



The Messenger

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

May 2021



FAREWELL Dear Fairfield Family,

I still remember how comforting it was to hear peels of laughter coming from the sanctuary as I anxiously awaited the vote to accept my candidacy as Associate Pastor here at Fairfield just over seven years ago. Whether it was Amy Atkinson's story telling or a Richard Dunn pun, it gave me a feeling of reassurance that I was in the right place among people who would welcome me with the warmth and generosity of full-bodied laughter. This has been my experience here at Fairfield — warmth, kindness, generosity, laughter, and so much more. So it is with extreme gratefulness and considerable sadness that I announce my call to become solo pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Racine, WI beginning in July of this year.

Fairfield has taught me so much and you all have been so incredibly gracious to both me and my family. I could never have imagined such a welcoming and supportive environment in which to grow and develop as a minister. Much credit goes to Steve for providing mentorship and a collegial relationship that would be the envy of any working partnership. Even so, we both are constantly amazed at the love and support we receive from all of you and I know that I will struggle to find a comparable experience. I will forever be in debt to you all for all that you have

given to me and help to grow in me over these seven years.

I would like to thank Richard Dunn, Amy Atkinson, Rick Houchins, J.R. Marker, Barbara Wash, Jerry Williamson and Jenny Young for taking a chance on me all those years ago when they were doing the important work of the APNC who ended up calling me. Each one has remained a source of encouragement and I am grateful for all their love and support. I only regret that I did not get more time to know and be embraced by Rick who left us too soon. Of course, I must thank Donna for everything that she does to make Steve and I look like we really know what we are doing. I know that I have been blessed to have someone with so much experience, compassion and dedication working alongside us in the office. I know that you all are aware of the amazing staff ministering among you. They all will set a very high bar for all those who I will work with in the future. Angela Blue's dedication to reaching out to families to welcome them into our church family and her passion for helping everyone experience the love of God in their lives has been an inspiration to me. Matt and Amy along with the praise band have shown such passion for communicating the good news of God's love. Their servant hearts and welcoming attitudes make the praise band one of a kind (and this is all before we talk about their actual talent as musicians). Celeste, whose dedication to the church and deep faith, has

helped make worship meaningful and encouraged me in my ministry. I am grateful as well for Jane, Dave and I cannot forget the man behind the scenes, John.

I will not be able to go through and thank everyone by name who has meant so much to me over my time at Fairfield, so I hope each of you have fond memories as I do. I hope that you

are grateful for our time together like I am and I ask for your prayers as I embark on this new calling. I will miss you all and ask for God's blessing for my Fairfield family.

Grace and peace to each of you,



An "Open House" reception will be held on **June 13** to give everyone a chance to wish Darren well, express their gratitude and say your good-byes **in the Family Center from 2-4pm.**

Member News

Our sympathy goes out to **Juanita (Nita) Dunkum** on the death of her husband John (Johnnie) Dunkum on April 1st. Our sympathy also goes out to **Fran Hansbrough** on the death of her sister, Jane Loney who passed away on April 26th. Please keep these families in your prayers.

Larry & Fran Hansbrough's new phone number is 473-9672. Please make a note of this in your directory. Fran's new email address is: franandlarry@atlanticbb.net

Brenda Harris has moved. Her new address is 8203 Meadowbridge Road, Apt. 4034, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Her cell phone number is 804-647-4544.

Brett & Katy Underdown have moved. Their new address is 3609 Longhill Court, Chesapeake, VA 23323.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Nita Dunkum, Jack Mitchell, Calvin and Barbara Pearson, Jean Plott, Gene Rosen's** niece, Tracy, **Buford Wade, Marge Wantz'** husband Ned, **Jack Ward, 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 Friends,

I want to thank each of you for your kindness - your calls, cards and prayers have been of so much support these days. It was so helpful to know that other people are so caring. My sincere thanks to everyone.

Nita Dunkum

I would like to thank our Deacons for their love and the Brunswick Stew and rolls. I have enjoyed both very much!

Marie Maida

Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, May 6
- Mother's Day, May 9
- Ascension Day, May 13
- Pentecost, May 23
- Trinity Sunday, May 30



There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 16 at 10:00am in the Family Center for the purpose of requesting the Presbytery of the James to dissolve the relationship with Darren.

MAY Anniversaries

Anna & Kevin Barrowclough	May 1
Jerry & Melissa Hughes	May 1
John & Arlene Butchyk	May 2
Sharon & George Tuckwiller	May 6
Norman & Barbara Wash	May 9
Sheri & Patrick Wodwaski	May 9
Chuck & Susan Lorch	May 10
Roger & Crystal Bessette	May 20
Wyatt & Morgan Wills	May 20
CJ & Sarah Hall	May 21
Kelley & Eric Spott	May 24
Jacob & Leigh Lafferty	May 29
Amy & Stephen Atkinson	May 30

MAY Birthdays

Cindy Cattoi	May 1
Joanne Leudesdorff	May 1
Meredith Atkinson	May 4
Erik Whitaker	May 4
Cameron Hutchison	May 5
Rebecca Harvey	May 6
Shirley McGhee	May 6
Sean Wodwaski	May 7
Janna Daugherty	May 8
Carl Fulwider	May 8
Bonnie Warren	May 8
J. R. Marker	May 9
Arnold Neuharth	May 10
Abby Reasor	May 10
Sharon Eshler	May 11
Alan Brown	May 18
Zachary Hale	May 18
Jacob Lafferty	May 18
Mike Reasor	May 18
Elizabeth Moorhouse	May 19
Jolie Daugherty	May 21
Jack Letourneau	May 21
Munira Dunn	May 24
Carolyn Ingram	May 24
Chris Lorch	May 24
Barbara Smith	May 24
Graham Williamson	May 24
Pam Gigliotti	May 26
Linwood Ingram	May 28
Kim Stevens	May 28
Bob Stevens	May 29
Brandon Sulser	May 30
Myra Compton	May 31
Tim Gulliver	May 31
Caroline Hastings	May 31
Brett Underdown	May 31



★NATIONAL★ DAY of PRAYER

National Day of Prayer is an annual event that is celebrated on the first Thursday in the month of May. Originally designated by the U.S. Congress, the purpose of the day is to have American citizens "turn to God in prayer and meditation." The official National Day of Prayer website states that their mission is "to mobilize prayer in America and to encourage personal repentance and righteousness in culture."

Almost every U.S. President has signed a proclamation each year that encourages citizens to pray on this special day. The notable Presidents who did not issue these proclamations are Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson. Even though the current law that formalizes the annual observance of National Day of Prayer was not enacted until President Harry S. Truman signed it into law in 1952, the Second Continental Congress established days for fasting and prayer as early as 1775. President John Adams also established prayer and fasting days in 1798-1799.

The National Day of Prayer falls on May 6th this year.



Shh!

We will be hosting the IB exams for Mechanicsville High School this month in the Family Center. Please do not enter through the Family Center doors during the day as students will be testing. Thank you!

Wednesday Evening Prayer Meetings

Please join us on Wednesdays evenings for a prayer meeting on Zoom. 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!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry strives to provide a measure of healing and comfort during trying times. We are working to replenish the Prayer Shawl closet after our two previous meetings.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the first Wednesday of the month and **the next meeting is Wednesday, May 5 at 10:00 in the Barlow Parlor.** We would welcome you into our fellowship.

Anna Barrowclough



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5: v. 16-18

The National Day of Prayer for this year is May 6th. As

Christians prayer should be an important part of our daily lives. We should spend a few quiet minutes of each day in prayer with our God. In the library you will find a special section on prayer with many titles that will help us to strengthen our prayer lives. Look for Discovering the Power of Prayer, All Will Be Well and Enter Every Trembling Heart. In the children's library you will find Child's Treasury of Best Loved Prayers, Prayers and Graces and The Child's Own Book of Prayer and Hymns.

May we never forget the importance of prayer and talking with our God in our spiritual lives.

Elizabeth Covington



Is it enough to think today
Of all our brave, then put away
The thought until a year has sped?
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song
And deck a grave; and all year long
Forget the brave who died that we
Might keep our great land proud and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,
That we who live give heart and soul
To keep the land they died to save,
And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!



Over the past couple of years, we have lost several of our members who used to help prepare communion for the first Sunday of the month. The communion set-up team needs **YOUR** help. We need someone to be responsible for setting up before and cleaning up after communion on the first Sunday of each month.

This could be a couple or an individual that would be part of a team that rotates this responsibility. It would work out to be 3 or maybe 4 times a year that your help would be needed.

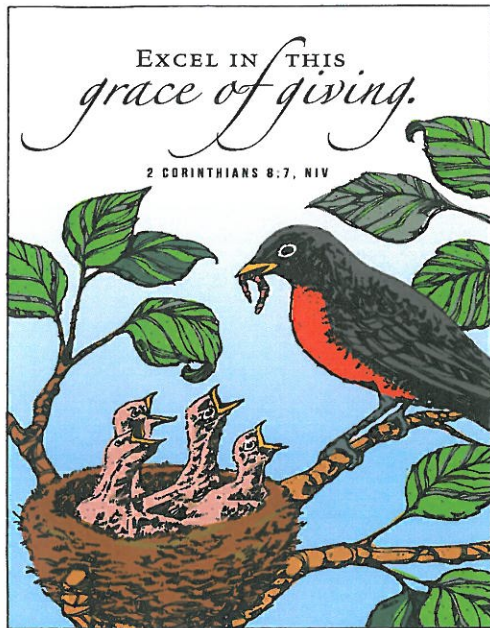
If this sounds like something that interests you and you would like to serve your church family, please contact Elizabeth Covington at 804-779-3364 or email us at lscehc@yahoo.com.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon!

"Jesus Stand Among Us"

Jesus, stand among us,
in your risen power'
Let this time of worship
be a hallowed hour.
Breathe the Holy Spirit
into every heart;
Bid the fears and sorrows
from each soul depart.
Thus with quickened
footsteps
we pursue our way,
watching for the dawning
of eternal day.





Loving an EGR

During a conversation over coffee, a friend mentioned an "EGR." I had to interrupt and ask for a definition: Extra Grace Required - in other words, people who can seem tough to love. Often, they're the most in need of love because they're hurting. Perhaps Jesus was referring to EGRs when he said, "If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much." (Matt. 5:46)

Truly loving others - even EGRs - might not be as tough as we think. Simple gestures such as smiling, truly listening, sending a note or extending an invitation go a long way toward expressing care and softening hearts.

At times, we all require extra grace. Thankfully God has an unlimited amount to extend to us and then through us. Out of joy, we can find ways - even simple ones - to share God's grace and love with people who need it.

Janna Firestone

Joys of Motherhood

- ★ A hug for no reason.
- ★ Belly laughs
- ★ The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- ★ Smiles and giggles.
- ★ Mud pies.
- ★ Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- ★ Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- ★ Quiet moments on the couch.
- ★ Reading aloud together.
- ★ A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- ★ Watching your child be kind to another.
- ★ Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- ★ A child's look of surprise and joy.
- ★ A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- ★ The words "I love You" - and a sticky kiss.



Notes from the Session

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Hall, Your Elders met and:

- ★ Convened with devotions and prayer
- ★ Approved the minutes of the March meeting without exceptions
- ★ Learned of the work the Deacons were doing, particularly with the delivery of 18 containers of Brunswick Stew
- ★ Were updated on the Youth Mission trip to Altoona which will have 17 -19 youths serving the impoverished community there
- ★ Tearfully received Darren's request to dissolve his Pastoral relationship with us in order to accept the call to be the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Racine WI in July 2021
- ★ Called a special meeting of the congregation for May 16th (see further details elsewhere in this newsletter) for the purpose of requesting the Presbytery of the James to dissolve the relationship with Darren
- ★ Authorized the Personnel Committee to begin to plan for the interim time period after Darren leaves to assure continuity of the work
- ★ Charged the Nominating Committee with the responsibility to assemble nominees for an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee when or if needed
- ★ Commended the Adult Discipleship Team with their work on keeping remote learning opportunities available and for their work in looking ahead to re-starting our Adult Christian Education program
- ★ Rejoiced that the Children's Ministry Team has helped the children to plant vegetables to help the hungry to have fresh vegetables when they reaped
- ★ Talked about ushers and welcomers as we look forward toward the lessening of restrictions as more and more of our members receive their vaccinations
- ★ Discussed with the Facilities Management Team their decision to replace one of the HVAC systems for the Family Center rather than spend nearly as much to repair the present one. The cost savings will pay for the difference because of the higher efficiency and the use of the less expensive "freon" as well as getting a warranty
- ★ Grateful to learn of the restoration of the two couches in the Barlow Parlor, generously paid for by Margaret Barlow in memory of her late husband
- ★ Supported the Facilities Management Team in their negotiations with the Classical Conversations Home School Cooperative who would like to use some of our classrooms one day a week
- ★ Rejoiced that our application for forgiveness of our Federal Payroll Protection Plan Loan has been approved and our debt is cancelled
- ★ Supported the Memorial Grade/Columbarium Task Force in their desire to seek professional assistance in planning for the possibilities

Adjourned to meet again on May 18th



Under-Age Thinking...

PUZZLE



A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

"But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8, NIV

Answers: power

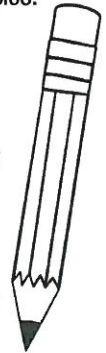


WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Jesus commands us to be his witnesses. This craft is a reminder to reach out to all our "circles."

What you need:

- 5 bowls or cups (assorted sizes)
- Construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Brad fastener
- Crayons or markers



What you do:

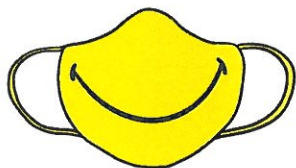
1. Place the bowls and cups upside down, each on a different color of paper. Trace around the circles and cut them out.
2. With a pencil, pierce a small hole atop each circle. Layer circles on each other from largest to smallest, aligning the holes. Insert the brad through all layers.
3. Starting in the center, label the circles *my house*, *my city*, *my state*, *my country*, *the world*. Draw a picture on each one.
4. Pray, asking Jesus how you can spread his message.

MAY 2021

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
25 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)		26 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)		27 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive (Family Center)		28 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM Girl Scouts (Favillon/#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		29 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)		30		1 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)	
2 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM NBC Worship (FC) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary)		3 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)		4 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM IB Exams (Family Center) 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall)		5 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM IB Exams (Family Center) 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 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)		6 National Day of Prayer 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM IB Exams (Family Center) 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P.'s (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)		7 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM IB Exams (Family Center)		8 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)	
9 Mother's Day Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org YOUTH SUNDAY 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary)		10 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM IB Exams (Family Center) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)		11 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#19)		12 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 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)		13 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM IB Exams (Family Center) 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P.'s (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)		14		15 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)	
16 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 10:00 AM Congregational Meeting (FC) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary)		17 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)		18 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM IB Exams (Family Center) 7:00 PM Session Meeting (Heritage Hall)		19 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM IB Exams (Family Center) 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 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)		20 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM IB Exams (Family Center) 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P.'s (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting (#20)		21		22 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)	
23 Pentecost 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)		24 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)		25 7:00 PM Team Youth (#26)		26 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 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)		27 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P.'s (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)		28		29 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)	
30 Trinity 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)		31 Church Office Closed Memorial Day 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)		1 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall)		2 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 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)		3 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P.'s (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)		4		5 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)	



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page
★ at our website:
Fairfieldpcusa.org.



**FACE MASK
REQUIRED**

**In Person Worship
Services on
Sundays:**
8:45 a.m. in the Family
Center

11:00 a.m. in the
Sanctuary



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

Return Service Requested

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?

A. Matthew
B. Mark
C. Luke
D. John

Answer: C (See Luke 1:1-4.)

