



The Messenger

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

The Rev. Dr. Richard Haney, Interim Pastor
The Rev. Nancy Clark, Interim Pastor
The Rev. Mike Watson, Assoc. Pastor

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February 2026

Dear Fairfield Family,

I answered two emails recently from friends who had prayer requests to share.

Don Smith, a longtime friend and Powhatan farmer, taught English last year in an Egyptian school which is sponsored by a Presbyterian church. Egypt has the largest Christian population of any Middle Eastern country. A majority are Coptic but a significant minority are Protestant believers. Presbyterians are the largest Protestant group in Egypt.

In March, Don is returning to Egypt to teach and is raising money to provide food for Sudanese refugees sheltering in Egypt. You may know from news reports that Sudan is wracked by a terrible civil war. Over 10 million Sudanese have fled their homes... Refugees have fled to Darfur, Chad, Uganda, Ethiopia and Egypt. Heart-rending stories of rape, mass murder and burning villages have emerged from various reporting sources. I'll be praying for Don's trip and his ministry efforts.

The other email came from a familiar name to Fairfield—our former associate pastor, Dixie Brachlow. She and Stephen relocated from Virginia to St Paul, Minnesota in 2012. I served alongside Dix in 2010-2011 during my interim pastorate days at Fairfield. When I began my work with Frontier Fellowship, I made regular trips to our headquarters in Richfield, Minnesota. On most trips, the Brachlows hosted me in their guest room. I treasure those warm visits and our many conversations.

She wrote to me and referred to Fairfield, *"I still hold this people in my heart, see many of them on Facebook, and cheer for their continued blessing. They now are blessed to have you and Nancy Clark guiding worship, and they as a church community are clearly beloved."*

She invited me to share her prayer requests with

her former church family regarding the turmoil in Minneapolis.

"...Here religious services and gatherings for prayer are impromptu -- and intensifying, too. Many small businesses are stopped or deeply hampered by this, schools have been halted, while teachers will be switching to both in-person and ZOOM, now. The economy here--and everybody, really--is being hurt. And fear hangs about us all. People are praying very hard..."

Our Bible study of Revelation this past spring pointed out the need for Christian endurance... It reminded us in very real ways to continue to hold fast to God, remembering the repeated biblical call to care for the stranger and the alien, the widow and orphan--all who are crushed in this world. Our neighbors... and this Twin Cities community that has stood up in solidarity with those who fear for their lives. Pray that people here can contain their fear and anger and remain peaceful."

In whatever ways you and I read the situations in Minneapolis, Egypt or Sudan, we surely can pray for those suffering and remember that we are called by the scriptures "to weep with those who weep." My ten years with Frontier Fellowship gave me friends and acquaintances in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Egypt, Ukraine, South Sudan, Yemen and Myanmar—places with pockets of deep poverty and ongoing suffering. It is my privilege and a responsibility to pray for these folks by name.

Intercessory prayer is much ignored and too often undervalued even by church folk—and we should know best of all how much Jesus prayed as our great exemplar. Jesus often turned aside to pray to his Father. He interceded for his disciples, for the world; he even told us to pray for our enemies. Jesus is our Lord and Savior! But he also is our teacher. Let's heed our lessons and go forth on our knees!

Richard

Member News



Congratulations to McKenzie Marker who wed Colby Crutchfield on November 22, 2025. Their address is: 1309 Riverside Road, Chilhowie, VA 24319. McKenzie's phone number is (804) 972-1014.

Congratulations to **Justin & Kate Weis** on the birth of their son, Brooks Alexander Weis who was born on December 15, 2025. Older siblings Hailey, Colton, and Austin are thrilled!

Congratulations to **Rick & Sarah (Dobson) Heretick** on the birth of their son, Willilam (Billy) Rennie Heretick, born January 27, 8lbs, 2 oz.



Directory Updates:

Sally Kovacs has a new phone number. It is (412) 398-3339.

Karen Hastings has a new email address. It is khastings223@gmail.com

Sherri Woodburn has moved to 178 Ebb Tide Drive, Colonial Beach, VA 22443-5083.



In Our Prayers

Kathy Boyle's father, **Bill, Linda Canyock, Becky Clark, Dwight Clark, Jake Foster, Richard Haney, Julie Lowery, Kaylyn McGee, Billy Putze, Helen Rigsby, Serena Vignola,**

Barbara Wash, Herta Wenninger, Jerry Williamson, Ed Wolfgang, 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: **Margaret Barlow, John Crowe, Dot Gammon, Ruth Harpster, Eva Ladd, Laverne Longest, Nancy Norment, Virginia**

Phipps, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Jack Ward, Sherri Woodburn.

(Please update Pastor Richard, Pastor Nancy Clark, 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 Presbyterian,
Words cannot express how grateful Hanover Safe Place is that you chose to spend your time, energy and funds on our families this past holiday season. The joy on their faces is truly a gift we do not take for granted. You've made all of their wishes come true! From all of us here at Hanover Safe Place, Happy Holidays and may all your wishes come true too!

Thank you!

Stacie Francis

Fairfield Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for your recent generous donation of \$931 to support Hanover Safe Place. As a local non-profit, Hanover Safe Place relies on committed community members. Our client's success and survival depend on the generosity of others to make our services possible. Without the help and support of our community, we could not continue to promote positive change in the children, women and men whose lives are impacted by domestic and sexual violence in Hanover County. We also provide 24 hour crisis interventions; crisis counseling, hospital accompaniment; court advocacy, information and referrals; community outreach, education, emergency shelter, food, clothing, and transportation to those in need. We hope you will continue to support Hanover Safe Place.

Sheree Hedrick, Executive Director

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the lovely cards, calls and prayers. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to the Deacons and the Fellowship Circle.

With appreciation
Nancy Walls

Dear Friends,
I would like to thank those who brought me presents over the holidays. It brings me a smile and a joyful heart to be thought of during Christmas. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness!

Donna Carson



Hailey Spott	February 1
Richard Walden	February 1
Grace Zweckbronner	February 1
John Crowe	February 2
Jeff Cumins	February 2
Robbie Dobson	February 3
Ryan Magill	February 3
Sam Penny	February 3
Lindley Starzer	February 3
Katelyn Weis	February 4
Don Wells	February 6
Emma Leudesdorff	February 7
Marci Selph	February 7
Norman Sulser	February 7
Gerry Underdown	February 7
Merrilyn Jones	February 8
Pat Daugherty	February 10
Brittany Bessette	February 11
Hazel Watson	February 12
Tracy Young	February 12
Daniel Arnette	February 13
Mike Joyce	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
Andrew Dunn
John Weeks

February 27
February 28
February 28



Robert & Robin Wilson
Jim & Jennifer France
Hunter & Nikki Glass
Mark & Marsha Young

February 10
February 14
February 15
February 21

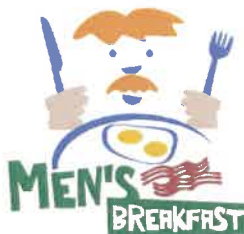


Prayer Shawl Ministry

With the approaching snow storm, as the world turns white, the Prayer Shawl Ministry continues crocheting and knitting in the vibrant colors of the other seasons! The patterns vary as well as the yarns used. Lap Robes and Prayer Shawls abound and this year we will be pleased to give some baby blankets!

If you would like to participate in this ministry, we meet the first Wednesday of every month. **The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, February 4 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.**

Anna Barrowclough



Men of the Church - join us on **Tuesday, February 10th** 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 time for planning. 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 10th!



The Fellowship Circle will meet again on Tuesday, **February 10**, 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 10th**, 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall for their monthly meeting. They will be discussing the book

"Becoming Mrs. Lewis" by Patty Callahan. Lori Briel will be the discussion leader and will lead the devotions. We hope all the ladies can join us.

February 1st

All CHURCH NIGHT!

4:00-4:30:

- **CHILDREN'S DANCE**

4:30-5:30:

- **PREK-5TH GRADE: JOY CHOIR AND CRAFTS**
- **6TH-12TH GRADE: YOUTH GROUP**
- **ADULT PROGRAMS**

5:30-6:30:

- **DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP**

Dust off your knowledge of the Bible and join in the fun at the February All Church Night on February 1, 4:30pm. We'll be having a Bible Trivia Night. Let's see if you have been paying

attention to the sermons and Sunday School lessons. How much do you remember about the often told stories and the less known ones? (Rumor has it that there will be prizes.)

Plan to join in the fun and then stay to support the Youth's Pancake Supper to raise money for their mission trip. What a great way to warm up a cold winter night!



ASH WEDNESDAY

Our meditative service of Ash Wednesday will be held in the church sanctuary on February 18th at 6:30pm. Come join as we commemorate the beginning of the Lenten season together.



Lent Small Groups

Lent is around the corner! We will be rolling out information soon about small groups that can be joined for the season, starting the week of February 23rd and running up until Palm Sunday. Consider adding a small group to your Lenten practice!



We kicked off the youth group year on January 11th with some fun games and preliminary conversation about our

mission trip plans this summer 2026. We had a lot of life to catch up on and look forward to our year ahead! The weather cancelled our second gathering, but we've got plenty of time together on the horizon. This coming month, we'll be flipping pancakes to raise money for our mission trip, doing the amazing race, and a service project of some kind. Save the date for March 15th as Youth Sunday.

Special Dates

- Black History Month, February 1-28, 2026
- Groundhog Day, February 2, 2026
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2026
- Presidents Day, February 16, 2026
- Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026



NURSERY SCHEDULE

9:00am Nursery

Feb. 1	Anne Young & Abbey Glass
Feb. 8	Nikki Glass & McKenna Blue
Feb. 15	Marge Wantz & McKenna Blue
Feb. 22	Abbey Glass & Barbara VanSteenburgh



Confirmation is back in business! We are very excited to have 4 fabulous middle and high school students this year for a winter/spring confirmation class, leading up to a Confirmation Sunday event in May. This year's confirmands will be: Landon Cole, Zachary Letourneau, Tess Wenninger, and Evan Whitaker. Pray for our confirmands as together, we explore our faith in depth, learning what it means to be in Christ's church.

Hanover County Family Support Group

meets monthly every 2nd Wednesday, 6-7pm. If you have a family member or loved one who is experiencing mental illness, please join us. Bell Creek CSB, 8475 Bell Creek Road. (804) 365-6769

Quotes about Love

- "No matter what sin we have committed, no matter how terrible it may be, God loves us."
—Billy Graham
- "Love is perhaps the only glimpse we are permitted of eternity."
—Helen Hayes
- "Love is the river of life in the world."
—Henry Ward Beecher
- "This is the miracle that happens every time to those who really love; the more they give, the more they possess."
—Rainer Maria Rilke
- "A heart set on love will do no wrong."
—Confucius
- "There is a net of love by which you can catch souls."
—Mother Teresa

Medication Safety Measures

Proper medication measures, such as securely **storing prescription medications** and **safely disposing of unused, expired, or unneeded medication**, can help prevent the misuse or accidental ingestion of over-the-counter medicines and opioids.

To promote safety, always keep medications in their original containers, store them up and out of reach of children and pets, and ensure they are in a secure, locked location. When disposing of unused, expired, or unneeded medications, use local drug take-pack programs or authorized disposal locations (see a list below of locations in Hanover) to prevent environmental harm or unintended access. Taking these steps can protect your family and community while reducing the risk of medication-related harm.

In an effort to help individuals store medication safely, the Hanover County Behavioral Health Wellness Team stocks all of our public libraries in Hanover with Medication Lock Boxes. In these boxes you can find resource material on learning how to administer the opioid reversal medication, Naloxone, and receive your own Naloxone for free. Looking to obtain a medication box and do not make it out to the library near you or find that they are out of stock? We have some medication lock boxes here at the church. You can also reach out to Majken Whitaker and she can get one for you. Email to mlwhitaker@hanovercounty.gov

You can safely dispose of unused, expired or unneeded medications at the following locations:

- **Mechanicsville Drug Store** (Permanent Drug Disposal Box) - 804-746-5168
8077 Mechanicsville Turnpike, 23111
- **Mechanicsville CVS** 804-730-9498
7048 Mechanicsville Turnpike, 23111
- **Mechanicsville Walgreens** 804-746-1965
7039 Mechanicsville Turnpike, 23111
- **Montpelier CVS** 804-883-5668
16641 Mountain Road, Montpelier 23192

- You can also visit the **DEA's Year-Round Drop-Off Location** Search to find a location near you.
- **National Prescription Drug Take Back Days in April and October.** These twice a year events promote a safe way for residents to dispose of unused, expired, and unneeded medications.

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

The monthly meeting of MCEF was held January 12, 2026. Yearly totals were shared for the OSS. 1,962 clients signed in in 2025. That represented 5,989 persons in the households. There were 133 new clients during the year. 739 bags of clothing were distributed between infants, children, men and women. As you can see, the OSS had a lot of activity.

Sr. Rides gave a total of 1,591 rides in Mechanicsville (MCEF) and 232 in Ashland (ACES).

For financial assistance in 2025, \$114,375.39 was distributed for direct services (rent, power, water, heating oil, pantry purchases, and backpack kids).

Backpack kids programs (which supply food for Hanover school children over the weekends) are supported by MCEF through New Song UMC and Cool Spring Baptist. Between these two programs roughly 217 bags are packed a month. MCEF saves their single serve food items for these programs.

These numbers represent a community which cares about its residents who need a helping hand. This help couldn't happen without each of you in each of the supporting churches.

The 50th anniversary of MCEF in community is this year. Our volunteers will be celebrated in April with a luncheon. If you have ever volunteered for MCEF in any way, please let Nancy Gallihugh know.

Donation items: jelly, mandarin oranges, bar soap, toothbrushes.

Nancy Gallihugh

Under-aged Thinking



LOVE CODE BREAKER

Change some of the letters below to reveal this verse!

Change: C's to L Z's to H P's to R
J's to A Q's to T X's to E
K's to O

(The other letters stay the same.)

" L C K V X Q Z X C K P D Y K U P
G K D W T Q Z J C C Y K U P
Z X J P Q J N D W T Q Z J C C
Y K U P S K U C J N D W T Q Z
J C C Y K U P M T N D J N D
W T Q Z J C C Y K U P
S Q P X N G Q Z "

Mark 12:30

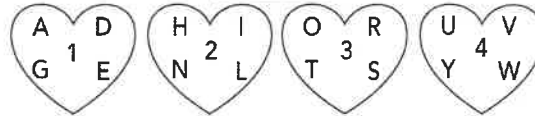
Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Puzzle!

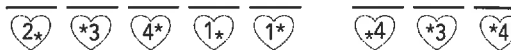
We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

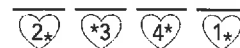
CODE:



"



"



Jeremiah 31:3




Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 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) 4:30pm – 6:30pm All Church Night 4:30pm – 5:30pm YG Mission Trip Fundraiser	2 8:00am – 4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm – 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	3 11:00am – 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20)	4 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)	5 11:00am – 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm – 3:00pm Mahjong Get-Together (FC) 6:00pm Session Meeting (#20) 6:30pm – 9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary)	6	7
8 Ordination & Installment of Elders & Deacons 9:00am – 9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am – 10:45am Confirmation Class (#19) 9:45am – 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am – 1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am – 12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:30pm – 5:30pm Youth Group Amazing Race	9 8:00am – 4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm – 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	10 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)	11 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	12 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)	13	14
15 9:00am – 9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am – 10:45am Confirmation Class (#19) 9:45am – 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am – 1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am – 12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:30pm – 5:30pm Youth Group Service Project	16 9:00am Tutor Meeting 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm – 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	17 11:00am – 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	18 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	19 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)	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21 9:00am – 2:00pm Presbytery Meeting (FC)
22 No Youth Group 9:00am – 9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45am – 10:45am Confirmation Class (#19) 9:45am – 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am – 1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am – 12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	23 8:00am – 4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm – 8:00pm AA Group (#29)	24 11:00am – 1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	25 5:30pm – 7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm – 8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	26 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)	27	28 9:00am New Beginnings Prayer Service

? ? ? ?

Bible Quiz

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the selfless, sacrificial love that God shows to humanity?



A) Eros
B) Phileo
C) Agape
D) Storge

Answer: C (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)

Church Staff

Interim Pastor. Rev. Dr. Richard Handy
Interim Pastor. Rev. Nancy Clark
Associate Pastor Rev. Mike Watson
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



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Return Service Requested

