



The Messenger

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

October 2020



Dear friends,
We human beings are a funny lot. We think we have the power to accomplish any task that is set before us. We hate asking for help or assistance. I know this is

very true for me. When I was sick with that nasty virus in August, I thought I could just tough it out. (I will admit that it was not so much that I was strong but I had Debby by my side so I thought she would be the strong one!) It took a few days of a running fever and fatigue before I reached out to my favorite physician to seek his help. This time, I actually followed his advice! But the fever continued and the weakness and other issues continued. In my mind I was making a list of who my pall bearers would be!

I'm doing well now, though, thanks to Debby and some excellent medical care. But the truth of the matter is this: I turned the corner to wellness when I humbled myself and asked for your prayers. I have no doubt in my mind that as deeply appreciative as I am for the care given to me physically, I am more deeply appreciative of the prayers that were offered on my behalf. As good as my physician is, I know it was the Great Physician who sustained me and brought me back to enjoying the good life I am blest to live.

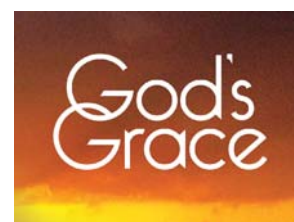
I'm sorry I waited so long to ask for your prayers. I won't make that mistake twice.

From the bottom of my heart, Thank You!

In Christ's love,

Five Means of Grace & Prayer

Beginning October 7th, we will be augmenting our Wednesday night prayer time with a look at five means of grace to help us better experience God's love. Each week we will look at a traditional practice of the Christian church that has been found to be a conduit of God's grace to God's people. There is a short, well written book that we will use to deepen our understanding of these practices called Five Means of Grace: Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way by Elaine Heath. There will be copies at church and it is easy to find in digital format. The original cost for us was \$10. The Wednesday prayer meeting on Zoon usually begins at 7:00pm and goes for about 15 minutes, so you can join in at anytime. We will end around 8:00pm. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please email Darren at darren@fairfieldpcusa.org



Member News

Our love and sympathy goes out to **Bob Stevens** and **Myra Moore** on the death of **Gen Stevens** on September 7th. Gen was a member here for 59 years and will be missed by all. We will also miss **Inez Hill** who passed away on Sept. 24th. Inez was a member here for 18 years.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Becky Clark, Kathy Dixon, Robbie Dobson, Danny Guertler's** friend Conrad Kurtz, **Calvin and Barbara Pearson, Gene & Peggie Rosen's** neighbor Karen, **Bob Stevens, Marge Wantz'** husband Ned, **Buford Wade, Jack Ward, K. C. Whitaker, 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, Marie Blatt, Ruth Gatewood, Stan Hiner, Laverne Longest, Myrtle Muire, Calvin & Barbara Pearson, Virginia Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, 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.)



I want to express my deepest gratitude for the love and prayers offered to me during my recent illness. I can't tell you how much it meant to me to know that so many of you were praying for my quick recovery. The many cards,

text messages and calls to Debby touched our hearts deeply. I am glad to be healthy again and am grateful for the medical care I received but I know that it was the love and prayers that helped me turn the corner to healing.

In Christ's love, Steve

Friends,
What a joyful surprise to find your incredibly kind and generous gift waiting in this morning's mail. Thank you so very much for taking care of this place and strengthening this ministry!

Doug Walters, Camp Hanover

Dear Fairfield Family,
Thank you so very much for the many cards, calls, and flowers that you have sent me during my illness as well as the prayers for recovery that you have offered on my behalf. It means so much to me to be part of such a wonderful congregation and I look forward to be able to worship with you soon.

Sincerely, Jack Ward

A Lesson in Appreciation

During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. Her ears perked up when an older member said, "Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked the best, my answer is always, 'The one we have at any given time is my favorite.'"

What a relief for the pastor to hear - and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation Month. God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us!

Pastor Appreciation Day began with the establishment of Clergy Appreciation Month. In Timothy 1 (5:17), Paul began the concept of clergy appreciation when he stated that the elders of the church are worthy of double honor. He reiterated this idea in Thessalonians 1 (5:12-13) when he stated that those who work hard among you should be held in the highest regard for their work.

Be sure to show a little "extra" appreciation this month to Pastor Steve and Pastor Darren! They work harder than you can imagine day in and day out!

OCTOBER Birthdays



| | | | |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Tim Gulliver | October 1 | Murrell & Joyce Nuckols | October 3 |
| Stuart Settle | October 2 | Jeff & Angela Schwartz | October 9 |
| Barbara vanSteenburg | October 2 | Gary & Terri Helfrich | October 10 |
| Philip Ciejek | October 3 | Jim & Linda Gruenhagen | October 15 |
| Mary Sulser | October 3 | Larry & Elizabeth Covington | October 22 |
| Madison Blue | October 4 | Alan & Diane Brown | October 25 |
| David Cunningham | October 4 | John & Liz Crowe | October 25 |
| Abbey Franklin | October 5 | K.C. & Majken Whitaker | October 25 |
| Lindsey Irwin | October 6 | Norman & Mary Sulser | October 26 |
| Amber Joyce | October 6 | Dwight & Becky Clark | October 28 |
| Grant Sulser | October 6 | Ayron Young & Collin Humphrey | October 31 |
| Michael Gee | October 7 | | |
| Abbey Glass | October 7 | | |
| Parker Irwin | October 7 | | |
| Hannah Reasor | October 7 | | |
| Josh Utley | October 8 | | |
| Doris McCalla | October 9 | | |
| Sarah Hall | October 10 | | |
| Sean Magill | October 10 | | |
| Nancy Gallihugh | October 11 | | |
| Jake Eshler | October 12 | | |
| Elizabeth Covington | October 13 | | |
| K.C. Whitaker | October 13 | | |
| Rachel Gaston | October 14 | | |
| Chad Starzer | October 15 | | |
| Bruce Jenkins | October 17 | | |
| Zoe Marker | October 17 | | |
| Jeri McDuffee | October 17 | | |
| Colton Weis | October 17 | | |
| John Butchyk | October 18 | | |
| Susan Ciejek | October 18 | | |
| Bob Gaston | October 20 | | |
| Janet Chelette | October 21 | | |
| Gene Rosen | October 21 | | |
| Emily Sutton | October 21 | | |
| Nicole Sutton | October 21 | | |
| Matthew Arnette | October 23 | | |
| Collin Hughes | October 24 | | |
| Dylan Street | October 24 | | |
| Mark Young | October 25 | | |
| Mason Settle | October 27 | | |
| Libby Taylor | October 27 | | |
| Myra Moore | October 29 | | |

Special dates

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion Sunday, *October 4*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 25*
- Reformation Day, *October 31*



In the past the Women of the Church have sponsored Operation Christmas Child, and have invited the congregation to join us. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to handle this project differently. It is difficult to shop for some and your safety is our concern. We would like to collect a special offering for Samaritan's Purse. From October 1st until November 14 we will collect this special offering. If you write a check, please put Operation Christmas Child on the memo line or the front of the offering envelope. Fairfield will send one check to Samaritan's Purse for the total. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Sandra Brewster



Good news everyone! We will be doing two in persons services each Sunday again. Starting October 18, 2020 we will worship in the Family Center at 8:45 a.m. in the contemporary style and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary in the traditional style of worship. Both services will be live streamed and recorded for later viewing and both services will follow the best practices of safety protocols including the wearing of face masks and social distancing.

We know this is a change of time for the early service but we also know that the members who attend that service enjoy time for fellowship and have a desire to get the most out of the Sunday School hour as well. This slight change in time will allow an opportunity for both to happen when we restart our outstanding Adult Sunday School program.

The 11:00 a.m. worship service will have some differences as well. A greeter will help you to find a seat so that everyone can sit both comfortably and safely in worship. The Choir will not resume right away but we will have special music to add to the spirit of worship. We are still working on all the procedures that will make this happen, so there may be other differences as well. We will endeavor to make this “new normal” as close as we can to the “old normal.” Your patience in all of this is deeply appreciated.

In all cases, your health and well being are the key to our endeavors. If in doubt, please stay home and worship with us through the internet. If you don't have internet access, please let us know because we are transcribing the worship services so that you can participate through the written copy.

Let us all continue to pray that this pandemic is brought to a screeching halt and quickly!



- YouTube.com (search up Fairfield PCUSA)
- On our Facebook page
- at our website: Fairfieldpcusa.org.



I would like to invite you to sign your children up for October 4th and 11th Sunday School during the 10:00 am service via this Google Form:
<https://forms.gle/3byr9RjPPNHHeGeo9>

We will be outside (weather permitting) and these are the adaptations that will be in place when we return:

- Children are to be “signed up” ahead of time (see above link) so that we will know exactly how many children plan to attend for planning purposes and proper social distancing.
- Upon arriving, the parent will sign stating that their child is not exhibiting any symptoms etc of COVID, their temperature will be taken with a temporal thermometer and they will sanitize their hands and head straight to their spot.
- Masks are required.

For Indoor Sunday School:

- We purchased lap desks for each child.
- Each lap desk will include the child's materials for the lesson so there is no sharing of supplies.
- Each child will be spaced 6 feet apart and the children will be instructed that they can stand up and sit in their squared off space but are not able to leave that spot without permission.
- Windows will be open when possible.

- *Keep in mind-siblings will be able to sit together if they wish.*
- Everything will be disinfected each week

For Outdoor Sunday School:

- Each child will have their own picnic table and will be spaced out during activities.

Please note: Additional Sunday's will be offered and I will send out another sign up form as the dates draw nearer. Thank you for your help with this!

In Him,
Angela Blue and the Children's Nurture Team

Loved for who we are



When I was a child, my parents loved me not because I was good but because I was ... their child. I loved them, and I wanted to please them, but their love of me did not have to be earned.

Neither does the love of God. We are loved because we are his children. If we feel that we ought to be loved because it is our due, or because we deserve it, the less we will truly feel the need of God's love; the less implicit will be our trust; the less we will cry out, *Abba!*

Madeleine L'Engle, *Walking on Water*

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

Congratulations to Gladys and Pat Hubert. They have won the Hanover County Spirit of Volunteerism Family Award for their work at MCEF. Thank you to all the volunteers who make the MCEF One Stop Shop and Hanover Rides possible. It is truly a group effort by the generous people of Mechanicsville.

As the OSS is beginning to see more clients in a modified opening procedure, here are the needs for the pantry and for the Thanksgiving Bags

Food Pantry Needs:

Spam and other canned meats, Beef stew/Brunswick stew, Canned beets/collards/spinach, canned white potatoes/canned fruit, vegetable soup (vegetarian and beef), protein shakes, canned tomatoes, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, personal hygiene items, chick and rice soup and broth.

Thanksgiving Bags (will start giving out the end of October: boxed instant mashed potatoes, canned collard greens, 24 oz. apple sauce, boxed stuffing, jars of gravy, cornbread mix, cake mix and icing, brownie mix

Clothing Closets

Taking in donations on the 1st and 3rd Sundays seems to be going well. At the present time we are trying to make room in our closets for fall items. We have a lot of winter items stored and we will be putting them out in a few weeks. We will be needing winter coats by mid October.

Current clothing needs:

include new underwear in all sizes for all ages, fall and winter items in good condition (especially larger sizes), men's t-shirts (short and long sleeve) and as always, boys clothing.

Thank you for your donations!

Nancy Gallihugh

Notes from your Session

Your elders met on Tuesday September 15th and were very busy as they:

- heard a presentation by Danny Guertler about Compass Sports. The leadership of Compass is trying to discern if and how they can offer a positive experience for kids and when it might happen.
- voted to anticipate the report from Compass Sports before we decide whether to host the basketball program this year in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- voted to return to a two worship service schedule starting October 18th. See a fuller article in this newsletter for much more information.
- talked about looking toward Lent and Easter 2021 to be a time of renewal for the congregation if all goes well with the hoped for vaccinations.
- learned that Advent devotionals for 2020 have been ordered from Frontier Fellowship where Richard Haney is the Director.
- affirmed that Fairfield will continue its work as a teaching church with the acceptance of Alec Powell, a student at Union Presbyterian Seminary, as an intern for the academic year. Alec's area of interest is working with youth and children's ministry but he will also preach once or twice and do some pastoral care as part of his training.
- were happy to hear that a plan is being developed for the 2020 class of confirmands to be received and confirmed after all their hard work and preparation.
- rejoiced with the Stewardship team that the church's finances are very strong even while we have been able to assist a good number of families and individuals through these challenging times.
- heard that Stewardship is looking ahead toward 2021 and is preparing both a budget and a stewardship campaign.
- were overjoyed when we learned that a significant pay it forward gift has been given to the church to help people in a significant way as they work through the crisis of the economic downturn.
- facilities management has been working diligently to maintain the building well including replacing tiles that were damaged and unsafe in both Heritage Hall and in the Choir Room.
- were supportive of the Nominating Committee as they are prayerfully and expectantly discerning who the Lord is calling to serve in leadership positions in the years ahead.
- concurred with the Personnel Committee that two weeks of Steve's sabbatical should be accounted as sick leave and that he be allowed to use two weeks of sabbatical time at his convenience.
- intrigued to hear that Adult Discipleship is thinking very creatively about how to do adult Christian Education in the midst of the pandemic. We are looking forward to hearing more from them in the near future.
- rejoiced that the Children's ministry team is working on a plan to rekindle the Children's ministry with the highest safety standards. Look forward to hearing more about this creative and clever plan!
- elected two elders to serve as our commissioners for the October virtual Presbytery meeting.
- adjourned with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's grace and providence.



Under-Age Thinking...

SEED impressions

Create autumn-themed artwork using items from plants.

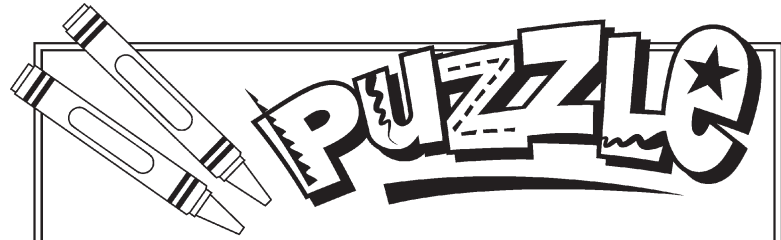


What you need:

- Seed pods, nuts, pine cones
- Mixing bowl
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Go on a nature walk and collect seeds with interesting textures.
2. In the bowl, mix flour and salt. Gradually add water. On a table, knead the dough. (If too dry, add more water; if too sticky, add more flour.)
3. Flatten a ball of dough and stamp impressions in it with the seeds.
4. If desired, bake for several hours at 150 degrees until dry and hard. Or, to reuse dough, store in an airtight container up to 6 months.



A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.

WORD BANK: sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water _____
2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant _____
3. To plant _____
4. Sharp part of a plant _____
5. What is harvested. _____
6. To dry up and shrivel _____
7. Person who plants _____
8. The earth a plant grows in. _____

"But the _____₂ falling on good _____₈ refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a _____₅, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was _____₃ n."

M A T T H E W 1 3 : 2 3 , N I V

Answers: root, seed, soil, wither, farmer, crop, thorn, crop, soil, seed, soil, crop, sow

October calendar

WE'RE ALL IN THIS *Together*



Blood Drive **Fairfield Presbyterian Church**

Heritage Hall
6930 Cold Harbor Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Tuesday, October 13, 2020
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

All blood donations are now tested for COVID-19 antibodies. The test results will be available within 7 to 10 days after your successful donation.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Fairfield to schedule an appointment.

Come to give in October for your chance to win a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card! We're giving away 5! Restrictions apply, see amazon.com/gc-legal. Terms and conditions apply; visit rcblood.org/unite.

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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This & That:

- **PLEASE** call the church office if you are planning on using any of our facilities (including the Pavilion.) This helps eliminate any conflicts which may arise. Thank you!
- All lost and found items in the church will be donated to a clothing organization by the end of the month. Please check our lost & found bins!



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Return Service Requested