



# The Messenger

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

Web Site: [www.fairfieldpcusa.org](http://www.fairfieldpcusa.org)

E-Mail: [office@fairfieldpcusa.org](mailto:office@fairfieldpcusa.org)

Office Phone: (804) 730-7164

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

## January 2021



Epiphany is a season celebrated in the Christian Church from as far back as the 300s. Historically, it has been a time to celebrate everything from the continued celebration of Christ's birth, the coming of the magi, and the miracle at the wedding of Cana. The specific focus in some traditions is on the baptism of Jesus Christ, because it is the first manifestation of all three persons of the trinity at one time. As we put 2020 behind us, this new year might be a good one to consider some epiphany themes related to Jesus' baptism.

Epiphany means "manifestation" or "appearance" and in the gospel of Mark we read of the appearance of the spirit in the form of a dove when Jesus comes up out of the water. Mark says that the heavens were ripped open, using a word that suggests that the border between God and humanity has been torn apart and will not be sealed off again. Mark will use this word again at the end of the gospel to say that the veil in the temple was ripped apart opening access to the holy of holies to all. This new year let us remember that, no matter how far off God may seem at times, in Jesus Christ the wall between God and us has been torn down and the spirit has descended into each of our hearts and lives.

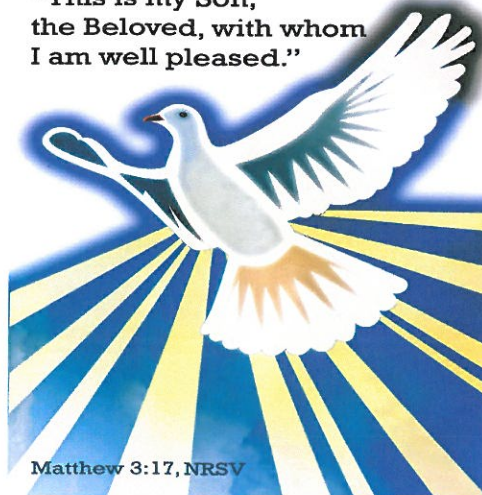
In the gospel of Mark, God says from the heavens at Jesus' baptism: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." These words combine two themes from the Old Testament. One of God's kingdom and its representative as found in Psalm 2 and the Suffering Servant of Isaiah. These simple words

spoken to Jesus remind him of his mission. He will be crowned king and lord, but the coronation will look quite different than most will expect. In Christ we are part of the new humanity following the one true king, but his kingdom is one of service and self-giving love (Mark 10:42-45).

What should also be manifest to each of us this season is that we are people who share in the baptism of Jesus Christ. As Tom Wright says in Mark for Everyone, "The whole Christian gospel could be summed up in this point: that when the living God looks at us, at every baptized and believing Christian, he says to us what he said to Jesus on that day. God sees us, not as we are in ourselves, but as we are in Jesus Christ." Remember this Epiphany that you are a beloved child of God in whom the Creator of all takes delight.

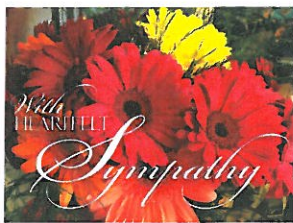
*D Utley*

**"This is my Son,  
the Beloved, with whom  
I am well pleased."**



Matthew 3:17, NRSV

# Member News



Our sympathy goes out to **Tom Lake** and his family on the death of his mother, **Dorothy Lake** on December 15; to **Peggie Rosen** and family on the death of her sister, **Alice**

**Pugh** on December 17; the family of **Stan Hiner** who passed away on December 17. Stan was a member of Fairfield for 20 years and to **Sheila Shaw** on the death of her husband **Emerson** on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please keep these families in your prayers.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Danny Couch**, **John Crowe's** friend **David**, **Reggie Crump**, **Kathy Dixon**, **Johnnie & Nita Dunkum**, **Danny Guertler's** friend **Conrad Kurtz**, **Ken Hayden's** sister, **Judy Ayres**, **Linwood Ingram's** nephew **Buck**, **Jack Mitchell**, **Mike Moore**, **Elizabeth Moorhouse's** friend **Linda Smith**, **Murrell & Joyce Nuckols**, **Win Nuckols**, **Calvin and Barbara Pearson**, **Gene Rosen's** niece, **Tracy**, **Bob Stevens**, **Buford Wade**, **Marge Wantz's** husband **Ned**, **Bill Walter's** mother, **Donna**, **Jack Ward**, **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 for hosting the blood drive on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We were very pleased with the drive overall, and the willingness of the donors to share this life saving gift. The efforts of FPC have always been greatly appreciated and your support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives. There were 43 donors registered, 5 donors were deferred and 38 units were collected! We also registered 4 first time donors! Again thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of the important community program.*

Christine Homan, Account Mgr  
American Red Cross

Fairfield Church,

*Appreciations! Receive our Christmas Greetings and the love of our savior Jesus Christ. I am providing this letter as a BIG THANK YOU for your constant support for our AFRICAN EVANGELICAL INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES-PCUSA. Your year-round selfless support is a great importance to us! Your support in prayers and kind thoughts enables AFRIEM the continuity and commitment in serving our communities. Being a small immigrant congregation, we cannot afford to financially support our Pastor and other outreach programs, yet through your kind donations you enable us to do a lot. Definitely your acts of great hospitality in support of our congregation has made our efforts successful. You are always there for us. We thank you!*

Humphrey Muraya



the elders and deacons who have rotated off in 2020. They are:

Allen Boyle (elder)  
 Larry Hansbrough (elder)  
 Chuck Patterson (deacon)  
 Peggie Rosen (deacon)  
 K. C. Whitaker (elder)  
 Jenny Young (elder)

These members served our congregation well and did a wonderful job! Please be sure to thank these individuals when you see them.

We now welcome our new Class of 2023! The following individuals will be installed and/or ordained as **deacons** on January 24th:

Cindy Cattoi  
 Dwight Clark  
 Elizabeth Moorhouse  
 Pam Roberts  
 Debby Starzer

The following individuals will be installed and/or ordained as **elders** on January 17th

Vicky Brady  
 David Cunningham  
 Jim France  
 Donna Hohman  
 Allison Letourneau

Please pray for these individuals as they serve our church and the members herein. Give them your support when asked to help in some small way. Volunteer to help them out when the need arises. Our leadership is only as strong as our members!



Brenda Harris	January 2
Zachary Letourneau	January 3
Collin Humphrey	January 4
Tess Wenninger	January 4
Kelly Wolfgang	January 5
Kathryn Zweckbronner	January 6
Dale Woodfin	January 10
Eva Ladd	January 11
Richie Tanner	January 11
Ryan Westphal	January 12
Richard Wood	January 12
Cooper Irwin	January 13
Debby Starzer	January 13
Jo Mitchell	January 14
Sydney Westphal	January 14
Jack Briel	January 15
Jeff Harding	January 18
Nancy Hart	January 19
Morgan Wills	January 19
Diane Brown	January 20
Anna Barrowclough	January 21
Louise Setchel	January 23
Elizabeth Davis	January 24
Troy Horn	January 24
Charles Walsh	January 24
William Dunn	January 25
Mike Hohman	January 26
Virginia Phipps	January 26
Hailey Weis	January 26
Rick Richardson	January 27



Jeff & Becky Cumins	January 4
Scott & Megan Stevens	January 30
Tracy & Beth Young	January 31

## Special dates

- New Year's Day, January 1
- Epiphany, January 6
- Baptism of the Lord, January 10
- Religious Freedom Day, January 16
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18
- Inauguration Day, January 20
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25

## Wednesday Evening Prayer Meetings

Our weekly Wednesday Evening Prayer meetings continue 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.



*"God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in times of  
trouble." Psalms 46 v. 1*

As I write this article and reflect on this past year, I think we can all agree that God has indeed been our refuge and strength.

He has been our guide through what has been a tumultuous year.

As we begin this new year our libraries have many resources to help us along on our spiritual journeys as we strive to remain strong in our faith. In the adult library you will find God is Closer Than You Think, Jesus Loves Me tThis I Know and Never Alone. In the children's library look for All Things Bright and Beautiful, Me and God and Thank You God For Everything.

Even through the difficulties of life may we always be strong in our faith, never lose hope and rest in the knowledge that God is our strength. Happy New Year and it is my hope that 2021 will be a year of fresh starts and new beginnings.

Elizabeth Covington

## Well Done, Good and Faithful Givers

In the November newsletter the Mission Committee announced how the Angel Tree project would be handled during this unusual Christmas season. In a very short time members of our congregation donated a total of \$1,650 to be used to care for a local family with four children. We bought 51 different items, including 180 diapers and 1,100 wipes for the baby sister. These items cost \$600, after our savings of over \$200 with coupons and special sales. With the remaining funds we purchased gift cards for the eleven families that Cold Harbor School is helping this year.

Your generosity is helping all of these local families, bringing joy to the children, their parents and the staff at Cold Harbor Elementary School. May your joy overflow, knowing the happiness that you have given to our community. Thank you!

Blessings and joy,  
The Mission Committee



## NEWS from Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions (MCEF)

*Happy New Year!*

MCEF is grateful for the outpouring of food, clothing, and financial assistance. 2020 was an extraordinary year for everyone. Paying attending to COVID protocols that have been in place to keep our volunteers and clients safe has been at the top of the agenda for MCEF. This will be true as we head into 2021 too.

In 2020 over 1,200 families were helped at the One Stop Shop. Prior to Thanksgiving everyone got an extra bag of food suitable to prepare a dinner for the holiday and the same was able to be provided for Christmas.

Please know that MCEF could not operate if it wasn't for the generosity of the churches, businesses and individuals in Mechanicsville and the tireless efforts of great volunteers.

FUNDRAISING: remember to check out Chicken Salad Chick the third Monday of the month and mention that you support MCEF. Expanded hours are 10:00am to 8:00pm.

Thank you for your donations!  
Nancy Gallihugh



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.

## New Years Prayer

Thank you Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And the happiness it brings.

Please give the leaders of our world  
A courage born of peace  
That they might lead us gently  
And all the fighting cease.

Please give to all upon this earth  
A heart that's filled with love  
A gentle happy way to live  
With your blessings from above.



Fairfield is now connected with Amazon Smile! Support Fairfield by registering with [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), select Fairfield Presbyterian Church and you're all set! When you shop you will be supporting your church as well!

## *Notes from the Session*

During an expedited meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> your Elders....

- learned of a new mission taking place in the city of Richmond feeding the homeless: Lashanna Foundation
- endorsed the annual offering of the Blue Christmas service on December 21<sup>st</sup> to remember those who have been promoted to glory and support those who are grieving
- wished well and expressed their appreciation for the work of Allen Boyle, Larry Hansbrough, Jenny Young and K.C. Whitaker who are each rotating off the Session
- heard that facilities management is keeping busy with the repair of the tractor, carpets being cleaned and the addition of solar film on the windows of the Barlow Parlor
- approved this budget for 2021, slightly lower than the asking budget but in line with our caution as we move through the final months of Covid-19
- celebrated the fact that the congregation has generously provided and that cost cutting measures have enabled us to end the year in the positive and has enabled us to do a tremendous amount of mission to help people make it through these trying times
- gratefully heard of the continuing success of the Wednesday evening zoom prayer and study events
- delighted to know that the Children's Sunday School program is doing well and is being offered in a very safe manner
- celebrated the fact that Fairfield Church rose to the occasion of helping children and families in our neighborhood through our cooperation and support of the Cold Harbor Elementary School - over \$1,600 was raised for gifts and essentials for these families
- supported the Deacons as they reported to us that they are trying to further discern and refine the way that they serve the homebound of our congregation
- heard the report of the Christmas Eve Worship Service Task Force that we hold three services, each in the Family Center and that all precautions be taken to do so as safely as possible.
- adjourned for the year and will meet again with the new class of Elders on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2021



## Under-Age Thinking...

# Puzzle!

Complete each saying below. Then place the words from those blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

1. When the going gets tough, the tough \_\_\_\_\_ going.
2. People who live in glass houses should \_\_\_\_\_ throw stones.
3. If the shoe fits, \_\_\_\_\_ it.
4. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the kingdom of God."
5. Good things come \_\_\_\_\_ those who wait.
6. When in Rome, \_\_\_\_\_ as the Romans do.
7. Don't wear \_\_\_\_\_ your welcome.
8. If you want something done right, do it \_\_\_\_\_.

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*Write the unscrambled proverb here:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ PROVERBS 23:4

Answer: Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Proverbs 23:4

## A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



### What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

### What you do:

1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.



**American Red Cross**  
Capital Virginia

# Turn Compassion Into Action!

## Become a Red Cross Volunteer Today!

Volunteers carry out 90% of the humanitarian work of the Red Cross. Whether helping one displaced family or thousands, providing care and comfort to an ill or injured service member or veteran, or teaching others how to respond in emergencies, it's through the efforts of ordinary people that we can do extraordinary things. The Red Cross responds to an emergency every 8 minutes, and our vital work is only possible because of people like you.



## Volunteers Urgently Needed for the Following Positions in Your Community:

### Blood Transportation Specialist

Deliver life-saving blood products from collection sites to processing lab and/or to hospital.

Preferred commitment:  
2-4 shifts (4 hour shifts) per month

### Blood Donor Ambassador

Help Save lives in your community by supporting blood collection at a local blood drive.

Preferred commitment:  
1 shift (4-5 hour shifts) per month

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**To learn more, visit [redcross.org/volunteer](http://redcross.org/volunteer) or contact:**

**Charles White, American Red Cross of Virginia**  
[charles.white6@redcross.org](mailto:charles.white6@redcross.org) or (804) 382-8055

# JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> Worship on-line with us at <a href="http://www.fairfieldpcusa.org">www.fairfieldpcusa.org</a> <b>8:45 AM - 9:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) <b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Prayer Meeting Online	<b>31</b> Church Office closes at noon	<b>1</b> Church Office Closed <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>2</b> <b>2:30 PM - 4:00 PM</b> New Beginnings Church (HH)
<b>3</b> Worship on-line with us at <a href="http://www.fairfieldpcusa.org">www.fairfieldpcusa.org</a> <b>8:45 AM - 9:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) <b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	<b>4</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Personnel Team (#26)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Epiphany</b> <b>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) <b>7:00 PM</b> Prayer Meeting Online	<b>7</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) <b>8:00 PM</b> Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>2:30 PM - 4:00 PM</b> New Beginnings Church (HH)
<b>10</b> Worship on-line with us at <a href="http://www.fairfieldpcusa.org">www.fairfieldpcusa.org</a> <b>8:45 AM - 9:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) <b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall)	<b>13</b> <b>5:30 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts (#20) <b>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) <b>7:00 PM</b> Prayer Meeting Online	<b>14</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) <b>8:00 PM</b> Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>2:30 PM - 4:00 PM</b> New Beginnings Church (HH)
<b>17</b> <b>Elder Ordination &amp; Installation</b> Worship on-line with us at <a href="http://www.fairfieldpcusa.org">www.fairfieldpcusa.org</a> <b>8:45 AM - 9:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) <b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	<b>18</b> <b>Martin L. King, Jr. Day</b>	<b>19</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Session Meeting (#20)	<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Greenbar Meeting (#19) <b>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) <b>7:00 PM</b> Prayer Meeting Online	<b>21</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Committee Meeting (#20) <b>8:00 PM</b> Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>2:30 PM - 4:00 PM</b> New Beginnings Church (HH)
<b>24</b> <b>Deacon Ordination &amp; Installation</b> Worship on-line with us at <a href="http://www.fairfieldpcusa.org">www.fairfieldpcusa.org</a> <b>8:45 AM - 9:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) <b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>5:30 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts (#20) <b>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) <b>7:00 PM</b> Prayer Meeting Online	<b>28</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) <b>8:00 PM</b> Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>2:30 PM - 4:00 PM</b> New Beginnings Church (HH)
<b>31</b> Worship on-line with us at <a href="http://www.fairfieldpcusa.org">www.fairfieldpcusa.org</a> <b>8:45 AM - 9:45 AM</b> Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) <b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	<b>1</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Personnel Team (#26)	<b>2</b> <b>Groundhog Day</b> <b>1:00 PM - 6:00 PM</b> BLOOD DRIVE (Family Center) <b>7:00 PM</b> Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall)	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) <b>7:00 PM</b> Prayer Meeting Online	<b>4</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall) <b>8:00 PM</b> Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>2:30 PM - 4:00 PM</b> New Beginnings Church (HH)

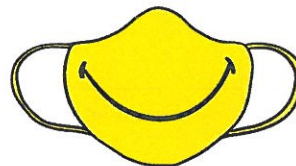


- YouTube.com (search up Fairfield PCUSA)
- On our Facebook page
- at our website: [Fairfieldpcusa.org](http://Fairfieldpcusa.org).

**In Person Worship Services on Sundays:**

**8:45 a.m. in the Family Center**

**11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**



**FACE MASK  
REQUIRED**



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P.O. Box 1088  
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**Return Service Requested**

