

Welcome to what some branches of the Christian church call *Gaudete*, or Rejoice Sunday. May we find joy in worshiping God and anticipating the celebration of Christ's birth. Welcome. Here at Fairfield, we offer a contemporary service at 9:00; Sunday School for all ages at 10:00 and our traditional service at 11:00. Please ask Dr. Steve Starzer, Rev. Mike Watson or any of the ushers for information on various programs and ministries. You may also call the church office at (804) 730-7164 or e-mail us: [office@fairfieldpcusa.org](mailto:office@fairfieldpcusa.org) or visit our website: [www.fairfieldpcusa.org](http://www.fairfieldpcusa.org)

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Amy Atkinson

Chuck Chelette

Keith & Debbie Curran's niece

Tim Gulliver's sister, Pam

Fred McCall & family

Jack Mitchell

Tony Underdown

Barbara vanSteenburgh's relatives

Nancy Walls & family

All who serve our nation here and  
abroad.

Please call the church office (804) 730-7164 or let a pastor know at the end of the service for someone to be on our prayer list. **Names will normally be listed in the bulletin for 3 weeks, unless we receive updates.**

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given by Betty Wade & daughters to the glory of God and in loving memory of Buford Wade.*

*A second arrangement has been given by Dale Woodfin to the glory of God and in memory of Greg Woodfin, Sr.'s birthday.*

We are blessed to have some amazing artists in our midst. Each Sunday in Advent, and for Christmas Eve, our bulletin cover will feature artwork related to the Scripture text, created by one of our own artists. Thanks be to God! Today's cover is done by Nikki Glass. Thank you Nikki for the beautiful cover.

**Infant/Toddler:** Linda Daugherty & Nikki Glass

**Next Week:** Majken Whitaker & TBD

**Blue Christmas Service:** this coming Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 on a December evening. 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.

**2024 Pledges:** It is not too late to get your pledge in for 2024. We can't tell you how pleased we are with the pledges that have been made so far! Thank you for your continuing generosity and commitment to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in and through Fairfield Church!! We do know, there are a few of you who haven't gotten them in yet and it would be helpful for your Stewardship and Finance Team to have the clearest possible understanding of our resources if you could turn in your pledge card.

**Don't feel like cooking tomorrow?** Then go to Chicken Salad Chick for dine-in, carry-out or drive thru from 10:00am - 8:00pm located at 6576 Mechanicsville Turnpike. Mention you are supporting MCEF and they will receive part of the proceeds.

**As fall turns to winter,** our homeless population often suffers due to the cold. Please prayerfully consider Giving the Gift of Warmth to those less fortunate by providing your gently used blankets and gloves. You can support this very worthy cause by placing your contributions in the box located in the narthex from November through January.

**We want to remind you** that the fiscal year for the church is the calendar year, so **all contributions for 2023 will need to be in by Sunday, December 31.** We know that many of you use your giving to the church as a part of your tax planning, so we wanted to make sure you knew when your contributions would be accounted to you. We also know that there are a few who diligently desire to fulfill your pledges for the year, so we wanted you to know this as well.

**The Worship Committee** is looking for members willing to usher at the 9:00am and 11:00am services. If you are interested, please call the church office and leave your name, number and whichever service you prefer. A training will be offered on January 14, 2024, at 8:30am for the 9:00am service and 10:30am for the 11:00am service.

**The deadline for the January newsletter** is December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please have your articles in by that time.

**The Upper Room Daily Devotional books** for January/February are located in the narthex. These books are free so please pick one up!

## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH MEETINGS & EVENTS

<b>Dec. 17</b>	Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center)	9:00am
	Sunday School for all ages!	9:45am
	Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)	11:00am
	New Beginnings Church Worship Service (FC)	11:00pm
	Advent Bible Study (#20)	4:30pm
<b>Dec. 18</b>	Pickleball (Family Center)	5:30-7:30pm
	AA Group (#29)	6:00-8:00pm
<b>Dec. 19</b>	Pickleball (Family Center)	12:00-2:00pm
<b>Dec. 20</b>	Pickleball (Family Center)	5:30-7:30pm
	Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary)	7:00pm
	Praise Band Practice (Family Center)	8:00pm
<b>Dec. 21</b>	Pickleball (Family Center)	12:00-2:00pm
	Civil Air Patrol (Family Center)	6:30-9:30pm
	Blue Christmas Service (sanctuary)	7:00pm
	Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	7:45pm
<b>Dec. 22</b>	Advent Bible Study & Meal	
<b>Dec. 23</b>	New Beginnings Choir Practice (#14)	12:30pm

**Reminder:** Please be sure to call the church office if you would like to use a room for a meeting or event. A room to meet in might not always be available if it isn't on the calendar. This also helps Donna from "overbooking" rooms due to conflicts. You can also get the latest updates to our calendar online at [www.fairfieldpcusa.org](http://www.fairfieldpcusa.org).

**On December 24**, at all of our services, we will collect funds for the **Christmas Joy Offering**. Through this offering we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much. If you would like for your offering to go to this, please mark your envelope "Joy Gift"