



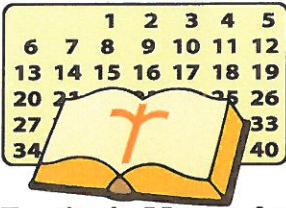
The Messenger

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 2021



Pastor's Message for Lent

In the church, March is a full month of the Lenten season. Lent can mean a lot of things to a lot of people, but one thing the Lent and Easter season means in worship is that we get healthy doses of the Gospel of John to shape our preaching, praise and prayers. This year three of the four Sundays in March have readings from John's gospel and the last Sunday is Palm/Passion Sunday. I would like to draw our attention to these John texts because I think they offer us a way to deepen our walk with God this month and this Lenten season.

The first reading in March is John 2:13-22. You may recall that John is unique in that he has Jesus cleansing the temple on his first of three trips to Jerusalem. John is more interested in Christology than chronology. That is to say that John focuses on who Christ is without much regard for the orderly development of the other gospels. This text reminds us that one of our tasks during Lent is to refocus our hearts, minds and life on the life God desires for us. Are we too caught up in the market place? Where is our zeal for the place where the presence of God resides? What do we need to drive out of our lives to more fully follow Jesus?

The second reading in March comes from the encounter with Nicodemus, John 3:14-21. Coming midway between Ash Wednesday and Easter this text is a reminder that however we have fallen short in our pursuit of God and God's will in our lives, grace is more than abundant to

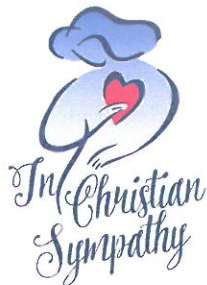
save us and bring us more fully into the light of God's love. The light has come into the world, God sent the Son that the world might be saved through him. We can take time to ask for more of the light of God to shine in our lives and lead us into deeds that are done in God.

The third reading in March takes us back to Jerusalem in John 12:20-33. In these verses, Jesus speaks of his impending death and what it will mean for the world. In the first section, Greeks come to Jesus and he speaks of how a grain of wheat must fall into the earth and die or it will remain but a single grain. Jesus in this text asks us to consider the cost to bear good fruit. By this time in the Lenten season we might have noticed attitudes or actions that we need to adjust in order to be better Christ followers. Pruning them out of our life can be difficult, but Jesus challenges us to let our lives go in order to be children of light.

The final week of March brings us to Palm Sunday and we will be looking expectantly toward Easter. I pray that this month will bring us closer to the light of Christ and the love of God.

Forty
Days
OF LENT

Member News



Our sympathy goes out to **Reggie Crump** and his family on the death of his daughter **Kathy Dixon**, who lost her battle with cancer on February 19th. Please keep Reggie and his family in your prayers.

Fran & Larry Hansbrough have moved. Here is their new address: 2164 Kinnington Parkway, North, Aylett, VA 23009. Their new home phone number is 473-9672.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **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's** 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.)

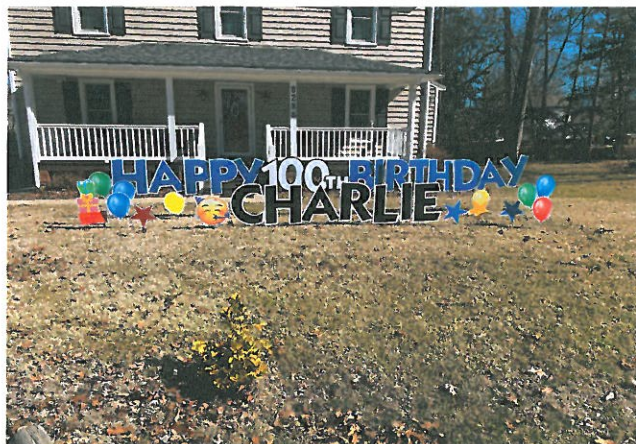


Dear Fairfield Family, Words are not enough to express our gratitude and thanks sent to our families during the surgery, illness and death of our husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Win Nuckols. Your prayers, cards, phone calls, and kind words have carried us through this very sad and difficult time. We have truly felt the love of Jesus by your thoughtfulness. Daddy loved our Lord and Fairfield Church, and you have demonstrated why to us through your concerns for our families. We are looking forward to the day when we can celebrate his life in a memorial service with all of you. We will never forget your serving Christ with your outpouring of love to us.

Love in Christ,
Gerry Nuckols
Steve Nuckols and family
Celeste Underdown and family

To my church family,
I would like to thank everyone who sent me a special birthday card for my 100th birthday on February 24. It really meant a lot to me and I appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness. I would also like to thank my church for the wonderful yard card!

Much love,
Charles Moore, Sr.



Steve & Fran,
I am writing to express my appreciation to you, the session, and the congregation of FPC for your faithful support of the work of the Presbytery and the larger church. These are touch times and your strength and resilience through it all is amazing. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to you in this new year as you continue to care for your congregation, community, and your ministry.

Blessing,
 Deborah Rexrode (POJ)

Dear Friends,
I want you to know how much I appreciate you. Without you, without your kindness, Camp Hanover couldn't have navigated 2020 and the challenges created by a global pandemic. Thank you for caring about this place and doing something that means something. If you have any questions for me about Camp, or would like to know more about that you have made possible through your generosity, please call me at (804) 779-2811.

Be well and stay safe,
 Doug Walters
 Executive Director

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
Mandy Harding	March 20
Emily Cunningham	March 21
Vicky Brady	March 25
Everleigh Mueller	March 25
Julie Gee	March 26
Celeste Underdown	March 26
Dale Berry	March 27
Erica Hutchison	March 27
Victoria Tanner	March 28
Kaylah Wilson	March 28
Alison Dunn	March 29
Keith Franklin	March 29
Pam Roberts	March 29
Jean Kirwan	March 30
Brooke Bessette	March 31



MARCH Birthdays



MARCH Anniversaries

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
Mya Hall	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

Kristy & Jay Shurley	March 17
Bill & Phyllis Kerns	March 21
Jake & Sharon Eshler	March 25
Cindy & Wayne Carey	March 29

Special dates

-
- World Day of Prayer, *March 5*
 - Daylight-Saving Time begins, *March 14*
 - Saint Patrick's Day
 - First Day of Spring, *March 20*
 - Holy Week, *March 28 - April 4*
 - Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 28*

Wednesday Evening Prayer Meetings

Please join us on Wednesdays evenings for a short prayer meeting and our Zoom Bible Study at 7:00pm for discussions from the book "Living in Lent" by Donald K. Kim. An email will be sent out each Wednesday afternoon to let you know the information for the Zoom meeting. We hope you can join us!

2021 Mission Drive

Last year's Mission Drive was a great success. With all of the generous contributions that you made, Fairfield was able to spread the love of Jesus to many people and organizations locally and internationally. Your dollars were used to continue translating the Bible into the language of tribes in New Guinea, helping foreign missionaries spread the Gospel in distant lands, supporting MCEF, Camp Hanover, those needing financial help at Covenant Woods and eleven families with children at Cold Harbor Elementary School at Christmas.

The love, care and kindness that our congregation has shared with people near and far in the name of Jesus during this past year has been remarkable. The Mission Committee looks forward to being able to continue reaching out and helping to draw many to Jesus and to the Good News of the Gospel.

Our annual Mission Drive runs from **March 7 through April 11**. **Just write "Mission Drive" on your check memo line. Give as your heart guides you!**

With gratitude and thanks,
The Mission Committee

News from Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions (MCEF) and One Stop Shop (OSS)

Here are some statistics for 2020:

- Direct Financial Assistance of \$50,011 to 107 families for electricity, water, rent, fuel oil and prescriptions.
- The OSS (which was closed for three months of 2020) served 350 households (1,026 people) with 2,215 bags of food, 636 bags of clothing and 79 bags of linens.
- Hanover Senior Rides gave 1,228 rides to 93 riders.

Making sure that our volunteers and clients were safe and felt safe at the OSS and with Senior Rides called for some creative strategies. Relying on the CDC and the VA Health department's guidance, we adapted and continue to adapt every week.

All the services provided in 2020 and everyday are because churches, businesses and individuals in Mechanicsville provide the funds and goods. It couldn't be done without you.

A few current needs that have been identified:

- bar soap, spinach, instant oatmeal and grits packets, pancake mix and syrup, jelly or preserves.
- men's jeans - smaller to medium sizes.
- double and king sheet sets.

Have you tried Chicken Salad Chick yet? Give it a try and mention that you support MCEF so MCEF can get a portion of the sale. Next date is Monday, March 15 from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.



The Power of Sacrifice

We continue with our Lent sermon series this month. Here is what to look for:

- Mar. 7: The Destruction That Brings Life
John 2: 13 - 22
- Mar. 14: The Spotlight of Grace
John 3: 14-21
- Mar. 21 Sacrificial Bravery
John 12: 20 - 33
- Mar. 28 Palm Sunday - Joy Before Sorrow
Mark 11: 1-11



Easter Tulips

We will be ordering tulips for Easter Sunday this year. They will be assorted tulips in a 6" pot wrapped in foil with a spring bow. The cost \$15 each. You can purchase one in honor, memory, or in celebration of someone special. Look for the order form coming in the next week or so. You can fill out the form and turn it in on Sundays, or call the church office to let Donna know you would like to purchase one.

Let's fill our worship spaces with bright beautiful colors!

Laud & Honor on Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday anthem "All Glory Laud and Honor" is one of Christendom's oldest hymns. St. Theodulf of Orleans who helped reform the church under Charlemagne, wrote the lyrics in the year 820 while imprisoned in France.

The Lyrics recount Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and event the medieval church reenacted every Palm Sunday. Clergy and townspeople processed from fields through the city gates, behind a Jesus figure riding a donkey. At the gates, children began singing the hymn in Latin - *Gloria, laus et honor* - and onlookers soon chimed in.

City gates may be a thing of the past, as the website Hymnary.org notes, yet we still praise our blessed Redeemer "because we know just what kind of King he was and is - an everlasting King who reigns not just in Jerusalem but over the entire earth. What more could we do but praise him with glory, laud and honor."

*All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer,
King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet
hosanna ring.
You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.*



Notes from the Session

Your Elders met for their monthly meeting on February 16th during which time they:

- were glad to hear that the Youth Mission Trip is scheduled for 27 June - 2 July returning to Altoona, PA. The initial reservations have been placed!
- received the report of the good work the Deacons are doing, most recently with a mailing to a number of our members who aren't able to worship with us.
- approved the Children's Ministry Team's plan to add a planter box or two to the playground to be used for lessons with the children and to grow some food for the MCEF Pantry.
- revived our activity of looking toward the future of the church in several areas which were put on the back burner because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We will be looking at growing our endowment, the possibility of a memorial garden/columbarium and solar panels.
- were reminded that the Lenten Bible Study will be done virtually as a part of the Wednesday evening prayer meeting on Zoom using a devotional called "Living into Lent" by Donald McKim.
- talked at length about how we gear up again following the pandemic including some type of celebration.
- endorsed the continued use of live streaming and posting our worship services on YouTube.
- supported the efforts of Facilities Management to continue to do many projects around the church including but not limited to fixing gutters, reupholstering furniture in the Barlow Parlor, and painting a hallway.
- were glad to learn that the Chair and Vice Chair of Personnel/Nominations had an orientation meeting to begin to look at what lies before them.
- affirmed 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.
- learned plans are being made for the Lenten season to be kicked off by a simple Ash Wednesday service.
- adjourned to meet again on March 16th.



Under-Age Thinking...



BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.



VDEO

_____ (Genesis 8:8)



LWO

_____ (Psalm 102:6)



GEELA

_____ (Isaiah 40:31)



TOKRS

_____ (Jeremiah 8:7)



APROSWRS

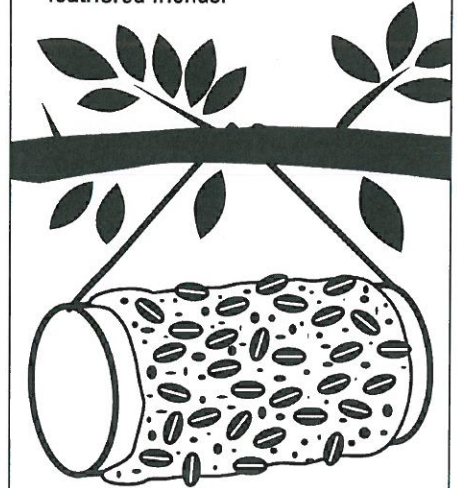
“Are not five _____ sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many _____.”

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, eagle, stork, sparrows



Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



What you need:

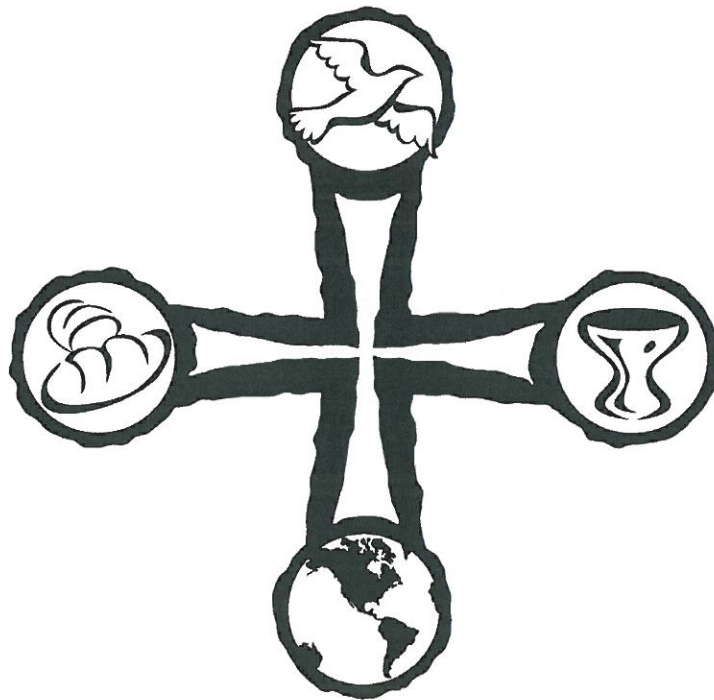
- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.

2021
MISSION DRIVE

March 7th - April 11th



MISSION

MISSION FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2020

With the generous contributions we received last year from the members of Fairfield Presbyterian Church, we were able to raise a total of \$14,016. It enabled us support to many organizations, internationally, within the US, and locally, which spread the word of Christ in their daily efforts, needed dollars for their ongoing projects. Each year we ask the same question when considering an organization or cause to support: *How do they spread the love of Jesus Christ in their endeavors?*

We are pleased to share with you how this money was spent and a little about the groups that were supported.

Internationally

David and Susan Howard – The Howard's arrived in Papua, New Guinea in 1998 and have been working among the Adzera people since 1999. David serves as a translation advisor for the Wycliffe Bible Translators and mentor to Adzera speakers translating the Scriptures into their mother tongue and as the team leader for the new Markham Multi-Language Project. He is also a translation consultant, has been involved in training Papua New Guinea Bible translators, and has served in administrative roles to meet short-term needs. Susan works on Adzera literacy projects when home responsibilities allow. She also teaches a literacy class in Ukarumpa and volunteers to meet various other needs in the community.

The Jesus Film Project – A two-hour docudrama about the life of Christ, according to the Gospel of Luke. This film has been seen in every country of the world and translated into over 1500 languages. Since the "JESUS" film was first shown in 1979, more than 490 million people have come to know Christ through the ministry of The JESUS Film Project®. This equates to one person every 5.5 seconds. Campus Crusade for Christ oversees this film project.

The Helping Hands Project - Our used Sunday School Books, Devotionals and Paperback Bibles were mailed out to missionaries in many parts of the world.

Frontier Fellowship – We help to support Richard Haney, the Executive Director. PFF describes itself as "a mission support group that works with congregations to establish indigenous churches among unreached people." PFF reaches out to believing communities to engage people groups where the good news of Jesus and his kingdom is not yet known.

Locally

Covenant Woods – we provided assistance for the ongoing cost for senior adults who are no longer able to afford their own care.

MCEF - One Stop Shop (OSS) - along with other Mechanicsville churches Fairfield is supporting the operating expenses of the OSS. Now that the ministries of MCEF are under one roof (7235 Stonewall Parkway, 23111), area churches have committed to helping with the operating expenses. Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions (MCEF) provides food, clothing, financial assistance and transportation through Senior Rides to our neighbors in the 23111 and 23116 zip codes.

Camp Hanover – We supported both camperships and maintenance for our local outdoor youth and adult camp, which is a Christ centered community, where youth and adults find their direction and acceptance through God's presence.

Angel Tree Project – Fairfield partnered with Cold Harbor Elementary School to help local families in need. You supplied a list of needs and a few wishes for a family of four children. Because of your

generosity, ten additional families received gift cards to Walmart to make Christmas special. Your gifts brought joy to many children and their families on Christmas morning.

HOW you can HELP

We will be accepting contributions from March 7th through April 11th. Please make your check payable to Fairfield Presbyterian Church and mark your check and/or envelope "Missions."



*As a Christian community,
together we BELONG to God,
GROW in Christ and SERVE led by the Spirit*

MARCH 2021

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#26)	2 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall)	3 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 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)	
7 Girl Scout Sunday 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)	8 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	9	10 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM Girl Scouts (#20) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 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 11:00 AM Memorial Service for Kathy Dixon (FC) 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)	
14 Daylight-Saving Time Begins 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)	15 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	16 7:00 PM Session Meeting (#20)	17 St. Patrick's Day 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Greenbar Meeting (#19) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online	18 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting (#20) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	19	20 First Day of Spring Newsletter Deadline 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) 3:30 PM Youth Group Movie Night (Family Center)	22 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	23	24 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM Girl Scouts (#20) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 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 Palm Sunday 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)	29 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	30	31 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting Online	1 Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	2 Good Friday	3 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)	

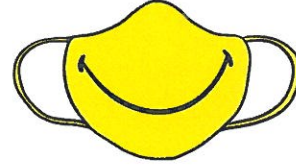


- YouTube.com (search up Fairfield PCUSA)
- On our Facebook page
- at our website: Fairfieldpcusa.org.

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

March