



# 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

Website: [www.fairfieldpcusa.org](http://www.fairfieldpcusa.org)

E-Mail: [office@fairfieldpcusa.org](mailto:office@fairfieldpcusa.org)

Office Phone: (804) 730-7164

## August 2025



Dear friends,

In a few days, I will be heading to Tripp Lake in northern Pennsylvania. I have been doing my study leave there for more than 20 years. Yet, this year will be very different from all

the previous years. I will be using some vacation time in addition to my study leave time because part of my hopes for this time away is to discern how to best prepare Fairfield for the next chapter that lies before you and to prepare myself for letting go and trusting God to guide and direct you.

My time as your Pastor is drawing to a conclusion very quickly. I have no idea where these past, nearly fifteen years have gone. On July 27<sup>th</sup>, we took the formal step of voting to ask the Presbytery of the James to dissolve the Pastoral relationship between all of you and me. It sounds harsh, and maybe that is intentional so that the reality of it is felt. It isn't easy for me, and a few of you have expressed your sadness as well.

Unlike when a Pastor leaves to answer a new call, when a Pastor retires, there is the extra step of the Presbytery reporting to the Board of Pensions in Philadelphia that I am indeed retiring

and eligible to receive my pension. That is why we started the process a bit earlier than "normal".

You were kind enough to approve the plan that the Personnel and Stewardship Teams put forward and that your Session voted to approve. Your kindness to me allows me to conclude my active ministry with you on October 15<sup>th</sup> (final Sunday of October 12<sup>th</sup>) and my formal conclusion on December 31, 2025. Why the difference? While my last paycheck will be on October 15<sup>th</sup>, I won't be taking my pension until January 2026. Two reasons for doing it this way are 1) this will cover Debby and me with our medical insurance until January, and 2) we have a very small inherited IRA that we will use for those 2 ½ months without an income and avoid excessive taxes on its withdrawal.

Your kindness in allowing us this option is deeply appreciated. My love for you and my gratitude to God for bringing me here will never be diminished.

In Christ's love,

## Member News



**Kathy Boyle's father, Linda Canyock, Becky Clark, Danny Couch, Karen Couch's sister, Brenda, Lee Lythgoe's cousin, Nancy, Elizabeth**

**Moorhouse, Bill Thompson's cousin, Martha, Donna Richbourg, Herta Wenninger, K. C. Whitaker's uncle, Bruce, Ed Wolfgang, 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.)*



We welcomed the following members into our congregation recently:

**Jaymes Pielmyer**  
3163 Parsley Mill Road  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111  
(804) 441-5553

**Julia Williamson**  
2241 Eventide Drive  
N. Chesterfield, VA 23236  
(804) 386-7264

**Dee Griffin**  
12107 John Tyler Memorial Highway  
Charles City, VA 23030-3616  
(434) 210-2662

Please make our new members feel welcome!



**Jaymes Pielmeier** received the Sacrament of Baptism when he joined on Sunday, July 27. We welcome Jaymes into our family!

On August 3 **Jackson Vignola** will receive the Sacrament of Baptism at the 11:00 service. Jackson is a wonderful child who has grown up in this church for a while now. His grandmother, Serena and him will be moving to upstate New York soon. We will hate to see them go!



Dear Friends,  
*Thank you for generously allowing us to use your church for our annual Ice Cream Social. Your hospitality created a welcoming space for our community to gather, connect, and carry a message of hope. We truly appreciate your continued support.*

District #37 - AA

Dear Fairfield Family,

*Thank you all for the prayers, calls, cards, love and support to David & me throughout his failing days and at the time of his passing. You are a precious and enduring gift!*

Blessings, Sally Kovacs



Dave Starzer	August 1
Ivy Lightsey	August 2
Brian Clark	August 4
David Jones	August 6
Keelyn Underdown	August 7
Kendall Underdown	August 7
LeVonne Neuharth	August 8
Donna Horn	August 12
Rob Blue	August 13
Rick Heretick	August 13
Peggie Rosen	August 14
Calvin Pearson	August 15
Helen Rigsby	August 17
Lori Briel	August 18
Joyce Ziglar	August 18
Barbara Cooper	August 19
Billy Putze	August 20
Hunter Glass	August 21
Lexie Horn	August 21
Jake Lake	August 21
Linda Daugherty	August 24
Mark Schneck	August 24
Topher Carson	August 25
Linda Canyock	August 27
Amanda Nittinger	August 28
Justin Harvey	August 29
Sue Coulter	August 30
Faye Sandridge	August 30



Bruce & Cathy Jenkins	August 1
Larry & Fran Hansbrough	August 3
Mike & Beth Weber	August 3
Noah & Ashley Clark	August 7
Linwood & Carolyn Ingram	August 8
Sean & Melanie Magill	August 10
Dennis & Tracy Sulser	August 11
Arnold & LaVonne Neuharth	August 12
Gerry & Celeste Underdown	August 12
Bob & Sharon Gaston	August 21
Bob & Elizabeth Moorhouse	August 22
Bill & Cory Walter	August 22

## *Fall into Fellowship: Church Life is Back!*

As summer winds down, we're gearing up for an exciting season of ministry and connection, Sunday School, small groups, youth nights, and more are all starting back up in September. There's a place for everyone - come grow, serve, and belong!





Amid the heat, humidity and rain this past July, the Prayer Shawl Ministry has continued to knit and crochet shawls and lap robes. The colors and patterns complement each other and are prayerfully made for that special someone in need. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet or just want the fellowship, come and join us on the first Wednesday of each month.

**The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, August 6 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.** Come and see what we are all about.

Anna Barrowclough

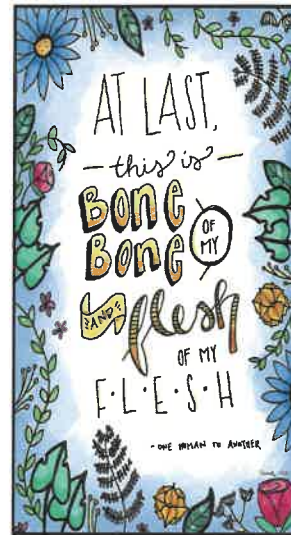


## August Sermon Series: Faces of Faith

There are many heroes of the faith, people we admire and wish to be. However, there are even more ordinary people of faith—those doing what they can with what they have to make a difference. Let's explore the bold and untold stories of those often overlooked in our biblical narratives, hoping these characters remind us that we all play a role in shaping God's story of redemption and grace. *(series designed by "A Sanctified Art")*



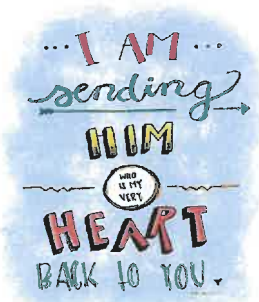
**August 10**  
Numbers 27:1-11  
The Daughters of Zelophehad  
Kaylyn McGhee preaching



**August 17**  
Genesis 2: 4b-36  
Adam & Eve  
Mike Watson preaching



**August 24**  
Daniel 3  
Shadrach, Meshack & Abednego  
Mike Watson preaching



**August 3**  
Philemon 1 - Philemon  
Steve preaching





**August 31**  
Acts 20: 1-12  
Eutychus  
Keith Curran  
preaching

## Summer Adult Sunday School

Several of our adult Sunday School classes will continue to have opportunities during the 10am Sunday School hour throughout the summer. Drop by any of these classes - you're always welcome! Here's an update for what they are all doing over the next 3 months:

**The Open Door Class** continues with Rev. Fred McCall as he teaches on the parables.

- Aug. 3: Matthew 25:1-13, ten bridesmaids  
Aug. 10: Matthew 25: 14-30, the talents  
Aug. 17: Matthew 25: 31-46, judgment of the nations  
Aug. 24: Matthew 20: 1-16, laborers in the vineyard  
Aug. 31: Matthew 18: 23-35, unforgiving servant  
Sept. 7: Matthew 21: 28-32, two sons

**Union Class:** They are continuing their study using the Unified Lesson Plan using the book by D. C. Cook.

**Cornerstone Class** is doing an in depth study of the parables using the book Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes by Kenneth E. Bailey.

**The Rock Class** is not meeting officially. Interested people are using Richard Dunn's Wright Essential Biblical Text video and will meet

to discuss and pray at various times. Please contact Richard if you have any questions about their plans or schedule.

### Clothes Swap



## Back - 2- School Clothes Swap

Bring baby to teen clothing (no undergarments, stained or torn clothing), coats, shoes and accessories on a Designated Donation Day to the Family Center. Then come back on Saturday morning, August 16<sup>th</sup> to shop.

Open to anyone in need from 10 - 11am on Swap Day

### Donation Days:

- Wed. Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm  
Thur. Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-12:00pm  
Thur. Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

### Swap Day:

- Sat. August 16<sup>th</sup> 8:00-11:00am  
Open to anyone from 10:00-11:00am

Please sort clothes by gender and size before arriving. Tables are labeled: 0-12M, 18-24M, 2T, 3T, 4T, 5/6, 7/8, 10/12, 14/16, Teen. Sorting tables will be available on site if needed.



- |         |                       |
|---------|-----------------------|
| Aug. 3  | Abbey Glass           |
| Aug. 10 | Marge Wantz           |
| Aug. 17 | Barbara VanSteenburgh |
| Aug. 24 | Anne Young            |
| Aug. 31 | Angela Schwartz       |

*We are so grateful to have our nursery worker, Emily Tayman back with us every Sunday this summer!*



## Fairfield Youth Mission Trip Recap

Ten youth, four adults, an SUV we nicknamed “Starbucks” and a passenger van we nicknamed “Shirley Temple,” traveled across our state on Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> for a week of service with Appalachia Service Project. We were loaded up with tools, cots for sleeping on a gym floor, work clothes, and other essentials, ready to take on the week before us.

We arrived in Wise County at our home base - an old high school with breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains in Appalachia, VA, and quickly unloaded our belongings. We were joined by youth groups from churches in PA, MN, and RI, all different denominations, all veterans of Appalachia Service Project. Our group bonded quickly with one another, and with youth from these other churches. Sharing a large gym floor in the heat of the summer tends to do make that happen!

We were split into two groups: one tasked with repairing a roof, another tasked with building a deck, then painting a bathroom. There were moments of waiting for supplies, as well as moments when we worked feverishly against the clock before the weather got too hot. Everyone worked hard and found something to do along the way. Two of our youth even built a birdhouse with construction scraps for our homeowner!

The theme of our week with ASP was “Be the Light,” inspired by Matthew 5:16, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Through morning devotionals and evening sessions, we considered how the work we do to serve others is a way to enlighten a weary world, to show them Christ through our actions. Our crew was shining bright all week, almost as bright at the hot sun which tried, but could not, dampen our spirits.

Through meeting homeowners, community members, and taking part in “culture night square dancing,” we not only shined a light, but experienced the light of others all week. The light of Fairfield’s prayers also sustained us in our time out there. Thank you for your donations, your prayers, and your curiosity!

In Christ,

The Fairfield Youth Mission Trip Team





**BACK-2-SCHOOL**

FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
6930 COLD HARBOR ROAD  
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111  
FAMILY CENTER

**SWAP**



**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!**

**OPEN TO ANYONE IN NEED FROM 10-11:00AM ON SWAP DAY**

## DONATION DAYS:

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13TH: 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14TH: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14TH: 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

## SWAP DAY:

**AUGUST 16TH**

8:00 AM-11:00 AM

PLEASE SORT CLOTHES BY GENDER AND SIZE BEFORE ARRIVING.  
TABLES ARE LABELED: 0-12M, 12-18M, 18-24M, 2T, 3T, 4T, 5/6, 7/8, 10/12, 14/16, TEEN.  
SORTING TABLES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SITE IF NEEDED.




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 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) 12:00pm –2:30pm New Beginnings Family & Friends Day (FC)	<b>28</b> 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	<b>29</b> 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	<b>30</b> 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>31</b> 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 6:30pm –8:30pm CC Essentials Orientation (HH)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 1:00pm Matthew Denton's Memorial Service (HH)
<b>3</b> 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)	<b>4</b> 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations Practicum (HH, #14, #19, #20) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	<b>5</b> 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 6:30pm Facilities Management Meeting (#26) 7:00pm Personnel Nominating Committee (#19)	<b>6</b> 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>7</b> 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00am –10:00am New Beginnings Prayer Service (FC)
<b>10</b> 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)	<b>11</b> 9:00am CC Tutor Meeting 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	<b>12</b> 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	<b>13</b> 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm Clothes Swap Collection (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>14</b> 10:00am –12:00pm Clothes Swap Collection (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm Clothes Swap Collection (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	<b>15</b> 10:00am –12:00pm Clothes Swap Collection Day (FC)	<b>16</b> 8:00am –11:00am Clothes Swap Day (FC)
<b>17</b> 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)	<b>18</b> 10:00am CC Orientation (Family Center) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	<b>19</b> 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 5:30pm –8:00pm Special Olympics Pickleball (FC)	<b>20</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>21</b> 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 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)	<b>25</b> 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	<b>26</b> 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 5:30pm –8:00pm Special Olympics Pickleball (FC)	<b>27</b> 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	<b>28</b> 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 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)	<b>1</b> Church Office Closed <b>Labor Day</b> 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	<b>2</b> CC Taco Tuesday Potluck (Heritage Hall) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 5:30pm –8:00pm Special Olympics Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20) 7:00pm Personnel Nominating Committee (#19)	<b>3</b> 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)	<b>4</b> 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)



# Under-aged Thinking


## SHINE FOR Jesus



This easy and colorful craft helps kids remember that Jesus is their light—no matter where they go!


**What you need:**

- Clear plastic cup
- Battery tea lights
- Tissue paper squares (pre-cut)
- Glue stick
- Markers (optional)
- Stickers (optional)



**What you do:**

1. Use the glue stick to press colorful tissue paper squares around the outside of the cup.
2. Add a simple phrase like "Jesus is my Light" or use fun stickers to decorate.
3. Turn on the tea light and place it inside the cup.
4. Turn off the lights and let your lantern glow!



# Puzzle!

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events.

Use the code to find the name of the special days the Israelites observed.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27

## SEASON

## HOLIDAY

1. End of Summer

New Year

I L H S S Z H S Z M Z S

2. Fall

Day of Atonement

B L N P R K K F I

3. Fall

Festival of Booths

H P F P L G S

4. Winter

Festival of Dedication

S Z M F P P Z S

5. Winter

Festival of Lots

K F I R N

6. Spring

Festival of Unleavened Bread

K Z H N L E V I

7. Spring

Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

H S Z E F L G

Answers: 1. Feast of Tabernacles 2. New Year 3. Festival of Booths 4. Festival of Dedication 5. Festival of Lots 6. Festival of Unleavened Bread 7. Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

???

Bible Quiz

???

A few Bible books have only one chapter. Which of the following is not among them?

- A. Obadiah
- B. Philemon
- C. 1 John
- D. 2 John
- E. 3 John
- F. Jude

Answer: C

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



**Fairfield Church**  
**P.O. Box 1088**  
**Mechanicsville, VA 23111**

**Return Service Requested**

**AUGUST**