

# 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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### September 2024



Dear friends,

Message The moment finally arrived:
from Our my daughter took her first
step on to the school bus,
then looked back at us with

one of the biggest smiles we've ever seen out of her. She is now a Kindergartener, and we are parents of a child in grade school. Later that afternoon, our daughter stepped off the bus tired, but elated. What a wonderful experience. We are so very blessed for the people in our life that have helped us get her to this point.

Unlike daycare and preschool, we've lamented that we've been unable to see pictures unloaded to our app throughout the day to see what she's been up to. Her time at school will mostly be a mystery to us other than what she or the teacher share with us at any given point. But this is the way it has always been. The more I've thought about that, the more I've realized how special it is that she has her own time with her own people at school, and we have to learn to trust and know that she's in good hands. Our daughter isn't the only one learning things.

This month, our church's educational programming kicks back into high gear, starting with Rally Day on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Classes for our children and youth will begin once more. Classes for adults will all be running at full capacity. A new small group ministry will be launched. In a way, we're all taking steps onto a bus that will take us to experiences, many thaat are familiar, many that are new. We all learn to

place our trust in the Holy Spirit, to work through our meaningful conversations, laughter, study, prayer, and more that will take place this school year.

Fairfield Presbyterian Church has always been unique in its love of education and desire to grow deeper in faith. This community is full of the Holy Spirit, so let's trust God to work in and through us.

For all of our students, young and old, who have begun, or who are resuming their studies this Fall, I share the following prayer (from our Book of Common Worship).

Eternal God, your wisdom is greater than our minds can attain, and your truth confounds our learning. To those who study, give curiosity, Imagination, and patience enough to wait and work for insight. Help them to doubt with courage, but to hold all their doubts, In the larger faith of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanks be to God,

### Member News



With sympathy, we mourn the loss of one of our members, **Charles Ransone**. Charles was 95 when he passed away. He

was buried at Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, VA.

Linda Canyock, Jeff Cumins' brother Mike, Pat Daugherty, Jerry Duggan's aunt Bettye, Jennifer France's friend James Flint and his family, Sally Kovacs' husband David and



friend Sharon, Elizabeth Moorhouse's niece, Emily, Deborah Wood's friend, Susan Blanco, 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 church: Ann Barlow, John Crowe, Reggie Crump, Nita Dunkum, Dot Gammon, Ruth Harpster, Eva Ladd, Laverne Longest, Jo Mitchell, Elizabeth Moorhouse, Nancy Norment,

Joyce Nuckols, Virginia Phipps, Betty Ransone, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, Tony Underdown, Jack Ward, Herta Wenninger and Sherri Woodburn.

(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.)



The family of Hank Lythgoe gratefully acknowledges all the cards, prayers, and many kindnesses shown when Bill's brother was sick and passed way. The beautiful prayer shawl surrounded us wit love and the lovely flowers given by the Personnel Committee

were truly appreciated. We are blessed to have the support of our wonderful church family.

> In Christian Love, Bill & Lee Lythgoe

We appreciate all the cards, visits and attendance at Dad's funeral service by the members of this church family. You have blessed us with your love and care. Thank you. Steve Mitchell, Jody Bryan and Todd Mitchell

Thank you for your help with the blood drive yesterday. We registered 23 donors and collected 19 units for the patients impacting up to 57 lives! Looking ahead, our next blood drive will take place **December 17** from 1-6 pm in the Heritage Hall.

#### Dear Steve & FPC,

You are amazing! Your congregation has not only helped a resident stay in their home but you have also provided an individual with exceptional care, quality of life, security and comfort. The church's gift of \$1,000 was received in July. Your generosity provides the priceless gift of peace of mind; not only for the resident, but their family as well.

Dr. Thom Wright, Pres. & CEO Covenant Woods

#### Dear Fairfield.

Thank you for your gift to Theology Matters. Please know how grateful we are for you and your support of this important ministry. Theology Matters is committed to equipping and encouraging, instructing and inspiring, members of the Presbyterian family and the wider Christian community through theology that is reformed according to God's Word. Again, thank you for your generosity and your care for this ministry.

Richard E. Burnett Exec. Director & Managing Editor

#### Dear Pastor Steve,

Thank you for generously giving Bibles to reach our lost world! Demand for God's Word is soaring as people seek an anchor in the storm and as Cru missionaries reach into more and more previously unreached regions. Your Bibles' gift is putting the inspired Word of God into eager hands. Thank you for responding to this critical need - for giving the Word of God!

> Jim Dempsey Director of Ministry Development

#### Dear Fairfield.

Thank you for your generous gift. Your partnership helps move people into a personal relationship with Christ. "You Are Not Alone" was the Facebook post title. Hamees\*\* and Aybak, two teenage boys with backgrounds from a dominant regional faith, separately contacted the Middle Eastern student ministry team via WhatsApp and Facebook. Both felt the need to share their personal struggles, mainly their search for God's love. After initial conversations they agreed to start reading the Bible. As they continued to interact with the team, both indicated decisions to trust in Jesus and accept his love and salvation! Their quest for love has been satisfied in Christ!

> Josh Newell Executive Director, Jesus Film Project

#### Dear friends.

As we near the completion of the public phase of our first capital campaign, I find myself incredibly grateful for you and our entire Frontier Fellowship support team. We appreciate your generosity!

Ethan Collins
Executive Director, Frontier Fellowship

HATE has 4 letters but so does LOVE
ENEMIES has 7 letters but so does FRIENDS
LYING has 4 letters but so does TRUTH
CRY has 3 letters but so does JOY
NEGATIVITY has 10 letters but so does
POSITIVITY.

Life is 2 sided, choose the better side!



If you have a college student/students in your family for the 2024-2025 academic year, please help us keep in touch with them by sending the requested

information below to the church office (secretary@fairfieldpcusa.org).

- Student's name & complete address
- Name of college/educational facility
- Email address
- Phone/cell phone
- Freshman/sophomore/junior/senior/etc.

This information is also helpful to the Joyful Readers Circle when they send out care packages to our college students!

Thanks!

#### Handbells & Choir



Do you like to sing? If your answer is yes, I would like to invite you to "join the Choir." We practice on Thursday nights in the sanctuary from 7:00-8:00pm. Our first practice

following the "Summer Break" will be on **September 5**<sup>th</sup>. Please talk with me or any Choir member if you have questions. We would love to have you!

Our Bell Practice begins on Wednesday, **September 11**<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm. We practice until 8:00pm. Please talk to me if you are interested. We could use a couple more ringers. Reading music is helpful if you want to play.

Celeste Underdown





Laura Arnette	September 3
Sawyer Harding	September 3
Jane Jones	September 3
Elaine Endicott	September 6
Karen Hastings	September 6
Courtney Kulkarni	September 6
Melanie Rubeck	September 6
Gerry Miller	September 7
Brian Croy	September 8
Logan Denton	September 8
Tom Lake	September 9
Charles Warren	September 9
Austin Wilson	September 9
Megan Leigh	September 10
Wyatt Schneck	September 10
Gerald Atkins	September 11
Tanner Franklin	September 11
Alissa Helfrich	September 11
Chris Palicia	September 12
Emily Helfrich	September 14
McKenzie Marker	September 14
Madison Stevens	September 15
Kylee Smith	September 17
Julie Sutton	September 17
Scott Stevens	September 18
Debbie Atkins	September 20
Kelly Daugherty	September 20
Elijah Horn	September 20
Bettina Tanner	September 20
Beth Cole	September 21
Henry Atkinson	September 22
Sandra Brewster	September 23
Matt Joyce	September 23
Mary Beth Adams	September 24
Marie Maida	September 24
Aaron Marker	September 24
Tony Underdown	September 24
Emily Westphal	September 26
Angela Blue	September 28
Heather Lowery	September 28

John & Suzanne Weeks September 2 Jeff & Angela Blue September 3 Pat & Linda Daugherty September 4 Justin & Katelyn Weis September 7 Charles & Bonnie Warren September 9 Merrill & Karen Hastings September 12 Keith & Dana Franklin September 19 September 19 Cameron & Erica Hutchison **Edward & Maurine Wolfgang** September 20 Doug & Vicky Beamer September 24 Jake & Ashley Foster September 24 Billy & Sue Putze September 26

# Special Dates in September

Labor Day, September 2 National Grandparents Day, September 8 Patriot Day, September 11 Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 First day of autumn, September 22

I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma, Their steps are short like mind. They don't say, "Now hurry up." They always take their time.

I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma, Their eyes see things like mine do... Wee pebbles bright, a funny cloud, Half-hidden drops of dew.

Most people have to hurry, They do not stop and see. I'm glad that God made Grandpa and Grandma Unrushed and young like me.

Author unknown



# Let's Get Involved!

Are you looking for an opportunity to meet with your fellow Christians to further your understanding of God and how he's working in our lives? The Adult Discipleship Committee has planned this year's Rally Day.

# Sunday September 8 - Rally Day 10:00 - 10:45 in the Heritage Hall

Join us in a fun filled and informative kick-off to the Sunday School season. You will have a chance to learn about what the various classes are studying and to sign up for small groups.



#### **Adult Sunday School Classes**

- The Union Class (#14) meets in the room across the hall from the small kitchen, and uses a lecture format in teaching Bible lessons from the "Uniform Lesson Series."
   A student book outlining each lesson is available.
- The Open Door Class (#20) follows an open curriculum, led by four rotating leaders using a variety of topics. Class participation and input is encouraged!

- The Cornerstone Class (#29/30) studies different books by various authors chosen by class consensus/interests. The book and the rich discussions and sharing are changing us! There may even be some very delicious donuts!
- The Rock Class (#31/32) studies Bible stories together. The format is open discussion and are very informal. This is a great group for those near to the faith, the denomination, or with questions! The class is open to all ages.





#### **Children's Ministry on Sundays**

#### 9am Sunday Kids Worship

After the Children's Message, 3-4 year olds through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have the option to go to Kids Worship for the remainder of the service. Kids Worship will be based off of a basic Bible lesson, separate from Sunday School.

#### Children's Sunday School

Our goal is to help foster the love of learning about the Bible not only on Sundays but throughout the week. The question that we have asked ourselves is WHAT IF Sunday was just the starting point? We will have two classes for children this year:

- Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (Room #21)
- 4th Grade 8th Grade (Room # 23).

**Joy Choir**, Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet the first Sunday of each month at 4:30pm, starting October 6th. The Joy Choir will be sharing their gifts in future worship services.



#### 9:00am

9/1	Abbey Glass & Marge Wantz
9/8	Angela Blue & Majken Whitaker
9/15	Barbara van Steenburgh & McKenna Blue
9/22	McKenna Blue & Nikki Glass
9/29	Anne Young & Angela Blue

#### 11:00am

9/1	Angela Blue & TBD
9/8	Angela Blue & TBD
9/15	Majken Whitaker & TBD
9/22	Allison Letourneau & TBD
9/29	Angela Blue & TBD



MCEF will collect the following food items for the Backpack Program in <u>August</u> and <u>September</u>

# Individual serving sizes with pop tops or easy open lids:

Fruit cups
Mac and cheese
Canned pasta
Small soup (chicken noodle or tomato)
Ramen Noodle cups
Cereal bars



September 11th



As the seasons change, so do the colors. The different shades of green in the spring and summer become rich golds and browns of autumn. The

Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to incorporate all these colors in our shawls and lap robes. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month if you would like to join us. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, we can help you learn so come join in the fun and fellowship of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, September 4 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough

The Men of the Church are back! Their first meeting for the fall will be September 10, 7:00am at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant on Bell Creek Road. All men are invited



to join us for a hearty breakfast, fellowship and to bring up or discuss plans for the upcoming year.

Be sure to let Billy Putze know if you will be able to come. You can call him at (804) 510-8719 or email him at: billyputze@comcast.net.



The Fellowship Circle will ellowship begin again after a long Circle hiatus. Their first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 10, 10:00am in the Open Door classroom

(#20). This year the group will be studying the Book of Ephesians. Come join our group for a great year of Bible study!



The Joyful Readers return for the fall after having the summer off. They will start back on September 10, 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall. There will be a book

discussion on "A Gentlemen in Moscow" by Amor Towels. Beth Young will lead the discussion for the evening. All women are invited to join the group. No reservation needed, just show up!

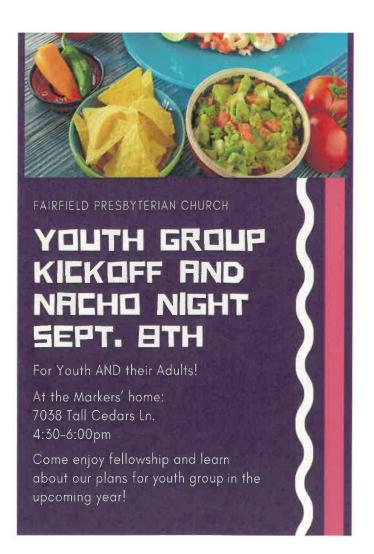
### Sermon Series: Sermon on the Mount

As summer winds down and many of us return to school schedules, we will spend a few more weeks in the Gospel of Matthew seeking wisdom, encouragement, and challenge from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

Sept. 1: Matthew 7:1-12, Judgement and Grace

Keith Curran will be preaching.

Sept. 8: Matthew 7:24-29, Wise and Foolish Builders. Steve Starzer will be preaching.



### Fall Sermon Series: Do Not Fear

We look forward to our next sermon series, "Do Not Fear." It is said the phrase "do not fear," occurs about 365 times in Scripture, enough to say it once every day of the year. In the midst of terrifying world events and a turnultuous season of our nation, we might need to hear these words, from God to us, more than ever. Over 6 weeks, we will explore together how we can name our fears and move through it together, one step at a time. We are safe in God's hands.

9/22: Tune in to God's Presence (part 1) 1 Kings 19: 1-10, Mike preaching

9/29: Tune in to God's Presence (part 2) Luke 1: 26-38, Steve preaching

10/6: Trust God's Promises Isaiah 43: 1b-4a, Steve preaching

10/13: Take One Step at a Time Matthew 14: 22-29, Mike preaching

10/20: Persevere (part 1) Exodus 1: 15-22, Steve preaching

10/27: Persevere (part 2) Hebrews 11: 1-3; 12-13 Steve preaching

# Liturgists for Sunday Morning Worship

9/1: Mike Watson (9:00am)

Anne Young (11:00am)

9/8: Ginny Patterson (9:00am) Topher Carson (11:00am)

9/15: Richard Dunn (9:00am) Marge Wantz (11:00am)

9/22: Chuck Patterson (9:00am) Deborah Wood (11:00am)

9/29: Gene Rosen (9:00am)

Jackson Vignola (11:00am)

## Library News

"I am the vine and my Father is the Gardener"
John 15:1

Can you believe it? Summer is almost gone and we will soon be into the season of fall. This is my favorite time of year when you think about fall harvests, pumpkins and cooler temperatures. Regardless of the season, let us always remember that God is the Master Gardener of our lives.

Our libraries have many resources that you may find helpful to you as you strive to nurture and grow in your spiritual life. In the adult library you will find Apples of Gold, Bouquets and Harvest of Gold. In the children's library look for All Things Bright and Beautiful, Madame Blueberry (a Veggie Tales DVD) and The Sunflower Parable.

In this season of fall may we not forget to turn to God for nourishment of our souls and may your spiritual harvests always be plentiful.

Elizabeth Covington



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

This year's 9/11 Concert will be held on **Wednesday**.

September 11 at Walnut Grove Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. The American Legion will open the concert with a presentation of the military branch flags. Hanover High and Oak Knoll Middle School string orchestra will perform. Admission will be \$5 plus 2 cans of items of non-perishable food. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

If you would like to become a volunteer for MCEF please see the updated volunteer application on the MCEF website. Download, fill out and submit to MCEF by mail or in person.

### FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## Memorial Garden and Columbarium

Memorial Garden and Columbarium committee members

Donna Hohman

Beth Young

Billy Putze

Larry Hansbrough

I/We are interested and want more information.

I/We are interested in a

Gift

Memorial garden

Memorial plaque

Columbarium

Name:

Marge Wantz

Have `	You Considered
	Having a quiet place to pray and reflect on our church grounds that is easily accessible.
	Having a place to memorialize and honor beloved members of the congregation.
	Making final arrangements ahead of time to remove the burden for your family.
– – – The co	ommittee needs to have an indication of the congregational interest. Please check all that apply:

## **Under-aged Thinking**



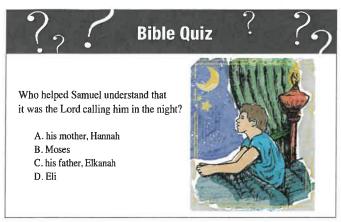
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⊕€ AN	God grar	OG IL  ots us knowled is holy Word, w	LUM ge and unders	tanding thre	TION  ough
	Directions: Arra Then unscrambi				
MY	PATH I YOU FOR		WORD FEET A ON	MY	10
_					
			Р	salm 119:1	05, NIV
	9				
	If any of you	lacks		, you	should 🌉
as	k God, who and it	gives genero will be given			

Answer: Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path; wisdom

#### **Fairfield Presbyterian Church**

### September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 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)	2 Labor Day 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	3 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm –6:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm Special Olympics (FC) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20)	4 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	7:00am –8:00am AA Meeting (#29) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	6	7 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)
RALLY DAY 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) 4:00pm –5:00pm Steve - Covenant Woods	9 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	10 7:00am -8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel) 10:00am -11:00am Fellowship Circle (#20) 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm -6:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm Special Olympics (FC) 7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm Personnel Team (#19)	71 Patriot Day 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	12 7:00am –8:00am AA Meeting (#29) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	13	14
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First Day of Autumn 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) 12:01pm –2:00pm NBC Birthday Celebration (FC)	23 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	24  11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)  5:30pm –6:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)  6:00pm Special Olympics (FC)	25 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	26 7:00am -8:00am AA Meeting (#29) 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	27	28
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Answer: D (See 1 Samuel 3:1-10.)

#### **Church Staff**

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



Return Service Requested

