



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

Web Site: www.fairfieldpcusa.org
E-Mail: office@fairfieldpcusa.org
Office Phone: (804) 730-7164

May 2025

**From the
Pastor**



Chasing the Ball Around

Our son, Bruce, started soccer this Spring. It's about what you'd expect for an under-4 league - a small herd of eager boys and girls following the ball around the field until it inevitably goes out of bounds or into the goal. The kids are constantly running on and off the field, mid-play, as if it's a hockey game. Oftentimes there's more fun to be found for them in playing in the dirt and grass than actually playing the game their beloved parents invested in them to play.

But you know what? I learned quickly that all of that is absolutely ok. These precious young children are taking in more than we realize. The ball kicks they do make contact with, few as they may be, are still ball kicks. They are enjoying putting on shin guards and jerseys, they have a blast being a team together, following instructions from a coach, and most importantly, having their family and friends cheer them on from the sideline, no matter what they do.

As we sit here on the other side of Easter Sunday, I can't help but think of Jesus' disciples as if they were an under-4 soccer team after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Elation and joy surely filled the air upon Jesus' return and commissioning of them as the ones to carry on

the work of the kingdom of God. They were driven by their identity in Christ and their purpose as disciples. They were a team.

Sure, there were plenty of occasions early on where they were caught playing in the dirt, or staring at the sky - losing focus on their commission from their coach. Yet in the time following Jesus' return, they were committed to preaching and living the good news of Jesus' life and ministry.

Perhaps the living of our faith, as individuals and as a church community, feels at times like we're in a huddle just chasing a soccer ball wherever it gets kicked. Sometimes we score a "goal" with a wonderful ministry or mission venture. Other times we find ourselves out of bounds, out of time, lost on the field somewhere. And yet, we keep cheering one another on, our coach, our leader, our God, is proud of us for showing up as a team. And that's worth celebrating.

This May we will celebrate our coaches, our teachers, in Sunday School and beyond. Thanks be to God for those who cheer us on.

In Christ,

Member News

Directory Updates:

Our sympathies go out to **Gerry Underdown** and his family on the death of his brother, **Tony Underdown** on April 16th. Tony joined Fairfield in 1970 and was a faithful member. A private service will be held at a later date. Please keep their family in your prayers.

Donna Hohman's email address has changed. It is now dohohman16@gmail.com

Maurine Wolfgang's email address is wolfgang804@comcast.net

Linda Canyock, Elizabeth Moorhouse, Barbara Wash, Herta Wenninger, K. C. Whitaker's uncle, **Bruce, Deborah Wood's** friend **Cathy Hicks, 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, 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.)

Special Dates

- National Day of Prayer, May 1
- Mother's Day, May 11
- Armed Forces Day, May 17
- Memorial Day, May 26
- Ascension Day, May 29



I would like to thank my church family for the many cards and prayers during my recent foot surgeries and recovery. And the use of the wheelchair from the medical closet was so appreciated as it allowed me and my family to take a previously planned trip without having to make additional accommodations for my travel. While I am still heading from the latest surgery, things are finally looking much better.

With love, Julie Lowery

Keith and Debbie Curran thank the church family for the many condolences following the passing of Keith's cousin in New Jersey. They meant so much to us.

My son, Kent, and I so appreciated the many, many cards and notes of condolence after Walt passed in March. The support of those messages was very uplifting. Thank you, one and all!

Jan Fadeley

Thank you so much for the cards, calls, texts, visits and food given to us during Tracy's surgeries and rehab. He is not there yet, but is making steady progress getting back to health. Your love, prayers and concern have made this difficult time bearable. Thanks and love to you all.

Beth Young

On behalf of our staff, board, and the Veterans we serve, we express our appreciation to the Men of Fairfield Presbyterian Church for their contribution of \$250 received on April 21st. Your kindness makes a tangible difference in the lives of Veterans striving to reclaim their independence and dignity. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to making a lasting impact.

Lynne Berkness,



Meredith Atkinson	May 4
Erik Whitaker	May 4
Cameron Hutchison	May 5
Rebecca Harvey	May 6
Shirley McGhee	May 6
Sean Wodwaski	May 7
Janna Daugherty	May 8
Carl Fulwider	May 8
Bonnie Warren	May 8
J. R. Marker	May 9
Caroline Carneal	May 10
Arnold Neuharth	May 10
Zachary Hale	May 18
Jacob Lafferty	May 18
Elizabeth Moorhouse	May 19
Keith Curran	May 20
Jolie Daugherty	May 21
Jack Letourneau	May 21
Munira Dunn	May 24
Carolyn Ingram	May 24
Ellis Williamson	May 24
Emma Wills	May 24
Linwood Ingram	May 28
Kimberly Stevens	May 28
Deborah Newcomb	May 30
Brandon Sulser	May 30
Tim Gulliver	May 31
Caroline Hastings	May 31
Brett Underdown	May 31



Anna & Kevin Barrowclough	May 1
Jerry & Melissa Hughes	May 1
John & Arlene Butchyk	May 2
Sharon & George Tuckwiller	May 6
Norman & Barbara Wash	May 9
Patrick & Sheri Wodwaski	May 9
Roger & Crystal Bessette	May 20
Wyatt & Morgan Wills	May 20
Eric & Kelly Spott	May 24
Stephen & Amy Atkinson	May 30

FAIRFIELD

COOKOUT

MAY 4TH
5:30-7:30 PM



BRING A SIDE OR DESSERT TO SHARE!

PLEASE LIST INGREDIENTS ON A NOTECARD FOR ALLERGY AWARENESS.
(NOTECARDS AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT IF NEEDED)



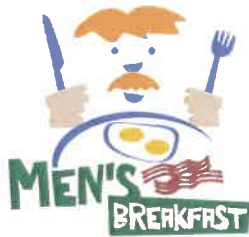
Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry

As the warmer weather approaches, the Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to prayerfully knit and crochet shawls and lap robes. The colors and patterns vary but the goal remains the same - to provide warmth and comfort during times of sorrow or stress. If you would like to join our fellowship, we meet the first Wednesday of the month.

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, May 7 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor. We would love for you to join us.

Anna Barrowclough



Men of the Church -

Join us on **Tuesday, May 13th** 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 13th!



The Fellowship Circle

will meet again on Tuesday, **May 13th**, 10:00am in the Open Door classroom. All women are invited to join us for this daytime

Bible study.



The Joyful Readers

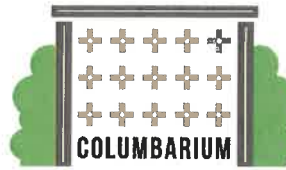
will meet again on Tuesday, **May 13th**, 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall for their monthly meeting. They will be

discussing the book "Little Liar" by Mitch Albom. We hope all the ladies can join us.

Christian Education Celebration Sunday May 18 at 9 & 11am

Join us in celebrating the end of the programming year for Sunday School, Joy Choir, and Youth Group! Bibles will be presented,

leaders will be thanked, and pancakes provided from 8-11am (for the youth mission fund raiser). While many adult classes continue on through the summer, we like to take a moment to at least express gratitude and celebrate our wonderful programs and classes.



The following information is from the **Memorial Garden and Columbarium Committee.**

Spring has sprung!

Check out the banners showing the progress towards Fairfield's Memorial Garden and Columbarium. The flowers are starting to bloom. Please consider adding to the garden by purchasing a niche, honoring someone with a memorial plaque, or donating to this special project. A special thanks to those who have already chosen to be a part of this sacred place.

Beth Young

Season of Easter Preaching Series

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 4 | Lazarus and the Rich Man
Luke 16: 19-31
Steve preaching |
| May 11 | The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
Luke 18: 21-35
Steve preaching |
| May 18 | The Good Samaritan
Luke 10: 25-37
Mike preaching |
| May 25 | The Rich Fool
Luke 12: 13-31
Steve preaching |
| June 1 | The Prodigal Sun
Luke 15: 11-32
Steve preaching |

2025 Mission Drive

The Fairfield Mission Drive was a great success last year. With all of the generous contributions that you made, Fairfield was able to spread the love of Jess to many people and organizations, locally, nationally and internationally. The love, care and the kindness that our congregation has shared both nearby and far away in the name of Jesus during the past year has been remarkable. The Mission Committee looks forward to being able to continue reaching out and helping to draw many more people to Jesus and to the Good News of the Gospel.

The 2025 campaign begins on May 4 and runs through June 1. Prayerfully consider your blessings and the gifts that you can share, as we work together to help every person know the love that Christ has for them and how much He values them. Please mark your contributions "2025 Mission Drive."

Blessings,
The Mission Committee



NURSERY SCHEDULE

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 5/4 | Angela Schwartz & McKenna Blue |
| 5/11 | Anne Young & Abbey Glass |
| 5/18 | Marge Wantz and Barbara vanSteenburgh |
| 5/25 | Nikki Glass & Angela Blue |



Update on Tim McClure: May 2025

We've remained in contact with Tim, our adopted family member in Taylors

Valley, Virginia, who lost a large portion of his home and several items in Hurricane Helene. Tim is always upbeat and grateful for the love and support of Fairfield. Recently, the children of the church sent him cards. He loved them! "You tell that Angela Blue how much I appreciate those sweet cards from those precious children." Tim reached out to us recently in need of some outdoor tools and equipment - which our Hurricane Relief Team has been able to coordinate for him, along with some other needed items. Our team is grateful for the support of the congregation. Continue to keep Tim, and the whole Taylors Valley community in prayer. Reach out to Amy Atkinson if you'd like to get involved with the work of our team!

Hurricane Relief Trip: May 9 Community Action Day

Our community that we've been assisting (through the Helene relief "adopt a family program") in Taylors, Valley, Virginia is hosting a day of community service followed by a community cookout on Friday, May 9th. They'll be doing things like painting, spreading mulch, building a community garden, and other activities. This is a great opportunity to meet the folks we've been helping, including our adopted family member, Tim. Though it's coming up soon, we'd love to get a small group together for a quick trip down and back to help them out. Please consider joining this trip and contact Amy Atkinson, ASAP, if you're interested or have questions. Another way you can help is by purchasing items listed by members of the community on this Amazon wish list:

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/OWGJFAU090T1>.

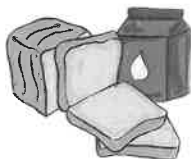
Under-aged Thinking



Make these sweet sandwiches for a Mother's Day tea party.

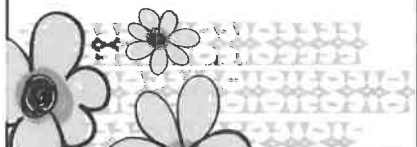
What you need:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
2. Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
3. On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
4. Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
5. Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
6. Trim off crusts with a serrated knife. Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles. Serve and enjoy!



Puzzle!

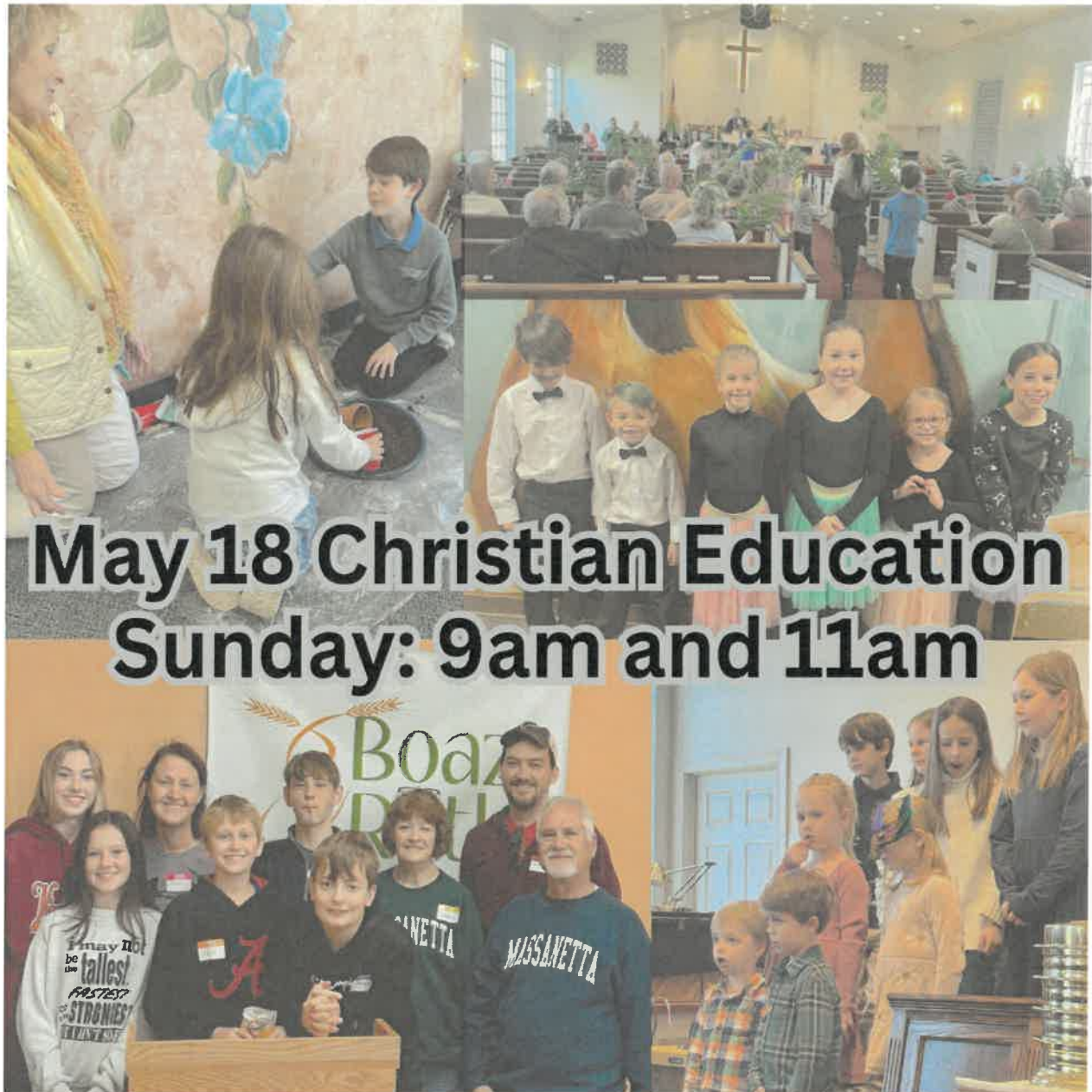
Unscramble the names of these biblical mothers. Look up the verse if you need help. Then use the letters on the numbered blanks to complete the message below.

- VEE (Genesis 3:20) 6 11 —
- NNAHAH (1 Samuel 1:20) — — — — 14 —
- RBAHEOD (Judges 5:7) 18 — — 3 — — —
- KREEHAB (Genesis 27:5) 16 — — — — 5
- EHLA (Genesis 30:14) — — 1 —
- CLEHRA (Genesis 30:22) 7 — — — 12 —
- MOIAN (Ruth 1:22) — — 10 17 13
- RAAHS (Genesis 17:19) 8 — — — —
- AMYP (Matthew 2:11) 2 — — —
- ZEBLEHATI (Luke 1:13) — 9 15 — — — — 4 —

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 8 14 G F F 16 10 17 G 3 18 !

Answers: Eve, Hannah, Deborah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, Naomi, Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth.
A mother's love is a gift from God!



May 18 Christian Education Sunday: 9am and 11am

Join us in celebrating the end of the Sunday School year, Joy Choir, Youth Group, and more! Bibles will be presented, leaders will be thanked, and pancakes provided from 8-11am (for the youth mission fundraiser).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00am – 9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am – 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am NBC Worship (FC) 11:00am – 1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am – 12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	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) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	30 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	1 11:00am – 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm – 9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	2 5:00pm – 8:00pm Farewell party for the Gullivers (Family Center)	3 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)
4 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) 5:30pm – 7:30pm All Church Picnic	5 8:00am – 4:00pm Classical Conversations 12:00pm – 4:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm – 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	6 9:00am – 4:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 1:00pm – 6:00pm Blood Drive (HH) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm – 8:00pm Power Soccer Practice (FC) 6:30pm – 7:30pm Facilities Management (#26) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20)	7 8:00am – 12:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	8 12:00pm – 4:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 6:30pm – 9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Security Team (#26)	9 8:00am – 12:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC)	
11 Mother's Day 9:00am – 9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Pavilion) 9:45am – 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am – 1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am – 12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	12 12:00pm – 4:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm – 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	13 7:00am – 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel) 8:00am – 4:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 8:15am – 4:15pm Adult Mental Health First Aid (#29) 10:00am – 11:00am Fellowship Circle (#20) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm – 8:00pm Power Soccer Practice (FC) 7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (Heritage Hall) 7:00pm Personnel/Nominating Committee (#19)	14 8:00am – 4:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 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)	15 8:00am – 4:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 6:30pm – 9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	16 8:00am – 12:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 6:30pm Game Night! (Heritage Hall)	
18 Christian Education Sunday 9:00am – 9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Pavilion) 9:45am – 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am – 12:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am – 12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:00pm – 1:00pm Fairfield Ringers (HH) 12:00pm – 1:45pm New Beginnings Bring a Friend Day 3:00pm – 5:30pm DAR Awards (Family Center)	19 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm – 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 12:00pm – 4:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm – 8:00pm Power Soccer Practice (FC) 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	21 8:00am – 12:00pm MHS IB Exams (FC) 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	22 11:00am – 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm – 9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	23	24
25 9:00am – 9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Pavilion) 9:45am – 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am – 1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am – 12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	26 Church Office Closed Memorial Day 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm – 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	27 11:00am – 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:00pm – 8:00pm Power Soccer Practice (FC)	28 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	29 11:00am – 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm – 9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	30	31

2025

MISSION DRIVE

**May 4 - June 1
2025**



MISSION FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2024

Giving is a reminder of the love God has shared with each of us. Through your generous contributions received last year during our annual Mission Drive, we were blessed to make many contributions to organizations, internationally, within the U.S., and locally, to continue to spread the word of Jesus Christ in their daily outreach. The \$10,884 you shared with the committee allowed us to make funds available for a number of continuing projects. Every year we ask the same question when reviewing the organizations or causes to support: ***How will these dollars be used to spread the love of Jesus Christ in their communities?***

We researched and discussed each organization well before issuing checks in 2024 and we are happy to share with you how this money was assigned and a little about the groups that FPC supported.

INTERNATIONALLY

David and Susan Howard - David and Susan are back in Papua, New Guinea for their 27year work among the Adzera people as translators and literacy teachers with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Not only does David work to translate the scriptures into the native languages, but the Howard's are looking for ways to provide materials for the local elementary schools who are teaching in Adzera. They are hoping to provide printed Adzera Scripture to churches throughout the Adzera area. They work daily to provide various forms of electronic formats of scripture via videos, apps and story books that are free to download without requiring a data connection, as well as a website to distribute and promote Adzera Scriptures.

The Jesus Film Project - A Campus Crusade for Christ organization that began distributing a two-hour docudrama about the life of Christ, according to the Gospel of Luke in 1979, has been seen in every country of the world and translated into over 2219 languages and is available in films, apps, equipment and other digital tools. The Jesus Film Project App allows for electronics to display multiple versions of Jesus's life, including new stories of the crucifixion and resurrection.

CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ) - Bibles were purchased for distribution as CRU partners with 191 nations around the world. Additionally, CRU offers a list of resources and opportunities for students in college and high school across the U.S. They support Campus Ministries for high schools, military, athletes and families.

The Outreach Foundation - Fuels the global mission of Christ, by growing trusted relationships, that inspire historic Christian faith as it is revealed in God's Word and expressed by the ecumenical creeds and confessions that Jesus Christ is the only Lord and Savior. This group helps to develop long-term relationships with global partners who are working diligently to keep the church alive and growing as it builds and strengthens ministries within multiple regions of the world where Christ's Word is just beginning to flourish.

NATIONALLY

Love Package - Decatur Alabama - Your used Sunday School literature, devotional and paperback Bibles are collected in the Union Class and sent out to missionaries in many parts of the world where the Word of the Lord is taught to small groups. They are often used as a tool to teach English while bringing Jesus Christ to life within their hearts.

Frontier Fellowship - A mission support group that works with believing communities to engage people and groups to spread the Good News of Jesus and His Kingdom to areas of unreached people. God desires to be worshiped by all peoples. Many people have little or no access to the message of Jesus Christ and his ministry. Frontier Fellowship enters into some of the most remote locations in the world spreading the Good News, just as Jesus did.

Theology Matters - Equipping the next generation of ministers for Presbyterian and other Christian congregations, *Theology Matters* provides important resources for congregational leaders who are seeking the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They encourage, instruct, and inspire the Christian community and it's elders through the clear and coherent articulation of theology according to God's word.

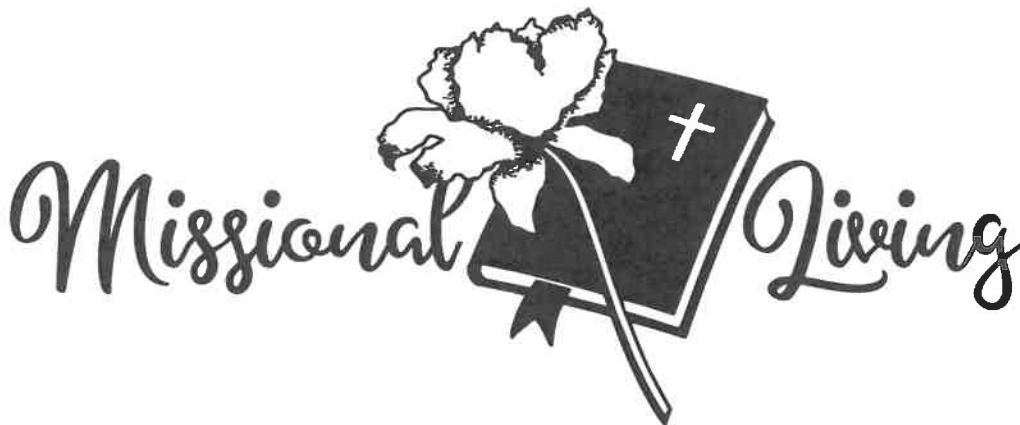
LOCALLY

Covenant Woods - FPC is so blessed to have many faithful members who are residents of the Covenant Woods Community. It is our pleasure to contribute monetary assistance to the Covenant Fund that provides for the ongoing assistance for residents who through no fault of their own, are no longer able to afford their care.

Angel Tree Project - FPC has partnered with Cold Harbor Elementary School for several years to assist local families with meeting their children's needs during the holidays. Families express the children's clothing and personal needs and several small surprises for Christmas. Your kindness has provided us being able to supply these needs and wishes, making Christmas exciting and meaningful. Each year we have been able to supply these families with small gift cards to Walmart to purchase a special meal or meet other needs. The Men of the Church has provided food baskets for the Thanksgiving holidays for these families, in addition to gift cards to Kroger for their turkey or main meat.

Pastor Discretionary Fund - Our pastors are always aware of situations that necessitate monetary needs. Available mission dollars are offered, no questions asked, to be used discretely, when needed, to meet the needs within our church family and community.

Thank you members - you are so awesome and generous with your gifts!



?? Bible Quiz ??

What was the name of the wealthy merchant of purple cloth who met Paul and his companions, was baptized and became a leader in the Philippian church?



- A. Priscilla
- B. Lydia
- C. Dorcas
- D. Joanna

Answer: B (See Acts 16:11-15, 40.)

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