

THE CALL

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

December 2025/January 2026

Volume 80, Issue 10

Incarnation. It literally means “in the flesh”. Incarnation stands at the very center of our faith, our life, and our hope. The term points to the central mystery of our faith tradition that the ineffable, transcendent, ground of all being took on actual human life in and as one first century Galilean peasant. That was a scandalous claim then, and now. Even more scandalous are the dual consequences of that union – something of human embodied creatureliness is now a part of God and some part of God’s own life and being is now a part of us. Humanity has now been infected by God’s own life and being rather like a CRISPR virus, slowly rewriting the DNA of our very being from within. And that means that we do not yet know either the full meaning or impact of incarnation because it is not yet complete in us or in God. Our development and destiny have changed. Accordingly, Merry Christmas.

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem PA (that would be Palestinian Authority not Pennsylvania) is one of the oldest and most significant ancient churches. Under the high altar, pilgrims still carefully step down into the grotto (there are no railings). And there before reverent crowds, a silver star on the ground marking the spot of Christ’s birth in a cave venerated as the place of his infancy. As one of the holiest places in the Christian tradition, thousands come in reverent silence, or Tik Tok narrated selfies, to alternatively worship or add to bucket lists. Orthodox priests constantly push praying pilgrims back out the other side while berating vlogging influencers. Bedecked in crushed velvet, gilt, and jewels of questionable provenance, that silver star oddly resembles a bullseye directed from heaven towards earth.

Between the pomposity of religion and the kitschy decorations, the grotto of the nativity is an unlikely spot to remember and venerate Christ’s birth. The sheer tackiness of the ornamentation lit by yellowing compact fluorescent bulbs and the greasy patina of human breath and sweat on the walls bear honest witness to the human condition. Any other patch of ground may speak more of God’s presence on Earth than this grotto. And maybe, just maybe that is the point. God does not come to us in our beauty and perfection but in our messy, unkempt, ugliness. God comes to us not so much to celebrate our humanity, but rescue and redeem it. It is all divine comedy, actually incarnation is the supreme comedy – a tale of a lowly protagonist rising from bad fortune to good ending in reconciliation and celebration.

If we would be claimed for redemption and transformation it would need to be in our flesh – fallen, fearful, and frayed – not as idealized angels or digitized avatars, but simply as contingent creatures resident within a contingent creation. God puts up with much, even us, and moves in on the sleeper sofa. A child is born so that, if we choose, we may be as well. Merry Christmas.

- Brian

WORSHIP

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.

December 07 2nd Sunday of Advent/Communion

Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Sermon: Work Songs

December 14 Single Service/3rd Sunday of Advent/

Lessons & Carols

Cookie Walk after worship

December 21 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30am: Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: Joseph

10:30am: Children's Christmas Pageant

December 28 Single Service/1st Sunday of Christmas

Lesson: Matthew 2:10-18

Sermon: Home By Another Way

Christmas Eve Worship Services

December 24 4:30pm: Family Casual Christmas Eve Service

December 24 7:30pm: Traditional Christmas Eve Service
Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

January 04 2nd Sunday of Christmas/Communion
Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14
Sermon: Chosen

January 11 Baptism of the Lord
Lesson: Matthew 3:13-17
Sermon: Waters of Baptism

January 18 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Lesson: John 1:29-42
Sermon: Lamb of God

January 25 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Lesson: Psalm 27
Sermon: Beyond the Fear

ONLINE MINISTRIES

Bible Study

Tuesdays, 12:15pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81913644664>

Meeting ID: 819 1364 4664

Connections

Wednesdays, 7:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82619499713>

Meeting ID: 826 1949 9713

CONNECTIONS

December Connections

"A Child is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories" by Amy-Jill Levine

For our Advent Connections series, discover the connections between ancient birth stories and the Nativity of Jesus in a video and book study by Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University and Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University. We will meet for three Wednesdays in December via Zoom.

December 3: Isaac & Ishmael

December 10: Samuel

December 17: Jesus

January Connections

The Power of Music in Faith
Communities to Comfort, Disrupt, Teach, & Invite

January 21, 28, February 4 and 11th at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights on Zoom with Rev. Dr. Lisa Hess

Why do we sing hymns in worship? What gifts do instruments bring to our faith life together? Why do so many of us have such strong feelings about these things? These Connections weeks will offer a variety of lenses into deeper appreciation of music's purposes for each of us, all of us, in worship and beyond.

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 12:15pm In-person and on Zoom

Join us each week as we consider the Bible texts for the following Sunday. Bring your questions!

December 2 Isaiah 11:1-10

December 9 Luke 1:46-56

December 16 Matthew 1:18-25

December 23 No Bible Study

December 30 No Bible Study

January 6 Matthew 3:13-17

January 13 John 1:29-42

January 20 Psalm 27

January 27 Psalm 15

CHURCH FINANCES & STEWARDSHIP

Thank You! Thank you for your generous financial support throughout 2025. Because of your generosity we have been able to expand the array of our programs and ministries especially for younger people, make major improvements to our building, refurbish our organ, and expand our support to mission partners especially for families in need in, all while welcoming new members. All of it depends on your generous support. You are making Fairmont a great and thriving house of faith. Please remember that all 2025 contributions must be post marked or submitted by December 31. Thank you!

Progress in the 2026 financial stewardship campaign is encouraging as of mid-November, and we are closing in on our goal of fully funding our proposed budget of \$744,529. The ultimate success of our 2026 Stewardship campaign depends on you. If you have already pledged for 2026, we sincerely thank you. If you have not yet done so, please pledge some amount to the mission of Fairmont. God has a plan for Fairmont, and we hope that you will pledge to help achieve it with your financial support! Statements of intended giving are available in the pews or in the church office.

What is Per Capita and why is it \$54.66? The Presbyterian Church is a connectional church. That means that we share in mutual ministry and accountability with and for each other. One of the ways we do that is by “sharing” in the cost of the denomination. This is done through individual assessments based on the number of members in each church. These assessments, called “per capita,” are mandatory and are used to support the work of the General Assembly and the Synod. Those funds are obtained either from our general Fairmont revenues or from special offerings from individuals who wish to pay their share individually. The total per member assessment for 2026 is \$54.66. That is the cost of being a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) denomination as opposed to the local congregation. If you would like to directly pay your share of our commitment to the greater church, the amount per member is \$54.66.

FREE MONEY: Taxpayers over 73 years of age with an IRA or a 401K/403B accounts may transfer withdrawals (up to \$100,000 per year) directly to Fairmont Presbyterian Church or other “qualified charitable organizations” and not pay tax on the distribution. Retirement savings accounts of various sorts (e.g., IRA’s and 401k’s) require individuals over 73 to annually make required minimum distributions or face significant tax penalties. Those distributions are then added to your taxable income, often boosting your tax bracket. But, if you direct those distributions in whole or in part to Fairmont or other charities, those funds do not count as taxable income at all regardless of whether you itemize your taxes or not. This transfer method can save you significant tax dollars. As always, consult with qualified advisors to help with tax planning, but using qualified charitable distributions may be an efficient way for you to support Fairmont!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed
December 24th–January 2nd for the Holiday's.
All activities will not be meeting during this time except
for Wednesday evening AA and Thursday evening NA
meetings. We will still be receiving mail.

Thank you.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	6:30pm: WOF Coord. (nr) 1	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 2 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 12:15pm: Bible Study (in-person & online) 2:30pm: Lincoln Park 7:00pm: Team Meetings (nr)	4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) 3 7:00pm: Connections (Zoom) 7:30pm: AA (012)	6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 4 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 5 12:00pm: OA (rc) 5:00pm: Theology on Tap @ Archers Tavern (2030 E. Dorothy Lane in Kettering)	9:00am: Adaptive Change Meeting (fh) 6
2nd Sunday of Advent/ Communion 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) 9:45am: Contemplative Prayer (chapel) 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary)	7:00pm: Circle 1 (fh) 8	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 9 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 12:15pm: Bible Study (in-person & online) 7:00pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance (nr)	3:00pm: Spirituality for those who Grieve (chapel) 4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) 7:00pm: Connections (Zoom) 7:30pm: AA (012)	6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 10 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)	9:00am-3:00pm: Cookie Drop-Off (fh) 11 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	9:00am-11:00am Cookie Drop-Off (fh) 13
A Service of Lessons and Carols 4 10:30am: Single Service 9:45am: Contemplative Prayer (chapel) Cookie Walk after worship Youth Christmas Party	14	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 15 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 12:15pm: Bible Study (in-person & online) 6:30pm: Session & Dinner (fh)	11:30am: Fairmont Men's Luncheon @ MCL 4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) 5:30pm: YMCA Meeting (fh) 5:30pm: Circle 2 7:00pm: Connections (Zoom) 7:30pm: AA (012)	6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 17 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 18 12:00pm: OA (rc)	11:00am: Circle 3 20
4th Sunday of Advent/ Children's Pageant (fh) 9:45am: Contemplative Prayer (chapel) 10:30am: Children's Pageant Hot Cocoa Bar after worship 1st Sunday after Christmas 10:30am Single Service 9:45am: Contemplative Prayer (chapel) No Sunday School or Youth	21	11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 22 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	11:30am: Christmas Eve 23 Office Closed	Christmas Day 24 Office Closed	Office Closed 25 Office Closed	26 27

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				New Year's Day (Office Closed)	1 Office Closed	2 3 5:00pm: Theology on Tap @ Archers Tavern (2030 E. Dorothy Lane in Kettering)
2nd Sunday of Christmas/ Communion 8:30am: Casual Service (lh) 9:45am: Contemplative Prayer (chapel) 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary)	4 6:30pm: WOF Coord. (ur)	5 11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (ur) No Bible Study 2:30pm: Lincoln Park	6 4:30pm: Praise Band (lh) No Connections 7:30pm: AA (012)	7 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)	8 11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	9 11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)
Baptism of the Lord	11 7:00pm: Circle 1 (lh)	12 11:00am: Fit 4 You 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 12:15pm: Bible Study (in- person & online) 7:00pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance (ur)	13 3:00pm: Spirituality for those who Grieve (chapel) 4:30pm: Praise Band (lh) 5:30pm: Circle 2 No Connections 7:30pm: AA (012)	14 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr)	15 11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	16 9:30am: Circle 3 17 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr)
2nd Sunday after Epiphany	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19 11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 12:15pm: Bible Study (in- person & online) 7:00pm: Session (ur)	20 11:30am: Fairmont Men's Group (offsite) 4:30pm: Praise Band (lh) 5:30pm: YMCA Meeting (lh) 5:30pm: Circle 2 7:00pm: Connections (Zoom) 7:30pm: AA (012)	21 1:00pm: Rug Hooking (lh)	22 11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	23 11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)
3rd Sunday after Epiphany	25	26 11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 12:15pm: Bible Study (in- person & online) 7:00pm: Deacons (ur)	27 4:30pm: Praise Band (lh) 7:00pm: Connections (Zoom) 7:30pm: AA (012)	28 5:00pm: Bell Choir (cr)	29 11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: OA (rc)	30 8:00am-1:00pm: Rug Hooking Event (lh) 31 12:00pm: OA (rc)

CHILDREN & YOUTH

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School continues during 10:30 a.m. worship. After the *Time with Children*, children will follow their teachers to a classroom on the first-floor level where they will learn about God while enjoying stories, crafts, and fellowship with their peers. This year we will again be using the PC(USA) curriculum, "Follow Me."

Pastor Kelley and our newly trained Godly Play teachers, Ginny, Sue, and Britton, will be sharing Godly Play also as part of our Sunday School program. Sunday School classes are open to children ages 4-grade 5. Any questions? Contact Pastor Kelley.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Fairmont's annual Children's Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 21st, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Children ages birth to 5th grade are invited to join this glorious Sunday of angels, lambs, shepherds, donkeys, magi, and the holy family as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Hot Cocoa Bar to follow for families of children and youth. For questions or to RSVP, contact Pastor Kelley.



UPCOMING CHILDREN'S EVENTS

- December 21: Children's Christmas Pageant & Hot Cocoa Bar
- December 24: Family Christmas Eve Service
- February 17: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- March 28: Easter Eggstravaganza
- April 26: Children's Choir Rehearsal
- May 3: Children's Choir Rehearsal
- May 10: Children's Choir Sings, Youth Sunday
Mother's Day
- June 1-4: Vacation Bible School

FAIRMONT YOUTH MINISTRY

(Grades 6th -12th)
Second Sunday of the Month
12:00 p.m.

Fairmont Youth Ministry will meet the Second Sunday of each month following worship (**unless otherwise noted by ***). There will be Food, Faith Conversations, & Fun Events.

DECEMBER

JANUARY

January 11 Fairmont Family Winter Hike: Clifton Gorge

Weekly Youth Dinners Out: Pastor Kelley is available once-a-week on either Wednesday evening or Thursday evening for a dinner out with at least 2 and up to 4 youth at a restaurant of the youth's choosing. Dinner will be covered by the church. Please contact Pastor Kelley. Pastor Kelley may be reached by email at kshin@fairmontchurch.org or by text or phone at (937) 751-0752.

FAIRMONT WINTER HIKE

Join Pastor Kelley for a Fairmont Winter Hike on Sunday,
January 11th at 2:00 p.m.

We will meet at Clifton Gorge at 2:00 p.m. for a 2 or 3-mile hike.

DATE: Sunday, January 11, 2026

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Clifton Gorge 169 Jackson Street, Yellow Springs,
OH 45387 (Jackson Street Entrance)

We will begin with a short spiritual reflection on God and nature, then we will hike an easy mile for families and then add another 1 or 2 miles for those who want to hike a moderate hike. Contact Pastor Kelley at kshin@fairmontchurch.org for questions.

LINCOLN PARK

FAIRMONT CARES: LINCOLN PARK MANOR

Did you know that Fairmont provides a monthly communion service of worship at Lincoln Park retirement community? The first Tuesday of every month at 2:30pm we share in worship, prayer, preaching, and the Lord's Supper with a diverse group of 15-25 residents, most of whom are not members of Fairmont. This is just one of the ways we seek to extend Fairmont's ministry to our community.

SPIRITUALITY FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE

Spiritual Wisdom and Practice in Times of Grief and Healing

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Second Wednesday of the Month

DECEMBER & JANUARY DATES: December 10, 2025 & January 14, 2026

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? 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 meetings are **December 10th** and **January 14th** at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel. This will be a time to share or listen to stories of healing and grief. If interested, please contact Pastor Kelley at kshin@fairmontchurch.org.

COOKIE WALK

The annual Women of Fairmont Cookie Walk is fast approaching on December 14th, following the single service. Be sure to save the date! Everyone is invited to bake and donate cookies and candy for the Cookie Walk. For cookie and candy donations, watch for the sign-up sheet, which will be posted in the Fellowship Hall. You may also email your intent to donate cookies or candy to Janine Borneman. The email address is janine.borneman@sbcglobal.net, or you may text her at 937-231-2893. Cookies and candies can be delivered to the Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 12, between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm or Saturday, December 13, between 9:00 and 11:00 am. Then join us on December 14th to purchase cookies for the benefit of the Women of Fairmont mission projects. We look forward to seeing you at this festive and fun Christmas gathering!

WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT

SPRING 2026 WOMEN'S RETREAT

"Women Wisdom"

The Wisdom of Old Testament Women

April 10 -11, 2026

Mark your calendars for the Spring 2026 Women's Retreat at Hueston Woods on April 10-11, 2026. **Hueston Woods now requires all registration and rooming lists to be submitted one month before the retreat.** Watch for registration information in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex in the new year.

DATE: April 10-11, 2026

PLACE: Hueston Woods Lodge

REGISTER BY: March 10, 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAIRMONT MEN'S GROUP

Fairmont Men's Group will meet at MCL Cafeteria on Wednesday, December 17th at 11:30 am. Call the church office at 299-3539 or you may email the church at office@fairmontchurch.org by noon on Tuesday, December 16th, to make a reservation. All the men of the church are invited!

In January, Fairmont Men's Group will meet at MCL Cafeteria on Wednesday, January 21st at 11:30 am. Call the church office at 299-3539 or you may email the church at office@fairmontchurch.org by noon on Tuesday, January 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.

DECEMBER & JANUARY For the months of December and January, Theology on Tap will meet at **Archers Tavern** (2030 E. Dorothy Lane in Kettering) at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 5, 2025 and January 2, 2026.



Fairmont Presbyterian Church
3705 Far Hills Avenue
Dayton, OH 45429
937-299-3539

Website: www.fairmontchurch.org
Facebook: Fairmont Presbyterian Church - Kettering, OH

STAFF

Pastor/Head of Staff: Brian Maguire
Associate Pastor: Kelley Wehmeyer Shin
Director of Music Ministries: Coleman Clark
Organist: Judy Bede

Bookkeeper: Martha Keil
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Mason
Maintenance: Don Hibbard

December/January Birthdays

Sarah Thieben	12/01	Dave Diller	12/15	Joyce Routzohn	12/28	Marilyn Edwards	01/08
Len Cohen	12/03	Sandrena Gillaspy	12/17	Cheryl Lamb	12/29	Joanie Caulley	01/09
Anna Glueckert	12/05	Steve Bergstresser	12/20	Sarah Graves	12/30	Susan Calvin	01/13
Avery Glueckert	12/05	Callie Johnson	12/20	Don Hibbard	12/31	Ruth Templeton	01/15
Jean Sherwood	12/05	Andrew Parker	12/22	Dylan Graves	01/01	Debra Foote	01/16
William Lewis V	12/06	Melissa Hohler	12/23	Anne Venable	01/01	Maya Dault	01/18
Michael Harvey	12/08	Karen Sensel	12/24	Kimberly Gunlock	01/02	Frank Sensel	01/20
Patricia Rain	12/09	Patrick Kanis	12/25	Pete Shafer	01/02	Neil Crichton	01/21
Richard Weyrauch	12/09	Carol Lamberger	12/25	Vince Porter	01/03	Noah Crichton	01/21
Rebecca Wells	12/11	William Lowry	12/25	William Miller III	01/05	Judy Bede	01/22
						Thomas Venable	01/25



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT CALL

The deadline for The February Call is Friday, January 23, 2026.

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