



The Messenger

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

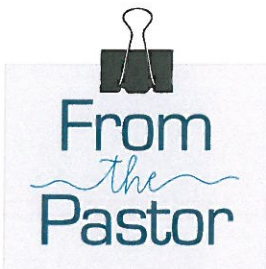
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The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor

July 2021



Dear friends,

Under the category of something none of us would have thought much about before 2020, I want to talk with you about us adding the passing of the

offering plate back into our service of worship. We all know that we made myriad changes throughout the pandemic: remote worship, wearing masks, gallons of hand sanitizer and so on. But one of the little noticed changes that happened was the removal of the offering plate from the service of worship. It was one of those decisions made on the advice of others to not touch the same surfaces others have touched.

We are now on the light side of the tunnel and drawing ourselves more and more back into the normal routine of things. We will be taking up the offering again during our worship services. Yes, this is one more step back to normalcy, but it is something we need to understand better as well.

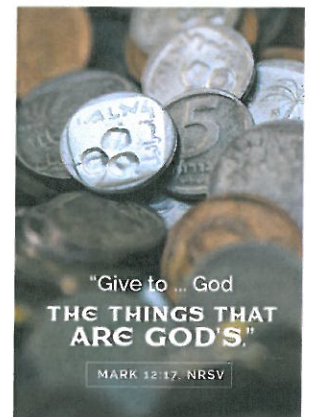
First, you need to know that it is not a matter of meeting our church budget or anything like that. Your generosity and faithfulness of stewardship has exceeded my optimistic hopes. We are fine financially, in spite of the fact that we are doing more and more ministry in these difficult times. You have risen to the occasion, and I could not be prouder to be your Pastor.

The most important reason we are instituting the offering back into our worship service is because it is an act of worship. Your stewardship is not solely about carefully and wisely using the blessings you have received. It is also a statement: "I want my money to serve the one true God. I do not want to serve money as a god within my life."

The Sunday morning worship service is an opportunity we all have to re-prioritize our lives on a weekly basis. Monday through Saturday, we are bombarded with all sorts of messages which tell us what is important and what is essential and what we ought to be or do. Sunday worship allows us to see the bigger picture where we live as children of the living God. Giving our tithes and offerings is one of the opportunities we have to keep our priorities straight.

Jesus said that we cannot serve both money and God. Once a week we are given the opportunity to declare our choice of whom we will serve.

In Christ's love,



Member News



Congratulations to Wyatt & Morgan Wills on the birth of their son, Alexander Lee, who was born on June 18. Alexander weighed 9 lbs., 8 oz.

Our sympathy goes out to **Angela Blue** on the death of her grandmother, Elva White who passed away on May 31. Please keep Angela and her family in your prayers.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Becky Clark, Marcia Cramer, Reggie Crump, Mitzi Marker, Jack Mitchell, Murrell & Joyce Nuckols, Calvin and Barbara Pearson, Gene Rosen's** niece, Tracy, **Bob Stevens, Buford Wade, Marge Wantz'** husband Ned, **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, Nita Dunkum, Ruth Gatewood, Laverne Longest, Myrtle Muire, Nancy Norment, Murrell & Joyce Nuckols, Virginia Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, Louise Setchel, Sheila Shaw, and Bootsie Stevens.**

Our Covenant Woods friends: **Margaret Barlow, Marie Blatt, Elizabeth Davis, Walt & Jan Fadeley, Nancy & Ivy Gallihugh, Mary Gayton, Bill & Phyllis Kerns, Doris McCalla, Glenn & Gerry Miller, Jack & Jo Mitchell, Calvin & Barbara Pearson, Rick & Diane Richardson, Bob Stevens, Libby Taylor, Billy and Nancy Walls.**

(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.)

Church Directory Change:

Jim & Linda Gruenhagen no longer have a land line phone. You can reach Jim at 804-822-6624 or Linda at 804-317-6928. Please make these changes in your directory.



My family and I are beyond grateful for all the gifts, cards, well wishes and prayers. You all have been such an important part of our lives for so many years. I apologize that in the midst of moving and all the hustle and bustle going on that I am unable to thank each one of you individually. Please know that we are grateful for the time we were able to spend with you and we will keep you in our prayers. We hope you will do the same. Thank you!

Darren, Deb, David & Joshua

Dear Fairfield,

Thank you to all who participated in our blood drive on June 22nd. The Red Cross collected 33 units of blood which could save as many of 99 lives! We appreciate your thoughtful gift of giving your blood to save others. Our next blood drive will take place on Tuesday, October 12th. Thank you for your ongoing support of this important community program.

Christine Homan

Dear Fairfield,

Thank you so much for allowing my family to use your Pavilion for my father's memorial service. Your kindness will never be forgotten. May God bless you as you serve Him.

With love,

The Family of Earl Conner

Dear Fairfield Family and Friends,

Thank you so much for the multitude of cards, well-wishes and prayers over the last few months. The love and caring you've shown to me and my family continues to warm my heart and has given me strength through the recovery process. It broke my heart not to be able to attend the Youth Mission Trip this year, so I want to send a special thank you to all of

the members and friends who stepped in to make the trip to Altoona, PA possible this year. Your dedication and faithfulness show God's goodness and I can't wait to hear all about the trip when you return.

With love, Mitzi Marker



Nancy Walls	July 27
Robin Wilson	July 27
Merrill Hastings	July 28
Rachel Underdown	July 29
Sheree Duggan	July 30
Mary Gayton	July 30
David Schwartz	July 30
Gerry Nuckols	July 31



Marcia Cramer	July 1
Tanner Lightsey	July 1
John Longest	July 1
Justin Weis	July 1
Chuck Chelette	July 2
Rebecca Mumpower	July 2
Bonnie Penny	July 2
Charles Ransone	July 3
Mac Spencer	July 3
David Compton	July 4
Kadie Duggan	July 4
Corrinne Harding	July 4
Debbie Palicia	July 4
Sharon Tuckwiller	July 4
Sarah Wash	July 4
Brantley Clark	July 5
Rae Hayden	July 5
David Utley	July 5
Jerry Williamson	July 5
Crystal Bessette	July 6
Linda Gruenhagen	July 6
Carolyn Moore	July 6
McKenna Blue	July 7
Arlene Butchyk	July 7
Jackson Wash	July 7
Ryan Lafferty	July 8
Phoenix Leigh	July 8
Bill Lythgoe	July 11
Debbie Lynn	July 14
Deb Utley	July 15
Harry Zweckbronner	July 16
Ben Hohman	July 17
Elliana Wills	July 17
Jenny Young	July 18
Judy Thompson	July 19
Jack Ward	July 23
Gloria Dunham	July 25
Madeline Dunn	July 25
Herta Wenninger	July 25

Charles & Betty Ransone	July 2
Brett & Katy Underdown	July 2
Sue & Herb Coulter	July 3
Brian & Allison Letourneau	July 5
Gene & Peggie Rosen	July 9
Courtney & Miheer Kulkarni	July 11
Troy & Ana Horn	July 12
Mike & Erin Reasor	July 12
Jack & Lori Briel	July 13
Allen & Kathy Boyle	July 19
Glenn & Gerry Miller	July 20
Mark & Lindsey Irwin	July 25
Bryant & Julie Lowery	July 25
J .R. & Mitzi Marker	July 28
Darren & Deb Utley	July 28
Darlene & Rick Shegogue	July 29



The closet is full with prayerfully made shawls and lap robes. Some are bright and invigorating and others are subdued and calming. They can range from the very simple to rather intricate designs... but they are all made to provide loving comfort and peace to all who are in need. For anyone who would want to join us, the Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the first Wednesday of each month.

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is **Wednesday, July 7 at 10:00am** in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough

Summer Nursery Schedule for 8:45am Service

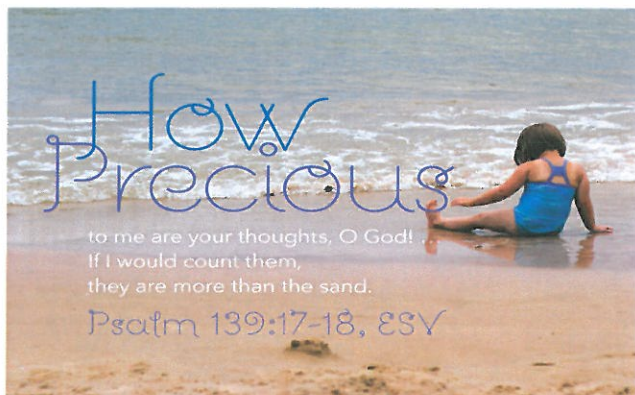
July 4: Angela Schwartz & McKenna Blue
 July 11: Anne Young & Abbey Glass
 July 18: Marge Wantz & McKenna Blue
 July 25: Allison Letourneau & Abbey Glass
 Aug. 1: Majken Whitaker & McKenna Blue
 Aug. 8: Linda Daugherty & Abbey Glass
 Aug. 15: Anne Young & McKenna Blue
 Aug. 22: Allison Letourneau & Marge Wantz
 Aug. 29: Nikki Glass & Abbey Glass



The Children's Nurture Committee has decided to suspend Sunday School for the summer and give families time to worship together during the 8:45am service.

Nursery will still be available for children 3 years and younger.

Stay tuned for some FUN things that are in the works for the children THIS FALL!



I first started volunteering at MCEF last August and since then I have learned a lot about my community and those who need our help. I usually volunteer on Thursday evenings. I enjoy volunteering on the same night because you get to see the same people month to month and learn about their lives and how much MCEF has helped them. Before I started volunteering, I had no idea all of the services MCEF provides. The clients can get canned goods along with towels, linens, feminine products, adult diapers, clothes, dish soap, paper towels, and toilet paper. MCEF is truly a blessing to those in need in our community. I encourage you to support their efforts by donating food and other items to help them reach out to others.

McKenzie Marker

Please check out their website www.4mcef.com for a list of their current needs.

Friendly signposts



We need friends. Friends guide us, care for us, confront us in love, console us in times of pain. Although we speak of "making friends," friends cannot be made. God gives us the friends we need when we need them if we fully trust in God's love.

Friends cannot replace God. They have limitations and weaknesses like we have. Their love is never faultless, never complete. But in their limitations they can be signposts on our journey towards the unlimited and unconditional love of God. Let's enjoy the friends whom God has sent on our way.

Henri Nouwen

Notes from the Session

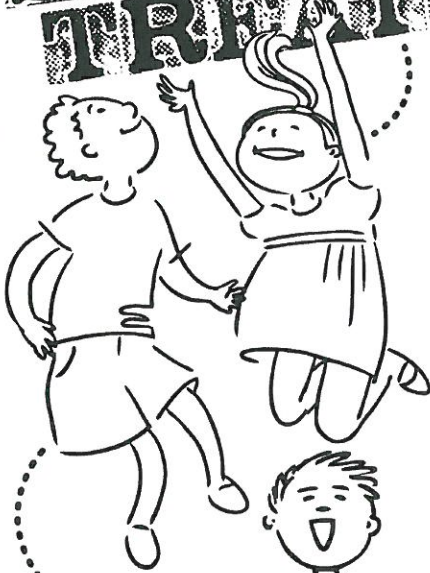
On June 15th your Elders ^{met} in their called meeting during which time they:

- Approved the minutes of the May meeting
- Heard the final report of our outgoing Associate Pastor, Darren Utley
- Received the update on the mission trip to Altoona, PA
- Celebrated the continuing good work of the Deacons
- Finalized team assignments for each of the Elders
- Rejoiced in the fact that the Rev. Dr. Keith and Mrs. Deborah Curran will be worshipping with us in their retirement. With the approval of the Presbytery Keith will be given the honorific of Minister in Residence
- Expressed gratitude for the work being done by facilities management team including replacing an HVAC system for the Family Center, replacing worn out gutters, progressing on a security system, maintain the tractor, new tile in the old hallway bathroom.
- Were delighted to learn that Classical Conversations would be using our facilities one day per week during the school year
- Were elated to learn that we are entering the summer months in solid financial condition because of the generosity of the people of Fairfield Church
- Learned that while the Children's Ministry program will slow down for the summer, they have big plans for rekindling the program in the fall starting with a kickoff day
- Supported the Children's Ministry Team in their plans to offer practical mission projects for the children and will also be offering a blessing of the backpacks at the start of the school year
- Were glad to learn that plans are underway to get "Falloween" back onto our schedule
- Received the report of the Nominating Committee that the people of Fairfield Church are hearing God's call on their hearts and people are responding positively to the call to serve as Elders and Deacons
- Received the report of the commissioners to the Presbytery Meeting (held virtually again!) And the Presbytery is continuing in its plan for massive deficit spending for the years ahead
- Began to plan for a day of prayer for the congregation as we reconstitute ourselves following the pandemic of 2020
- Adjourned to meet on September 21st in the Open Door Classroom



Under-Age Thinking...

A SWEET TREAT



Make this refreshing treat on a hot summer day.

What you need:

- Baking sheet
- Parchment paper
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- ¼ cup granola or cereal

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet covered with parchment paper, spread yogurt in a thin layer, about ½-inch thick.
2. Drizzle honey evenly over yogurt. Sprinkle granola (or cereal) on top.
3. Freeze about 30 minutes, or until firm.
4. Crack frozen yogurt into pieces and peel away paper. Enjoy!

PUZZLE



As sweet as honey



Honey is both a sweetener and a medicine. How can our words be used in the same ways?



Directions: Use the hexagon key to fill in the missing vowels and complete Proverbs 16:24, NIV.



Gr c s w ords

 r h n c mb,

sw t t th s

 nd h ng




t th b n s.



PROVERBS 16:24, NIV

Answer: Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24, NIV

JUNE 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#19)	2 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	3 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	4	5 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM C.A.P.s (Family Center) 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)
6 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)	7 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	8	9 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM Girl Scouts (#20) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	10 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	11	12 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)
13 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) 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Reception for Rev. Darren Utley (FC)	14 Flag Day 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	15 7:00 PM Session Meeting (Heritage Hall)	16 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Greenbar Meeting (#19) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	17 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting (#20)	18	19 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Steve Starzer's Book Signing Event (Heritage Hall) 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)
20 Father's Day <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 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)	21 First Day of Summer 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	22  1:00 PM - 6:00 PM BLOOD DRIVE (Family Center)	23 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	24 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM SonLight Learning Center (FC) 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	25	26 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)
27 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org YOUTH MISSION TRIP - JULY 2 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	28 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	29	30 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) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	1 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM SonLight Learning Center (FC) 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	2	3 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH) 4:30 PM Communion Training (small kit)

The church allows members to borrow tables and chairs for events outside of the church free of charge. Our members are very good about picking up and returning tables and chairs in a timely fashion. However, we have not gotten back 8 white tables which have been missing for a while. If you have borrowed them and haven't had a chance to return them during this pandemic, please bring them back and set them under the portico near the Family Center entrance and we will move them inside. Thank you for helping us with this matter.



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

Return Service Requested



?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

An unnamed relative of Paul obstructed a conspiracy to kill the apostle. What was this rescuer's relation to Paul?

- A. nephew
- B. niece
- C. brother
- D. sister

Answer: A (See Acts 23:12-22, esp. v. 16.)