Fairfield Presbyterian Church
Belong / Grow / Serve

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

October 2026

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

I remember as a child the major transition that happened as summer came to a close and we moved to a new season. I always felt sadness to see the long warm days of summer fade away. I could think of all the things that would be no more - no more days at the beach, no more walking to the ball park and grabbing snow cones at the concession stand, no more vacation, no more spending days just reading books and being with friends.

And then a piece of mail would come and it would tell me my schedule for the next year. It was a pivotal moment. Suddenly, I was on the phone making calls, learning who would be in my classes, who would be our teachers, what books, we would need, and when meetings for different clubs and activities would be scheduled. And, so, the excitement would begin, a new thing was starting and I was readying myself to be fully engaged.

Yes, it is hard to say good-bye to a season we love. But, when we look to the future and see the new thing beginning, we are filled with hope. Here at Fairfield we are quickly coming to that place. The Presbytery has granted us permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee. This is the first step in securing a new pastor to serve at Fairfield Presbyterian Church.

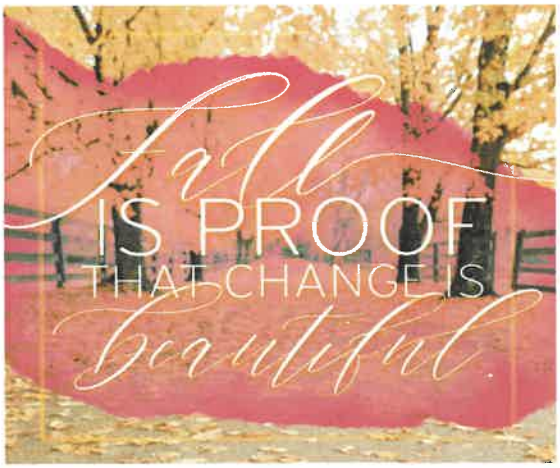
Using the Mission Study Report, the Pastor Nominating Committee will be charged with creating a document to circulate to potential candidates that effectively describe this church, our people, our ministries, our style and our needs and its hopes and dreams for the future. They will also lay out the particular skills and qualifications Fairfield hopes to find in a new pastor. This document called a Ministry Discernment Profile will be circulated to potential candidates for the position.

Our Pastor Nominating Committee will receive many applications to consider, and will interview selected candidates until they prayerfully find the individual they believe would serve well as Pastor of Fairfield Presbyterian Church. The work will be complete when they invite a candidate, the candidate accepts the invitation with the terms offered, the Presbytery approves, and the congregation votes to call this pastor.

This is a pivotal moment. As we move forward into this new season let's join together in prayerfully supporting the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Blessings,

Darcy



Member News

With sympathy, we let you know that **Jennifer France's** father, Paul Stearns passed away recently. Please keep Jennifer in your prayers as she grieves her father's loss.



Jack & Lori Briel's friends, Ron and his wife, **Beverly Burts'** daughter, Kathy, **Becky & Dwight Clark**, Glenn Clark's brother, Jesse, **Danny & Karen Couch's** son, Matthew, Jake Foster, **Jessica Ingerman's** boss and co-workers, **Jim France's** parents, **Kaylyn McGee**, and all those who serve as missionaries abroad plus those who serve our nation.

Please remember our homebound members who are unable to get to church: **Margaret Barlow, John Crowe, Reggie Crump, Dot Gammon, Ruth Harpster, Merrillyn Jones, Eva Ladd, Laverne Longest, Elizabeth Moorhouse, Nancy Norment, Calvin Pearson, Helen Rigsby, Larry Rigsby, Betty Wade, Jack Ward, Don Wells, and 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.*)



Ashley & Jake Foster had a baby girl on Sunday, September 27! Her name is Avery Ann Foster. Born at 5:48pm weighing 9 lbs, 8 oz. and 22-1/2 inches long. Mother and baby are doing well. Proud grandparents are Mark & Marsha Young, and aunts Kelsey and Brittany. Both mother and baby are doing well.



Dear Fairfield Community,
You really know how to show up and take care of people. Thank you so much for all the visits, calls, texts, cards, and prayers for my mom, Janice Baily, as she went through a very difficult time in her life. Thank you for sharing communion with her at Autumn Care. Thank you for the prayer in ICU when we called the family in and prepared to say goodbye. Thank you for showing up in droves at the visitation and funeral to remember her and support me, my sister, and our families. Also, I have to thank you for the prayers and for checking on me too when I was hospitalized in mid-June with double pneumonia. For all of these things, thank you.

Forever grateful,
Dawn Williamson

I want to thank all the people who remembered me by sending sympathy cards and keeping me in their prayers after the death of my nephew, David Figuly. Your condolences meant a lot to me.

In Christian love,
Mary Gayton



Helen Rigsby and **Larry Rigsby** have moved to Autumn Care. Their new address is 7600 Autumn Parkway, Spring Unit #804, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Their phone number remains the same: (804) 550-3815.



Beth Patterson
Bridgewater College
410 E. College St., #1548
Bridgewater, VA 22812-1511

Kendall Underdown
2500 Rivermont Avenue
Campus Box $628
Lynchburg, VA 24503

Keelyn Underdown
2500 Rivermont Avenue
Campus Box #644
Lynchburg, VA 24503



Samuel Patterson
142 The Villas Way
Kingsland, GA 31548-1305



Sunday, October 4th

4:30-5:30PM:

- **PREK-5TH GRADE: JOY CHOIR & CRAFTS**
- **6TH-12TH GRADE: YOUTH GROUP**
- **ADULT MISSIONS SPEAKER: DR. SCOTT ARMISTEAD**

5:30-6:30PM:

- **DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP**

10:30am Combined Worship Service

for World Communion Sunday
October 4th in the SANCTUARY

"Chair"ishing Our Memories Silent Auction and Reception immediately to follow, in Heritage Halll



October 4 All Church Night Mission Speaker: Dr. Scott Armistead

Dr. Armistead, a native of Hanover County and son of Fairmount Christian Church, trained at the Medical College of Virginia and specialized in Family Medicine in Kansas City, MO. His wife, JoAnn, is a teacher with experience in elementary education, and ESL. He and his family lived at Bach Christian Hospital in northern Pakistan from 1999-2015. From 2015-2021, he worked in the Family Medicine Department at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). He presently serves as the Dean of Faculty for the Institute for International Medicine (INMED), a graduate school which prepares health care professionals to work among the underserved globally. Since returning from Pakistan he has also been the Area Director of the VCU Christan Medical and Dental Assoc. Chapter. He is very keen on the professional, moral, missional and spiritual formation of students. He is active with the S. Asian refugee and immigrant population in Richmond, Virginia. He and JoAnn have three grown, married sons.



Tim Gulliver	October 1
Stuart Settle	October 2
Barbara vanSteenburgh	October 2
Philip Ciejek	October 3
Mary Sulser	October 3
Madison Blue	October 4
Abbey Franklin	October 5
David Adams	October 6
Amber Joyce	October 6
Grant Sulser	October 6
Abbey Glass	October 7
Jackson Lancaster	October 7
Hannah Reasor	October 7
Doris McCalla	October 9
Sarah Hall	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
Mark Young	October 25
Julia Williamson	October 26
Mason Settle	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

Special Dates in October

- Pastor Appreciation Month, October
- World Communion Sunday, October 4
- Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday, October 11, 2026
- Columbus Day, October 12, 2026
- Indigenous Peoples Day, October 12, 2026
- Canadian Thanksgiving, October 12, 2026
- Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2026
- Reformation Day, October 31, 2026



God is faithful in every season.



It's Pastor Appreciation Month!

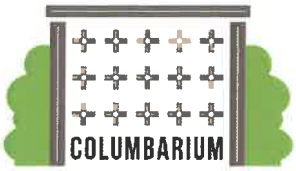
Here at Fairfield, our pastors are deeply devoted to Christ and believe that God has called them to serve in a certain place. They have the best of intentions and work hard to share the good news of the gospel. So in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month, consider the following:

- **God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called.** Bless our pastors with your patience!
- **We don't change the message, the message changes us.** You might not like all of our pastors' sermons or newsletter columns but instead of complaining, ponder that something may rub you in the wrong way because God is trying to change you. Keep an open mind and heart!
- **Please pray for our pastors!** Pray often and caringly for our pastors, church leaders and their families. The role is challenging, so support them spiritually and ask God to reveal his love and grace to these special servants.



The Rock Class
Interactive Format, multi-generation class for everyone. Using the Bible as our guide, we study and learn together. No previous experience necessary: all knowledge levels welcome. This month we have a fascinating study of Revelation planned.

The **Open Door Class** will begin the Book of Isaiah. Join us!



"Chair"ishing Our Memories

"Chair"ishing Memories Silent Auction

Please take a few minutes to walk out to the Memorial Garden area. Marge Wantz has worked hard to give you an idea of what and where the Memorial Garden will be. Feel free to take a cup of coffee and sit a few minutes to experience the peacefulness of that space. We are continuing to collect funds to make this a permanent peaceful space on our grounds to memorialize our cherished members. Please feel free to speak with one of the Committee members if you have interest or questions.

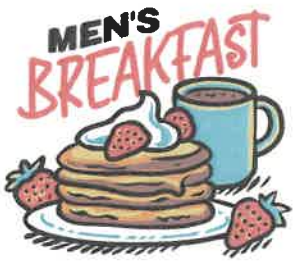
There are still a few "Char"ishing your Memories chairs getting their finishing touches. Please return them as soon as possible so we can get them organized and ready for the **Silent Auction to be held immediately after the Combined World Communion Service on Sunday, October 4.** Yummy refreshments will be provided by the Joyful Readers, so don't miss this fun event. Come see the creativity of Fairfield's members of all ages. All proceeds will contribute to the Memorial Garden Fund.



October Sermon Series

"The book of Psalms has been central to God's people for millennia, across all walks of life and cultural contexts. In reading it, we discover that we are never alone in our joys, sorrows, anger, doubts, praise, or thanksgiving. In it we learn about prayer and poetry, honesty and community, justice and enemies, life and death, nations and creation." W. David O. Taylor

Oct. 4	Psalm 133	Nancy
Oct. 11	Psalm 88	Mike
Oct. 18	Psalm 19	Richard
Oct. 25	Psalm 3	Richard

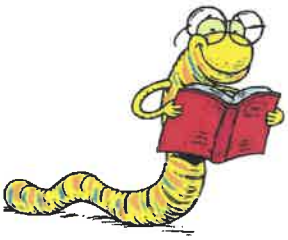


Men of the Church! We will meet the second Tuesday, October 13, 7:00am at Cracker Barrel Restaurant on Bell Creek Road. We'll start off with a good breakfast and a group discussion. All men are invited to join us. We welcome new blood to the group.



The Fellowship Circle will meet again on Tuesday, October 13th, at 10:00am in Room #20 (Open Door Class.) Please feel free to join us.

Beverly Burts



The Joyful Readers Circle will meet again on Tuesday, **October 13, 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall.** They will be discussing the book "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi. Our discussion leader & devotional leader will be Katherine Wollerman. Refreshments will be provided by Sue Putze & Barbara Wash. Please feel free to join us!



Fall has arrived...the color palate has changed. Greens give way to browns and the reds and yellows of flowers are now the reds and yellows of falling leaves. The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to crochet and knit shawls and lap robes and draws inspiration from the changing seasons.

We welcome anyone who wants to join us and share in our fellowship. If you don't know how to knit or crochet and would like to learn, we will be happy to help you. Come and join us!

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday, October 7 at 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough



Fairfield Youth Group: October

Youth group is off and running after some fun and fellowship events in September, and a youth retreat to close out the month! We've got a great group this year, including two new 6th graders and two new youth advisors! Thanks be to God for the ways we continue to serve our youth.

Oct.4 All Church Night
Oct. 11 No Youth Group
Oct. 18 Photo Scavenger Hunt
Oct. 25 Fall-O-Ween!



Oct. 4	Angela Schwartz & Allison Letourneau
Oct. 11	McKenna Blue & Marge Wantz
Oct. 18	Zachary Letourneau & Barbara vanSteenburg
Oct. 25	Majken Whitaker & Anne Young

Men of the Church

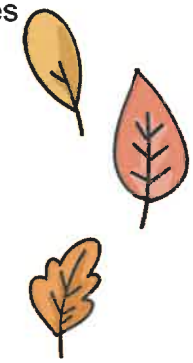


The Men of the Church are seeking donations for their upcoming holiday projects. If you can help out, please write Men of the Church on the check and/o envelope. We appreciate your generosity!

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! THANK YOU!

- Corn
- Green Beans
- Collard Greens/Mixed Greens
- Carrots
- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Pumpkin
- Cranberry Sauce
- Brownie Mix
- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Hand Soap
- Toothpaste



FAIRFIELD'S ANNUAL

FALL-O-WEEN

Festival

CREATIVE FACES BY STEPHANIE

COSTUMES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

GAMES

FOOD

4:00-6:00 PM

HAYRIDES

ICE CREAM

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

TOTALLY TEENY TRAVELING FARM

FREE!

FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6930 COLD HARBOR ROAD
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111

Fairfield Presbyterian Church

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 10:00am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:00pm –2:00pm New Beginnings Pastor's Birthday luncheon (Family Center)	28 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations #6 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	29 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:15pm Congregational Nominating Committee (#20)	30 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	1 10:30am Sunlit Psalms Bible Study (#27) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get-Together (FC) 6:00pm –7:30pm AA Meeting (HH) 6:00pm –7:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31)	2	3 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)
4 10:30am Combined Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 4:30pm –5:30pm All Church Dinner & Chair Auction (sanctuary)	5 9:00am Tutor Meeting (Heritage Hall) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	6 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20) 7:15pm Congregational Nomination Committee (#20)	7 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)	8 10:30am Sunlit Psalms Bible Study (#27) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get-Together (FC) 6:00pm –7:30pm AA Meeting (HH) 6:00pm –7:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31)	9	10
11 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 10:00am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	12 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations #7 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	13 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) 7:15pm Congregational Nominating Committee (#20)	14 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	15 10:30am Sunlit Psalms Bible Study (#27) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get-Together (FC) 6:00pm –7:30pm AA Meeting (HH) 6:00pm –7:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31)	16 Community Service Board dinner set-up (FC)	17 8:00pm –11:00pm CBS Dinner (Family Center)
18 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 10:00am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	19 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations #8 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	20 *Newsletter Deadline* 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Session Meeting (#20)	21 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	22 10:30am Sunlit Psalms Bible Study (#27) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get-Together (FC) 6:00pm –7:30pm AA Meeting (HH) 6:00pm –7:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31) 7:15pm Congregational Nominating Committee (#20)	23 10:30am –11:30am Mission Committee (#20)	24 9:30am –12:00pm Scottish Fiddlers (HH)
25 9:00am –9:45am Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 10:00am –10:45am Sunday School 11:00am –1:00pm New Beginnings Church Worship (Family Center) 11:00am –12:00pm Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:00pm –6:00pm Fall-O-Ween (Family Center)	26 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations #9 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	27 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14)	28 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 7:00pm –8:00pm Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00pm Praise Band Practice (FC)	29 10:30am Sunlit Psalms Bible Study (#27) 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 1:00pm –3:00pm Mahjong Get-Together (FC) 6:00pm –7:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31)	30	31

Under-Aged Thinking

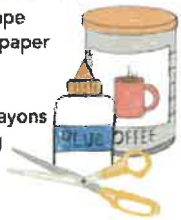
Give Thanks with Music



Music is one way to give thanks to God. Make these simple instruments to accompany your singing!

What you need:

- 3 small coffee cans with lids
- 1/2 cup dry pinto beans
- 1/2 cup unpopped popcorn
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- Heavy-duty tape
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons for decorating



What you do:

1. Put the beans in one can, the popcorn in another, and the rice in the third.
2. Secure the lids and tape around the rims.
3. Cover the cans with construction paper and glue it in place.
4. Decorate the cans with markers or crayons.
5. Shake the cans to hear the different sounds, then use them to make joyful music for the Lord!



PUZZLE



A Family of Prayer

Acts tells us about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman soldier who worshiped God and prayed with his family. God used Cornelius to help Peter learn an important truth: God welcomes everyone who loves Him and does what is right.

Solve the math problems using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter for each answer. Write each letter on the blank to discover what Cornelius and his family did.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY	
a = 7	e = 8
i = 10	o = 9
u = 11	y = 6

"H_ _ _ _

Bible Quiz



Psalm 103 (ESV) begins:

"Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his _____."

What should we "not forget"?

A. goodness C. gifts
B. kindness D. benefits

Answer: D. benefits (Psalm 103:2)

STAFF

Interim Pastor	Rev. Dr. Richard Haney
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

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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Return Service Requested

