

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

The Rev. Sandi Shaner, Associate Pastor

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December 2022

Advent

My tradition has the gift of seasons- blocks of time that tell us that things can become new again.

We can become new again. Creation doesn't have to be over.

One of these seasons arrives on the heels of winter so we put on our jackets and walk to the sanctuary.

We scoop up hope by the handfuls and light candles to warm the night.

We sing together, because nothing is more hopeful than when people sing together.

We let the children tell us the story.

We hang orange slices and holly in the window to remember the sun and her colors.

We make wreaths of evergreen for our tables to remember that the grey is temporary.

We bake bread and cookies and deliver them to the mailman and our teachers.

We hold onto their warmth.

We send cards across state lines wrapped in well wishes and prayers.

We talk about joy.

We dream about peace.

But most of all, for a season, we live like the world really could change, like creation isn't over, like it's not too late to become new again.

Rev Sarah Are Speed

As we are moving into and through the season of advent this year, I have been thinking a lot about hope. As we sit in our anticipation of coming festivities, we are hoping for memories made and joyful times. We are holding onto the hope that comes wrapped in swaddling clothes. In my reflections, I came across this poem and there were several lines that jumped out at me. Sarah, the author, is very gifted with words and when I have been struggling to put words to what it is that I am feeling, she shared them for me. We have all of these wonderful traditions as a church and as families for the holiday season. Things do not always go as we have planned though, as I am relearning in this season with all of the different illnesses my kids keep bringing home from school. We have bumps in the road and have times where we are struggling. Sometimes it is more of the darkness that we are sitting in as we anticipate the coming of Christmas. Whether this season is one of joyful hopes fulfilled or ones where we are sitting with heaviness in our hope for a better day for you, there is a place in advent for you. We hear the story of how Elizabeth who was considered beyond any hope of a child gives birth to John, we hear of the hope of a young woman in Mary when she accepts the challenges and joys of carrying a newborn king, and of Joseph who takes great risks to be the earthly father and husband that is needed in the time. One of my favorite lines from the above poem is the last one. "We live like the world really could change, like creation isn't over, like it's not too late to become new again." In a world that seems so divided and full of divisiveness, in this season full of hope, we live like we could achieve all that Jesus' message is full of-peace, joy, love, and hope. My prayer is that it is so and that we can start this new year on the church calendar with that hope that things can become new again with the light coming into the world.

Rev. Shannon Hendricks

Member News

Jerry Williamson has recently moved. His new address is 2241 Eventide Drive, N. Chesterfield, VA 23236.

Virginia Phipps has moved also. Her new address is 500 Masonic Lane, Room C-106, Richmond, VA 23223.



Beverly Burts, Myra
Compton, Karen Couch,
Merillyn Jones, Joyce
Nuckols, Betty Pittman and
her son Danny, Helen
Rigsby, Gene Rosen's

niece, Tracy, Joan Sprinkle, Herta Wenninger, Ryan Westphal, and all those who serve as missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation.



Please remember our homebound members who are unable to get to church: Ann Barlow, John Crowe, Reggie Crump, Nita Dunkum, Dot Gammon, Eva Ladd, Laverne Longest, Marie Maida, Jack & Jo Mitchell, Nancy Norment, Joyce Nuckols, Calvin Pearson,

Virginia Phipps, Jean Plott, Helen & Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, Louise Setchel, Sheila Shaw, Barry Snedker, Bob Stevens, Bootsie Stevens, Libby Taylor, Tony Underdown, Billy Walls and Jack & Beverly Ward.

(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

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 4
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 11
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18
- First Day of Winter, December 21
- Christmas Eve, December 24
- Christmas Day, December 25
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31

thankyou



Thanks to all that have participated in the mission for Operation Christmas Child. We were blessed this year to be able to pack the shoeboxes

once again. For two years we were only sending contributions because of COVID. I wanted to let you know that we had 61 shoeboxes turned in this year. Many monetary donations were made as well. Thanks again for all that has been done for these children around the world!

Sandra Brewster

I want to thank all of the people who came over and got my leaves up on Saturday, November 19th. They were great! I sincerely appreciate all of their dedication and hard work. I am having a really difficult time getting my strength and energy back. I have finished chemotherapy and am currently in remission. Praise God! Please keep me in your prayers. God doesn't give you what you can't handle, he helps you handle what you are given.

In God's love, Betty Pittman

Dear Fairfield Church Community-

We wish to express heartfelt thanks for all of your wonderful cards and letters of encouragement and prayers for healing during hospitalization and rehab. Thank you also for the beautiful flowers. Your gifts and words have been much needed and appreciated. We are lucky to be part of such a loving church community.

Blessings and Warm Regards, Joan Sprinkle and her children





Terri Helfrich	December 5
Noah Clark	December 7
Dana Franklin	December 7
Terri Joyce	December 7
Sheri Wodwaski	December 8
Matthew Leigh	December 9
Jim France	December 11
Madeleine Letourneau	December 11
Heather Brady	December 12
Allen Boyle	December 16
Donna Hohman	December 16
Larry Rigsby	December 17
Ayron Young	December 17
Darlene Shegogue	December 18
Matthew Trexler	December 18
Carson Street	December 19
Amanda Ciejek	December 20
Herb Coulter	December 20
	December 20
Sara Gaston	
Eric Spott	December 21
Reggie Crump	December 22
Lucas Settle	December 22
Angela Schwartz	December 24
Su Ling Trexler	December 24
Laverne Longest	December 26
Norm Ballmer	December 29
Karen Couch	December 29
Phyllis Kerns	December 29
Jack Mitchell	December 29
Chris Sorensen	December 29
Rusty Hale	December 30
Pam Wells	December 31



Ryan & Emily Westphal December 10
Courtney & Randy Street December 15
Jerry & Sheree Duggan December 24



December 4: Second Sunday of Advent (Peace). Services at 9:00am in the Family Center & 11:00am in the Sanctuary.

December 11: Third Sunday of Advent (Joy). Services at 9:00am in the Family Center & 11:00am in the Sanctuary.

December 18: Third Sunday of Advent (Love). Services at 9:00am in the Family Center & 11:00am in the Sanctuary.

December 21: Blue Christmas Service at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

December 24: Christmas Eve Services (Christ). 5:30pm Family Service in the Family Center; 7:30pm service in the Sanctuary and 11:00pm service in the Sanctuary.

December 25: Christmas Day worship service, 10:30am in the Sanctuary.



As we prepare for Christmas, we typically become so busy throughout the Season of Advent! It is also an exciting time as we joyfully await the celebration of the birth of our Savior. The Season of Advent - the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas Day - is a time for us to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate His birth.

This year, for Advent, the **Adult Discipleship Team** is offering a devotional series for you to assist you with the preparation of your hearts and minds. The devotional series is called "Close to Home." It will be available for you to pick up from either the Narthex of the Family

Center or the Narthex of the Sanctuary. It offers a daily devotionals that include Poetry Prayer, Biblical Commentary, Opportunities for Reflection, Journaling, Hymns, and preparation for the Sabbath, our Sunday worship. This unique format offers a wide variety of ways that we can learn and grow while we focus on preparing our hearts and minds for our celebration of Christ's birth. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and pick up a devotional for use as you begin your own Advent journey.

Vicky Beamer



Prayer Shawl Ministry Prayer shawl or lap robe. We pray over each knitted or crocheted robe and shawl, hoping the recipient will feel the love that went into each one. We welcome anyone who would want to join

our group. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, one of us would be glad to teach you! The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, December 7 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough



The Fellowship Circle will meet at 10:00am on December 13 in the Open Door Class (#20). We will finish our study of Mary and then go to lunch at Anna's for our Christmas

celebration.

The Joyful Readers Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30pm in the Heritage Hall for their Christmas dinner. Contact Barbara Wash is you have any questions!





The Men of the Church will get together again on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00am at Cracker Barrel on Bell Creek Road. We invite all men, young and

old to attend a breakfast meeting. We look forward to seeing all who can attend!



The American Red Cross is hosting a **BLOOD DRIVE** here at Fairfield on **Tuesday**, **December 6 from 1:00-6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Hall**. Shake up your holiday tradition by giving blood and in return get a \$10 gift card by email from Amazon.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Fairfield to schedule an appointment.



This Christmas we are purchasing 25 red and 25 white poinsettias to decorate our Family Center & Sanctuary. The cost is \$15 and they will be available on a first come, first serve basis so be sure to order yours soon! An insert is located in the Sunday bulletins to fill out and attach a check or envelope with payment. The deadline is on or before December 18th.

If you have any questions, please call the church office (804) 730-7164.



Your deacons have some opportunities for you to join in on upcoming activities/projects. Here are a few:

BLESSING SOCKS: We are collecting supplies for these "packets" to hand out to the homeless. There are bins outside of our worship spaces to collect knee high socks, hand warmers, \$5-10 fast food gift cards, hand sanitizers and toothbrushes. Donate what you wish - all is appreciated!

A SEPARATE CHECK CLUB: Looking for interest in this. Four times a year we would pick a restaurant and go as a group after a church service to eat lunch. Singles, couples, families, all are welcome! Interested in this? Let a deacon know. We are all listed on the bulletin board in side entrance to the sanctuary.



Our **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** will be held on Thursday, December 21 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. For those who have had losses - a loved one's passing, a relationship broken, a job lost, or other circumstances, we offer this special worship service. Let the holidays become a time of peace and reflection. We will pray and sing and light candles in celebration of life and for hope and healing in Christ, the Light of the World. Please join us.



We have been wonderfully blessed for the past year and a half to have had Sandi Shaner and Shannon Hendricks step

up to the plate to serve as our part-time temporary Associate Pastors. We will have a chance to say thank you to them on **December 18**th **after each of the worship services**. Please join us for a cup of coffee and the opportunity to greet each of them to say thank you!



Dec. 4 Allison Letourneau & McKenna Blue

Dec. 11 Marge Wantz & Abbey Glass

Dec. 18 Linda Daugherty & Majken Whitaker

Dec. 25 NO NURSERY

The nursery is available for children up to 3 years of age.



Dec. 11 - Caroling at Covenant Woods

June 25-30, 2023 - Altoona Pennsylvania Mission Trip -If you are interested in going, let me know so I can reserve the correct amount of spots.

This will mean we need to have our usual fundraisers of the Talent Show, Pancake Breakfast, etc.

Be an Angel for a Local Family This Christmas

The Mission Committee is planning to support a struggling family with children attending Cold Harbor Elementary School, helping them to have a wonderful Christmas this year. The school counselors will select the family, ask the parents about their children's basic needs and wishes and then give the Mission Committee their list. The committee members will purchase the items and deliver them to the school. The counselors will then deliver the gifts to the family.

To become an Angel, send your financial contributions to Fairfield Church or place a check in the offering plate marked "Angel Tree Project." When you contribute, know that you are bringing great joy to the little ones and making Christmas very special for one of our local families. **The deadline is December 18th.** Thank you for your help!

Sunday Worship Service

In-person worship:

Sunday mornings

<u>9:00am</u> - Contemporary Service in Family Center. A nursery is provided.

11:00am - Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

If you cannot make it to one of our services, you can watch them live on YouTube or watch at a later time. Once you are connected to YouTube.com, go to the search bar and type in: fairfield pcusa and it will bring up many of our Sunday services. Just click on the one you want to watch.

If you cannot make it to church and would like a written copy of the pastor's sermon, please let the church office know. We can e-mail it to you or put a copy in the mail to you.

Copies of our bulletins and announcements can be found on our church website:

fairfieldpcusa.org. We also have links to our worship services on our website.

We want everyone to stay connected to our church. Please call the church office and let us know how we can help you.



 For the month of October, the One Stop Shop (OSS) served 134 families (representing 423 persons in household).
 MCEF signed up 13 new clients, gave out 190 bags of food, 19 second helpings of food and distributed 100 bags of clothing.
 Never doubt that your donations of food and clothing are appreciated.

- Current Needs for the Food Pantry:
 mayo, soups, mac and cheese, pasta
 sauce. Anything you can donate is
 appreciated by our clients. Holiday bags
 will be given out through the end of the
 year. This will be the same as the
 Thanksgiving bags clients may choose 10
 extra items in addition to their regular
 monthly food selections.
- Fund raising: Stop at Smile.Amazon.com and pick MCEF. Connect your Kroger Plus Shopping card to MCEF #GD661 - received \$97.97 in October. Eat at Chicken Salad Chick on the 3rd Monday from 10am until 8pm. Mention that you are supporting MCEF - received \$102.10 in October.
- Current winter clothing needs include infants girl's sizes 0-3 months, infant boy's sizes 0-3 months and 12 months. "Bigger" girls pants/leggings sizes 14-18, Men's dress shirts size 17-1/2 and larger. Current underwear needs: girls' sizes 6, 12, 14, 16; boys' sizes 5 and Large (boxer briefs); women's socks and underwear all sizes; men's medium, large and extra-large (boxer briefs.)

As always, whatever you can donate is appreciated. If you think that volunteering for MCEF or Senior Rides might be in your future, stop in at the OSS and pick up a volunteer application. As the theme of Fairfield's 2023 stewardship campaign suggests, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV

A prayer for Christmas

The internet reveals little about Wilda English - only that she lived from 1916 - 1997 and once resided in California. No details about her family, work or interests. Just this prayer, widely shared online. And it is no small thing. Indeed, the prayer tells much about her faith.

God bless Wilda English for sharing these words with the world. May they continue to inspire many!

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith:

the warmth of Christmas, which is love; the radiance of Christmas, which is purity, the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;

the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ.



How to Keep Christmas

Inspirational author Wilferd Peterson pondered ways to "best keep Christmas" and "defeat the little bit of Scrooge in all of us." After reading his suggestions, add your own!

- ★ By following the Star ... to stand again in awe and wonder before the Babe in the manger.
- ★ By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child.
- ★ By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.
- ★ By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master's standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.

- ★ By resolving to give ourselves away to others.
- ★ By using the light of Christmas to guide us through ... the coming year.



Christmas crackups!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? *It's Christmas, Eve!*

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed? Cookie sheets

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party? "Freeze a jolly good fellow!"

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

Ornamints

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?

Santa walking backward

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card? Because he went down in history.

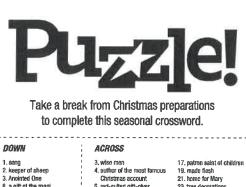
What is an elf's favorite kind of music? Wrap music!

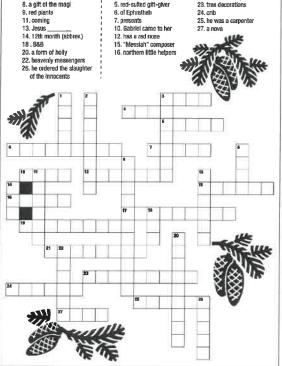
How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing. It was on the house!

What kind of photos do Santa's helper's take? Elfies



Under-Age Thinking...





23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star 15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incamate, 21. Nazareth, 5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph, 20. miscletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod; ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke, 9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn, Answer: DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold,



Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



BANK

Shepherds Child **Nazareth** Census Baby David Mary **Travel** Town Register Born **Night**

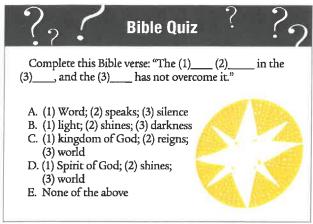
T	В	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	Н	N	G	D	J	K
Q	0	Y	Α	P	R	Α	L	В	F	P	I	C	Q	L
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S	N	0	N	W	G	A	1	В	Α	C	D	0	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	1	W	M	٧	В	R	R	C	E	0
P	S	C	Ε	N	S	U	S	Н	Y	U	Υ	F	Р	N
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Z	C	R	D	Q	S	Н	E	P	Н	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	1	R	T	Κ	G	Е	Y	I	R
K	V	Α	Z	Х	L	S	Н	Y	T	Р	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	М	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	н	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a __ _ _ _ _ _ _ has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Advent 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)	28 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	5:00pm -7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	1 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	2	Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 10:00am –11:00am NBC Choir Practice (#14)
4 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) 3:00pm –8:00pm Hanover Towne Garden Club (HH)	8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	6 1:00pm -6:00pm BLOOD DRIVE (Heritage Hall) 1:00pm -2:00pm Piano Tuner 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20)	7 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	8 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	9	10 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
11 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org Youth Group Caroling 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)	9:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations Foundations Tutor Meeting 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	13 7:00am -8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel) 10:00am -11:00am Fellowship Circle (#20) 7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (Heritage Hall)	5:00pm –7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	15 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	16 2:00pm –8:30pm Directory Make- up Pictures	17 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 5:00pm –9:00pm AA Christmas Gathering (Heritage Hall)
Reception for Sandi & Shannon after each worship service 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)	19 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	20 Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	First Day of Winter 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm –8:00pm Blue Christmas Service (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	23	24 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 5:30pm Christmas Eve Family Service (FC) 7:30pm –8:30pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service (sanctuary) 11:00pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service (sanctuary)
25 Christmas Day Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 10:30am -11:30am Blended Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)	26 Church Office Closed 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	27 Church Office Closed	28 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	Boy Scout Celebration (Family Center) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Heritage	30	31 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 12:00pm –1:00pm New Beginnings Church (Family Center) 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)



Organist..... Dave Starzer Answer: B (See John 1:5.) Praise Band Leader Matt Wenninger Custodian John Longest

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



