

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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July 2023

Dear friends,

I've always thought "Vacation, Bible, and School" to be a funny collection of words. Look, I'm a big fan of the Bible, but I'm not one to spend much time studying on my vacation! Not to mention, the word "school" being thrown at the end seems to negate whatever joy I may feel out of a relaxing time away.

Now, I understand the idea behind mashing these three words together. Holding a week-long exploration of the Bible, especially with all the competing events in the summer, needs a little help to build interest - so why not sell it as a fun time away from the drudgery of home, especially if children and youth will have nothing else going on. "Grab your flip flops, beach towels, and join us at church!"

Traditionally, that's been the idea at least: VBS as a place to drop off children for an extra week of fun and learning while parents carry on with work, or whatever other summer activities are at play. However, these days, churches are getting more and more creative in how they organize time in the summer to dig deep into the Bible.

While VBS for children and youth is on pause for another year, we will be resuming a recent new tradition at Fairfield of "Adult Vacation Bible School." Over the course of 3 evenings (July 9-11), we will gather for light refreshments and insightful lectures and conversation. Vacation? Sure, wear flip flops if you wish, leave behind whatever summer obligations that are weighing on you as you enter these doors. Let this time be special and set apart.

Bible? Of course! BYO or use one of ours. We'll be digging in deep to the Gospel of John. Come with questions, doubts, open hearts, and open minds.

School? Who doesn't love learning? Fear not, there will be no quizzes or tests, no need for backpacks or #2 pencils. Think of it as coming to spend quality time with friends as we engage our hearts and minds on what the Holy Spirit is saying to us.

Fairfield's commitment to learning, growing, and exploring how God is at work in our lives, and the world beyond, has continually been a thing of wonder to me. I'm excited to be part of VBS, along with the many other ways we do faith formation together. See you soon!

Grace & Peace.

Member News

Our deepest sympathies go out to Donna Pritchet on the loss of her mother, Murrie "Bootsie" Stevens who passed away on June 2nd. Bootsie was a member of this church for 67 years. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

We also express our deepest sympathies to the family of Jean Plott who passed way on June 19 after a massive stroke. Jean was a member of Fairfield for 67 years. She served as a deacon and was involved in the Fellowship Circle. A memorial service was held on June 28 here at Fairfield for her.

Martha Houchins has a new phone number. It is: (804) 801-9187. Her email address is: mbeebug55@gmail.com

Shirley McGee has a new email address! It is Sbmcghee5@gmail.com. Please make a note for future reference.

Beverly Burts, Karen Hastings, Charles Moore, Elizabeth Moorhouse's husband Bob. Helen Rigsby, Jack & Beverly Ward, Peter Wenninger 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, Eva Ladd, Laverne Longest, Carolyn Moore, Nancy

Norment, Joyce Nuckols, Virginia Phipps, Helen & Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, Louise Setchel, Sheila Shaw, Tony Underdown, Billy Walls, 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.)



To my Friends at Fairfield, I would like to express my thanks to all who remembered my husband, Glenn during his illness, with cards and prayers. Thanks for remembering me during his illness and death with prayers and cards. A special thanks to Mike and Steve for their phone calls and visits with Glenn and me during his

final days. We both greatly appreciated the kindness and concern of our Fairfield Family.

Blessings to all, Gerry Miller

Thank you to our Pickleball Committee: Donna Horn, Janet Chelette & Terri Joyce. You guys are amazing! Thank you to Mike Joyce for making a paddle stand for us and to Tim Gulliver for remarking our courts!

Patty Gulliver

I would like to thank the volunteers who filled in for me while I was on vacation. They were: Nancy Gallihugh, Fran Hansbrough, Patty Gulliver, Beth Young and Angela Blue. appreciate each of you!

Donna Carson



The church office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 so that everyone can celebrate the 4th!



Marcia Cramer	July 1
Tanner Lightsey	July 1
John Longest	July 1
Justin Weis	July 1
Chuck Chelette	July 2
Rebecca Mumpower	July 2
Charles Ransone	July 3
	-
Mac Spencer	July 3
Dave Compton	July 4
Kadie Duggan	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
Melody Watson	July 18
Jenny Young	July 18
Judie 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
David Schwartz
Gerry Nuckols





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



The Men of the Church held their last meeting for the summer on June 13th at the Cracker Barrel on Bell Creek Road. We had a large group of 16 men in attendance. Pastor Steve had a devotion and the blessing. There was a lot

of good fellowship. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 12.** Have a great summer and see you in September!

Billy Putze



Prayer
Shawl
Ministry
Wednesday of the month, the
Prayer Shawl Ministry meets
to share fellowship, skills and
ideas to create lap robes and
prayer shawls for those in
need of a comforting touch. If
you don't have these skills we
would be happy to help you
learn. Come join us!

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is **Wednesday**, **July 5** at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough



We are excited to announce that this year's Adult Vacation Bible School study is almost here! Our Bible study topic this year will be the Book of John. It will be led by our pastors, as well as Pastor Larry from New Beginnings Church. The dates and times are: Sunday, July 9 - 5:00pm, and Monday - Tuesday, July 10-11 - 7:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. We are looking forward to this study and we hope that you will join us as we participate in this in-depth study of the life and teachings of Jesus.

In addition, we will be collecting boxed cereal and condiments (mustard, ketchup, mayonaisse) each night for MCEF. We would appreciate any contributions.

Vicky Beamer



- The Separate Check Club We had 24 people join us for lunch at Roma's Italian Restaurant on June 11, 2023 at 12:30pm. A fun time was had by al! The next lunch will be in the fall. See a deacon if you have a suggestion for where to go.
- Card Ministry The Deacons have maintained sending cards to members for their birthdays, as well as graduates for high school and college.
- Downtown Ministry peanut butter and jelly, chips, and drinks are always accepted for this ministry.
- Sunday of Service July 30th. This day is coming soon! Please be sure to fill out the form located in each Sunday's bulletin. UA light lunch will be served.
- Blessing Socks there are 9 pairs of socks available for pickup to take to the homeless.
 Submitted by Becky Clark



The deacons are inviting you to a special Sunday on July 30th. We will gather for a joint worship service in the Sanctuary at 10:30am. This service will lead us right into several acts of service including:

- Arranging potted plants for homebound church members
- Cleaning, organizing, and working on some building and grounds projects
- Crafting cards that can be used for the deacon's card ministry
- Creating freezer ready meals for local EMS/Fire teams

We will conclude at 12:30pm with a provided lunch. All age levels are welcome!



9:00am Nursery

lue



When you received Jesus as your Savior, you began to live in two homes - earth and heaven. You were born the first time into your earthly family. Now you have been born again into the family of

God. You are a citizen of both worlds. Your new heavenly home is the biggest one. It is God's home. It is yours because you are united to Jesus and heaven is where he lives.

But we don't need to wait until we die to visit heaven. Prayer is the airline to our heavenly homeland. We walk heaven's streets and view its wonders each time we fellowship with the Lord.

Ben Jennings

"Back to School" August 1 - 2

As in past years, students in preschool through high school will

be able to choose a few outfits, new socks and underwear and some school supplies to get them started. Of course, MCEF can't offer every item on a teacher's list but we will try to have the following items available. If your Vacation Bible School, Sunday School Class, community, workplace or any group you are involved with would like to have a drive, please consider the items listed below. Pick one, two or whatever your group decides. Thank you for thinking of MCEF. All you do for Missions is so greatly appreciated.

School supplies MCEF hopes to offer:

#2 pencils
Pens (blue, black, red ink)
Colored pencils
Colored markers
Crayola crayons
Highlighters
Elmer's glue sticks
Expo markers
Dividers for notebooks (with tabs)
Pocket folders (with and without prongs)
Composition books (any color)
Index cards (lined, white and colors)
Notebook paper (wide or college rule)



Under-Age Thinking...

Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



What you need:

- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

What you do:

- With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
- 2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
- 3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
- 4. Read Psalm 103:8-12. How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
- 5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.

Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

BJKQXZ

BWJITJHQHOBLZDGBOOK
DKFQROMTBHJOBSQEXZT
OKXWJHOBMIZTIJSDQKU
EWXBHEQNITKISIZNYOU
RPJZOWBEQRTOAXCZTXJ

DO NOT
,

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27, NIV

2023 Fairfield Worship Survey Summary

Thank you for your participation in our 2023 worship survey. Over the course of 3 weeks, we collected 81 responses! Below is a summary and some brief analysis.

Overall, the spirit of the responses was very positive. Worship at Fairfield Presbyterian Church is clearly meaningful and inspirational to many. Responses were overflowing with praise and gratitude for the worship team, choirs, music staff, and the pastors.

In analyzing the data, the worship team has made a prayerful effort to notice the Spirit's nudging in discerning things worth giving attention and time towards. In the coming months, we hope you will notice some changes! Please know this is an ongoing conversation - the worship team is always eager to discuss with you.

Fairfield Worship Team: Larry Hansbrough (elder), Marge Wantz (elder), Amy Wenninger (music director), Celeste Underdown (choir and bell director), Matt Wenninger (praise band leader), Dave Starzer (organist and IT coordinator), Mike Watson (associate pastor)

- Which worship service time do you most often attend (or watch online?): Responses were almost exactly 50/50! This was a great sign for the rest of the survey answers were a true reflection of both services.
- Why do you attend worship at that particular time? Our top 2 answers were: "music" and "at a convenient time." Many like the traditions/liturgy at the 11am service, while others prefer the more relaxed nature of the 9am service. These answers were an affirmation of how both services continue to meet the needs of many in our congregation.
- If we did a combined worship service, how often would you like this to happen? Once a month 22.4%, A couple times a year 50%, Once a year 5.3%, I prefer not to attend a combined worship service 21.1%. Clearly, there is a desire for occasional combined services. The worship team has decided to plan on between 2-4 combined services throughout the year.
- How often do you watch the worship service online? Every week 8.9%, Once a month 12.7%, Once every other month 3.8%, A few times a year 45.6%, Never 29.1%. The number of online worship attendees was slightly higher than the worship team expected. We are grateful a number of folks are finding having the service online a helpful resource.
- If you never watch our service online, please share why: The majority of respondents desire in-person worship. However, many have found online services helpful when out of town or when coming in-person is too difficult.
- If you do watch the service online, please share suggestions to make that experience better? Difficulty hearing portions of the service was the most common response. The worship team will work to make this experience better.
- What are your thoughts on bringing back an outdoor, 9am worship service for a few
 weeks? Almost half of respondents would enjoy a return of this service with one often suggested
 change that it be held in cooler weather! The worship team is planning a 9am outdoor service
 this Fall, when the weather cools. Following some helpful comments we will ensure that the
 worship space and sound quality are sufficient for that service.
- What are your favorite hymns or praise songs to sing? Attendees of the 9am service requested the singing of more hymns on occasion, attendees of the 11am service requested more

- older hymns on occasion. Many great hymns and praise songs were lifted up as favorites with How Great Thou Art, They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love, and Here I am Lord leading the pack!
- Do you have any other thoughts on our music program you'd like to share? The most common suggestions were 1. A desire to see musicians and singers share talents across both services. 2. A desire for the children/youth choir to return. 3. More singers in the choir (please join!!).
- How do you feel about sharing prayer requests out loud in worship? A majority of
 respondents were interested in this practice returning, however, there were concerns about
 confidentiality (with the service streamed online) and brevity. As a number of you expressed
 interest in prayer cards (read by the pastors), the worship team will explore this possibility.
- What are your thoughts on occasional communion served by intinction? Positive response to this practice was mostly shared by 9am service attendees. Many were not in favor of dipping bread. The worship team has decided to explore a middle ground of inviting folks forward to receive bread and the usual individual communion cup at 9am, with a traveling bread/cup for those who need it. Communion at 11am will remain the same.
- Are any parts of the service difficult to hear? Please elaborate. Many expressed general
 hearing difficulties, especially with the 11am service. The worship team was already aware of
 many of these. There was a desire to hear children's answers during the children's moment. The
 worship team discussed that holding mics in front of children generally frightens them from
 responding. We'll work to have our children's time leaders speak out loud what some of the
 children say.
- Is there anything you wish we did more of in our worship services? Many 9am worship attendees expressed a desire for a liturgical elements showing up on occasion. There was also a desire for a healing service again. Lastly, many requested consistent daycare for the 11am service.
- Any other information you would like to share? Popular responses include: 1. Name tags (the
 worship team recognizes logistics challenges with this and would welcome input on it). 2. Air from
 overhead fans in the Family Center making the room cold (the worship team has named the
 difficulty in keeping that space at a comfortable level), 3. More special music programs. We were
 grateful for many other ideas and suggestions that were made.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Commission Summer Mission Trip Participants Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org Youth Group Mission Trip to Altoona, PA 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)	Youth Group Mission Trip to Altoona, PA 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	27 Youth Group Mission Trip to Altoona, PA 12:00pm –2:00pm Pickleball (FC)	Youth Group Mission Trip to Altoona, PA 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –7:00pm Pilates Class (Herltage Hall) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	Youth Group Mission Trip to Altoona, PA 12:00pm –2:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	30 Youth Group Mission Trip to Attoona, PA	Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 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) 3:30pm –5:00pm New Beginnings using F/C	3 4:00am –5:00am New Beginnings Dance Practice (FC) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 7:00pm Personnel Team (#26)	4 Church Office Closed 12:00pm –2:00pm Pickleball (FC)	5 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	6 12:00pm –2:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	7	8 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
9 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 –1:30pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 5:00pm –6:00pm Adult Vacation Bible School (HH)	10 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Vacation Bible School (HH)	7:00am —8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel) 10:00am —12:00pm Elizabeth Moorhouse's Garden Club (Pavilion) 12:00pm —2:00pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm —8:00pm Adult Vacation Bible School (HH)	8:00am –3:00pm Classical Conversations Director Training (HH) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	13 12:00pm –2:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	14	15 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
16 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) 3:30pm –5:00pm New Beginnings using F/C	17 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	18 12:00pm –2:00pm Pickleball (FC)	19 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	20 Newsletter Deadline 12:00pm –2:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	21	22 12:00pm -4:00pm Ashley Clark's Baby Shower (Heritage Hall) 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 –1:30pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	24 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	25 12:00pm –2:00pm Pickleball (FC)	26 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	27 12:00pm –2:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	28	29 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)
Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 10:30am –11:30am Fairfield Joint Worship Service (sanctuary) 11:00am New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:30am –12:30pm Acts of Service 12:30pm Picnic Lunch	31 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	1 12:00pm –2:00pm Pickleball (FC)	2 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	3 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations Practicum (FC, HH, Kit, 20, 31, 32) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	4	5 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 12:30pm –1:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)



In what land and at what age did Moses die?

A. The land of Israel; 100 years old B. The land of Canaan; 70 years old C. The land of Moab; 120 years old D. The land of Judah; 102 years old



Answer: C (See Deuteronomy 34:5, 7.)

Church Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Stephen Starzer
Associate Pastor
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 P.O. Box 1088 Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Return Service Requested

