



The Messenger

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

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

February 2021

Dear friends,



We often times talk about God's goodness and God's providence in general terms. It is indeed something which we believe to be absolutely true. We speak of it in terms of the person and work of Jesus Christ and

that is certainly the perfect of example of God's care for us. Yet, when it comes down to it, the truth of God's providential care is often seen in a look back. After or even during a time of extreme stress within our lives we can see how God is present and working in and through (and in spite of) the situation.

We are in such a time right now. It's about a year since we entered into this altered way of life which we have come to know as the pandemic. I am grateful that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel as we begin to get our vaccinations with the hopes of returning to normal in the first half of 2021. A year ago, we had no idea how we would fare, certainly not as individuals and families and definitely not as a congregation. Trust me when I tell you that I had a good number of sleepless nights tossing and turning and worrying about Fairfield Presbyterian Church and all the wonderful people who make this such a wonderful church.

In retrospect, I can see clearly now that my worries and concerns were a waste of my time and energy. God was doing a good thing out of a bad situation. I've always believed God does good work in bad times and this time was no

exception. As I look back on 2020, I grieve what we missed and what we lost but I also see very clearly what we have gained. By God's providence and through the Holy Spirit's leading, we have made the love of Jesus Christ a self evident truth to many people for whom the pandemic was particularly harsh. Now when I say "we" you know I really mean to say "you". Your faithfulness, generosity and goodness have touched the lives of so many people. You took an unbearable time for many and turned it into a time when they felt blessed by God.

I give God thanks for each one of you. You may think you have done little but I am telling you that even the littlest gesture of grace and mercy has been used by God and amplified. May God continue to bless Fairfield Church in the year 2021 as He so richly did in 2020.

In Christ's love,



God is love.

Whoever lives in love lives in God,
and **God** in him.

1 John 4:16

Member News



Our sympathy goes out to **Larry Hansbrough** and his family on the death of his sister, Mary Ann Connelly who passed away on January 9th; to **Bruce Arnette** and his family on the death of his mother, Martha Arnette who passed away on January 16. In addition, our sympathy goes out to

Gerry Nuckols on the death of her husband, Win who passed away on January 23. Win was also **Celeste Underdown's** father, **Brett Underdown's** grandfather, **Rachel Underdown's** grandfather and **Murrell Nuckols'** brother. Win was a member here at Fairfield for 70 years. He will be greatly missed. Please keep these families in your prayers.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Reggie Crump, Kathy Dixon, Johnnie & Nita Dunkum, Fran Hansbrough's** sister, Jane, **Jack Mitchell, Mike Moore, Calvin and Barbara Pearson, Jean Plott, Gene Rosen's** niece, Tracy, **Buford Wade, Marge Wantz'** husband Ned, **Jack Ward, John Weeks, Don Wells, Deborah Wood's** friend Courtney 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, Laverne Longest, Myrtle Muire, Nancy Norment, Murrell & Joyce Nuckols, Calvin & Barbara Pearson, Virginia Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, Louise Setchel, 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.)



Fairfield Church,

Thank you so much for your support during the loss of my dear Sister. The food, flowers, cards and all the wonderful messages were so greatly appreciated. One of the last messages Alice sent to me on the Sunday morning before she passed away was the following. "Please tell your people at Fairfield that we appreciate the thoughts and prayers and send our wishes for a Blessed Christmas." Your prayers meant so much to her, and Gene and I are so grateful for our church family.

Love, Peggie & Gene Rosen

Dear Steve and Fairfield Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers! They are gorgeous and truly soothe my soul! As we prepare for John's homecoming, I am reminded that we will need strength, patience and well, the love we already have. May God help me with the decisions I have to make regarding his care, implementing safety precautions in our home, etc. Bless you!

Suzanne Weeks

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift in support of Presbyterian missions. When you make a financial gift to the needs of our most vulnerable siblings, you do not just address the immediate crises. You create living change. You make it possible for individuals and entire communities to become

self-sufficient and resilient. Your generosity in collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing, combined with the generosity of Presbyterians throughout the nation, makes it possible to be in ministry in over 50 countries. Thank you for bringing the selfless love of Christ to people and communities you might never meet. Through your kindness, they feel your presence. Through your presence, they know God is with them.

Rev. Rosemary C. Mitchell
Senior Director
Mission Engagement & Support

Danny Guertler	February 16
Josh Patterson	February 16
Kristy Shurley	February 16
Pamela Walsh	February 16
Diane Richardson	February 18
Melissa Hughes	February 19
Roger Bessette	February 20
Beverly Ward	February 20
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	February 27
Andrew Dunn	February 28
John Weeks	February 28

FEBRUARY Birthdays

Hailey Spott	February 1
Richard Walden	February 1
Grace Zweckbronner	February 1
Ann Barlow	February 2
John Crowe	February 2
Jeff Cumins	February 2
Robbie Dobson	February 3
Walt Fadeley	February 3
Sam Penny	February 3
Erin Reasor	February 3
Katelyn Weis	February 4
Caitlin Walsh	February 5
Randi Walsh	February 5
Don Wells	February 6
Emma Leudesdorff	February 7
Norman Sulser	February 7
Gerry Underdown	February 7
Merrilyn Jones	February 8
Jamie Fisher	February 9
Pat Daugherty	February 10
Brittany Bessette	February 11
Tracy Young	February 12
Daniel Arnette	February 13
Mike Joyce	February 13
Nikki Glass	February 14
Jerry Hughes	February 15
Sawyer Hutchison	February 15
Gene Elmore	February 16

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

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

Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Transfiguration Sunday, *February 14*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14*
- President's Day, *February 15*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 17*
- First Sunday in Lent, *February 21*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *February 28*



Join us on Ash Wednesday this year, Wednesday, February 17, 6:30pm in the sanctuary. Come to a meditative service, preparing our hearts for the Lenten season, with the imposition of ashes as

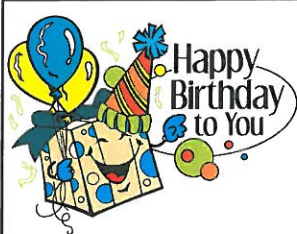
we set forth with Jesus on the journey to the cross.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Meetings

Please join us on all of the Wednesdays in Lent (starting Feb. 17 - Mar. 31) during the regular Zoom Bible Study at 7:00pm for discussions from the book "Living in Lent" by Donald K. Kim.

"The Lenten journey is a shared journey - Christians join with others along the way of faith, following Jesus and seeking to live out the will and purpose of God. *Living into Lent*, written by noted theologian, educator, and author Donald K. McKim, sets aside time during the Lenten season for readers to reflect on their Christian identities, listen to God's Word and will, and engage in practices that deepen the Christian experience through discipleship."

This study will follow our weekly Wednesday Evening Prayer meetings on Wednesdays at 7:00pm on Zoom. Information about the meeting is sent out each Wednesday afternoon so everyone can join. If you have any questions about the prayer meetings, please feel free to speak to Steve or Darren.

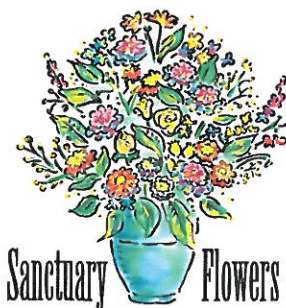


Happy 100th Birthday Charles Moore!

On February 24th, one of our most faithful members, **Charles Moore, Sr.** turns 100 years old! Charles joined Fairfield on March 29, 1942 and has been a faithful member since! He has served in numerous capacities here at Fairfield: Deacon, Elder, Treasurer, original treasurer of the Deacons Discretionary Fund, one of the original men who founded the Men of the Church Thanksgiving Day Breakfast, song leader for the Men's Bible Class on Harvie Road, worked and ran the roads with Bob Temple/others to move the church from Harvie Road to Mechanicsville, volunteered with others to stuff/fold bulletins and much more! Charlie has also been a very active member in visiting the sick and the shut-in members of our church (before COVID) and a wonderful friend to all.

If you get a chance, send Charlie a birthday card for his special day. His address is: 6286 Starke Court, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

Charlie, we wish you a very Happy Birthday and we hope you continue to have many more!



The 2021 Flower Calendar is up! Please sign up for a Sunday in 2021 to honor, remember, or celebrate someone special with flowers! The flowers are 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 remains at \$25.



God's Gift of Love

What Greater Gift Could Christmas Bring
Than Love That Touches Everything
A Love So Meaningful and Wide
The Whole World is Wrapped Inside
Helen Steiner Rice

This poem came to me on a Christmas card many years ago and I believe that it gives us all something to think about. In this month of February when our thoughts turn to Valentine's Day let us reflect on the magnitude of God's gift of love that came to each of us on a Christmas morning long ago when Jesus was born in the form of a baby.

There are many books in our libraries that will help us to understand the greatness of His love and the importance of sharing it with others. In the adult library you will find Amazing Love, Let God Love You and You'll Never Walk Alone. In the children's library you will find Because I Love You, God is Love and Little One God Loves You.

Let us be ever mindful of God's great love for each of us and always strive to reflect His love and share it with others in our lives as we go forward on our journey of faith.

Elizabeth Covington

Fasting for Lent?

Fasting is a path to peace and happiness. That's right: fasting, the practice of abstaining from food or drink for meals, days, and even weeks at a time, is one of the most powerful ways we have of becoming closer to God and finding true joy. Self-denial leads to a greater sense of wholeness. That's why Christians have fasted for

thousands of years, and it's why Lent, the 6-week period between Ash Wednesday and Easter, is a time of serious fasting.

If you have a hard time abstaining from food or drink, consider another way to fast. Sacrifice your interaction with media during Lent. You can fast from the web, or just from Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. You can fast from TV--that means you, Lost and American Idol fans, and you, cable news junkies. You can fast from news blogs, sports sites, or anything else that you read too often.

Chances are, you know what your media addiction is. Give it up until Easter, and you might find that you've given it up for good.



The Power of Sacrifice

Lent has become a vain ritual where Christians give us small, often insignificant vices as they prepare themselves to contemplate the passion and resurrection of Christ. But what if Lent was meant to be much more radical and transformative than that? The fundamental call of Jesus to all who follow him is to sacrifice themselves and their lives for the good of their friends, neighbors, and even enemies. However this call is far more easily preached than practiced. In this Lenten series, we will examine the tangible ways that Jesus demonstrated sacrificial living in his day and age, and the powerful world-shaking ramifications that his sacrificial life had on his society in his day, while posturing ourselves to imitate Jesus in our day.

Feb. 21: Expand Your Mind
Mark 1: 9 - 15

Feb. 28: What Matters Most
Mark 8: 31 - 38

Mar. 7: The Destruction That Brings Life
John 2: 13 - 22

Notes from the Session

Your Elders met for their 2021 inaugural meeting on January 19th during which time they received thank you notes in appreciation of the Church's generosity

- reviewed the annual statistical report sent to the Presbytery
- welcomed the new Elders onto the Session
- recorded our thanks and gratitude for the outgoing class of Elders
- were glad to hear that the Youth Mission Trip is scheduled for 27 June -2 July returning to Altoona, PA
- received the report of the good work the Deacons are doing
- approved the use of the Family Center for the Hanover Fire/EMS for community vaccination program (*n.b: we have since learned that they will not be using our space*)
- welcomed a new chair of Facilities Management and learned of his plans to prepare for Lent/Easter and his plans to gather the Team and meet to get essential work done
- heard that our new organist has been well received and people are glad to hear the organ being played again
- received the year end 2020 treasurer's report and were very grateful to learn that we ended the year with a surplus which will be held in reserve to help with the 2021 budget or for unexpected expenses in the new year
- the Lenten Bible Study will be done virtually as a part of the Wednesday evening prayer meeting on Zoom
- moved the work of the Mission and Christian Witness Team to the Board of Deacons to more closely coordinate the work of compassion especially in these trying times
- elected Stuart Settle and J.R. Marker to be our Commissioners to the February meeting of the Presbytery of the James which will still be a virtual meeting via Zoom (*We subsequently learned that the Presbytery will hold all of its meetings via Zoom for the foreseeable future.*)
- brought forward the plans to do a new photo directory for the church. This is being investigated by David Cunningham and our staff
- learned plans are being made for the Lenten season to be kicked off by a simple Ash Wednesday service
- adjourned to meet again on February 16th.



Under-Age Thinking...

Puzzle!

Discover the identity of a biblical person. First, assign a number value to each letter, starting with M=1, N=2, O=3,... A=15, etc. Then use the code to complete the clues.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
15												1	2	3											

FIRST CLUE: 15 7 15 13 3 9 2 21 1 15 2

22 19 25 23 26 26 19 18 7 3 1 19 3 2 19.

SECOND CLUE: 22 19 11 15 7 8 19 2 18 23 2 21

7 22 19 19 4 23 2 8 22 19 18 19 7 19 6 8

11 22 19 2 21 3 18 17 15 26 26 19 18 22 23 1.

THIRD CLUE: 15 7 15 16 15 16 13 22 19 11 15 7

20 3 9 2 18 20 26 3 15 8 23 2 21 23 2 15

16 15 7 25 19 8 23 2 8 22 19 2 23 26 19 6 23 10 19 6.

Who is this person? _____

Answer: Moses

Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



What you need:

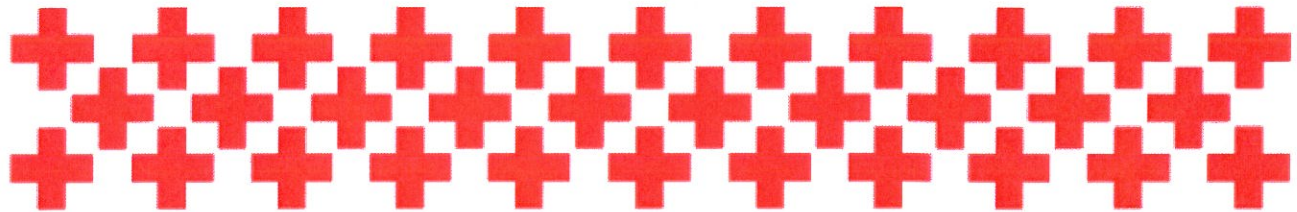
- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
Fairfield Presbyterian Church

Heritage Hall
6930 Cold Harbor Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Tuesday, February 2, 2021
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.

To schedule an appointment, call the church office at (804) 730-7164, visit redcrossblood.org, or call 1-800 RED CROSS

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

Special offer from our partners at Amazon: To thank you for coming to give Feb. 1-28, we'll send you a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Restrictions apply, see amazon.com/gc-legal. Terms and conditions apply; visit rcblood.org/together

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

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FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	1 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#26)	2 Groundhog Day 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM BLOOD DRIVE (Heritage Hall)	3 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online	4 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	5	6 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)
7 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	8	9 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall)	10 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online	11 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	12	13 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)
14 Boy Scout Sunday Transfiguration Sunday Valentine's Day Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	15 Presidents' Day	16 7:00 PM Session Meeting (#20)	17 Ash Wednesday 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service (sanctuary) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online	18 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting (#20) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	19	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)
21 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:30 PM Youth Group (Family Center)	22	23	24 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online	25 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	26	27 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)
28 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 3:30 PM Youth Group Movie Night (Family Center)	1 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#26)	2 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall)	3 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online	4 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	5 World Day of Prayer	6 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)

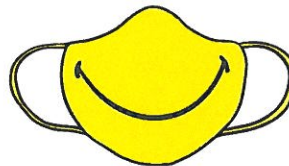


- YouTube.com (search up Fairfield PCUSA)
- On our Facebook page
- at our website: Fairfieldpcusa.org.

In Person Worship Services on Sundays:

8:45 a.m. in the Family Center

11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary



**FACE MASK
REQUIRED**



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

Return Service Requested

