

The Messenger

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

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

October 2025



My very dear friends,

The time has come for me to step away from the privilege and

responsibility of serving as your Pastor. I truly believe and trust that God has led me to accept this new call into retirement. It has been difficult for me to admit that I can no longer keep up with the pace of Pastoral Ministry as I once did. I have shed many tears so far, and I am sure I will shed more in the future. You are an exceptional congregation. You have brought much joy to my life, and I have formed deep, lasting friendships in this church.

Letting go is never easy. Our Book of Order is clear that I must relinquish all Pastoral duties. I am fine with that. I will be the most supportive former Pastor any new Pastor has ever experienced. I have loved being a cheerleader for my successors in Wyalusing and Conklin. I look forward to Richard and Nancy blessing you with their presence and ministries, and I look forward to supporting whomever God is calling to be the next installed Pastor of Fairfield Presbyterian Church. I will be praying for them to be as loved here as I have been.

This means, of course, I will not be officiating funerals, weddings, baptisms, or preaching here. It is time for others to take the lead and to be the

ones who guide you through good times and difficult times. To be honest, I have already led more funerals than any one person ever should. Each one has taken a little bit of my heart and a lot of my energy.

Please do not interpret this as anything other than my new role in helping Fairfield move into its next chapter of service to our Lord, Jesus Christ. No Book of Order or Presbytery action can ever cause me to stop loving this congregation. You know this from the way I still speak so warmly of the Wyalusing and Conklin churches. My heart and prayers will be ever present with you, even in my physical absence.

With my deepest love,

For I know
the plans I have
for you,
declares the LORD,
plans for welfare
and not for evil,
to give you a future

Jeremiah 29:11

Member News

Our sympathy goes out to **Dwight Clark** and his family on the death of his niece, Kelly who passed away recently from cancer. Kelly lived in Houston, TX. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Gene Rosen has a new email address. It is: gene@rosencpa.llc

Peggie Rosen has a new email address. It is: peggie@rosen.llc

Shirley McGhee's phone number and email address have changed. They are (804) 238-0100 and her email is sbm4605@gmail.com



Janice Baily, Jack & Lori Briel's friend, Brenda, Kathy Boyle's father, Linda Canyock, Becky Clark, Danny Couch, Jessica Ingerman's manager, Grant, Terri Joyce's family member Jude, Elizabeth Moorhouse, Sue Putze, Bill Thompson's cousin, Martha, Barbara Wash, Don Wells, Herta Wenninger, K. C. Whitaker's uncle, Bruce, Ed Wolfgang, Greg Woodfin, Jr., Tracy Young and all 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.)



On September 28th we welcome into membership **Don and Joan Ross**. Don and Joan are the parents of Becky Settle and we are very happy to have them in our church family. Both Don and Joan come to us by Reaffirmation of Faith. Address, phone number and email address can be obtained through the office. Welcome Don and Joan!



Dear Fairfield Friends,
Please take-in my many
thanks and heartfelt
appreciation for your many
and ongoing cards, calls
and expressions of
concern regarding my

recent spinal surgeries. You all need to know how comforting and welcome your expressions of support have been and continue to be.

Tracy Young

Dear Friends,

Your congregation's generosity is incredible! I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution to our Covenant Fund. Your kindness and support have made a profound difference in the life of a resident here at Covenant Woods, allowing them to remain in the comfort and security of their home despite depleted financial resources.

Thanks for your gift of \$1,000, a resident in need has been able to receive the assistance

necessary to continue living with dignity and stability. Your gift embodies the compassion and community and community spirit that make our mission possible, and I am deeply appreciative of your commitment to help those in need.

Laurie Ursiny
Director of Philanthropy, Covenant Woods

We had an amazing AA event at Fairfield last Saturday (Sept. 6). Thank you so much for allowing us to use your facility!

AA District 37 & The Grapevine Magazine

Special Dates in October

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion Sunday, October 5
- Columbus Day, October 13
- Indigenous Peoples Day, October 13
- Reformation Sunday, October 26
- Reformation Day, October 31



As we say good-bye to Steve and wish him a happy retirement, we have two interim pastors stepping into his shoes.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Haney and Rev.
Nancy Clark will share the Interim Pastorate in this time of transition. They will split the position and responsibilities in an agreed manner, which uses their individual talents and abilities for the best results for Fairfield Presbyterian Church.

Richard, was our interim prior to Steve being called here 15 years ago. He will take

the role of Head of Staff. He has a tremendous background in church leadership, from starting a new church to directing the missionary work of the Frontier Fellowship. He has served several churches in times of transition and was always a steady guide, helping each church to fully trust the hand of God working through our Presbyterian process. He has brought joy to every calling he has answered.

Nancy is long-time resident of Mechanicsville and has had an extremely blessed ministry leading churches through transition periods, including two different times at Mechanicsville Presbyterian. Her analytical skills are second to none, and she will be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ as together this church seeks God's guidance into its next chapter.

Both Nancy and Richard will be starting on October 16. I know you will do everything you can to love and support them as you have done graciously for Mike and Steve.



October 1
October 2
October 2
October 3
October 3
October 4
October 5
October 6
October 6
October 6
October 6
October 7
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
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
Julia Williamson	October 26
Mason Settle	October 27
Libby Taylor	October 27
Myra Moore	October 29



Connor & Rachel Sulser	October 5
Jerry & Julia Williamson	October 5
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
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



Prayer Squares are located in a tray in the Narthex and in the area leading to the Family

Center. They are lovingly and prayerfully knitted and crocheted by the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Holding one in our hand provides a focus and centering during your prayer time. You are encouraged to take one for yourself and for a friend you think it might help.

If you would like to explore this Ministry, join us for at the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, October 1 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough



Men of the Church!

The Men of the Church will meet on Tuesday, October 14, 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

Circle meet 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 next meeting will be on October 14th.

Beverly Burts



The Joyful Readers
Circle's next meeting is
Tuesday, October 14,
7:00pm in the Heritage
Hall. They will be
discussing the book

"Hang The Moon" by Jeanette Walls. Beth Young will be the discussion leader. Come join us!



news

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. (I John v. 18)

In recent sermons Pastor Steve has been talking to us about the importance of God's

love in our lives and sharing the message of God's love with others.

Our library has many books that will help us as we reflect on how to show God's love in our lives. Look for <u>Conversations With God</u>, <u>No Greater Love</u> and <u>Who Cares? Simple Ways You Can Reach Out</u>. In the Children's library you will find <u>God is Love</u>, <u>God loves You Very Much</u> and <u>Little One God Loves You</u>.

Here at Fairfield as we go forward into a new season of our church's life let us continue to grow in our faith being strong disciples of Christ always striving to show God's love in our lives.

Happy Retirement and Best Wishes always to Pastor Steve and Debby as they too begin a new journey.

Elizabeth Covington



After our September kickoff Sunday, we went right to work on a mission project - shopping for and assembling 50 "power packs" of shelf stable food for families of AFOI (Assisting Families of Inmates). Packs

included macaroni and cheese, cans of beans,

fruit cups, granola bars, trail mix and more. They will surely go a long way to assist families dealing with food insecurity.

The following Sunday, we traveled down to Swaders Sports Park for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. October will feature a few opportunities for the youth to serve the church, assisting with some of our events.

- October 5 All Church Night
- October 12 Serve at Steve's Retirement Luncheon
- October 19 VCU Youth Group event
- October 26 Volunteer at Fall-O-Ween.

Keep our youth in prayer as they get into the midst of busy fall semesters - between school, sports, and other activities, it can be stressful to manage so many things. Thanks be to God for our wonderful communities to support that surround us.



We're looking for volunteers to assist with running the YouTube broadcast during Sunday services. If you're comfortable using a computer and web browser, we'll show you everything you need to know - no

special tech skills required! This is a great way to serve and help share our worship with those who can't attend in person. If you feel called to help, please reach out to the church office, we'd love to have you on the team!

Tom Lake

Mike's Camino Travels



Pastor Mike will be walking a portion of the Camino de Santiago, in Spain, with his clergy cohort from September 23 - October 1st. Details of his trip can be found in our

September newsletter. He'll be happy to share pictures and stories upon his return. Prayers are appreciated!

Men of the Church

The Men of the Church are seeking donations for their upcoming holiday projects. If you can help out, please write Men of



the Church on the check and/o envelope. We appreciate your generosity!

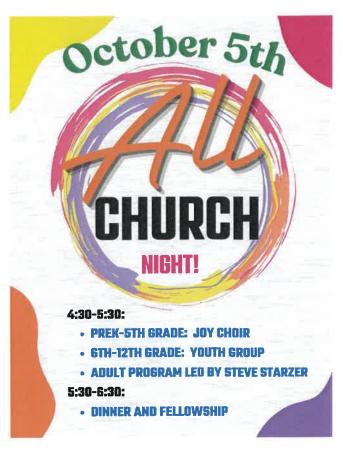
If you have a college student/students in your family for the 2025-2026 academic year, please help us keep in touch with them by sending the requested information below to the church office (secretary@fairfieldpcusa.org). We have only received 5 addresses so far. Please let us know!

- 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!





The Sounds of Worship

Have ever you paused to listen - really

listen - to the world around you?

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! (Psalm 98:4, ESV)

The hum of morning birdsong. The laughter of children. The comforting voice of a friend. Even the quiet moments of stillness. These aren't just background noise - they're invitations to worship.

God designed a world that sings. Worship isn't limited to Sunday mornings or formal songs; it's woven into the everyday moments that tune our hearts to Him. And when we pause to truly hear it, we are drawn into praise, right were we are.

What sound lifts your heart toward God today? Take a moment to listen. Let it remind you of His love and nearness.

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)

MCEF Thanksgiving Bags

Here is a list of the items that we are collecting for the Thanksgiving Bags that will be given to our clients. We are asking that the donations be brought to the One Stop Shop (or deliver to the church) by the end of October. We will accept donations after that, but it would be most helpful to be stocked early!

- Corn
- · Collard Greens/Mixed Greens
- Carrots
- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Brownie Mix
- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Hand Soap
- Toothpaste

FAIRFIELD'S ANNUAL



FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 6330 COLD HARBOR ROAD MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111

Committee News

RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

To commemorate Steve's retirement, colored notecards are available for anyone who wants to offer best wishes, fond memories and words of encouragement. You will find the cards and the box for the completed cards in the narthex and the Family Center entrance. Please make sure you sign a card.

We are putting cards in an album and would like to have as many as possible in the album when we present it to Steve on October 12th. Cards will be available at the reception for anyone who hasn't gotten a card.

Thank you for your participation.

The Retirement Committee



As we get back in the fall routine, the Memorial G a r d e n a n d Columbarium Committee asks that you consider

purchasing a niche and/or memorial plaque for yourself or your family.

We realize this is a large expense but it will have a lasting value in the years to come.

We expect that at the end of the year, there will be a price increase for construction. Please invest in the future, present and the future of Fairfield.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium Committee.

Larry Hansbrough, Donna Hohman, Billy Putze, Marge Wantz & Beth Young

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

After last year's success, Adult Discipleship is again encouraging people to join a small group study this fall. Small groups are a great way to increase your understanding of the Bible and meet new people, especially those from the other worship services.

This fall we will be delving further into the <u>Faces of Our World</u> study that were not covered in the sermons.

The scheduling this year will be very flexible with groups meeting 4-6 weeks from October 12 through November 16. Look for the sign-up sheets at both services so leaders will have an idea of how many people plan to attend.

The groups at this time are:

Walking & Talking with Celeste Underdown meeting on Sunday afternoons.

Theology on Tap with John Daugherty and Richard Dunn meeting on Wednesdays at 5:30pm.

We are also hoping to have a Breakfast Buddies group. If you are interested in attending or leading this group or have an idea for another one, please contact Beth Young.

A Congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, November 9 at 9:55am in the Family Center. The stated purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the Nominating Committee, the election of officers of the church and to act upon changes in the terms of call for our Associate Pastor.



The Best Gift for Your Pastor

October is Pastor Appreciation Month - a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you've ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn't a plaque or applause. More often than not, it's simple: "Pray for me."

Even the Apostle Paul didn't ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: "Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NASB)

This October, and every month, encourage your pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.



In A Million Little Ways (Revell), Emily Freeman says in order for Christians to "show up as you are with what you've been given," we must confront these statements:

- I'm not cut out for this
- Someone else can do it better
- · People might not like it
- I have nothing to offer
- I hate my calling
- It's a waste of time
- It's too much work
- Who do you think you are?

"A million loud voices... keep us from the million little ways (Jesus) wants to show up through us to the world," Freeman writes.



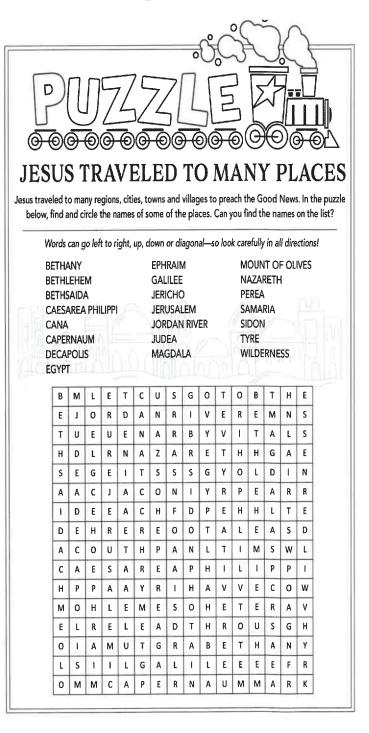
Oct. 5	McKenna Blue & Anne Young
Oct. 12	Nikki Glass & Barbara
	vanSteenburgh
Oct. 19	McKenna Blue & Marge Wantz
Oct. 26	Abbey Glass & Angela Schwartz

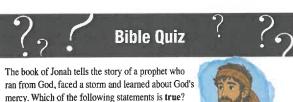
October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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)	8:00am -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 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)	11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	3	4 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)
5 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)	9:00am Classical Conversations Tutor Meeting (no students) 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	7 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Personnel Nominating Committee (#19)	8 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	9 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm -3:00pm Mahjong Get- Together (FC) 6:30pm -9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31) 7:00pm -8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00pm -8:00pm Security Team Meeting (#26)	10	11 Set up Family Center
12 9:45am -10:45am Sunday School 10:30am Combined Worship Service (FC)) 11:00am -1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (sanctuary)	8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	7:00am –8:00am Men's Breakfast (Cracker Barrel) 10:00am –11:00am Fellowship Circle (#20) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (HH)	15 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	16 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get- Together (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	17 6:30pm Game Night! (Heritage Hall)	18
Floor Cleaning (Family Center) 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)	Floor Cleaning (Family Center) Newsletter Deadline 8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	Floor Cleaning (Family Center) 11:00am -1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	Floor Cleaning (Family Center) 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm -8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	Floor Cleaning (Family Center) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 11:00am –1:00pm POJ Meeting (Heritage Hall) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get- Together (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	24 Floor Cleaning (Family Center)	25
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)	8:00am -4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm -7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm -8:00pm AA Group (#29)	28 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	30 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get- Together (FC) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31) 7:00pm –8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	31	1 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)

Under-aged Thinking







mercy. Which of the following statements is true?

- A. Jonah told the sailors he was running from God, and they threw him overboard.
- B. The fish that swallowed Jonah washed up on the shores of Joppa.
- C. Jonah preached in Nineveh for forty days and forty nights.
- D. After the city repented, Jonah rejoiced and built an altar to the Lord.



Answer A (See Jonah 1:9-15).

Interim Pastor.... Rev. Dr. Richard Haney Interim Pastor..... Rev. Nancy Clark Associate Pastor Rev. Mike Watson Minister in Residence. Rev. 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

Church Staff

Pastor..... Rev. Dr. Stephen Starzer



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

Return Service Requested

