AM Traditional Service (sanctuary) 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Mosiacs, Music & Munchies (Family Center) Transfiguration of Our Lord	24 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practice (FC)	25 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Compass Basketball Practice (FC) 7:00 PM Children's Nurture Team (#20) 7:00 PM Christian Formation Teams (HH) 7:00 PM Team Youth (#26)	26 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service (sanctuary) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (Sanctuary) 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) Ash Wednesday	27 10:00 AM Morning Bible Study (#26) 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Chris- tian Yoga Class (#29) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (HH) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (Family Center)	28	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Compass Basketball Games (FC) 11:00 AM NBC Choir Practice (#19)  Leap Day

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Feb. 1: Help with Compass

Feb. 2: Pancake Breakfast, 8-11am, Heritage Hall

No afternoon meeting

Feb. 9: Youth Group, 4:30pm

Feb. 16: Game Night, 4:30pm

Deadline to bring money for mission trip

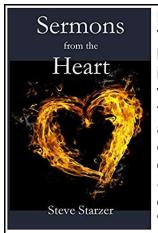
Feb. 23: Youth Group, 4:30pm

Feb. 29: Help with Compass



The time has come to let us know if you are planning to go on the Summer Mission Trip with us this year! We will be returning to Altoona, PA the week of June 21-26.

To reserve your space we need a deposit of \$50 by February 16th.



Looking for great Valentines gift for your loved ones? It won't add inches to your waistline. It won't fade away like flowers do. It will bring life and joy to your heart! It even comes with a heart on the cover! Pastor. Steve has authored a book of sermons entitled "Sermons From the Heart". He was approached early

last year by the publishing house Parson's Porch to add his sermons to their series, "Sermons Matter." Steve agreed to do so and spent a number of months compiling and editing sermons which are representative of his more than 40 years of preaching and his nearly 39 years of pastoral ministry. We have the books here at the church office. The cost is \$16.95 and checks can be made out to Steve Starzer. Your loved ones will enjoy reading it!





Fairfield Church P.O. Box 1088 Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Return Service Requested

