

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

The Messenger

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

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May 2023



Dear friends,

Why do we gather? Do we gather for coffee and snacks? To catch up with our friends? To sing songs, pray, and engage our

minds and hearts on our relationship with God? I imagine our answers to that question are numerous and varied.

This month, my clergy cohort (a group of 7 other pastors with whom I meet annually), will be discussing Priya Parker's *The Art of Gathering*. It's a fantastic book that digs deep into our "reasons for meeting and why it matters." At the outset, Parker asks the question, "why do we gather?," to name how often our *purpose* for gathering gets conflated with our *category*. For example: a birthday gathering meant to "celebrate a birthday" is only further defining the category, not helping create something more memorable or transformative.

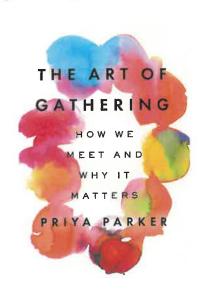
Parker argues our gatherings should operate on a deeper, transformative level than what's seen on the surface. A deeper purpose, Parker names, for the above mentioned "birthday gathering" could be "to surround myself with the people who bring out the best in me."

So, Fairfield Presbyterian Church, why do we gather? Is it to be transformed through worship? Do we gather to learn how to better serve the world that surrounds us? Do we gather because Jesus Christ has told us to do so? I'd love to hear how you answer that question.

I encourage the question because, as I dig deeper into ministry with you all, I'm realizing I'll be doing a LOT of gathering with you. We'll be worshiping together, we'll be praying together, we'll be having fun together, and we'll also be meeting...probably often...to do the work of the church before us.

In doing so, my prayer for us is that every meeting we share can be full of meaningful purpose. You are an essential ingredient in making this happen. If you haven't lately considered how you may wish to be more involved in the life of the church, to help shape our gatherings, please give it some prayer. In the meantime, I'm excited to continue gathering again and again, as together, we deepen our common identity in Christ.

Thanks be to God,



Mike Wation.

Member News

Congratulations to Parker Hohman & Gabryelle Lopez! They were married on March 25 in California. Their new address will be 129 Apex Loop, Apt. 301, Folsom, CA 95630.

Marie Maida has moved. Her new address is: 7165D Ellerson Mill Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

Ed Baggett, Beverly Burts, Miller, Elizabeth Moorhouse's husband Bob. Helen Rigsby, Bonnie Wright 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 Ann Barlow, Myra church: Compton, John Crowe, Reggie Nita Dunkum, Gammon, 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.)



Thank you Mitzi Marker for the gift card to be used for pickleball equipment! That was very generous and kind of you!

Fairfield Presbyterian Church, In the past two years, my daughter and I have been a part of the Classical Conversations of

Mechanicsville Community. Your church has graciously opened your doors to our community and for that, I am appreciative. Thank you so very much for your Christian love.

Blessings, Ashley O'Dell

Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, May 4
- Mother's Day, May 14
- Ascension Day, May 18
- Armed Forces Day, May 20
- Pentecost, May 28

Memorial Day, May 29



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
Caroline Carneal	May 10
Arnold Neuharth	May 10
Abby Reasor	May 10
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
Deborah Whitaker	May 30
Brandon Sulser	May 30
Myra Compton	May 31
Tim Gulliver	May 31
Caroline Hastings	May 31
Brett Underdown	May 31



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
Sarah & CJ Hall	May 21
Kelley & Eric Spott	May 24
Jacob & Leigh Lafferty	May 29
Amy & Stephen Atkinson	May 30



Intricate designs, simple designs, bright colors or subdued hues, prayer shawls and lap robes are made in many variations. Each is prayerfully knitted or crocheted and although we don't know who, each is for someone specific. We meet the first Wednesday of each month to share fellowship and project ideas, patterns and yarns. If you would like to join this blessed Ministry, we will welcome you at our next meeting on Wednesday, May 3 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough



The **Men of the Church** will get together again on Tuesday, May 9th 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 Fellowship Circle has ellowship canceled their May meeting. A Circle decision will be made in September when the circle will reconvene.

The Joyful Readers Circle meet will Tuesday, May 9th 6:30pm in the Heritage They will have a Hall. dinner and discuss books to read for when they



reconvene in September. Make sure to bring your ideas!



The Older Adult Ministry of the Presbytery of the James and Camp Hanover invite older adults to a retreat on June 1. Join in a day of fellowship, learning, food, and worship with other older adults as we explore the topics of ageism and spirituality.

The retreat will take place in Camp Hanover's Wise Lodge from 8:30am to 3:00pm. The cost is \$35 (includes continental breakfast and lunch). The registration deadline is May 26th.



- Pastor Mike thanked the Deacons for all of their help on his Installation Celebration!
- Being that the Separate Check luncheon went so well, we discussed having the next one maybe on June 11th at Roma's as they have a separate dining room. Still accepting ideas for other locations.
- Along this line, people in the early service are pushing for a breakfast, possibly on June 25th.
- Sunday of Service Majken, Angela and Pastor Mike formed a subcommittee to plan. The date is July 30th, with a combined 10:30am service.
- Medical Equipment continues to be a problem with people dropping off and taking out and not filling out the paperwork which is in Cindy Cattoi's mailbox, or contact Donna. Thanks!
- The Deacons continue with the Card Ministry to our college students and birthdays each month, please extra holidays for the homebound (Easter).
- Pastor Mike went over the procedure for Home Communion so that all Deacons are able to administer communion to our homebound. A group went to Covenant Woods with Pastors Steve and Mike at the beginning of April to administer communion, and we hope to continue doing this each month for all homebound.
- UFC United for Christ Lunches are being made on April 27th from 10:30am in the small kitchen. Please feel free to come and help pack lunches for this worthwhile charity on the last Thursday of the month.
- Discussed plans for Joan Sprinkle's reception following her memorial service on April 22nd.
- Next Deacon meeting is May 2nd.

Submitted by Becky Clark

Fairfield 2023 Worship Survey!

Worship continues to be one of the things we love the most about our church. In our efforts to glorify God to the best of our ability, we would love to collect your input. The worship team has developed a series of questions regarding our services at 9am, 11am, and online. Please take a few minutes to fill out a survey, no matter when or how often you attend our services. The more input we collect, the better! Surveys will be available during worship at both services, starting May 7th. They can also be filled out online here: https://forms.gle/ypDqWEqFnN32YpeTA or by scanning the QR Code below. Please plan to have your survey completed no later than May 21st. Contact the office if you have questions. Thank you!



Volunteer for Worship Roles

Worship at Fairfield has a lot of moving parts! Your input and insight are essential to allowing us to worship God to the best of our ability. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one or more of these wonderful roles. Sign up sheets will be made available alongside worship surveys this month in worship. You may also contact the office if you are interested in assisting with any of the following:

Usher, Greeter, 11am Choir, 11am Handbell Choir, Livestream Tech, 9am Soundboard Tech, Nursery, Children's Ministry, Worship Team, and more!



During the month of May, Mechanicsville High School will be holding their IB exams in the Family Center. We ask that if you need to come to church during the weeks in May, please come to the office entrance and not near the Family Center. Thank you!





May 21 - Scavenger Hunt or Bowling

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



The Pickleball schedule for May has changed due to the e Mechanicsville High School

students taking exams in the Family Center.

We will NOT play pickleball from May 3 - 18. We will resume our normal schedule beginning May 22.



9:00am Nursery

May 7 Angela Schwartz & Marge Wantz
May 14 McKenna Blue & Majken Whitaker
May 21 Anne Young & Linda Daugherty
May 28 Allison Letourneau & Barbara
vanSteenburgy



Fairfield Launches New Podcast & Website

Fairfield has launched its new podcast and website. The podcast, titled "Tea with the Preacher," features the weekly Sunday messages and is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or your favorite podcast player (ask Alexa to "play the podcast, Tea with the Preacher" to hear the latest episode). Episodes begin with Advent of 2022. In the future, we plan to add other types of episodes. If you have any suggestions, please let David Starzer know.

The website (http://www.fairfieldpcusa.org) has also gotten a refresh and new design. This new design fixes many problems people have been having viewing it on cell phones and tablets. It is also reorganized to make it easier for members and guests to find the information they are looking for. As always, comments and suggestions are welcome!

Dave Starzer



Family Camp at Camp Hanover May 19-21

Get away from your regular routine May 19-21 at Family Camp. Unplug, relax, and let us do the cooking and coordinating. Family Camp at Camp Hanover offers something for all ages and experience levels. Be a part of the camp family during this fun-filled weekend and rejoice in being part of the family of God together. Many lodging options are available; register early for best selection. Register at www.campHanover.org or contact the camp office at (804) 779-2811.

Mother o' Mine

Rudyard Kipling - 1865-1936

If I were hanged on the highest hill, Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine! I know whose love would follow me still, Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

If I were drowned in the deepest sea, Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine! I know whose tears would come down to me, Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

If I were damned of body and soul, I know whose prayers would make me whole, Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!



Whitsunday (Pentecost)

Many churches in Europe schedule the majority of the year's baptisms for Pentecost Sunday, the day when the Church was born in the first century A.D.

On that day it is customary for baptismal candidates to wear white robes. For that reason Pentecost is often referred to as Whitsunday, a shortening of White Sunday. White symbolizes the purification which comes after the forgiveness of sin.

On Pentecost Sunday, most of those who have completed special classes and have been baptized are confirmed and become full members of the Church.

Pentecost Sunday is May 28th

Life Immortal

At the end of May, Americans honor those who've died for our country - and remember all deceased loved ones. These times of reflection, often in cemeteries, can make us ponder our own mortality. Even some Christians may fear the unknown of death.

Yet because of our faith, followers of Jesus can aim to make productive use of whatever earthly time we have left. We know the grave isn't the end. Consider this poetic description of life everlasting from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: "Dust thou art, to dust returnest / was not spoken of the soul."

To our death-defying, death-defeating God we pray: Eternal God, empower us to take hold of the eternal life to which Christ calls us, and to boldly testify of it to anyone who asks the reason for our hope. To the immortal King of the ages, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to him be honor, glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.



May 29

What more can you do?

I will do more than belong - I will participate

I will do more than care - I will help.

I will do more than believe - I will trust.

I will do more than dream - I will work.

I will do more than teach - I will inspire.

I will do more than earn - I will enrich.

I will do more than give - I will serve.

I will do more than live - I will grow.

I will do more than be friendly - I will be a friend.

I will do more than talk - I will listen.

I will do more.

Notes from the Session

Your Elders met in Session on April 18th during which time they:

- Convened with a Bible study on 1 Corinthians 13: 1 -3 and prayed for God's blessing on their work and the life of Fairfield Church
- Received a kind note from our Minister in Residence, Dr. Keith Curran thanking us for our support for him to attend a Theology Matters Conference
- Asked the Clerk and Moderator to send a thank you note to Professor Jones of VCU who has assisted
 us in our understanding of poverty
- Happily anticipates the upcoming Youth Sunday on April 30th
- Learned that Mike Watson was asked to be chapel worship leader at Grace Christian School
- Discussed plans to reinvigorate of various ministry teams and adding a technology team to the mix of opportunities
- · Celebrated the good work our Board of Deacons are doing
- Gladly voted to receive Melody Watson by letter of Transfer
- Rejoiced at the reception to the Lenten study led by Mike Watson and others
- Learned of the plans for helping our adult Sunday School classes
- Looked forward to the Adult VBS led by Dr. Larry Ennis, Steve and Mike on the Gospel of John
- · Grateful for the success of the Easter Egg Hunt even though it was forced inside
- · Celebrated the upcoming Clothing Exchange for children and youth
- Gushed about the well done "Tea with the Preacher" podcast done by David Starzer
- Heard about the importance and the excellence of the streaming of our worship services
- Gladly learned that we will be changing fire alarm companies after a long period of dissatisfaction with our current provider
- Supported the decision to upgrade and repair our floor scrubber to help keep our floors in better condition
- Voted to approve the columbarium/memorial garden task force to get a detailed site survey
- Adjourned with prayer to meet again on May 16th

Cinquain

Alone with my Lord
Peaceful Quiet
Resting Relaxing Reflecting
Time to enjoy Him
Sanctuary for my Soul

Under-Age Thinking...

SPINNER SPINNER

For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

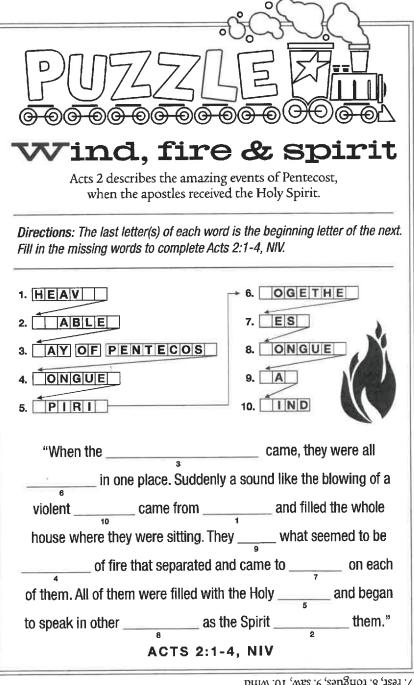
What you need:

- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue



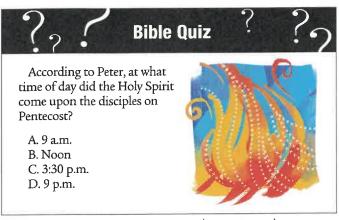
What you do:

- Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper. Carefully cut them out.
- In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
- 3. Color the two images with markers.
- 4. Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
- 5. Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.



Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org Youth Sunday 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:00am –10:00am Presentation of 3rd Grade Bibles (Family Center) 9:45am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am NBC Worship (FC) 11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) & Refreshments 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:00pm –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Play Rehearsal (Family Center)	1 8:00am -4:00pm CC Challenge Class 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	2 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm Personnel Team (#26)	3 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 12:00pm -4:00pm MHH IB Exams (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	4 National Day of Prayer 12:00pm -4:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	5	Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
7 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 –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Play Rehearsal & basketball (Family Center)	8 12:00pm -4:00pm MHH IB Exams (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	9 7:00am -8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel) 8:00am -4:00pm MHH IB Exams (FC) 6:30pm -7:30pm Joyful Readers Circle (Heritage Hall)	8:00am -4:00pm MHH IB Exams (FC) 5:00pm -7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	8:00am -12:00pm MHH IB Exams (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	12 8:00am –12:00pm MHH IB Exams (FC)	3:00am -10:00am New Beginnings Church Morning Prayer Service (Family Center) 12:30pm -1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
Mother's Day 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 –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Play Rehearsal (Family Center)	8:00am -4:00pm MHH IB Exams (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	8:00am -4:00pm MHH IB Exams (FC) 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	8:00am -4:00pm MHH IB Exams (FC) 6:00pm -7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	Ascension Day 8:00am -12:00pm MHH IB Exams (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	19	Armed Forces Day Newsletter Deadline 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
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 –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Play Rehearsal (Family Center) 4:30pm –5:30pm Youth Scavenger Hunt/Bowling	5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	23	5:00pm –7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	25 12:00pm –2:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	26	27 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
28 Day of Pentecost 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 –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Play Rehearsal (Family Center)	Church Office Closed Memorial Day 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	30	31 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	1 12:00pm -2:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	2	Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) Set up FC for DAR Awards 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)



Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Stephen Starzer
Associate Pastor	
Minister In Residence	
Administrative Assistant	Donna Carson
Children's Ministry Assista	nt Angela Blue
Music Director	Amy Wenninger
Choir Director	
Organist	Dave Starzer
Praise Band Leader	
Custodian	



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

Return Service Requested

