



The Messenger

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

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor
The Rev. Shannon Hendricks, Associate Pastor
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July 2022

From our Pastor



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Seminary, I found that the most challenging classes were often the most interesting and enjoyable. One of those was Hebrew. The Hebrew language, for me, was difficult to learn. The translation of the symbols is much more subjective than some other languages.

However, the time that I spent studying, memorizing, and striving to interpret the language is some of the most rewarding that I have ever spent.

One of the words that I learned and that has stuck with me is the word **ruah**. It is the Hebrew word meaning breath, air, or wind, and it is used to indicate the Spirit of God, or the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is represented by many images in the Bible such as: the tongues of fire, the pillar of cloud, the living water, anointing with oil, the finger of God, and the dove.

Why is "ruah" so meaningful to me? Well, I have been struggling with asthma since I was a very young child. It's a lifetime struggle. So I have spent much of my life struggling to breathe and striving to strengthen my resistance to the things that affect the quality of my breathing. As a young child I remember numerous hospital stays, regimes of allergy shots and medications, days of being stuck inside while my friends played outside, different regimens of exercises that were supposed to help strengthen my lungs. My family even encouraged me to learn to play the oboe, thinking that playing a wind instrument might be helpful.

Whenever I go through an extended struggle, as I have these past few weeks, I am reminded of God's

Ruah. I am reminded that but for the very breath of God, I would not be alive. Often, when I am struggling to inhale I am reminded just how reliant I am on God for each and every moment of my life. Every day, every moment, every breath is God's gift of life to us. The very same God who but spoke and created the world and everything that lives, moves, and breathes upon it is the same God who breathed life into a valley of dry bones and commanded them to live.

I've heard it said, and have found it to be true, that in times of stress, a way to calm one's nerves is to meditate on a word or a phrase during each inhalation and exhalation. An example would be to think "Come ..." during each inhale of breath, and to think, "Lord Jesus" during each exhale. This helps to center our minds on the very presence of God. I've found it to be calming and that it keeps me mindful of God's very presence with me in any given moment.

Dear friends, I am grateful to God, the giver of life. I am grateful that God continues to sustain my life and that God sees fit to use me according to God's own purposes. May we each remember and be grateful for each day, each moment, and each breath as it comes.

"Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:^[c] Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,^[d] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude."
(Ezekiel 37: 9-10)

Love in Christ,

Pastor Sandi

Member News

Congratulations to **Courtney & Miheer Kulkarni** on the birth of their son **Kaiden John Kulkarni**. Kaiden was born on June 7 and was 21" long and 7lbs., 11 oz. Grandparents **Steve & Debby Starzer** are elated having a grandchild and Uncle **Chad** now has a nephew!

Congratulations to **Micah Clark** and **Tiffany Marston** who were married on June 11. The couple will live in Lynchburg. Their new address is 3400 Weeping Willow Drive, Apartment K, Lynchburg, VA 24501.



Austin Charles Weis was baptized on June 12. Austin's parents are **Justin & Katelyn Weis**. We look forward to Austin growing up in our church family.

Sarah Dobson & Rick Heretick have moved. Their new address is 4816 Cutshaw Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230. Their cell phone numbers remain the same.

Reggie Crump has moved into a new facility in Northern, Virginia. His mailing address remains the same: 9631 Burke View Avenue, Burke, VA 22015. His cell phone number is (703) 921-3049. Reggie welcomes calls from his church family!

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Ann Barlow**, **Dwight Clark's** nephew Wyatt, **Myra Compton**, **Fran Hansbrough**, **Jack Mitchell**, **Joyce Nuckols**, **Gene Rosen's** niece, Tracy, **Darlene Shegogue's** brother, W. D., **Buford Wade**, **Jack and Beverly Ward**, **Deborah Wood's** friend Courtney, **Dale Woodfin's** daughter Stacy and all those who serve as missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation.

Please remember our members who are unable to get to church due to illness or limited mobility: **John Crowe**, **Reggie Crump**, **Nita Dunkum**, **Dot Gammon**, **Laverne Longest**,

Marie Maida, **Nancy Norment**, **Joyce Nuckols**, **Virginia Phipps**, **Helen Rigsby**, **Larry Rigsby**, **Faye Sandridge**, **Louise Setchel**, **Sheila Shaw**, **Bootsie Stevens** and **Tony Underdown**.

Please keep our Covenant Woods friends in your prayers: **Carl & Ann Barkley**, **Margaret Barlow**, **Elizabeth Davis**, **Walt & Jan Fadeley**, **Nancy & Ivy Gallihugh**, **Mary Gayton**, **Bill & Phyllis Kerns**, **Doris McCalla**, **Glenn & Gerry Miller**, **Jack & Jo Mitchell**, **Calvin Pearson**, **Rick & Diane Richardson**, **Bob Stevens**, **Libby Taylor**, **Richard Walden**, **Billy and Nancy Walls**.

(Please update Pastor Steve or the church office as often as possible if you wish to keep your name or your loved one's name on this list.)

Special Dates

- ◆ U. S. Independence Day, July 4



Girl Scout Troop 557 had a wonderful year of learning new skills, earning badges and planning service projects! Thank you for making all of that possible through the generous use of your space. Best wishes for a happy & safe summer.

Karen Fallin

We greatly appreciate the use of the church's Family Center for our DAR Good Citizenship Reception! Thank you.

Lee Lythgoe

Thank you for the blood drive on June 21. We collected 20 units which can help as many as 60 lives! We must have had a few walk-ins



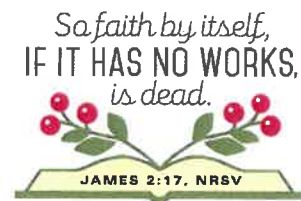
JULY Birthdays



JULY Anniversaries

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
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
John Kosek	July 10
Bill Lythgoe	July 11
Debbie Lynn	July 14
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
Graham Magill	July 25
Herta Wenninger	July 25
Nancy Walls	July 27
Robin Wilson	July 27
Merrill Hastings	July 28
Lillian Boyle	July 29
Rachel Underdown	July 29
Sheree Duggan	July 30
Mary Gayton	July 30
David Schwartz	July 30
Gerry Nuckols	July 31

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
Darlene & Rick Shegogue	July 29



Adult Vacation Bible School is coming!

Mark your calendars for July 31, August 1 and August 2nd. We will have a joint VBS with New Beginnings Church starting on Sunday at 5:00pm and then Monday and Tuesday at 7:00pm, each night in the Heritage Hall.

The class will be led by Steve and Dr. Enis and we will be studying the Book of James.

“James wrote to Jewish Christians who had been scattered throughout the Mediterranean world because of persecution. In their hostile surroundings they were tempted to let intellectual agreement pass for true faith. This letter can have rich meaning for us as we are reminded that gentle faith transforms lives. We are encouraged to put our faith into action. It is easy to say we have faith, but true faith will produce loving actions towards others.”

Attention Ladies!



The Fellowship Circle will get together again on July 12th in the Open Door Classroom (#20) at 10:00am. We continue to discuss angels and the women of the Bible. All ladies are invited to join us!

Beverly Burts



Prayer
Shawl
Ministry

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, July 6 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor. We meet monthly to share projects, ideas for projects, patterns, etc. Over time we have found that in our effort to give comfort to others, we also find it comforting and uplifting personally. It is like a 2 for 1 in our church's Worship +2 program. The fellowship we have being together is a blessing we would like to share with anyone who would like to join us.

Anna Barrowclough



9:00am
Service

July 3	Nikki Glass & Anne Young
July 10	Majken Whitaker & McKenna Blue
July 17	Allison Letourneau & Donna Hohman
July 24	Marge Wantz & Linda Daugherty
July 31	Angela Schwartz & Abbey Glass

The nursery is available for children up to 3 years of age and Sunday School for ages 4 through 5th grade is available in Room #21 (Vine Art Room).

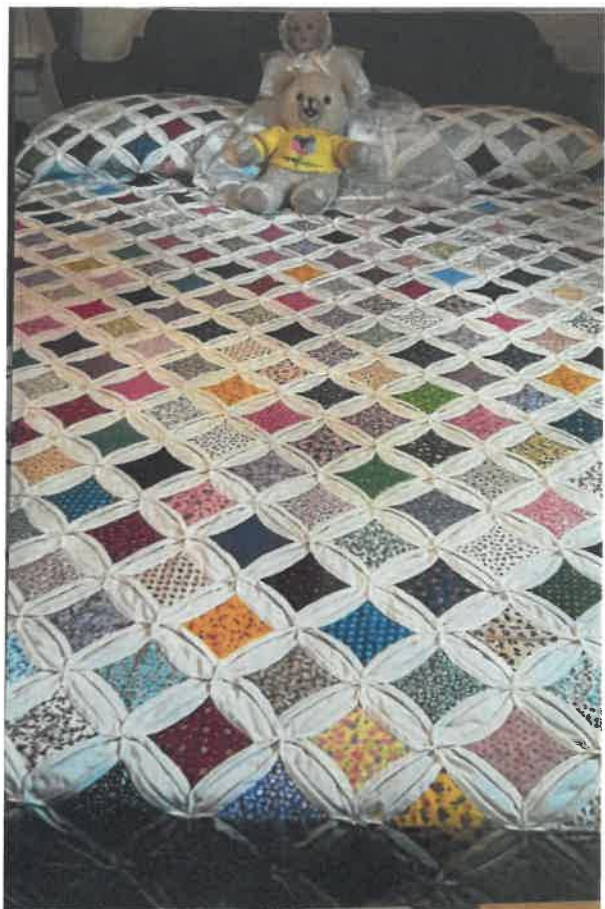
News from Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions (MCEF) and One Stop Shop (OSS)

www.4mcef.com

Here are a few highlights from the MCEF One Stop Shop:

- Again this summer, MCEF will have a Back to School Shopping Day for current clients. Kids (preschool through high school) will have the opportunity to choose some outfits for school and get some new socks and underwear. School supply lists will be on hand to help students pick some school supplies. Donations for this event will be collected right up until the day before.
- Back to School Shopping Days are Tuesday evening, August 16 from 6-7:30 p.m. and Wednesday morning, August 17 from 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- As of July 1, 2022, the reimbursement for Sr. Rides drivers will increase to 50¢ a mile.
- Pantry needs include anything you can donate. MCEF is currently purchasing some items to fill out the shelves with protein rich foods and some paper products. Ideas - cereal, soups, personal care products and school supplies.
- The Tools for Teachers (T4T) and ARC Thrift Store will have a ribbon cutting on June 25th at 11:00. They are housed in the old Green Top store on Route 1.

For the month of May the OSS served 115 families (345 persons in household), welcomed 14 new families, distributed 170 bags of food and 9 second helpings of food and gave out 78 bags of clothing and 10 bags of linens. You helped this happen! Thank you.



Did you know that one of our long time members, Helen Rigsby, is a gifted quilter? The above pictures show one of the cathedral quilts she has recently finished. She has made 5 of these quilts so far for her family. Helen, you have a wonderful gift!



The Soul as Soil

(Matthew 13:8).

Gardeners who've dealt with inhospitable conditions can relate especially well to Jesus' parable of the sower. Drought, invasive critters and thorny weeds often seem to conspire against grower' efforts. Yet when seeds fall on "good soil," the crop yield is abundant - up to a hundred times what was sown

That parable emphasizes the need for hearts to be receptive to God's Word. But it's also a reminder to plant Scripture persistently. Just as soil and weather conditions change, so may someone's attitude toward following Jesus. Pastor J. Ellsworth Kalas writes, "Whenever we serve as witnesses to the faith, we must do so with all earnestness, because one doesn't know the season in which the soul currently abides. That uninterested, distracted or unresponsive person may be nearer the Kingdom that we - or they - realize." Kalas adds, "We dare not give up on anyone at any time - including ourselves."

Under-Age Thinking...

SANDY SCENES

Make a scene with this fun summer craft you can create outdoors.



What you need:

- Play sand
- Spoons
- Empty jars
- Powdered tempera paint
- Cardstock paper and pencil
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush

What you do:

1. Pour a few tablespoons of sand into empty jars. (You need one jar for every color of paint you make.)
2. Add a small amount of powdered paint to the sand and then mix. Experiment with the amount, using more paint to create deeper colors.
3. Lightly sketch a design on cardstock.
4. Working in one small section at a time, paint an even layer of craft glue on the paper.
5. Use a spoon to sprinkle colored sand atop the glue. Tilt the paper so extra sand falls off. Repeat to complete the entire design.
6. Let dry on a flat surface before displaying upright.

PUZZLE



Beyond number
God is all-knowing, and his thoughts toward us are beyond number.

Directions: Solve the addition problems and use the code to complete Psalm 139:17-18, NIV.



How $13+10$ to me are your $12+6$, God!



How $8+11$ is the $10+3$ of them!



Were I to $15+6$ them,

they would $3+12$ the grains of $4+18$ —

when I $13+4$, I am still with you.



PSALM 139:17-18, NIV



Answer: precious, thoughts, vast, sum, count, outnumber, sand, awake

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 9:00am -9:45am Commission Summer Mission Trip Participants 9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	27 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	28 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	29 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	30 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	1	2 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 12:30pm -1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
3 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	4 Church Office Closed Independence Day 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	5 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm Personnel Team (#19)	6 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 1:30pm -3:00pm SonLight Learning Center (FC) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	7 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	8 11:00am -1:00pm Open Gym for Middle & High Schoolers (FC) 5:00pm -6:00pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor Set-up (FC)	9 8:00am -5:00pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor (FC) 12:30pm -1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
10 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:00pm -2:00pm New Beginnings Event (FC)	11 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	12 10:00am -12:00pm Fellowship Circle (#20)	13 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	14 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	15 11:00am -1:00pm Open Gym for Middle & High Schoolers (FC)	16 12:30pm -1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
17 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	18 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	19 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	20 Newsletter Deadline 1:30pm -3:00pm SonLight Learning Center (FC) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	21 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting (#20)	22 11:00am -1:00pm Open Gym for Middle & High Schoolers (FC)	23 12:30pm -1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
24 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	25 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	26	27 1:30pm -3:00pm SonLight Learning Center (FC) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	28 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	29 11:00am -1:00pm Open Gym for Middle & High Schoolers (FC)	30 12:30pm -1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
31 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 5:00pm -7:00pm Adult Vacation Bible School (HH)	1 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Vacation Bible School (HH)	2 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Vacation Bible School (HH) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20) 7:00pm Personnel Team (#19)	3 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	4 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	5 11:00am -1:00pm Open Gym for Middle & High Schoolers (FC)	6 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 12:30pm -1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 1:00pm -4:00pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor (F/C)

?? Bible Quiz ??

In Luke 15 Jesus tells three parables. Which of the following is not one of them?

- A. The Parable of the Lost Sheep
- B. The Parable of the Lost Son
- C. The Parable of the Lost Pearl
- D. The Parable of the Lost Coin



Answer: C (See Luke 15:1-32.)

Church Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Stephen Starzer
 Associate Pastor Rev. Shannon Hendricks
 Associate Pastor Rev. Sandi Shaner
 Minister In Residence Rev. Dr. Keith Curran
 Administrative Assistant Donna Carson
 Children's Ministry Assistant Angela Blue
 Music Director Amy Wenninger
 Choir Director Celeste Underdown
 Organist Dave Starzer
 Praise Band Leader Matt Wenninger
 Custodian John Longest



Fairfield Church
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Return Service Requested

