

THE CALL

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

February 2024
Volume 79, Issue 1

February is a hard month in Ohio. Winter releases its grasp, but the skies remain interminably gloomy. The Old English name for this month, *Solmonath*, is descriptively accurate, literally “Mud Month.” But our calendar comes to us from Rome, and this month of *Februarius* which means it is the month for purification.

Modern Americans do not like the idea of purification much. First, it implies that we are somehow polluted. Second, it requires some sort of change or transformation on our part, and we would rather not be bothered. And third, purification suggests that there is some condition of state of being that we have not yet achieved that is preferable to what we are.

One of the theological synchronicities of our calendar is that Lent begins in most years in February (yes, I know it won't next year). Lent is a 40-day season from the ancient rhythms of the church that emphasizes self-examination, consideration, and prayer. Traditionally it was presented as a season for feeling really guilty. I would like to suggest something different.

Self-examination is much more than self-recrimination. What if we used this season to carefully reflect on the story of our lives, perhaps even writing them down, to see how our stories connect up with God's story. What were the decisive turning points that made you, you? How has accident, change, or providence played a role? Looking at your story, how have you changed as a character within it? And finally, how do you see God working in all of this?

This ancient practice is the spiritual discipline of examen, and it follows a simple pattern. Find a quiet comfortable place, breathe deeply, put your feet on the floor, now begin with thanksgiving, something you are grateful for. Hold it in your mind and heart before God. It could be something so simple as a good cup of tea. Second, ask God for the wisdom to know yourself and to know yourself as God knows you. Third, reflect upon your day and what has happened. What brought joy and delight? What brought trouble or challenges? Where did I pause over a moment, feeling, or decision? Where did I feel the energy of my life today? And finally, have I noticed God's presence or action in any of this? We hold our stories before the narrator of lives and conclude our little reflection by considering what we may want to bring over to tomorrow.

Lent is not about feeling guilty for 40 days (*but if you have really done something awful you might want to work on that*). Instead, let it be all about hearing your story as a part of God's story. In that story is life.

-Brian

WORSHIP

In-person Casual Service 8:30am

Traditional Service 10:30am

Our Traditional 10:30am worship offering will be live-streamed beginning at 10:15am on YouTube.

Visit www.fairmontchurch.org/online for links to all past and upcoming live streams.

February 4 5th Sunday after Epiphany/
Communion Sunday

Lesson: Acts 6:1-7
Sermon: Made to Serve

February 11 Single Service/Transfiguration of
the Lord

Lesson: Acts 8:26-39
Sermon: What is to Stop US?

February 14 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm
Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5: 20 - 6:10
Sermon: Salvation Now

February 18 1st Sunday in Lent
Lesson: Romans 8:1-8
Sermon: True Freedom

February 25 2nd Sunday in Lent
Lesson: Romans 8:9-11
Sermon: Raised from the Dead

Connections

Wednesdays, 7:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82945327813>

Meeting ID: 829 4532 7813

Bible Study: Weekly Scripture

Thursdays, 12:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82002536057>

Meeting ID: 820 0253 6057

SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

February 13th at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Come and join the Deacons for our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It will be held on February 13th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall and it is a fun, family-friendly event to kick off the Lenten season. All are welcome to come and enjoy pancakes and fellowship.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 14, 7:00 p.m.

“You are of the dust and to the dust you shall return . . .” On Ash Wednesday we begin our journey and practice of Lent. Please join us for this important service of worship as we together commence our journey of Lent. Ashes for the rite of penitence will be available for pick up from outside the church office door starting on Monday February 12.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE 2024

Our Lord is truly blessing Fairmont! The latest update on our stewardship campaign shows a total of \$568,277 pledged for 2024. Your strong commitment to our church and its various programs and missions has exceeded last year's and will continue to enrich our faith community in many, many ways. Thank you so very much for your ongoing support.

AUTOMATED AND ONLINE GIVING

Please remember to update your online and automated giving to Fairmont to reflect your 2024 pledges. If you need more information, please contact Martha Keil at 937-299-3539.

CONNECTIONS

Connections: The Foundations of Christian Mystical Spirituality

Wednesday Nights at 7:00 pm on ZOOM

Beneath the shared traditions we call religion lies something deeper and more powerful—actual encounter with God. From the very earliest centuries of the church, the quest for the experience of God, as opposed to information about God (theology) has driven our faith but is often spoken about in hushed whispers. We will be examining the shared history of these experiences, the spiritual quest for God, and the tradition of reflections upon all of this in our Connections classes every Wednesday night.

BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Thursdays at 12:00pm. We will be convening hybrid Bible Study in person in the Upper Room for those who wish to participate in person and simultaneously on Zoom for those who wish to share virtually. In this way we hope to make Bible Study as accessible as possible.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30am Worship

After the Time with Children, children will follow their teachers to a classroom on the lower level where they will learn about God while enjoying bible stories, crafts, and fellowship with their peers. We are using a new curriculum in our elementary classes: "Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living."



Quarterly, Pastor Kelley will also be sharing beautiful **Godly Play** storytelling during the Sunday school time slot. Sunday school classes are open to children ages 4 - grade 5. Any questions, contact Pastor Kelley.

SUNDAY NURSERY CARE

PLEASE NOTE Nursery Care will **not** be provided on the following Sundays as our Nursery Care Worker will be on educational leave: February 4 - February 18, 2024.

FEBRUARY FAIRMONT CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The next Children's Choir rehearsal begins on Sunday, February 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Children's Choir room. The children will be singing in the 10:30 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, March 24** for Palm Sunday.

Mark your calendars: February 18, February 25, March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24

Ages 4 - grade 5 are invited to participate. We are pleased to have Deanna Ullery leading the Children's Choir. Contact Pastor Kelley for questions.

NO FEBRUARY FAIRMONT FAMILY PIZZA NIGHT

Join us instead for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we observe the beginning of Lent. For questions, contact Pastor Kelley at (937) 751-0752 or

FAIRMONT YOUTH MINISTRY

(Grades 6th -12th)

Sundays, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Fairmont Youth Ministry will meet on Sundays in-person from 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. (**unless otherwise noted in bold print**). There will be faith conversations, games, activities, and lunch!

FEBRUARY YOUTH SCHEDULE

February 4 Community: Manna
February 11 Chili Cook-Off
February 13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
 (6:00 p.m.)
February 14 Ash Wednesday Service (7:00 p.m.)
February 18 Lent: Embrace Simplicity
February 25 Lent: Pray

Pastor Kelley may be reached by email at kshin@fairmontchurch.org or by text or phone at (937) 751-0752.

MISSION BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

Helping Hands, Helping Hearts



Winter Spotlight: Brigid's Path

This winter we'll be having a Minute for Mission on the nonprofit organization Brigid's Path, one of the several organizations included in our Mission Team's annual budget. Their primary goal is to care for infants born exposed to addictive substances like opioids or prescription medication. This organization is the first facility in Ohio to offer in-patient treatment in a facility designed to feel like home. Brigid's Path has offered 24/7 care from skilled medical staff and volunteers to 213 babies since December 2017. They also partner with other community resources to support moms, encouraging mothers to room with, care for, and bond with their babies as much as possible to provide them with the long-term stability their child will need. Learn more at brigidspath.org!

Minute for Mission February 11th: Jane Snyder, the Community Engagement Manager at Brigid's Path, will visit February 11th at the start of the 10:30 a.m. service (single service) for a Minute

for Mission!

She'll be sharing updates and ways for Fairmont members to get involved. There is also a chili cookoff sponsored by Women of Fairmont following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, so join us for worship, fellowship, and food.

LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION: Our Mission Team will be collecting food in March to benefit The Food Bank of Dayton and the FISH Food Pantry, and to share in an **all-church Lenten practice of giving!** This is a great chance to take an action-oriented approach to Lent. All non-perishable foods will be accepted. Look for weekly prompts in the church bulletin during Lent for full details.

When Is the Collection? We will be accepting weekly Lenten donations March 3rd, March 10th, March 17th, and March 24th. We also collect non-perishables year-round, so it's always a great time to give!

Nonperishable Food Suggestions: Feel free to get the whole family involved in selecting items to bring in! Although any nonperishable food is needed and will be used, here are some suggestions of items your family might bring:

Basic Foods: Hearty soups, stews (beef, chicken, and dumplings), chili, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese

Meats/High Protein: Canned meats (ham, chicken, meat spreads), canned fish like tuna, salmon, sardines or other fish, nuts and seeds, rice, and beans

Dairy Group: Evaporated milk, powdered milk, puddings, and custards

Fruits and Veggies: Canned fruits, canned juices, canned vegetables

Breads Cereals, and Pasta: Hot and cold breakfasts like oatmeal or cream of wheat, baking mixes (pancake, corn bread, cake mix, icing, quick breads), pasta, canned sauces

YOUR SUPPORT of the Giving Trees activity provided: support for 6 clients of Artemis Center, including 15 children contributions from over 45 members of the FPC community about \$2200 worth of winter clothing, blankets, pots & pans, and toys about 140 lbs. of cleaning products, plus grocery gift cards (from the directed mission portion of the annual budget, through your pledges and offerings). -Artemis Center

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00pm: pm: Bible Study	2 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh)	3
				6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)	12:00pm: OA (rc) 5:00pm: Theology on Tap	
5th Sunday of Epiphany/ Communion 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) 12:00pm: Fairmont Youth	5	6 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 2:30pm: Lincoln Park Communion 7:00pm: Team Meetings 7:00pm: Team Meetings (tur)	7 4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) 7:00pm: Connections (online) 7:30pm: AA (012)	8 7:00pm: Bible Study 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)	9 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	10
Transfiguration of the Lord 10:30am: Single Service 11:30am: Chili Cook-Off	12 7:00pm: Circle 1 (parlor)	13 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 6:00pm: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 7:00pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance (tur)	14 3:00pm: Spirituality for those who Grieve (chapel) 4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) 7:00pm: Ash Wednesday Service No Connections 7:00pm: AA (012)	15 12:00pm: Bible Study 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)	16 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	17 9:30am: Circle 7 (offsite)
1st Sunday in Lent 8:30am: Casual Service 9:30am: Children's Choir Practice 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) 12:00pm: Fairmont Youth 2:00pm: Dayton Music Club (sanctuary)	19	20 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 7:00pm: Session (tur)	21 11:30am: Fairmont Men's Luncheon (offsite) 4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) 5:30pm: Circle 6 (offsite) 7:00pm: Connections	22 1:00pm: Rug Hooking Group (fh) 12:00pm: Bible Study 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: NA (012)	23 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	24 11:30am: WOF Winter Gathering
2nd Sunday in Lent 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) 9:30am: Children's Choir Practice 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) 12:00pm: Fairmont Youth	26	27 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	28 4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) 7:00pm: Connections 7:30pm: AA (012)	29 12:00pm: Bible Study 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)		

SPIRITUALITY FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE

SPIRITUALITY FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE

*Spiritual Wisdom and Practice in Times of
Grief and Healing*

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Second
Wednesday of the Month

FEBRUARY DATE: February 14, 2024

TIME: 3:00pm – 4:00pm

PLACE: Chapel

When we are grieving the death of someone we love, we long for the support and compassion of our fellow human beings; a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. How does our faith speak to this grief? How can we find healing through our stories of grief? All who are grieving the loss of a loved one – recently or long ago – are *invited* to share in monthly gatherings led by Pastor Kelley. Our next gathering is February 14th at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel. This will be a time to share or listen to stories of healing and grief. We will be resourcing two books on spirituality and healing. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Kelley at kshin@fairmontchurch.org.

CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, February 11th, after the 10:30 single service, the Women of Fairmont will be sponsoring a friendly Chili Cook Off in Fellowship Hall. We hope that you will join us for this fun and yummy fellowship →

opportunity. In addition to eating delicious chili, you will “vote” for your favorite by putting money in the donation jar of your favorites! In addition to fabulous chili, there will be hotdogs for kids and also cornbread and dessert. All money will be used for Women of Fairmont mission outreach. If you are interested in bringing a pot of chili to share please contact Cyndi Porter at cyndi@vccwporter.com, text or call 210-863-9345.

WOMEN OF FAIRMONT

The Women of Fairmont will hold the Winter Gathering on February 24 at 11:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. A delicious lunch will be served. Let Jennifer in the office know, or text or call Kris Martin (937-623-1284), that you plan to attend. Join us in spending a warm and welcoming February Saturday together! More details will be in the bulletin.

The Women of Fairmont would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all who participated in the Cookie Walk by baking or buying tasty Christmas treats! And a special THANKS to Sara Grillot for organizing this event. It was very successful and brought WOF over \$1300 for our mission giving.

I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to the very generous bakers- and buyers- here at Fairmont Church. Your overwhelming support of the Women of Fairmont’s annual Cookie Walk is so appreciated. This is a church of, when asked, will always deliver! A special thanks to the Women of Fairmont volunteers who helped with decorating, setting up, cleaning up and much more. The proceeds will be dispersed among several worthy needs in our community. I can’t thank you all enough. Sara Grillot

ART, ANTIQUE & CRAFT SHOW

It is that time of the year when we begin to get things in order for the 12th annual Art, Craft and Antique Show to be held in Nov. This past years show was quite successful and we brought in close to \$15,000 to be distributed among our 3 recipients including Kettering Backpack Program Dayton Food Bank and The World Central Kitchen. There is such a need in the world for the easing of hunger issues and we are trying to do our part.

We added 15 new vendors and from comments being heard around the church it seems that most everyone was pleased and coming back for another year. We added a room for small furniture which brought in over \$900. It was a wonderful, festive occasion and we look towards our next show in Nov.

Please consider donating jewelry, Seasonal decorations, pottery, decorative items, collectibles, puzzles, cookbooks, earlier toys, linens, antiques, art work. This year we are going to have a book shelf where you can donate good condition used books, soft or hardback.

Thanks again for all of you who helped make our show such a success. Our volunteers were exceptional and nothing could have happened without them. We are going to work on getting some younger help to move furniture this year. And I do need to recognize the church staff for all their extra efforts, so the show could go on without any major glitches. If I have forgotten anyone I am sorry for that. All the committee heads did an outstanding job and made things happen.

Direct any questions to Kerri Miles or Kelly Coan.

Happy New Year and may God bless you and yours.

With love, Carolyn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAIRMONT MEN'S GROUP

Fairmont Men's Group will meet at MCL Cafeteria on Wednesday, February 21st at 11:30 am. Sign "Lunch" on the attendance pad Sunday or call the church office (937) 299-3539 or email at office@fairmontchurch.org by noon on Tuesday, February 20th, to make a reservation. All the men of the church are invited.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap will meet ONCE a month on the first Friday of each month. All are welcome for a time of food, fellowship, and faith conversations.

FEBRUARY For the month of February, Theology on Tap will meet at Marion's Piazza on Stroop Road (50 E. Stroop Rd) at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 2, 2024.

WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT 2024

Mark your calendars for Spring 2024 Women's Retreat at Hueston Woods on April 26 & 27, 2024! Watch for Registration information in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex.

THEME: Mary and Martha: Waiting on God
LEADERS: Rev. Kelley Shin & Rev. Gidget Collins

DATE: Friday, April 26, 5:00 p.m. to Saturday, April 27, 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hueston Woods Lodge & Conference Center

REGISTRATION

Sign-up Sheets and Brochures are at the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall doors or email Pastor Kelley at kshin@fairmontchurch.org. Registration deadline is March 20, 2024.

Fairmont Women! Join us for a time of spiritual, physical, and emotional renewal at Fairmont's overnight Women's Retreat. There will be time for small and large group sessions, worship, hikes, meditation and prayer, fellowship, food, and fun! Pick up a brochure at church for information on housing, meals, and cost.

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

3705 Far Hills Avenue

Dayton, OH 45429

937-299-3539

Website: www.fairmontchurch.org

Facebook: Fairmont Presbyterian Church - Kettering, OH

Twitter: @FairmontChurch

Instagram: fairmontpresbyterianchurch

STAFF

Pastor/Head of Staff: Brian Maguire

Associate Pastor: Kelley Wehmeyer Shin

Director of Music Ministries: Coleman Clark

Organist: Judy Bede

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Mason

Bookkeeper: Martha Keil

Custodian: Louis Weyrauch

February Birthdays

Dee Harvey	02/01	Deborah Prichard	02/16
Wynn Adam	02/02	Sara Grillot	02/17
Virginia Caldwell	02/02	Cameron Shearer	02/18
Vicki Ramga	02/02	Mark Wells	02/18
Steve Greene	02/05	James Dault	02/19
Maryann Bausman	02/07	Max Borneman	02/22
Joan Thompson	02/08	Brian Aitchison	02/26
Linda Yoder	02/09	Gail Yarnell	02/26
Elizabeth Favro	02/11	Barbara Stager	02/27
Mary Davis	02/12	Jeff Ireland	02/28
		Thomas Klingel	02/29



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT CALL

The deadline for The March Call is Friday, February 23, 2024.

Please submit Call & bulletin articles to Jennifer at: jmason@fairmontchurch.org.