



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

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

March 2026

Dear Friends,

As I write, we are still in the midst of winter. It's cold, my feet are cold, and I need to wear a coat. The trees are without leaves, the grass is dull, bushes are drooping, and the ground is frozen. In fact, the (historic) Blizzard of 2026, which just glanced us, but pummeled New England, is just finishing its course. But, knowing March is just around the corner, I find myself thinking with great anticipation of the new life coming in spring. My mind is filled with images of green grass; pink and white dogwoods; and, purple, white, and red azaleas. It makes me happy to know that winter ends with the exhilarating arrival of this beautiful season.

I cannot think of spring without thinking of Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus, the ultimate celebration of new life. It is so fitting that our celebration of the Resurrection, God's gift of life to us, comes in the springtime as if it is a gift wrapped in all the beauty of spring.

As we move through the Lenten season, remembering and reflecting on the difficult days that Jesus faced on his journey to the cross, it is hard to read of his mistreatment and the pain he endured. I am so grateful that I can read this with the confident knowledge that, like the spring follows the winter, we know the Resurrection follows the cross. The Resurrection was the crown on Christ's suffering. It's a story we know and hold in our hearts.

Years ago, I watched as an anchorman opened the evening news broadcast with these words: "Today, Christians all over the world gathered and celebrated the Resurrection of

Jesus from the dead." This was followed by images of crowds of people entering churches around the world. I think of the tremendous number of people today, especially children, who do not celebrate the Resurrection, who do not know who Jesus is. I wonder where we can find moments to tell the Lenten and Easter story so that friends and family can know the hope that follows the darkness.

I want to welcome our new elders, Richard Dunn, Jim France, Keith Franklin, Allison Letourneau, Majken Whitaker, and Deborah Wood; and our new deacons, Sandra Brewster, Becky Clark, John Daugherty, and Barbara VanSteenburgh; installed in February. Thanks to all who serve this congregation on these boards.

Recently the session appointed seven members to serve on the Mission Study Team. This team does a preliminary study to facilitate the future work of the Pastor Nominating Committee in identifying the needs of this congregation for a pastor. On Sunday morning, I was privileged to spend time with our four youth participating in the confirmation class. This was a delightful time. Pray for this group as they engage in this important time of study.

There are many good things happening at Fairfield. God's blessings are abundant. Looking forward to days ahead.

In Christ,

Member News

Directory Updates:

Jo Mitchell has moved into Assisted Living at Covenant Woods. Her new room # is C110.

Mark & Marsha Young have new cell phone numbers: Mark's is (804) 840-6405. Marsha's is: 804-840-3385.

Sandra Brewster has moved. Her new address is 7900 Sheryl Drive, Henrico, VA 23229-5960. Her email address is: smbrewster65@gmail.com.



In Our Prayers

Vicky Beamer, Kathy Boyle's father, **Bill, Beverly Burts'** daughter, **Kathy, Linda Canyock, Becky Clark, Dwight Clark, Kaylyn McGee, Donna Richbourg's** daughter,

Paige, Helen Rigsby, Barbara Wash, Herta Wenninger, 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: **Janice Baily, Margaret Barlow, John Crowe, Dot Gammon, Ruth Harpster, Eva Ladd, Laverne Longest, Nancy Norment, Virginia Phipps, Helen**

Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Jack Ward, Don Wells, Sherri Woodburn.

(Please update Pastor Richard, Pastor Nancy 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,
Thank you so much for your kind expressions of sympathy with the passing of my mother. Your thoughts, prayers, calls, cards and messages meant so much to us.

*With love and appreciation,
 Kathy & Tim Thomas*



Jake Foster	March 1
Sam Patterson	March 1
McKenzie Johnson	March 2
Courtney Street	March 2
Becky Cumins	March 3
Paige Lake	March 4
Charlotte Pritchett	March 4
Dennis Sulser	March 4
Cindy Carey	March 5
Becky Settle	March 7
Amy Wenninger	March 7
Jane Welborn	March 8
James Trexler	March 9
Dwight Clark	March 11
Jennifer France	March 12
Bill Thompson	March 12
Steve Trexler	March 12
Brian Wash	March 12
Jan Fadeley	March 13
Grayson Palmore	March 14
Katy Underdown	March 14
Micah Clark	March 15
Amy Atkinson	March 16
Buck Smith	March 16
Audrey Westphal	March 19
Mandy Harding	March 20
Nancy Lee	March 21
Mike Watson	March 24
Vicky Beamer	March 25
Everleigh Mueller	March 25
Celeste Underdown	March 26
Erica Hutchinson	March 27
Victoria Tanner	March 28
Alison Dunn	March 29
Keith Franklin	March 29
Pam Roberts	March 29
Jean Kirwin	March 30
Doug Beamer	March 31
Brooke Bessette	March 31

MARCH

Anniversaries

Mike & Melody Watson	March 5
Bill & Phyllis Kerns	March 21
Parker & Gabryelle Hohman	March 25
Wayne & Cindy Carey	March 29

Special Dates

- World Day of Prayer, *March 6*
- Daylight Savings Time begins, *March 8*
- St. Patrick's Day, *March 17*
- First Day of Spring, *March 20*
- Holy Week, *March 29 - April 5*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 29*

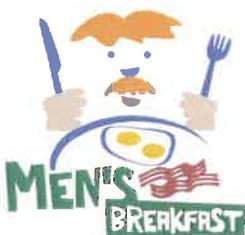


The Prayer Shawl Ministry strives to provide warmth, comfort and love to those who are suffering or mourning, but this winter we got the joy of welcoming two new members to our church family with baby blankets! We are always happy when this happens.

If you would like to join this ministry, we meet the first Wednesday of each month. Don't know how to knit or crochet...we would be happy to help you learn.

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, March 4 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor. We hope to see you there.

Anna Barrowclough



Men of the Church - join us on **Tuesday, March 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, **March 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, March 10**, 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall for their monthly meeting. They will be discussing the book

"Maybe You Should Talk to Someone" by Lottlieb. Deborah & Katherine will be our discussion leaders. We hope all the ladies can join us.



Fairfield Youth will be kicking off the year by raising funds for their summer mission trip to Raleigh, NC. They will be cooking and serving breakfast-for-dinner at All Church Night on **Sunday, March 1st**. Come, enjoy some dinner and fellowship, supporting the youth group while you're at it!

The rest of March is dedicated to youth Sunday! We'll continue to plan and practice on Sunday, **March 8th**, before they lead the congregation in worship on Sunday, **March 15th**.

As a celebration for all their hard work, the youth group plans to go out bowling on Sunday, **March 22nd**. Due to Spring Break, there will be no youth group on Sunday, March 29th.

March Preaching Schedule

3/1	John 6:16-24 Mike preaching	Walking on Water
3/8	John 9:1-41 Richard preaching	The Man Born Blind
3/15	John 15:1-17 YOUTH Sunday	Vine and Branches
3/22	John 11:1-57 Nancy preaching	Raising Lazarus
3/29	John 12:12-19 Richard preaching	Hosanna; Palm Sunday

DEACONS MEETING

At our February 10th meeting, we brain stormed needs within and beyond where we are serving well: funeral receptions, homebound communion, new member recognition, card ministries, homebound outreach, meal train and staff gifts. We then reviewed what needs within and beyond can we serve in a greater capacity: connecting with the missions community, crisis care in the congregation, visitor outreach and follow up, new member assimilation, follow up with members who have been absent for awhile, involving children's ministry in making gifts/cards for home bound, list of help for older members to call for help with shoveling driveways or other home project needs.

Committee Roles and Ministry Areas

Card Ministry: Sandra B. & Donna R.

Funeral Receptions: Judie T. & Martha H. Deborah N.

Home Communion: Anna B.

Medical Equipment: Ginny P.

Meal Trains: Janet C.

New Member Recognition and Gift Bags:

Deborah N. & Martha H.

Member Outreach: Martha H.

Staff Gifts: Ginny P.

Anna set up home bound communion volunteers for March 1: Deborah, Janet, Mike and Anna.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 3rd, then we plan to meet every other month, using emails and phone calls between. Judie and Sandra volunteered to be our Co-Moderators.

Reach out to a deacon anytime!



The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Psalm 103:8)

CHURCH LIBRARY
News

During Pastor Steve's time here he shared his love of God with us in many ways. Through his preachings and teachings, he helped us to be strong and grow in our faith.

Before he retired, he expressed his wish to me that we have a research library that would be for all of us to use and enjoy. Upon his retirement, he left the church a number of his research books and resources. Thanks to Pastor Steve's donation and his love for us, we now have the beginnings of a research library. You will find it located in the classroom across the hall from the Open Door Class.

As we go through this year and time of transition in our church family, may we strive to remain strong and grow in our faith. Enjoy this new addition to our library as we are all preachers and teachers in the way that we live out our lives and share our faith and love of God with others.

Elizabeth Covington



NURSERY SCHEDULE

9:00am Nursery

- Mar. 1** McKenna Blue & Anne Young
- Mar. 8** Nikki Glass & Barbara VanSteenburgh
- Mar. 15** McKenna Blue & Marge Wantz
- Mar. 22** Abbey Glass & Majken Whitaker
- Mar. 29** Allison Letourneau & Angela Schwartz



The King No One Expected

Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That’s exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday. Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king.

Was He a king? Jesus didn’t deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, “I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, “Here is your king.” The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, “We have no king but Caesar!”

When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared:

“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. “What I have written, I have written,” he said.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of “saying there is another king, Jesus.” And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth:

“The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.” — Revelation 17:14



SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST

4:00-4:30:

- **CHILDREN'S DANCE**

4:30-5:30:

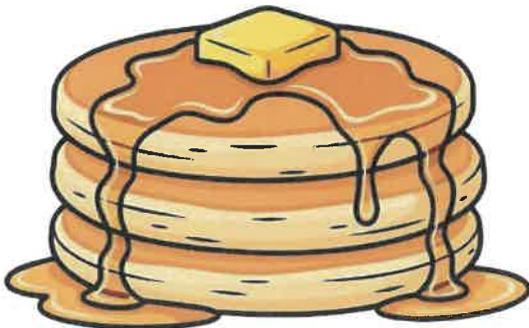
- **PREK-5TH GRADE: JOY CHOIR & CRAFTS**
- **6TH-12TH GRADE: YOUTH GROUP**
- **ADULT PROGRAM: BIBLE TRIVIA!**

5:30-6:30:

- **DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP**

Fairfield Pancake DINNER

...at All Church Night, March 1st, in support of their summer mission trip with Raleigh Youth Mission. Come support us!





If God Had Voicemail



Have you ever wondered what would happen if God used voicemail to handle all our prayers?

Let's imagine it for a moment.

I had just finished gossiping and wanted to confess, so I got ready to pray—or rather, to “call.” Immediately, a voice answered:

“You’ve reached the throne room of Heaven, the Prayer Department. All of our representatives are currently assisting other callers. Your call is important to us, and we want to help you. Please stay on the line, and your request will be answered in the order it was received.”

Soft music plays. Then another message comes on:

“Listen carefully to the following options and press the appropriate number.
Press 1 for prayer for a loved one.
Press 2 for prayer for your church.
Press 3 to give thanks.
Press 4 to confess sins.
Press 5 for salvation.
Press 6 for physical needs.
To repeat this menu, press 9.”

Since I had a sin to confess, I pressed 4.

Another voice responded cheerfully:

“We’re so glad to help you with your confession of sins. Please select from the following options:
If you cursed, press 1.
If you yelled at your spouse or another family member, press 2.
If you gossiped, press 3...”

The list went on and on.

About then I decided to hang up and keep on gossiping. But then I remembered what the Bible says about God and how he attends to our needs. He doesn’t route our prayers through a heavenly call center or put us on hold. We don’t get busy signals, menus or automated voices.

Instead, our Father listens instantly, personally, and lovingly. Instead of a voice mail system, he says, “Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.” (Isaiah 65:24, KJV)

Under-aged Thinking

Puzzle!

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

A=☺	D=☁	H=☼	M=☆	P=◆	T=■	W=☐
B=♠	E=+	I=*	N=↑	R=●	U=□	Y=☂
C=☼	G=☼	L=★	O=↓	S=○	V=☐	Z=☂

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☐

Jericho ☼ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ * ★ ☼

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ * ☼ ☺ ★ ☼ + ☺ ■

Sea of Galilee * ☐ ○ ■ ☂ ☐ * ↑ ☼ ○

Mediterranean Coast ♠ ● + + ☂ ☂



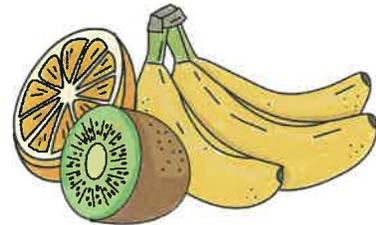
Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy



These cheerful “palm trees” make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



What you do:

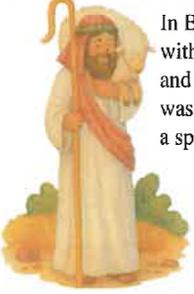
1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

Scripture Tie-In:

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>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 –6:30pm All Church Night 4:30pm –5:30pm All Church Night - Youth Sunday Planning</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29) 7:00pm Personnel Meeting (#26)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>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)</p>	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>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 –6:30am Youth Sunday Planning</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>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 Facilities Management Team meeting (#26) 7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (HH)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>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 Security Team Meeting (#26)</p>	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>Youth Sunday 9am & 11am 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)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>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)</p>	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21
<p>22</p> <p>Youth Group Bowling 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)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>2:00pm –3:00pm Memorial Service (Sanctuary) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>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)</p>	27	28
<p>29</p> <p><i>Palm Sunday</i> Palm Sunday 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 No Youth Group - Spring Break</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>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 Maundy Thursday Service (Heritage Hall)</p>	3 Good Friday	<p>4</p> <p>Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen) 10:00am –11:30pm Easter Egg Hunt</p>

Bible Quiz



In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A Salt Solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5, ESV)

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

