



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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Office Phone: (804) 730-7164

February 2025



The Stewardship and Finance Committee would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the members and friends of Fairfield! 2024 was an unusual year for the church financially.

We began with our first budget in many years that did not include a mortgage payment. As the year progressed, we began to run into several issues with our church building needing repairs and maintenance. These are not unusual for a building the age of ours, but it did feel like many issues piling on all at once. All in all, 2024 was probably the most expensive year for facility repairs and improvements since the construction of the Family Center addition.

Our Treasurer, Gene Rosen, has presented us with our Income Statement for 2024 and it shows that we ended the year with a Net Loss of less than \$9,000. This is with facilities expenses being nearly \$70,000 higher than we had budgeted. We are extremely grateful to the members of Fairfield for giving extra to help offset these unusual expenses. We also want to thank our brothers and sisters in the New Beginnings congregation for contributing towards the repairs as well.

With the mortgages on the church paid off, we are striving to rebuild the church's financial

reserves to be able to address these costly repairs as they are needed. The church was able to use the amount destined for reserves in 2024 to cover the \$9,000 loss and still increase reserves by more than \$25,000.

God is great and He is doing great things here at Fairfield. These facility repairs are needed because the facility is being used for God's glory, both in worship and in mission, as we seek to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. We thank the Holy Spirit for touching the hearts of so many and pray that He will continue to bless our church building so that it may be a blessing to all who enter it.

*J. R. Marker, Elder
Stewardship & Finance*



Member News

Directory Updates:

Tony Underdown's new mailing address is: Autumn Care of Mechanicsville, 7600 Autumn Parkway, #309, Mechanicsville, VA 23116.

Jane Welborn's new address is 3607 Stone Spring Road, Rockingham, VA 22801.

Kirk Aliotti's father, John, **Norm Ballmer, Linda Canyock, Becky Clark, Danny Couch, Sheree Duggan, Elaine Endicott, Patty Gulliver's niece, Julie, Tim Gulliver's sister Pam** and friend **Neil Mallam, Fran Hansbrough, Ken Hayden, Sally Kovacs' husband, David, Julie Lowery, Susan Patterson's friend, Susan, Cheri Selph, Darlene Shegogue's brother-in-law, Marsha Young & Bryant Lowery's sister, Cathy, Tracy Young** 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, Dot Gammon, Ruth Harpster, Eva Ladd, Laverne Longest, Nancy Norment, Virginia Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Faye Sandridge, Tony Underdown, and Jack 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.)

Special Dates

- African American History Month
- Valentines Day, *February 14*
- President's Day, *February 17*



Pastor Steve and Church Family,
We have moved to the Villages in Florida. This came quite suddenly for us as my son who lived in Mechanicsville took another job in Florida. This would have left us here alone in Virginia. We could not stay here without help so we moved with our son. It has been wonderful being members of this church and living in this area. Please pray for us as we start our new adventure. Our new address will be:

John & Arlene Butchyk
7680 Woodley Terrace
The Villages, FL 34762
email: jbutchyk@gmail.com



I would like to thank my church family for all of the prayers and wonderful cards sent to me since I broke my ankle! I'm getting around with a boot on my foot and have to use it until the end of February.

*With deep gratitude,
Keith Curran*

Thank you so much for your generous donations of supplies and money. You have helped get supplies to Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee and now have aided in the rebuilding projects in our local area. Thank you!

*Green Springs Pres. Church
Abingdon, Virginia*

*Dear Fairfield Presbyterian Congregation,
On behalf of the Dunkum family, I want to thank
you for the fine reception following Nita's funeral.
Your wonderful kindness enabled family and
friends to gather and reconnect in an inviting
setting on a very cold winter day. Fairfield is a
loving congregation and Nita, despite her
limitations, felt very much a part of it. Thank you
for welcoming and supporting her.*

*In Jesus Christ's love,
David Adams*

*Dear Fairfield Family & Friends,
Words cannot express the appreciation we feel
for all of the blankets, coats, gloves, socks, and
hats that you have generously donated the past
two month for the homeless in our city. Your
overwhelming empathy for sharing with those
less fortunate have touched our hearts. May
God bless you as you have blessed others.*

Dale Woodfin, Fairfield Deacon



Hailey Spott
Richard Walden
Grace Zweckbronner
Ann Barlow
John Crowe
Jeff Cumins
Robbie Dobson
Walt Fadeley
Ryan Magill
Sam Penny
Lindley Starzer
Katelyn Weis
Don Wells
Emma Leudesdorff
Marci Selph
Norman Sulser
Gerry Underdown
Merrilyn Jones
Pat Daugherty
Brittany Bessette
Hazel Watson
Tracy Young

February 1
February 1
February 1
February 2
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February 10
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February 12
February 12

Daniel Arnette	February 13
Nikki Glass	February 14
Jerry Hughes	February 15
Sawyer Hutchison	February 15
Gene Elmore	February 16
Danny Guertler	February 16
Josh Patterson	February 16
Diane Richardson	February 18
Melissa Hughes	February 19
Roger Bessette	February 20
Richard Dunn	February 24
Donna Richbourg	February 24
Anne Young	February 24
Bruce Arnette	February 25
Elmer Deffenbaugh	February 26
Stacy Mueller	February 27
Andrew Dunn	February 28
John Weeks	February 28



Robert & Robin Wilson	February 10
Jim & Jennifer France	February 14
Hunter & Nikki Glass	February 15
Mark & Marsha Young	February 21

February 2nd
All
CHURCH
NIGHT!

4:00-4:30: CHILDREN'S DANCE
4:30-5:30:
PREK-5TH GRADE: JOY CHOIR
ADULT PROGRAM
5:30-6:30:
DINNER (PROVIDED)



Prayer Shawl Ministry

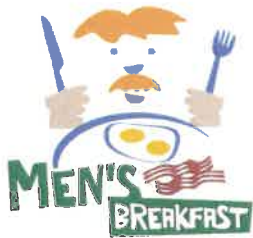
Prayer Shawl Ministry

With snow and cold in the air, winter is definitely with us. It can be crisp and clean or drab and dreary. The Prayer Shawl Ministry works to add color and cheeriness. We gather on the first Wednesday of the month for fellowship and to share

projects and ideas. Each shawl or lap robe is prayerfully made for someone in need of comfort. We welcome you to come join us.

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

Anna Barrowclough



Men of the Church - join us on **Tuesday, February 11th** starting at 7:00am at Cracker Barrel Restaurant on Bell Creek Road for our monthly Men of the Church

Breakfast! It is a great time of fellowship and a good way to fulfill the mission statement of the church: ***As a Christian community, together we BELONG to God, GROW in Christ and SERVE led by the Spirit.*** We encourage any and all men of the church to join us. Bring a friend!

Call or email Billy Putze (804-510-8719) or billyputze@comcast.net with any questions about the men of the church activities. See you on the 14th!



The Fellowship Circle will meet again on Tuesday, **February 11th**, 10:00am in the Open Door classroom. All women are invited to join us for

this daytime Bible study.



The Joyful Readers

will meet again on Tuesday, **February 11th**, 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall for their monthly meeting. They will be discussing the book "The

Tinder Box" by Beverly Lewis. Donna Horn will be the discussion leader and will lead the devotions. We hope all the ladies can join us.



February Youth Group Happenings

We've officially kicked off the new year with our youth! We'll be enjoying time indoors while the weather is frigid. Here's our upcoming events:

- 2/2 All Church Night, 4:30pm Summer Mission Trip Planning
- 2/9 No YG (Super Bowl weekend)
- 2/16 4:30-6:30pm Service project for home-bound members
- 2/23 4:30-6:30 - Movie Night

Keep March 16th on your calendar for **YOUTH SUNDAY** at both worship services. We'll use the lead-up youth group Sundays as preparation time for this wonderful service.



9:00am Nursery

- 2/2 Angela Schwartz & McKenna Blue
- 2/9 Marge Wantz & Abbey Glass
- 2/16 Anne Young & Barbara van Steenburgh
- 2/23 Nikki Glass & Angela Blue

GAME NIGHT!!

**Friday, February 21st
6:30 pm -8:00 pm
HERITAGE HALL**

Come play with us!
Board games, Karaoke,
Charades? This night is
for you! Help us create a
fun game night!

**Bring a Friend!
Let's start with Hearts!**

Questions???

Contact Becky Settle, Jeff Blue or Patty Gulliver

Books
IN THE
Church
Library



"Love your enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return." (Luke 6:35.) As I am preparing this article I am remembering an old

Sunday School lesson on love. I have borrowed some thoughts and phrases for this article from Luke's Gospel.

In this month, February, we celebrate Valentine's Day, let us reflect on ways that we can accept Jesus' challenge to be more like God by loving without condition even those we consider unlovable.

Come in and see what your library has to say about love. You will find My Heart's Cry by Anne Graham Lotz, Love Must Be Tough by Dr. James

Dobson and Never Let It End - Reflections of a Life Long Love by Ruth Bell Graham.

In the children's library you will find Because I Love You by Max Lucado, Little One God Loves You by Amy Hilliker and My Happy Heart.

May these titles be helpful to us as we all strive to be more like God and be inspired to love even our enemies.

Elizabeth Covington



YOUTH SUNDAY - MARCH 16

Save the date for our annual worship service led by members of our middle and high school youth groups. They will be working hard to bring thoughtful prayers, creative interpretation of Scripture, energizing music, in a day full of the Holy Spirit.



The Open Door Sunday School Class meets in the classroom next to the middle doors of the educational building adjacent to the Heritage Hall. We have four leaders that rotate weekly with a variety of topics and styles including session on church history, Christian living, and theology, as well as traditional Bible studies and discussions of current events. The classes are leader-guided discussions where class participation is not required, but encouraged. We all benefit from the input from our seasoned

class members, one of whom includes a resident minister, Rev. Fred McCall. To quote someone in our class, a good summary might be "Open Door, Open Minds, Open Hearts." We all bring different backgrounds and perspectives to the topics covered and the open discussion format allows us to share those, as well as broadening and deepening our understanding of the topics by learning how the perspectives of others differ from our own. The goal of these discussions is to make us stronger in our Christian faith.

Our class leaders rotate as follows: 1st Sunday of the month - Rob Blue, 2nd Sunday - Martha Houchins, 3rd Sunday - Tracy Young, 4th Sunday - J. R. Marker and if there is a 5th Sunday, the class invites a quest leader or joins the All Sunday School meeting. Currently, while Tracy's lessons focus on current events from recent headlines and challenges us to look at it in new ways, Martha's, J. R.'s, and Rob's lessons are focused on reviewing the Book of Acts from a Life Guide Bible Study by Phyllis J LePeau.

Keenagers from in their 30's to 70's make up the class roll. The class is well attended, but we have many extra chairs for visitors and new members.

Rob Blue

March 2 **All Church Night Lecture** **Celebrating our Common Testament**

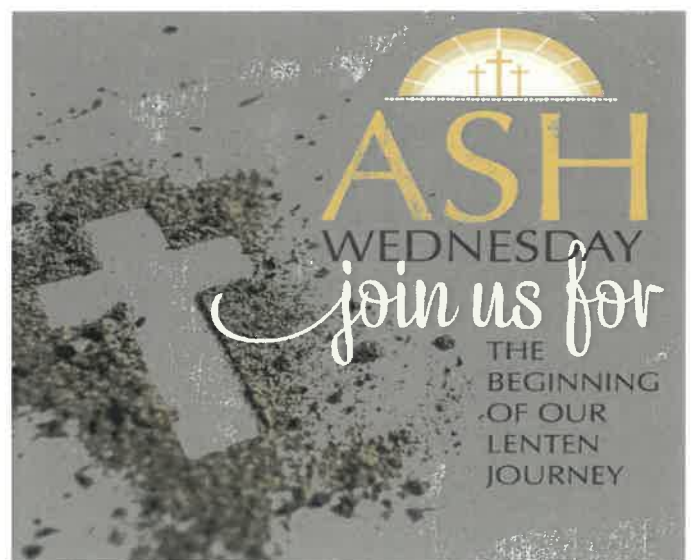
As we draw our sermon series "Celebrating our Common Roots" to a close, we have a wonderful opportunity for one final conversation regarding our common Scriptural roots - the Old Testament. We are blessed to have a guest speaker: Rev. Crystal Varner, Hebrew scholar and pastor of Providence Forge Presbyterian Church. She will help us explore how to appreciate the Old Testament in its own light and not just as a tool for interpreting the New Testament. Lecture and conversation starts at 4:30pm, all church dinner to follow by 5:30pm.

NEWS FROM **Mechanicsville Churches Emergency** **Functions (MCEF) and the One Stop Shop** **(OSS)**

2024 was a busy year for MCEF and the One Stop Shop. 1,888 people signed in during the year representing 5,613 persons in the household. These clients who signed in shopped for 2,642 bags of food. Clients also chose 173 bags of selections for Thanksgiving and 109 bags of selections for Holiday food. All of this was made possible from the generous donations of our Mechanicsville Churches. Since we moved to our current location on Stonewall Parkway in 2018, MCEF is grateful for the show of support for the One Stop Shop. Many volunteers have found their way to help on days that fit their schedules. It is a meaningful way to help our friends and neighbors in Mechanicsville. Fairfield, thank you for the continued part you play in this ministry.

In December and January, there were 49 requests for financial assistance and MCEF was able to help with 21.

Current Food Pantry needs are condiments, jelly or jam, individual snacks (like cheese crackers.)
Nancy Gallihugh



March 5th

Hurricane Helene Response Team Update


Due to the devastation of Hurricane Helene in Virginia, Governor Youngkin established the Adopt-A-Family Initiative designed to walk alongside families impacted by the hurricane in Taylor's Valley, a community located along Virginia's Creeper Trail. Fairfield's Session unanimously and wholeheartedly approved adopting a family. Our family member is Tim McClure. He lost everything in Helene.

Over Christmas Stephen and Amy Atkinson visited Tim. He is lovingly known as the mayor of Taylor's Valley. After spending almost three months, bouncing from place to place, Tim is now back in his home. Volunteers removed the mud, and gutted and replaced the floors and walls. He is grateful for the outpouring of love and support of the community.

Fairfield will be planning a trip in the spring/summer to help Tim and the Taylor's Valley community. Stay tuned and let Amy Atkinson know if you'd like to get involved somehow. For now, please keep Tim and all those impacted by recent natural disasters in your prayers.



Under-aged Thinking



a lovely aroma

Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.


What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)



What you do:

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.



Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

A place to live

1	2	3	4	5

Opposite of dark

6	7	8	9	10

Companion

11	12	13	14	15	16

Hand greeting

17	18	19	20

Male adult

21	22	23



8 2 16 13 4 6 2 19 5

17 9 2 5 19 5 12 6 7 19 5 4

13 15 6 2 19 20 6 7 19 14 4

13 15 8 2 16 18 15 16

8 2 16 13 23 10 1 14 21

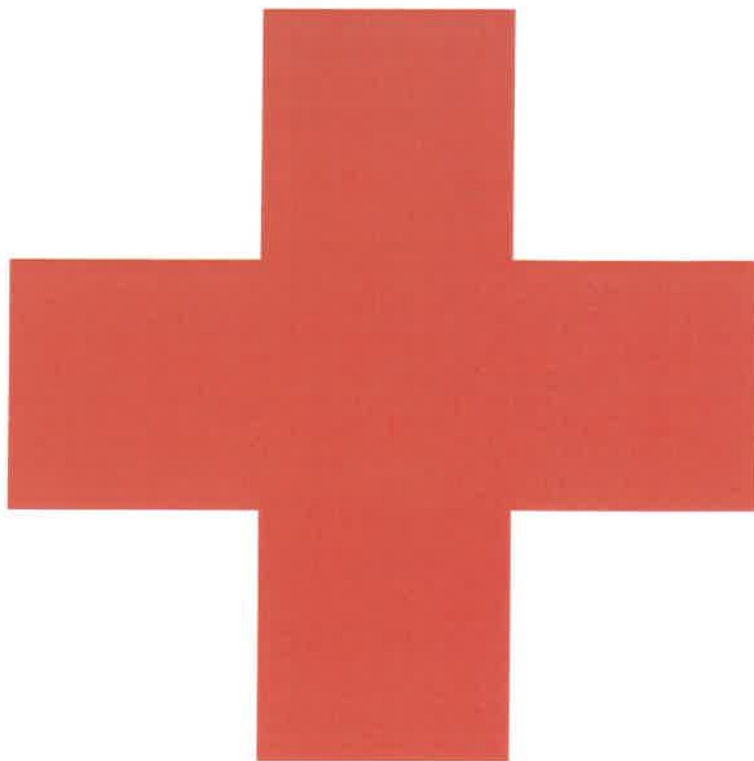
1 John 4:16, NIV

Answers: house, light, friend, wave, man; God is love, Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 1 John 4:16, NIV

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Fairfield Presbyterian Church

Heritage Hall
6930 Cold Harbor Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Tuesday, February 25, 2025
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: fairfieldpres to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan. 27 to Feb.
28 for a \$15 e gift card rcblood.org/flurry**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

**Combined Worship
Service**

March 2nd, 2025

10:30am

in the Sanctuary

Fellowship time follows

in Heritage Hall

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <p>9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center)</p> <p>9:45am –10:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)</p> <p>11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary)</p> <p>8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Set up FC for Saturday's dinner</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)</p> <p>6:00pm Beat the Winter Blues dinner (FC)</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center)</p> <p>9:45am –10:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)</p> <p>11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)</p> <p>4:30pm All Church Night!</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p> <p>7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor)</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary)</p> <p>8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00am –4:30pm Civil Air Patrol Class (F/C)</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center)</p> <p>9:45am –10:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)</p> <p>11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00am –8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel)</p> <p>10:00am –11:00am Fellowship Circle (#20)</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p> <p>7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (Heritage Hall)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20)</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary)</p> <p>8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center)</p> <p>9:45am –10:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)</p> <p>11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p> <p>7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary)</p> <p>8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)</p> <p>6:30pm –7:30pm Security Meeting (#26)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30pm –8:00pm Game Night (Heritage Hall)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00am New Beginnings Prayer Service (FC)</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center)</p> <p>9:45am –10:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center)</p> <p>11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00am –3:00pm Classical Conversations Tutor Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>1:00pm –6:00pm Blood Drive (HH)</p> <p>4:30pm –5:30pm NBC Dance Rehearsal (FC)</p> <p>5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Girl Scout Troop 557 (#20)</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary)</p> <p>8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC)</p> <p>6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)</p> <p>7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)</p>

?

?

?

?

Bible Quiz

The short Old Testament book of Lamentations is a set of communal laments (sorrowful songs) about the destruction in 587 B.C. of which city, by which people?

A. Babylon; the Assyrians
 B. Jerusalem; the Babylonians
 C. Rome; the Greeks
 D. Caesarea Philippi; the Romans

Answer: B (See Bible commentaries.)

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
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Bob Temple
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

