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

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November 2026

Be Thou My Vision

Dear Friends,

Some keen observers may have noticed I led worship with my glasses on one Sunday in October. They were not new - I've had a prescription for my eyes since high school. I'd been on a break from contacts due to an upcoming lasik surgery that took place the week following that worship service!

It's absolutely remarkable what modern science and medicine can do. I've been in awe with my new eyes - no longer in need of corrective lenses to make out images and words a few feet in front of me. I've been very blessed to have this opportunity, and am aware of vision challenges that persist with many people.

I can't help but think of the many analogies offered by any sort of vision operation for our church. In a season of transition, and a season of stewardship, we are seeking God's help in bringing into focus our calling and purpose as a church. Our mission study gave us our prescription, and through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are working to shape our vision to see where God is at work in our church, and in our community.

In John, chapter 9, Jesus heals a blind man by spitting on the ground and smearing mud on his eyes (I'm glad that wasn't my experience!). The man's life was changed, not just physically, as he became a disciple of Jesus, eagerly proclaiming his good news. Other blind men were healed by Jesus in the Bible, all whom had similar experiences of going and sharing the good news in grateful response.

If we believe God has healed us, has given us a new vision for our lives, as a church, we too should be eagerly proclaiming the goodness we have come to know in Christ. We should be focusing our eyes on opportunities that lay before us with renewed vision, not being afraid to live into our calling, grateful for what God is allowing us to see.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that thou art,
Thou my best thought by day and by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

May God continue to be our vision, in how we relate to one another through another divided election season, in our shared daily struggles, through our church's time of transition, through this stewardship season. May God's grace and goodness be at the core of all we are and all we see!

In Christ,
Mike

Fulfilling God's Vision

Member News



With sympathy, we let you know that **Faye Sandridge** passed away on October 10. Faye was a member here for 32 years. She was involved in many activities here until her health started to decline and she moved in with her daughter, Susan Hagarty. Faye will be missed.



Jack & Lori Briel's friends, Ron and his wife, **Becky & Dwight Clark**, Glenn Clark's brother, Jesse, **Danny & Karen Couch's** son, Matthew, Jake Foster, **Jim France's** parents **Fran & Larry Hansbrough's daughter, Paige,, Jessica Ingerman's** boss and co-workers, **Glenda Majcher, Kaylyn McGee**, **Sam Patterson**, **Bill Walter** 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.*)



Chad & Lindley Starzer had a baby girl on Sunday, September 29! Her name is Reed Griffin Starzer. Mother and baby are doing well. Proud grandparents are Steve & Debby Starzer.



Thank you to all who participated in the "Char"ishing our Memories Silent Auction on October 4. First of all, thanks to the Session for approving the use of these children's chairs to help raise money for the Memorial Garden and Columbarium. Thank you to the Building and Grounds Committee for making the chairs available. A special thanks to all of you who took the time, imagination, and supplies to decorate the chairs. Thanks, too, to those of you who bid on a chair and the many of you who were so generous in your donations. Gratitude to the ladies of the Joyful Readers Circle for the yummy snacks at the reception and Wray Palmore for preparing the beverages. We couldn't have succeeded without the support and encouragement of our wonderful ministers. It was so much fun to see members of all ages participate in making this garden come a bit closer to a way to make contributions. If you missed seeing the chairs, there are two that have been donated to remain in the Children's Library. At this time we have raised $5,200 with a few more donations coming in. Thank you again to all who were a part of this event.

The pastors express gratitude for the kind words, cards and gifts given to us for Pastor's Appreciation month!

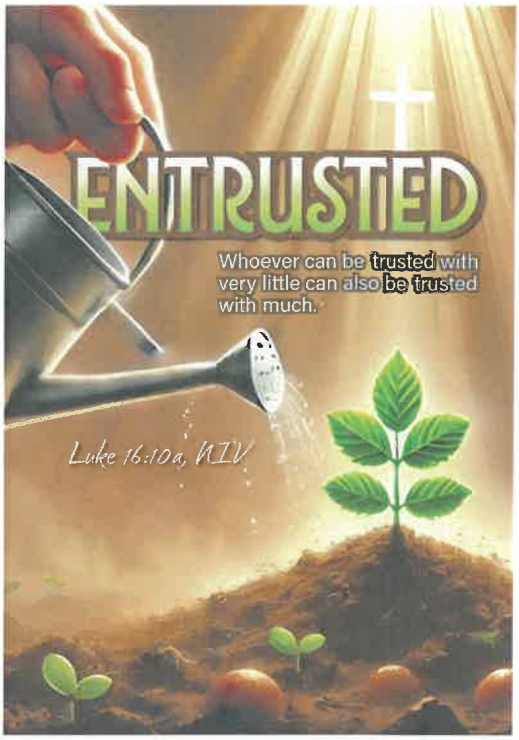


NOVEMBER *birthdays*

Ashley Foster	November 3
Cathy Gatewood	November 3
Ivy Gallihugh	November 4
Jessica Lorch	November 5
Lee Lythgoe	November 7
Kelsey Boyd	November 8
Betty Wade	November 8
Mitzi Marker	November 9
Jeff Blue	November 10
Jerry Duggan	November 12
Brandon Rice	November 12
Chris Selph	November 14
Bonnie Creekmore	November 15
Bill Kerns	November 15
Tyler Stevens	November 16
Kathy Thomas	November 16
Kelley Spott	November 18
Maisie Blue	November 20
Tyler Palicia	November 20
Alayna Spott	November 20
Steve Starzer	November 20
Chuck Patterson	November 21
Deborah Wood	November 21
Ruth Harpster	November 22
Daniel Couch	November 24
Don Ross	November 25
Judy Baggett	November 26
Rick Shegogue	November 27
Jim Cooper	November 29
Tracey Sulser	November 30

NOVEMBER *anniversaries*

Chris & Debbie Palicia	November 2
Robby & Kim Stevens	November 2
Richard & Nancy Walden	November 8
McKenzie & Colby Crutchfield	November 22
Robert & Nancy Lee	November 27



It's November and the time for Fairfield's Stewardship Campaign for 2027. This year's theme is "Tend the Garden". If you want to have a productive garden, you can start with preparing the soil and planting seeds, but if you stop there you will be disappointed with the results. A garden must be tended - watering, fertilizing, weeding, and maybe even some pruning and chasing off some hungry critters are all necessary for a garden to succeed. Similarly, the church as a collection of Christians, also needs tending in order to be fruitful.

Fortunately, we have many brothers and sisters here at Fairfield to share in the tending of the garden. By sharing your time, treasure and talents with the church, you are helping to further the church's ministries. By pledging to Fairfield, you are showing your commitment to help make this a fruitful garden!

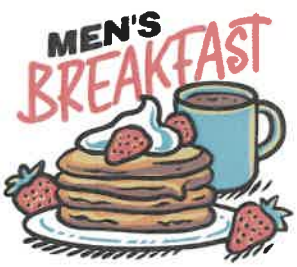
J. R. Marker
Stewardship Committee

Dedication Sunday is November 22nd

November 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

Nov. 1	Psalm 2	Mike
Nov. 8	Psalm 130	Nancy
Nov. 15	Psalm 127	Richard
Nov. 22	Psalm 100	Richard
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving service	Nancy
Nov. 29	First Sunday of Advent	Richard

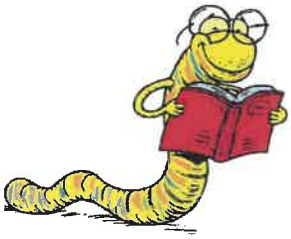


Men of the Church! We will meet the second Tuesday, **November 10**, 7:30am at Cracker Barrel Restaurant on Bell Creek Road. We'll start off with a good breakfast and a group discussion. All men are invited to join us. We welcome new blood to the group.



The Fellowship Circle will meet again on Tuesday, **November 10th**, 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, **November 10, 7:00pm in the Heritage Hall.** They will be discussing the book "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans. Our discussion leader will be Terri Joyce. Beth Young & Martha Houchins will provide refreshments. Please feel free to join us!



In October we again gave out two baby blankets. What a joy!!! It is always good to celebrate new life. The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to knit and crochet baby blankets, lap robes and prayer shawls. The ministry is as much about fellowship as it is about knitting and crocheting. If you would like to join us in this effort, we meet the first Wednesday of every month. Come see what it is all about.

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

Anna Barrowclough



Fairfield Youth Group November Happenings

On October 4th, our youth group assembled 38 bags of snacks and groceries to support AFOI (assisting families of inmates)! While we were at it - we also put together gift bags and encouraging messages for 7 international students at Union Presbyterian Seminary! Later in the month we held our always-popular Photo Scavenger Hunt, and then put together a trunk-or-treat trunk for our Fall-O-Ween Festival.

November will feature more fun, fellowship, and service opportunities before we take a break for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Thanksgiving Baskets



Help make Thanksgiving dinner special for needy families who could not afford to celebrate without our help. Starting Sundays, please bring all non-perishable canned or dry food items for the Men of the Church Thanksgiving baskets on November 1, 8, 15, and 22nd. We will be supplying severalfamilies with fixings for Thanksgiving dinner. **Please donate items that pertain only to Thanksgiving dinner** such as canned: green beans, sweet potatoes, peas, fruits, dry foods: mashed potatoes, rice, brownie or cake mixes, etc. Place these items in one of the designated boxes around the church decorated for Thanksgiving.

We are also in need of your monetary ($) donations that we use to purchase any items not collected in the collection boxes. Please put all Thanksgiving donations in the Sunday offering plates or turn them into the office during the week. Designate cash in an envelope, marked, "Thanksgiving Baskets" or make your check out to Fairfield Presbyterian Church and specify "Thanksgiving baskets." Direct any questions to Billy Putze.



Come one, come all for the **Annual Thanksgiving Worship Service at 7:30am** on **November 26th** followed by a **delicious cooked breakfast by the Men of the Church**. Enjoy a special message to remind us of our many blessings God has given to us as a church and his people. Next, break bread with a delicious hot breakfast and wonderful fellowship with fellow church members and friends that you don't always get to see. You will find it to be a great way to start your Thanksgiving Day festivities.

Please fill out the attendance slips found in your weekly bulletins and place it in the offering plate so we can prepare enough food for everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!



The Deacons met October 6th for their October meeting. This past Sunday, 5 homebound members celebrated communion with several Deacons and the visits were uplifting for all involved. Cards were sent out for birthday celebrations for recent months. The deacons are excited about the small groups that are meeting, and hope it the groups would like to continue meeting they will. The deacons brainstormed ideas of ways to help foster deeper connections with continued smaller group activities. Plans for meal trains, flower deliveries, and continued encouragement to welcome new visitors were planned and discussed. The Deacons would like to invite everyone that attends the All Church night on December 6th to sign, and/or decorate a card for our homebound members. The next deacons meeting is Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00pm.

Medical Equipment

The deacons would like everyone to know we do have a medical equipment closet off the sanctuary. We have several wheelchairs (one child size and several adult sized) with leg extension attachments if needed. We have an electric scooter and a knee scooter. We have a rollator walker, and several regular walkers that are new-donated by the Magill family. There are two stair ramps available. There are bath chairs, and a bedside commode.

Please feel free to offer these to neighbors, friends and family to use as well as they are here to help our community. There is a sign-out sheet in the closet to keep track of where items are loaned out too. Please contact the church office if there is a need.



9:00am

Nov. 1	Nikki Glass & McKenna Blue
Nov. 8	Majken Whitaker & Barbara VanSteenburgh
Nov. 15	Anne Young & Zachary Letourneau
Nov. 22	Angela Schwartz & Allison Letourneau
Nov. 29	Marge Wantz & Barbara VanSteenburgh

11:00am (on call)

Grayson Palmore & Angela Blue

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/or envelope. We appreciate your generosity!

Special Dates for November

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2026
- Daylight saving time ends, November 1, 2026
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2026
- Christ the King Sunday, November 22, 2026
- Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2026
- First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2026



It's Almost Time to Find Our Angel Wings

That wonderful time of the year when our Fairfield Angels brighten the lives of fellow Hanoverians for Christmas is right around the corner. This year we will again reach out to help families utilizing Hanover Safe Place resources due to domestic violence and single mothers who have no family home or support. In addition, we will be helping a local family brought to our attention by Angela Blue.

The Mission Committee will help the congregation supply needed items to families under the care of Hanover Safe Place and Millie's Home, both located in Hanover County.

1. The committee will put a small Christmas tree, filled with paper ornaments that lists gifts needed by someone under our care, in the Sanctuary Narthex and in the Family Center entrance on **Sunday, November 22.**

2. Members of the congregation will be invited to select a paper ornament, purchase the gift and return it either to the Narthex or the Family Center entrance by **Sunday, December 6.**

3. Gift cards to a local grocery store, Uber, a shoe store, Target or Walmart are also greatly appreciated.

4. Gifts can be placed in a gift bag, or left unwrapped. **Please remember to attach your paper ornament to your gift or t o your gift bag.**

During this Christmas season have fun putting on your Angel Wings and finding that special gift that will brighten the lives of these dear people who have endured much hardship in the recent past.

A Thanksgiving Prayer of Gratitude

Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer and eternal Companion, we come before you overwhelmed by the boundless goodness you bestow upon us.

On this special day, we remember how you blessed those who came to this land seeking the freedom to worship without restraint or hindrance.

We are immeasurably grateful for our heritage. We pray that our faith may be as fervent as the faith of those who left everything familiar to journey to a strange land, where they themselves were strangers.

We gather as grateful beneficiaries of your faithful servants who paid a costly price to glorify you and serve you. Mindful of the first Thanksgiving meal shared by newcomers and Native peoples, we now gather around our own tables with family and friends.

We come before you with love and deep appreciation for your constant grace and abundant gifts. The beautiful food before us is a visible reminder of your generous provision.

Ever-giving and ever-loving God, we humbly thank you for all your blessings. We ask for one gift more: the honor of your presence. Be our Guest, so that we may enjoy fellowship with you and with one another.

We pray in the name of your greatest gift to us, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Fairfield Presbyterian Church

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 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) 12:20pm -Officer Training 4:00pm –5:30pm The Village (HH) 4:30pm –6:30pm All Church Night	2 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations #10 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 –8:00pm Nomination Committee (#26)	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 –7:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31)	6	7
8 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 –5:30pm The Village	9 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations #11 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 Facilities Management Meeting (#26) 7:00pm Joyful Readers Circle (HH)	11 10:30am – 11:30am Mission Committee (#20) 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) 6:00pm –7:00pm Adult Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	13	14 8:00am –5:00pm Classical Conversations Makers Market (HH & classrooms)
15 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 –5:30pm The Village	16 8:00am –4:00pm Classical Conversations #12 4:30pm –7:30pm AA Group (HH) 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC)	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) 6:00pm –7:00pm Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 6:30pm –9:30pm C.A.P. (Family Center, 29, 31)	20 Church Office Closed *Newsletter Deadline*	21 9:30am –12:00pm Scottish Fiddlers (HH)
22 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 –5:30pm The Village (HH)	23 9:00am –3:00pm Tutor Meeting (Heritage Hall) 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 Office Closed **7:30am Thanksgiving Worship Service (Sanctuary) & Breakfast (Heritage Hall)**	27 Office closed	28
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** 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)	30 5:30pm –7:30pm Pickleball (FC) 6:00pm –8:00pm AA Group (#29)	1 11:00am –1:00pm Pickleball (FC) 5:30pm NBC Choir Practice (#14) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting (#20) 7:00pm Nomination Committee (#26)	2 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)	3 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)	4	5 Communion Set-Up (Small Kitchen)

Under-Aged Thinking

Bread Painting



When you eat this fun snack, be thankful for Jesus, who is our Bread of Life.

What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional



What you do:

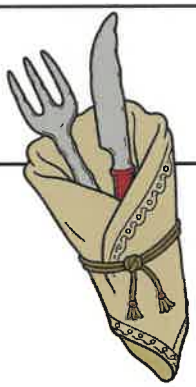
1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder: Ask an adult for help when using a toaster or toaster oven.

"I am the bread of life."
John 6:35, NIV

Puzzle!



A MIRACLE DINNER

Matthew 14:15–21 & John 6:1–14 is a Bible story about a special dinner. Below is a poem about that story.

Complete the poem by filling in the blanks with the correct pairs of words.

then / men	rest / quest
true / you	began / ran
late / ate	faces / spaces
lunch / bunch	done / ton

Jesus was tired and went to find _____,
So away from the crowd he started his _____ .
It came to an end before it _____,
The crowd followed Jesus; they walked and
they _____.
His boat pulled ashore and he looked at
their _____ —five thousand men, plus families
filled all open _____.
And so Jesus spoke and he taught until _____.
The disciples told him it was time they
all _____.
Jesus said, "Yes, that is certainly _____,
and feeding this crowd is now up to _____."
Feeding five thousand! It could not be _____!
What would they do? They'd need a
whole _____!
But then a young boy came and offered
his _____ —five loaves and two fish to
feed this big _____.
Jesus gave thanks and blessed it and _____
it fed all the women, the children and _____!

Answers: rest, quest, began, ran, faces, spaces, late, ate, true, you, done, ton, lunch, bunch, then, men



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

Fairfield Church
P.O. Box 1088
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Return Service Requested

