



The Messenger
P.O. Box 1088 / 6930 Cold Harbor Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor
The Rev. Mike Watson, Associate Pastor

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September 2025

Pastor Mike's Upcoming Camino Pilgrimage

The time has come to set out for sacred ground...that will stir our sense of wonder. It is down the path to the deeply real where time stops and we are seized by the mysteries. This is the journey that we cannot not take.

-Phil Cousineau, *The Art of Pilgrimage*

On September 23rd, I will be joining 6 of my clergy colleagues for a journey, a pilgrimage, along the Camino de Santiago. Over the course of a week, we will be walking over 60 miles in Northeast Spain, culminating at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela (from our starting point "Vigo, 23A" on the map). We've been working toward this trip for over a year now and I'm very excited to use it as a time of renewal and rest, before bringing stories of my experiences back home to all of you!

"The Way" as it is often called, also known from a Martin Sheen movie about this pilgrimage, has a very long history. Christians in the 9th century, began pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela, believing it to be the burial location of the Apostle James. Pilgrims would travel from all over the world, walking to this sacred site via a number of different routes throughout Europe, before returning home with a scallop shell, a symbol of their completed pilgrimage.

In recent years, the Camino has increased, dramatically, in popularity. Last year, there were almost 500,000 pilgrims who made the journey via several different routes, for a variety of reasons. Some walk to reconnect with their faith, using the time for prayer and devotion. Some walk to renew themselves, after a trying or difficult time of life.

Some walk to connect with other pilgrims from around the world, to be transformed by new relationships. Some walk for the sake of the experience itself, taking in the beauty of the landscape.

I believe the reasons for my pilgrimage are a little bit of all of the above. I'll be traveling with my clergy cohort, with whom I've been part of for over a decade now. We'll use the time for sacred conversation, laughter, and personal/professional growth. We'll meet wonderful people along the way. We'll have time for prayer, reflection, and renewal. And we'll hopefully get lots of rest in our hostels and guest houses along the road each day.

I look forward to bringing my experiences back to you, sharing stories whenever I am able. I look forward to coming into our church's own season of transition with renewed energy and excitement, knowing that God continues to guide and strengthen us as we walk our own pilgrim journey, together.

I appreciate prayers of support as I walk longer in one week than I ever have before (by far!). I also appreciate prayers of support for Melody and the kids as they continue onward with school and work here. May God continue to guide us along our path.

In Christ,



Member News

Patty Gulliver's email address has changed. Her new email address is pagulliver@gmail.com



Janice Baily, Jack & Lori Briel's friend, Brenda, Kathy Boyle's father, Linda Canyock, Becky Clark, Danny Couch, Fran Hansbrough, Terri Joyce's family member

Jude, Elizabeth Moorhouse, Sue Putze, Bill Thompson's cousin, Martha, Barbara Wash, 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.)



Dear Fairfield,
This is a difficult day for me and Jackson. Saying goodbye is always so sad. We thank you for your friendship and fellowship. This past five years have renewed my faith and I am very thankful for that. We

will miss you all so much. So glad we will be able to watch on YouTube. Steve, I wish for you and Debby a wonderful retirement. I will miss all of your stories! I think we will see each other from time to time (ballgame) in August. Mike it was wonderful getting to know you and your

family. Thank you for always thinking of Jackson. Donna, thank you for always being their for me and Jackson and how we have so much in common, both love our grandsons to the moon and back. Wishing everyone at Fairfield healthy, happy and blessed lives. We will always think of you all with so much love!

Serena & Jackson Vignola

Serena & Jackson's new address is 3675 Buttercup Lane, Baldwinsville, NY 13027 (804) 244-0471.

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of First Presbyterian Church Kerrville and the greater Kerr County community, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donations in response to the recent flooding in our area. Your compassion and willingness to help in a time of such urgent need have been a true blessing to so many families who are struggling to rebuild their lives.

Your support has provided immediate relief - restoring homes, feeding the hungry, and offering comfort where there was once despair. We are reminded through your actions that the Church is not merely a building, but the hands and feet of Christ in the world today.

Thank you for standing with us in faith and in action. Your partnership is a testimony to God's unwavering care and a beacon of hope to our neighbors.

First Presbyterian Church Staff
Kerrville, TX

Special Dates in September

- Labor Day, September 1
- National Grandparents Day, September 7
- Patriot Day, September 11
- Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15-Oct. 15
- First Day of Autumn, September 22



Laura Arnette
Sawyer Harding
Jane Jones
Elaine Endicott
Karen Hastings
Courtney Kulkarni
Melanie Rubeck
Gerry Miller
Brian Croy
Logan Denton
Tom Lake
Charles Warren
Austin Wilson
Megan Leigh
Wyatt Schneck
Gerald Atkins
Tanner Franklin
Alissa Helfrich
Chris Palicia
Emily Helfrich
McKenzie Marker
Madison Stevens
Kylee Smith
Julie Sutton
Scott Stevens
Debbie Atkins
Kelly Daugherty
Elijah Horn
Bettina Tanner
Beth Cole
Henry Atkinson
Sandra Brewster
Matt Joyce
Mary Beth Adams
Marie Maida
Aaron Marker
Emily Westphal
Angela Blue
Heather Lowery

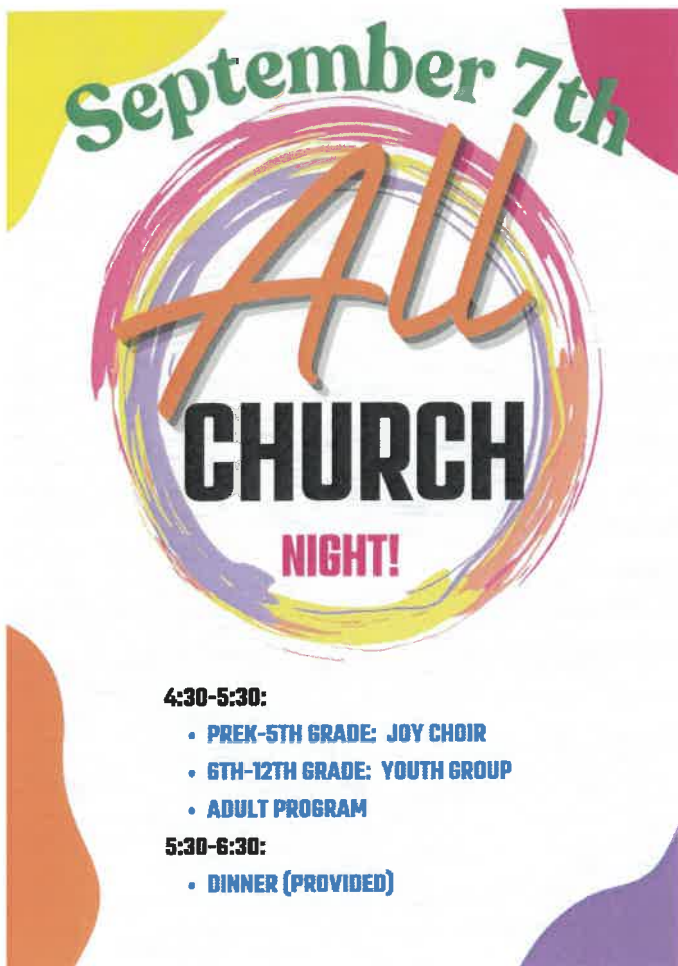
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John & Suzanne Weeks
Jeff & Angela Blue
Pat & Linda Daugherty
Justin & Katelyn Weis
Charles & Bonnie Warren
Merrill & Karen Hastings
Keith & Dana Franklin
Cameron & Erica Hutchison
Edward & Maurine Wolfgang
Ben & Brianna Hohman
Doug & Vicky Beamer
Jake & Ashley Foster
Billy & Sue Putze

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September 24
September 26





4:30-5:30:

- PREK-5TH GRADE: JOY CHOIR
- 6TH-12TH GRADE: YOUTH GROUP
- ADULT PROGRAM

5:30-6:30:

- DINNER (PROVIDED)

Sunday All Church Night Adult Program September 7th

Hanover Safe Place will be sharing information about their mission of preventing sexual and domestic violence, providing services to their affected, and creating community awareness for support and services. If you have ever wondered how you can help those in our community, here is your chance. Join us in Heritage Hall at 4:30pm for the program and a light dinner at 5:30pm for adults and youth.

September is a season of fresh starts. As school settles in and fall arrives, it's the perfect time to reconnect, recommit, and re-engage with church life.

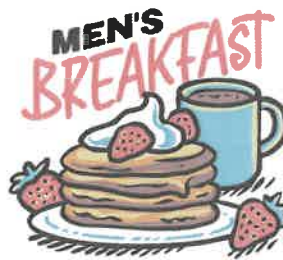


Shawl
MINISTRY

The first Wednesday of every month, the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** gathers in the Barlow Parlor for fellowship, knitting and crocheting. We share the projects we are working on and help new comers who want to learn. We help, advise and encourage each other with our projects.

If this sounds like something that you might be interested in, come and join us. **The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, September 3, 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.** Come and see what we are all about.

Anna Barrowclough



Men of the Church! Are you ready to begin another year? We will meet the second Tuesday of each month (beginning **September 9**), **7:00am at Cracker Barrel Restaurant** on Bell Creek Road. We'll start off with a good breakfast and a lively discussion. All men are invited to join us. We welcome new blood to the group.



The Fellowship Circle will begin again on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 10:00am in the Open Door Classroom (#20). This year we will be studying James, John, Peter and Jude. **Our first meeting will be on September 9th.**

Beverly Burts



The Joyful Readers Circle will start back up on **Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall.** They will be discussing the book "The Tinderbox" by Beverly Lewis. Leader will be Donna Horn. All women are invited to join or visit!



"Think on These Things"

A worship series by Rev. Dr. Steve Starzer

Sept. 5	Philippians 4:8 "Focus"
Sept. 12	John 13:34-35 "From Example"
Sept. 19	Matthew 28:16-20 "Guidance"
Sept. 26	Jeremiah 29:11 "Blueprints"
Oct. 5	Romans 16:17-20 "Fearless"
Oct. 12	John 12: 20-21 "Still Point"



*So if anyone is in Christ,
there is a new creation:
everything old has passed
away; see, everything has
become new! (2nd
Corinthians 5:17)*

Can you believe it? It's almost fall. Our children have started a new school year and they will be working hard to learn new things. As I reflect on this new season that is close upon us, I am reminded of one of Pastor Steve's sermons titled "Being & Becoming". In that sermon he reminded us that we should always be working at and learning to be good Christians.

Our library has many wonderful books that would be helpful to us as we continue into this new season of our spiritual lives. Look for Cure for the Common Life, There's a Hole in Your Sole That Only God Can Fill and The Faith Given Once for All. New to the children's library you will find The Story of Creation, The Story of Jesus and The Story of Moses.

We are all children of God. As such, may we always be working hard in our spiritual lives and learning to be good Christians.

Elizabeth Covington

Adult Discipleship News

Mark your fall calendars for the following events:

- Sunday, September 7, 10:00-10:45am, Heritage Hall. Come help give our Sunday School classes and other programs a rallying start. Learn about what the adult and youth classes are planning for this fall. Also learn about other opportunities for you to become involved in Fairfield. Breakfast snacks will be provided.
- Sunday, September 7, 4:30-6:30pm Heritage Hall. Enjoy an adult program to learn about how our church can help with a special community program to benefit battered women. Our speaker will share ways your family, Sunday School class, or other group can support Hanover Safe Place. A light dinner will be served at 5:30pm.
- The weeks of October 19 - November 22 Plan to join in this year's small group studies. Be on the lookout for more information and sign-ups for various interest groups forming this fall. If you have an interest or talent you would like to share with others, please contact the office.

Beth Young



We're back! After a busy summer in the lives of our middle and high school students, our youth advisors are eager to begin another school year. As always, we strive for a balance between fellowship and fun, service and mission, and spiritual formation. We're also hoping to find ways to engage our youth more in worship throughout the school year. If you know of someone who's looking for a youth group, consider inviting them to join us sometime!

Sept. 14 Service Project
Sept. 21 Swaders Sports Park
Sept. 28 No Youth Group



News from the OSS (One Stop Shop) and MCEF (Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions) 4mcef.com

Hanover Senior Rides is made up of MCEF Sr. Rides (in Mechanicsville) and ACES Sr. Rides (in Ashland). In Mechanicsville, rides are given to clients 60 and over or clients with disabilities who are mobile. The rides to to the OSS for food, to the grocery store, to the bank, to doctor's appointments. Anywhere in Mechanicsville area and to MCV. Drivers choose the rides that fit into their schedules. Riders give the program a seven-day notice of their need. Drivers must take the AARP driver test and have a background check. They are reimbursed for both + they currently get 25¢ a mile. Since its inception in 2013, 23,500 ride have been provided.

In the month of July 2025, ACES provided 20 rides and MCEF provided 141 rides. If you think you could spare a few hours to provide a ride, call 804-357-9360 for more information. MCEF Sr. Rides currently has 105 riders and 25 drivers.

A Prayer for Autumn's Arrival

Lord of all seasons,
As the leaves change and the days grow cooler,
help me embrace the rhythm of your creation.
Teach me to let go of what I no longer need
and to trust your timing in every part of life.

Thank you for the beauty of autumn -
from crisp mornings, golden trees, and the
promise of harvest.

May this season deepen my gratitude,
renew my spirit,
and draw me closer to
your heart.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Sept. 11
7:00 pm

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR MCEF

Hanover High School's Orchestra under the direction of Ms. Lucretia Davis will perform followed by a military flag ceremony presented by the Mechanicsville American Legion Post 175.

MCEF is Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions—providing rides for senior adults as well as food, clothing, linens & financial assistance for rent & utilities to our neighbors in need since 1976!

Suggested donation: \$5 & 2 cans/boxes of food/person
Walnut Grove Baptist Church, 7046 Cold Harbor Rd, 23111



If you have a college student/students in your family for the 2025-2026 academic year, please help us keep in touch with them by sending the requested information below to the church office (secretary@fairfieldpcusa.org).

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

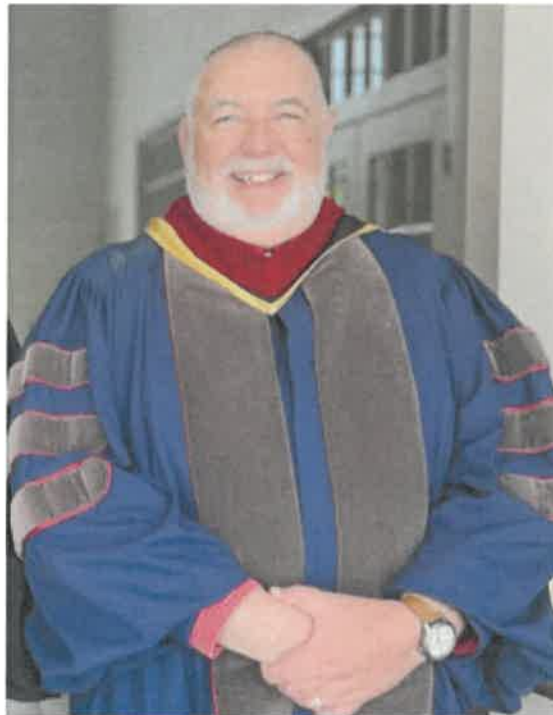
This information is also helpful to the Joyful Readers Circle when they send out care packages to our college students!

Thanks!



Celebrating the Ministry of Rev. Dr. Steve Starzer

Sunday, October 12th in the Fairfield
Presbyterian Church Family Center
10:30am Worship Service with Retirement
Celebration Luncheon afterwards



Luncheon main course will be provided,
you are welcome to bring a side or dessert

Gifts for Steve may be given to the
church earmarked as "Love Gift"

RSVP via worship inserts, calling the office, or online here:


<https://forms.gle/f69aSx7qrytqxs4J7>.

(link can also be found on church weekly emails)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 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)	1 Church Office Closed Labor Day 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	2 CC Taco Tuesday Potluck (Heritage Hall) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm –8:00pm Challenge Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Personnel Nominating Committee (#19)	3 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	4 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	5	6 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 12:00pm –12:00pm AA Breakfast (HH & Sm. Kit)
7 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)	8 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	9 7:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel) 10:00am Fellowship Circle (#20) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm –8:00pm Challenge Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (HH)	10 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	11 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00pm –8:00pm Security Team Meeting (#26)	12	13
14 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)	15 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	16 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm –8:00pm Challenge Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	17 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	18 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	19 6:30pm Game Night! (Heritage Hall)	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>
21 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 Pastor's Birthday Luncheon (FC)	22 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	23 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm –8:00pm Challenge Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	24 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	25 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	26 Hanover County Set-up (FC)	27 5:00pm –8:00pm Hanover County Community Service Board Dinner (FC)
28 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)	29 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	30 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm –8:00pm Challenge Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	1 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)	2 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	3	4 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)

Under-aged Thinking

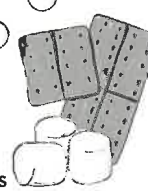
Sweet little sheep treats



Create adorable sheep using graham crackers, marshmallows, and a little imagination!

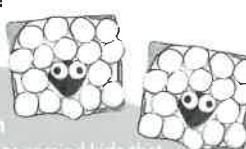
What you need:

- Graham cracker squares
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Mini marshmallows
- Large marshmallows
- Candy eyes or mini chocolate chips
- Black gel icing or mini Oreo cookie



What you do:

1. Spread white frosting or marshmallow fluff on each graham cracker square.
2. Stick mini marshmallows all over to make the sheep's wool.
3. Cut a large marshmallow in half and stick it near the top for the head.
4. Add candy eyes and a dot of black gel for the nose. Or use a mini Oreo cookie half for a more defined face.
5. Let kids decorate their sheep however they'd like!



Lesson tie-in
Use this treat to remind kids that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:11, KJV

Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle. Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

WORDS:

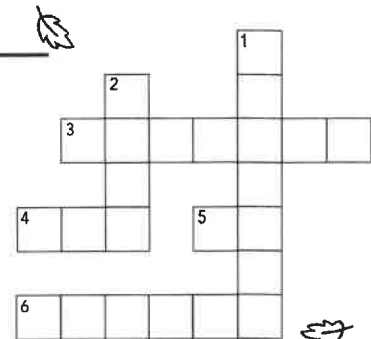
GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST, YIELDS, US, LAND

ACROSS

3. Rhymes with farthest.
4. Rhymes with nod.
5. Rhymes with thus.
6. Rhymes with fields.

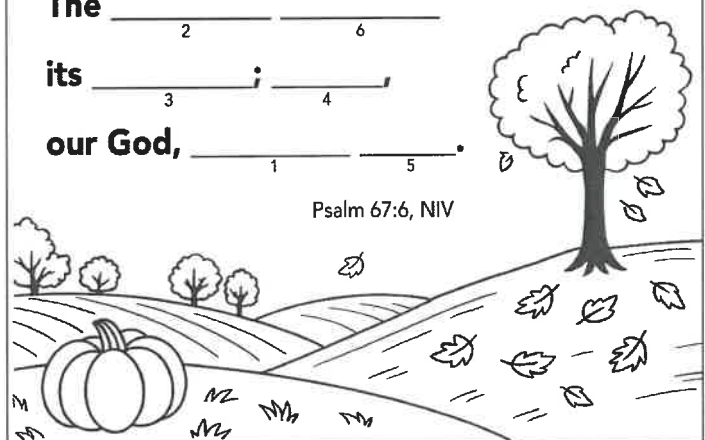
DOWN

1. Rhymes with messes.
2. Rhymes with hand.



The _____
its _____;
our God, _____.

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV

???

Bible Quiz

???

Timothy was a young man who became a trusted companion and co-worker of the apostle Paul. Which of the following statements is *not* accurate?

- A. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures.
- B. Paul considered Timothy his spiritual son.
- C. Timothy was born in Rome and raised as a Roman citizen.
- D. Paul wrote two New Testament letters addressed to Timothy.

Answer: C (See Acts 16:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:2)

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

