

The Messenger

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

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor The Rev. Mike Watson, Associate Pastor

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February 2023



Dear friends.

I remember a comic that I saw in a ministerial magazine I read many years ago. It was a simple little single frame. In it you saw a preacher looking at his calendar. It only had two days in each week:

they were Sunday and the rest of the week. I am sure that Mike agrees with me in saying that most weeks feel that way, that Sunday comes every other day.

So, too, for most of us the seasons seem to come quickly. It feels as if we just got the Christmas decorations all stored back into the attic and now Ash Wednesday and Lent are right around the corner! I guess that isn't a bad thing but here we are looking toward that time of contemplation and introspection which will lead us to a fullness of understanding for Holy Week and the ultimate Holy Day, Easter!

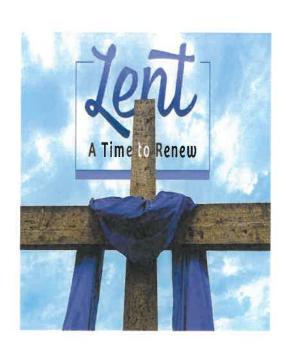
Ash Wednesday begins our journey on the February 22nd. I am hoping that we will all take our Lenten journey seriously and that we will use it to draw ourselves closer to being the people we are called to be as followers of Jesus Christ.

The Christian calendar is set for us to see the full story of the person and work of Jesus Christ as we move from one season to another. Advent with its joy, Trinity Sunday with its mystery, Pentecost with its hope and so on. Yet, is there a season more vital to us than Lent and Easter? I want to challenge you to recommit yourself to the work of the Church during this Lenten season. Renew your faith. Revive your sense of belonging to the Body of Jesus Christ: which is His Church.

I'll look forward to seeing you in worship every Sunday and seeing you at every opportunity that Fairfield offers you to serve and to be served!

In Christ's love.





Member News



Congratulations to Chad Starzer and Lindley Griffin who were married on December 31, 2022. The couple will live at 4713 Devonshire Road, Richmond, VA 23225! Best wishes to the happy couple!

Betty Pittman, a long time member of Fairfield, passed < away on January 14th. Betty was a strong person with all the trials and tribulations that God put before her. She will be missed.



Nita Dunkum has moved to Heritage Green. Her new address is 7080 Brooks Farm Road. Room 123, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

Vicky Beamer has changed her email to: vgbeamer81@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Brian Letourneau, a social studies teacher at Hanover High School who was named Hanover County Public School's Teacher of the Year! Brian is Allison Letourneau's husband and his whole family is very proud of him!



Beverly Burts' daughter, Michelle, Myra Compton, raying Reggie Crump, **David** Cunningham's sister-in-Stephanie, Mary Gayton, Merillyn Jones. Joyce Nuckols,

Rigsby, Joan Sprinkle, Jack Ward 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, Myra Compton, John Crowe, Reggie Crump, Nita Dunkum, Dot Gammon, Eva Ladd, Laverne Longest, Glenn Miller, Jack & Jo Mitchell, Nancy Norment, Joyce Nuckols,

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

(Please update Pastor Steve or Pastor Mike in 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

- African-American History Month
- Valentine's Day. February 14
- Transfiguration Sunday, February 19
- President's Day, February 20
- Ash Wednesday, February 22



Dear Fairfield Family,
Peggie, myself, and our
entire family would like to
thank the Ministers and
staff and all of the

members of Fairfield for the support you have given us in cards, calls, and concerns over the past six years of Tracy's illness and her death on December 28. It is such a great feeling knowing that you have support from your Church family. It was a blessing to each of us and we truly thank you and we know that we are blessed with our Church and our Ministers and staff.

Gene Rosen

A Note from Pastor Mike

Fairfield...we are deeply humbled and honored to be here! Our first Sunday truly made us feel welcomed. Thank you for all the gifts and kind words. I am excited to jump into ministry with you. My first Sunday preaching will be on February 19th. Please feel free to reach out to me any time (mike@fairfieldpcusa.org)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Hailey Spott	February 1
Richard Walden	February 1
Grace Zweckbronner	February 1
Ann Barlow	February 2
John Crowe	February 2
Jeff Cumins	February 2
Robbie Dobson	February 3
Walt Fadeley	February 3
Ryan Magill	February 3
Sam Penny	February 3
Erin Reasor	February 3
Lindley Starzer	February 3
Katelyn Weis	February 4
Don Wells	February 6
Emma Leudesdorff	February 7
Norman Sulser	February 7
Gerry Underdown	February 7
Merrillyn Jones	February 8
Pat Daugherty	February 10
Brittany Bessette	February 11
Hazel Watson	February 12
Tracy Young	February 12
Daniel Arnette	February 13
Mike Joyce	February 13
Nikki Glass	February 14
Jerry Hughes	February 15
Sawyer Hutchison	February 15
Gene Elmore	February 16
Danny Guertler	February 16
Josh Patterson	February 16
Diane Richardson	February 18
Melissa Hughes	February 19
Roger Bessette	February 20
Beverly Ward	February 20
Cathy Guertler	February 22

Dorothy Bowen	February 23
Richard Dunn	February 24
Charles Moore, Sr.	February 24
Donna Richbourg	February 24
Anne Young	February 24
Bruce Arnette	February 25
June Helton	February 25
Stacy Mueller	February 27
Andrew Dunn	February 28
John Weeks	February 28



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Robert & Robin Wilson	February 10
Craig & Sandra Brewster	February 14
Jim & Jen France	February 14
Hunter & Nikki Glass	February 15
Mark & Marsha Young	February 21
Simon & Stacy Mueller	February 27



Beat the Winter Blues Dinner & Fellowship

Tired of sitting around the house? Come be our guest for an evening of good food and fellowship. Join us on **Saturday**, **February 11**, **6:00pm** for a dinner consisting of lasagna, salad, bread and a delicious dessert. Listen to the music of our favorite men's quartet. Don't have a babysitter? Bring your children - childcare will be provided and they will be served pizza! Need a ride to the event? We will be happy to get you to the event. Call Patty Gulliver if you need a ride at 951-966-2515. Be sure to call the church to make a reservation or fill out the form in the weekly bulletin. Can't wait to see you on the 11th!



Prayer We are into the new year and Shawl the closet is full. We always Ministry hope we won't need the shawls and lap robes but want to make sure they are available when they are. On the other hand we are always joyful when we are able to give a new baby a

blanket. The ministry gives us joy whenever we are able to provide comfort to those in need. If you would like to join us, we meet on the first Wednesday of the month and our next meeting is Wednesday, February 1 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough



The Fellowship Circle will ellowship meet again on February 14 (weather permitting) in the Open Door Class at 10:00am. This is a daytime circle that studies the Bible. All are

welcome to join us!

The Joyful Readers Circle will meet on Tuesday, **February 14th at** 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall. They will be discussing the book Golden Girl bv Elin



Hilderbrand. We hope to see you there!



The Men of the Church will get together again on Tuesday, February 14th 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!



Hey Fairfield,

We continue our member care in many area (lending out medical equipment, funeral receptions, etc.) but wanted to update you on these few -

- Blessing Bundles: for the Homeless are ready to be picked up outside of either worship space. These packages give a few necessities and a little hope to those in need on the street.
- The Card Ministry: This group of deacons sends cards to members celebrating birthdays. They also send cards to our college students - just to keep in touch and let them know someone at "home" is thinking of them.
- Downtown Lunches: Your deacons have committed to providing the group, United for Christ, with twenty-five lunches once a month. This group distributes the lunches and ministers to travellers as well as the homeless in the Richmond Greyhound Bus station.

Thank you for helping us to provide for our members and a little beyond! Your Deacons



9:00am Nursery

Feb. 5 Nikki Glass & McKenna Blue Feb. 12 Marge Wantz & Majken Whitaker

Feb. 19 Allison Letourneau & Abbey Glass

Feb. 26 Anne Young & Linda Daugherty

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



February 5 - Amazing Race, 4:30-5:30. Please invite your friends! This is an exciting game that everyone enjoys and I hope that you can make a real effort to be there.

Sat. Feb.11: Beat the Winter Blues Dinner, 6pm on Saturday night. The youth have been asked to help serve meals and potentially we will help with child care if anyone requests. There will be baskets on the tables to collect donations towards the Mission Trip this summer.

March 5 - Movie in the Family Center, 3:30pm

March 19: Pancake Breakfast to raise money for Mission Trip. We need all youth to help out preparing and serving pancakes during the 9am church service and Sunday School. We normally serve from 8-11am in the Heritage Hall.

March 26 - Bowling - Mitzi will let everyone know what time once she has reserved the lanes.

April 23 - Youth Sunday Practice - We really want to do a skit this year and are hoping to have good attendance for the practice session.

April 30: Youth Sunday!

May 21 - Scavenger Hunt

June 25-30, 2023 - Mission Trip to Altoona Pennsylvania!

Mitzi Marker

Pickleball is Here!

Join us on Monday nights in the Family Center (5:30-7:30pm) and play pickleball. No need to know how to play, just come and have fun.

If you would like to play during the day, we will be playing on Tuesdays in the Family Center from 12:00-2:30pm.

Contact Jeff Blue (804-683-0689 or Patty Gulliver (951-966-2515) if you have questions.

Sunday Worship Service

In-person worship:

Sunday mornings

9:00am - 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.

Free Hymnbooks Available

Do you enjoy the old hymns? Fairfield Church has a number of the 1955 edition of the Hymnbook (jointly printed by the PCUS, The UPCUSA and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.) Some consider it the finest hymnal the Presbyterians ever produced. If you would like one, please let us know. We would love to find a good home for all these great Hymnbooks that came to us from Beulah Church.



News from MCEF (www.4mcef.com)

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

- Here are some numbers for the year 2022: direct financial assistance of \$84,615 was given to 176 families for utilities, rent, fuel oil and prescriptions. Assistance is paid directly to the creditor; the One Stop Shop served 153 newly registered families for a total of 313 families or 944 people; 2, 504 bags of food, 932 bags of clothing and 111 bags of linens were given out. All of this is because of the kindness of Mechanicsville churches, businesses and individuals. THANK YOU.
- Hanover Sr. Rides, MCEF provided 1,428 one way rides to Seniors who no longer drive.
- Current Needs for the Food Pantry:
 Pancake syrup, apple sauce, canned kidney bans, any condiments (mayo, mustard, ketchup), graham or ritz crackers, chunky peanut butter. Thank you for the many drives and donations that keep the pantry going.

All of our clients are so thankful that they are able to get help at MCEF. Certainly MCEF can't help everyone but those who are helped know that our donations come from Mechanicsville.

New in 2023 -

- 1. Financial assistance can be applied for through the MCEF website www.4mcef.com
- 2. Thursday evening hours have been extended ½ hour. They are 6:30 until 8:00pm.

If you would like more information about volunteering with MCEF, please let me know.

Nancy Gallihugh inngalli@comcast.net



The Mission Drive was a great success last year. With all of the generous contributions that you made, Fairfield was able to spread the love of Jesus to many people and organizations both 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, needing financial assistance at Covenant Woods, The Outreach in the Ukraine, help support those hit by Hurricane Ian in Florida and help 20 families at Cold Harbor Elementary School at Christmas.

The love, care and kindness that our congregation has shared with people both near and far in the name of Jesus during the past year has been remarkable. The Mission Committee looks 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 will run from **February 26**th **through April 16**th. Please write "Mission Drive" on your check.

With gratitude and thanks, The Mission Committee

Amazing Love

If there is one subject more than another upon which I wish ever to speak, it is the love of Christ; but if there is one which quite baffles me, and makes me go back from this platform utterly ashamed of my poor feeble words, and of the tongue which has uttered them, it is this subject. This love of Christ is the most amazing thing under heaven, if not in heaven itself.

Charles Spurgeon

Notes from the Session

On January 17th your Elders met in Session and they...

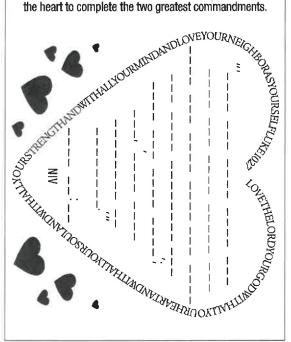
- · Opened with devotions and prayer
- Elected Patty Gulliver Clerk pro-tem in the absence of the Clerk
- Approved the minutes of the December Session meeting and the statistical report which is sent to the Presbytery and the General Assembly
- Welcomed new Elders, Larry Hansbrough and Norm Ballmer
- Approved the plans of the APNC to welcome our new Associate Pastor Mike Watson
- Learned that the new camera for the livestreaming of the 11:00 am service has arrived and will be installed in the sanctuary
- · Listened to the plans to solve the HVAC issues in both the sanctuary and family center
- Voted to appoint Barbara vanSteenburg to fill the at large vacancy on the Nominating/Personnel Committee until the next congregational meeting
- Heard that the Adult Discipleship team is investigating the Lenten study for 2023 and will be looking forward to working with Mike Watson on this project
- Celebrated the wonderful Christmas Eve children's worship service which was by far the most successful one we've had in recent memory
- Learned that the dates for the Spring Children's Clothing Exchange have been set
- Were updated on the further progress of the dissolution of Boy Scout troop 534. It is hoped that they will have completed everything by the next meeting of the Session.
- Heard the report of the columbarium exploratory team that the engineer from Columbarium Planning Co. will arrive soon to review our site and offer plans
- Were delighted to learn that Team Fun has had good success with pickle ball and is excitedly looking forward to the Beat the Winter Blues Dinner
- Elected Stuart Settle and Patty Gulliver to be our commissioners to the February meeting of the Presbytery of the James
- Adjourned with prayer to meet in Session next on February 21, 2023



Under-Age Thinking...

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourselt." Luke 10:27, NIV



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



WORD BANK

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

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

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 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)	8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	31	1 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	2 6:00pm –7:30pm AA "Back to Basics" (#29) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	3	Communion Set- Up (Small Kitchen) 9:00am –10:00am New Beginnings Church Prayer Day (Family Center) 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
5 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) 4:30pm –5:30pm Youth Amazing Race (FC)	6 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	7 12:00pm –2:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall)	8 5:00pm –7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	9 6:00pm -7:30pm AA "Back to Basics" (#29) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	10	Youth Group help with Dinner 12:30pm -1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm -10:00pm Beat the Winter Blues Dinner & Fellowship (FC & HH)
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)	8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	7:00am –8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel) 10:00am –11:00am Fellowship Circle (#20) 12:00pm –2:30pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –6:00pm BLOOD DRIVE (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (#14)	15 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	16 6:00pm –7:30pm AA "Back to Basics" (#29) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	17	18 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
Transfiguration of the Lord 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)	Newsletter Deadline President's Day 9:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations Foundations Tutor Meeting 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	21 12:00pm –2:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 5:00pm -7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	6:00pm –7:30pm AA "Back to Basics" (#29) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	24	25 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
26 1st Sunday in Lent 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)	8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	28 12:00pm –2:30pm Pickleball (FC)	1 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	2 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	3	4 Communion Set- Up (Small Kitchen) 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)

$?_{?}$. Bib	le Quiz	?	??
Fill in the blanks for three of 13, attributes to love: "Love it keeps no record of			
A. challenging, important, the past B. childlike, innocent, injustice C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances D. patient, kind, wrongs	Q	V	8

Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:45, MIV.)

Church Staff

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



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Return Service Requested

