

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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October 2024

Dear friends.

What a great fall it has been for us at Fairfield Presbyterian Church. I love the leisurely pace of the summers when our programming and scheduling slow down, but I must admit that I love it when the activity begins to crescendo with the start of the school year! It has certainly increased in the past few weeks, hasn't it?!

We have our first All Church Night coming up on October 6th with a wonderful program for a variety of ages, including one in which our own Majken Whitaker curates a program on the topic of mental wellness as we age. Our Children's Clothing Swap is coming up that week and they can always use some more volunteers for this very important mission.

Our small groups for the fall have gotten off to an excellent start with a wide variety of interest groups in multiple settings. My thanks go out to the Adult Discipleship Team for their hard work putting this all together and securing so many volunteers to make it a success!

My ramblings on all of this could go on and on. I could talk about the choirs, the Sunday School Classes, and the Youth Groups. Or I could talk about the large number of people who are working behind the scenes on committees or the Session or the Deacons for all that each of them does to make our life together so much better. What I simply want to say is please get involved. The strength of Fairfield Church is its people, and we need everyone here to work together so

that together we will grow closer to being the people we are called to be as followers of Jesus Christ.

I'll see you on Sunday and hopefully during the week as well.

In Christ's love.



Member News



Congratulations to Ben Hohman & Brianna Bishop who were wed on September 21st in Wilmington, NC. Their

address is 704 Shell Street, Hampstead, NC 28443. Best wishes to the happy couple!

With sympathy, we mourn the loss of another one of our members, **Betty Ransone**. Betty passed away on August 26, just 18 days after her husband, **Charles**. Betty was buried at Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, VA. Please keep their family in your prayers.

Jo Mitchell has a new address. It is 7090 Covenant Woods Drive, **F206**, Mechanicsville, VA 23111. Her phone number remains (804)569-8069.

Sandra Brewster is getting rid of her land line soon. Her cell phone is (804) 833-8636. Her email address is smbrewster65@gmail.com

Linda Canyock, Landon Cole, John Crowe,

Pat Daugherty, Donna Richbourg's daughter, Pettis Hilt, Darlene Shegogue's mother Velma, Pam Wells, Bonnie Wright, and all those who serve as missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation.



(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.)



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, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, Jack Ward, Herta Wenninger and

Sherri Woodburn.



Pam & Don Wells would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and support during her surgery and ongoing recovery, especially the Union Class, who delivered delicious meals to them. She hopes to be back with us soon.

Pam Wells



t this moment, healthy meals are on their way to a community in urgent need of nutrition. The meals we packaged are headed to the Philippines!

Remember that time we packed 10,000 meals this past summer with "Rise Against Hunger?" We have just learned that our meals are being shipped to the Philippines! The following was shared with us: The Phillippines is one of the most environmentally disaster prone countries in the world, it faces near constant threats of natural disasters like earthquakes, typhoons and volcanic eruptions. These disasters cause displacement and major loss of livelihoods and infrastructure, and disproportionately affect poor communities in rural areas, where people rely on The Global Hunger agriculture and fishing. index, which assesses food insecurity based on indicators that measure under-nourishment and under nutrition, categorizes the Philippians as having a "moderate" level of hunger overall. Rise Against Hunger serves the regions of the Philippines where hunger is most urgent.



Pastor Appreciation

October is Pastor Appreciation Month.

Please don't forget to let our pastors know how much you appreciate them! They work tirelessly, often neglecting their own personal needs to give us comfort and direction. A few words of

appreciation (and maybe a cookie or two) go a long way!



In the past, the women of Fairfield have sponsored Operation Christmas Child, and have invited the congregation to join them. Be on the lookout for red and green shoe boxes that you

can pick up before and after the 9am and 11am worship services on October 6 and 13. We will be distributing them these two Sundays.

After you pick up your box please fill it with love and things that a small child would love to have. No liquids please! This year, no toothpaste or soap. We will collect the boxes on November 17. Please write a check to cover shipment for your box. Place the check in the envelope provided and put it inside the shoe box. The cost for shipping this year is \$10. Make your check payable to Samaritan's Purse with a note in the memo line Operation Christmas Child. Please put a rubber band around your box. If you prefer, you can write a check to Fairfield Presbyterian Church and we will send one check with the shoe boxes.

If you would like to help but don't want to fill the box, please buy some school supplies, small stuffed animals, or hygiene items. We have a group of residents at Covenant Woods that want to help stuff the boxes. I have spoken to Andrea Skeen, the chaplain of Covenant Woods and she is excited about the residents getting involved.

These boxes will go to brighten a child's Christmas in third world countries. Thank you, in advance, for your participation in this ministry. If

you have any questions, please call Sandra Brewster (804)833-8636.



Tim Gulliver	October 1			
Stuart Settle	October 2			
Barbara vanSteenburgh	October 2			
Philip Ciejek	October 3			
Mary Sulser	October 3			
Madison Blue	October 4			
Abbey Franklin	October 5			
David Adams	October 6			
Lindsey Irwin	October 6			
Amber Joyce	October 6			
Grant Sulser	October 6			
Michael Gee	October 7			
Abbey Glass	October 7			
Parker Irwin	October 7			
Jackson Lancaster	October 7			
Hannah Reasor	October 7			
Doris McCalla	October 9			
Gregory Woodfin	October 9			
Sarah Hall	October 10			
Sean Magill	October 10			
Nancy Gallihugh	October 11			
Elizabeth Covington	October 13			
K.C. Whitaker	October 13			
Rachel Gaston	October 14			
Chad Starzer	October 15			
Bruce Jenkins	October 17			
Zoe Marker	October 17			
Jeri McDuffee	October 17			
Colton Weis	October 17			
John Butchyk	October 18			
Susan Ciejek	October 18			
Bob Gaston	October 20			
Gene Rosen	October 21			
Emily Sutton	October 21			
Nicole Sutton	October 21			
Matthew Arnette	October 23			
Debbie Curran	October 23			
Dylan Street	October 24			
Mark Young	October 25			
Mason Settle	October 27			

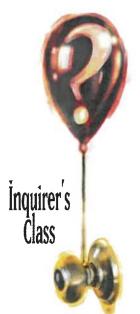
Libby Taylor Myra Moore October 27 October 29



Jeff & Angela Schwartz	October 9
Gary & Terri Helfrich	October 10
Caleb & Kelsey Boyd	October 14
Jim & Linda Gruenhagen	October 15
Josh & Liz Patterson	October 15
Sally & David Kovacs	October 18
Larry & Elizabeth Covington	October 22
Alan & Diane Brown	October 25
John & Liz Crowe	October 25
K.C. & Majken Whitaker	October 25
Norman & Mary Sulser	October 26
Dwight & Becky Clark	October 28
Ayron Young & Collin Humphrey	October 31

A Safety & Energy Reminder

If you are one of the last people in the building, please close the interior doors behind you and make sure the outside doors are locked. Closing the interior doors serves a dual benefit. We have numerous heating/air conditioning zones in the church, so closing the doors, particularly between sections of the building, prevents one system from being overtaxed trying to heat/cool more square footage than it was designed for. Also, each of those interior doors is fire-rated doors, and closing them will help immensley to curtail the advancement of a fire should one ever happen in our building. You are starving a fire of air and also slowing its advance down giving the brave men and women of Hanover Fire/EMS a better chance of holding the damage to the building to a minimum. Thank you for helping us with this!



Starting October 13, Pastors Steve and Mike will be teaching a 4-week Sunday School class (in the Forum classroom) specifically for consider those who "new" themselves to Presbyterism or specifically Fairfield Presbyterian Church. In broad strokes. we will cover matters related to our theology, worship, and polity. This is a perfect class for those who have joined the church recently or who are considering membership. This is also a great chance to meet new friends and

create new connections. Contact the church office if you are interested in joining us.

Why?

Have you ever wondered why we worship God and how the practice of worship began? The Bible has a lot to tell us about why worship is vital, both in ancient times and in today's world. During September, October, and November the **Union Class** is exploring what the Bible says about worship.

The **Union Class**, meeting in the room across the hall from the small kitchen, uses the Standard Lesson Commentary series to help guide us through the Bible, week by week, to discover ancient scriptures that affect our lives today. Using a lecture format, our teachers use scripture, background material and modern examples found in our own world to deepen our understanding of God's Word and how it affects us today.

The class begins by singing a hymn, with David Starzer playing the piano. After discussing prayer concerns for class members and others, we take up on offering that is collected for the Spring Mission Drive. Then the morning prayer is given, followed by the lesson, presented by one of our teachers.

Come and visit the **Union Class**, discover the friendly, welcoming spirit of the class

members and join us as we explore great lessons found in God's Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. His masterpiece, the Bible.

Anne Young

Adult All-Church Night Mental Health Conversations

Join us on Sunday, October 6th at 4:30pm for an enlightening presentation on the topic of adult mental health as we age, including a discussion on dementia signs and symptoms. This talk aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to approach and assist individuals who may be experiencing challenges related to mental health and/or dementia. We will have time for Q&A following the information presented by Majken Whitaker, Behavioral Health Awareness Specialist with Hanover CSB and Dick Long from the Alzheimer's Association of Virginia.



- Homebound communion will take place on October 6th and November 3rd.
- We have received positive feedback from the families who have had funeral receptions at FPC
- The medical storage room has plenty of equipment to loan. We are in need of lea rests for our wheelchairs. We only have one wheelchair with them. Please contact Angela Schwartz or Donna Carson if you wish to donate or borrow equipment.
- We have deacons that are delivering flowers after the 11:00am service to those who might benefit from some cheer. If you wish to help deliver the flowers please contact a deacon or one of the pastors.
- The ice cream social held this summer was deemed a success. We as deacons are

always trying to find ways to care and better connect with members of Fairfield. If you have ideas please reach out to us.

Fall Sermon Series: Do Not Fear

We are delving into our new 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 tumultuous season of our nation, we might need to hear these words, from God to us, more than ever. We are exploring together how we can name our fears and move through it together, one step at a time. We are safe in God's hands.

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



Shawl The Prayer Ministry continues Ministry make prayer shawls, lap robes, baby blankets as well as prayer squares. What is a prayer square? It is a small crocheted or

knitted square that can be handheld and comes in a variety of colors and sizes. You can hold it while in your prayer time. It has also been suggested that you can use it during your devotional time or carry it in your pocket and reach for it in times of stress to provide calm and comfort. They can be found in the trays in the Narthex and outside of the Family Center. Take

know hot to crochet or knit, we would be happy to help you learn. Come join us for the fellowship as well.

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, October 2 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough

The Men of the Church will get together this month on Tuesday, October 8, B 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.



ellowship The Fellowship Circle will Circle meet again on Tuesday, October 8, 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 will meet again on Tuesday, October 8, 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall. There will be a book discussion on the book "West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge. Pam Roberts will lead discussion for the evening. All women are invited to join

the group. No reservation needed, just show up!

Liturgists for Sunday Morning Worship

10/6	J. R. Marker(9:00am)
	Martha Houchins (11:00am)
10/13	Peggie Rosen (9:00am)
	Anne Young (11:00am)
10/20	Allison Letourneau (9:00am)
	Topher Carson (11:00am)
10/27:	Chuck Patterson (9:00am)
	Deborah Wood (11:00am)



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

This year's 9/11 Concert was a big success. Partnering with

Ms. Lucretia Davis and her orchestra was wonderful. The orchestra is so professional. Much needed food was received, and the monetary donations were shared between MCEF and the music program at Hanover High/Oak The students have five class Knoll Middle. periods to prepare for this year's concert and under the direction of Ms. Davis, they did not disappoint.

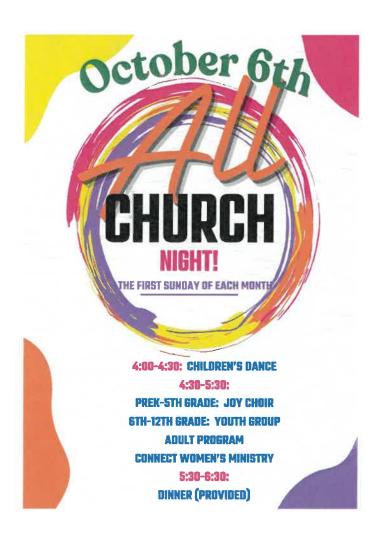
The One Stop Shop has been busy. Client sigins remains steady at 150+/- each month. August saw a spike to 173 households. MCEF will start giving extra items for Thanksgiving on Monday, October 21. Please consider the following donation items: corn bread mix, gravy, stuffing, creamed corn. Thank you for all the donations to give the backpack program a boost as school started this year. This program feeds the seven schools in Eastern Hanover County. Currently they are filling 97 back packs a week for children to take home over the weekend. All the schools have not reported their needs yet so that number will likely increase.

If you would like to become a volunteer for MCEF, please see the updated volunteer application on the MCEF website (4mcef.com). Download, fill out and submit to MCEF by mail or

in person. Remember, MCEF is an all-volunteer organization.

The Hanover Sr. Rides program began in 2013 and to date they have given 20,000+ free rides to doctor appointments, grocery stores, errands, etc. to Mechanicsville residents who can no longer drive. MCEF pays drivers 50 cents a mile.

Nancy Gallihugh





BRING BABY TO TEEN CLOTHING (NO UNDERGARMENTS, STAINED OR TORN CLOTHING), COATS, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES ON A DESIGNATED DONATION DAY. THEN COME BACK ON SATURDAY MORNING TO SHOP!

8:00 AM-11:00 PM

FAIRFIELD'S ANNUAL



FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 6330 COLD HARBOR ROAD MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111



We've had a wonderful kickoff to our youth group year: Pickleball, a pizza part in the new middle school youth room, a service project making snack bags for Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI), and our annual favorite event: the photo scavenger hunt.

We're keeping up the slate of wonderful activities this month. If you have a middle or high school youth in your life - invite them to join us sometime!

- Oct. 6 All Church Night: Personality and Spiritual Gifts Inventory
- Oct. 13 Trail Hike/Picnic
- Oct. 20 Fall Break No Youth Group
- Oct. 27 Volunteer at Fairfield Halloween Festival

The Middle School Youth room has been renovated, making it a welcoming space for the growing youth group and Sunday School class. Fresh paint and accent stripes in the colors the kids picked out, along with the new blinds, Bible quotes, and a storage cabinet will greet the youth each Sunday. We thank Grayson Palmore, Debbie & Keith Curran for their hard work under the direction of Pastor Mike. Plans are for the middle school you to personalize the gathering place by decorating the cabinet with autographed, painted handprints.



Sunday's youth group service project was packing snack bags for Assisting Families of Inmates" (AFOI). Along with snacks for children of inmates the youth sent a Christian message of hope and grace. The bags will be delivered to the Richmond office this week.

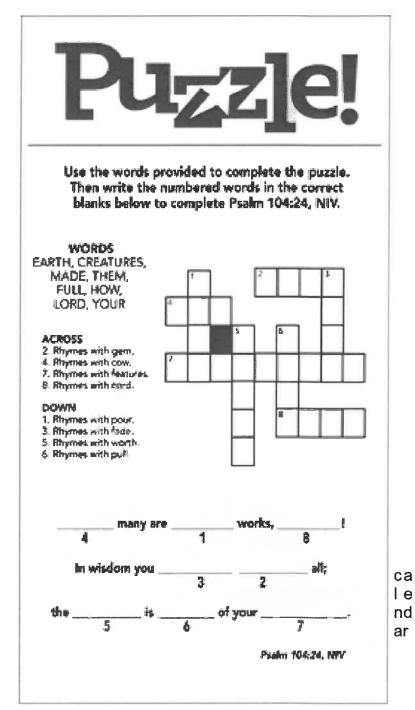






Under-aged Thinking

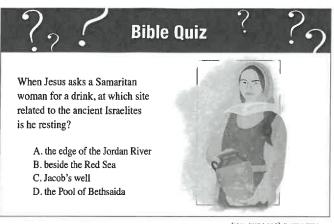




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October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 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) 4:30pm YG Photo Scavenger Hunt	30 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm Special Olympics (FC) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20) 7:00pm Personnel Team (#19)	2 10:00am Prayer Shawi Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	3 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)	4	5 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 10:00am –3:00pm Jerry Williamson & Julia Efford's wedding (Sanct & HH)
6 Pick up Christmas Child shoeboxes World Communion Sunday 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:30pm All Church Night! 4:30pm –5:30pm Connect Women's Ministry (#20) 4:30pm –5:30pm YG Personality & Spiritual Gifts Inventory (#31)	7 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	8 7:00am -8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel) 10:00am -11:00am Fellowship Circle (#20) 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm Special Olymples (FC) 7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (Heritage Hall)	9 5:30pm -7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20) 6:00pm -8:00pm Clothes Swap Collection Day (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	7:00am -8:00am AA Meeting (#29) 6:00pm -8:00pm Clothes Swap Collection Day (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	9:00am -12:00pm Collection Day (FC)	12 8:00am -11:00am Clothes Swap Day (FC) 11:00am -3:00pm Pastor Installation & Reception (Sanct. & HH)
Pick up Christmas Child shoeboxes 9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am Inquirers Class (#19) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am -1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:00pm -2:00pm New Beginnings Sunday Funday (FC) 4:00pm -5:00pm Mike - Covenant Woods 4:30pm YG Trail Hike/Picnic	14 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	15 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm Special Olympics (FC) 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	16 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	17 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)	18	19
20 Newsletter Deadline No YG 9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am Inquirers Class (#19) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am -1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	21 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	22 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm Special Olympics (FC)	23 5:30pm -7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20) 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 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)	25	26
27 Reformation Sunday 9:00am -9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am Inquirers Class (#19) 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 11:00am -1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am -12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:00pm -1:30pm New Beginnings Trunk or Treat (FC) 4:00pm -7:00pm Fall-O-Ween (FC) 4:00pm YG Volunteer at Fall-O-Ween	28 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	29 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -7:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm Special Olympics (FC)	30 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	31 Reformation Day 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)	All Saints Day Hanover County CSB set-up (FC)	Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 5:00pm ~8:00pm Hanover County Community Services dinner (FC)



Answer: C (See John 4:6.)

Church Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Stephen Starzer
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
Choir Director Celeste Underdown
Organist Dave Starzer
Praise Band Leader Matt Wenninger
Custodian John Longest



Return Service Requested

