

THE CALL

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

March 2021

Volume 76, Issue 2

THOUGHTS FROM BRIAN

So, when will Fairmont reopen?

It is a question I get all the time. The answer is more complicated than a date on the calendar.

When the Session decided early last March to close in-person worship and programs, we essentially shut everything down simultaneously and migrated all our worship and programs to the internet. It was a crazy time, but simple to explain. Since then, we have reopened the church office, preschool, and attempted to meet in worship for our early service last July. Only a tiny handful of people attended those worship services. We conducted a congregational survey that reported 76% of respondents said they would not be comfortable returning to in-person worship until they had been vaccinated.

In the last few weeks many important changes have occurred. Rates of infection and hospitalizations have declined sharply from their peak in early January. Meanwhile, many adults over the age of 75 have been able to receive vaccinations. These changes have prompted the Session to begin looking at ways to safely expand our in-person programs including worship over the next several weeks.

What is important to understand is that reopening, unlike closing, will not happen all at once. It will be a planned, gradual process. At every step of the way, the Session will evaluate the health and safety conditions in consultation with our physicians' advisory group. Additionally, important safeguards like wearing masks will continue to be necessary for a long time to come because so many of our members and all of our staff are not yet able to be vaccinated. Young children may not be vaccinated until sometime next year and others due to either health conditions or conscience will never be vaccinated.

That means that it will be important for us to care for each other in mutual love by taking the necessary precautions, possibly for many months to come.

In-person worship will likely begin with our early service in the fellowship hall because we can separate chairs to effectively distance people and open windows to ventilate the room. It is simply the safest place to worship. Congregational singing will not be possible for some time as it is one of the best ways to spread the virus. And we will need to reconsider old habits like passing the peace, offering plates, and how we distribute communion. Things will be different. But we will continue to praise God, form disciples, and grow in ministry.

Fairmont's Session recognizes the importance of our online ministries. We are touching more people than we ever have before. For example, in the past seven years we never had more than 45 people attend our Ash Wednesday worship. This year we had 91 separate viewers which translates to about 182 people sharing in Ash Wednesday worship. The gift of the internet has provided us a whole new field of evangelism and outreach touching the lives of people spread across the continent. The Session has therefore decided that we are going to continue to provide online worship permanently from now on.

Jesus is always calling us to be attentive to sharing his ministry today. So, we respond to every challenge with innovation and seek out every new opportunity. Things will be different because our world is now different. But what will always remain the same is our shared, unfaltering commitment to share and show the love of God with the world. We are on the threshold of a whole new era for Fairmont and the church of Jesus Christ!

WORSHIP

NO public worship until further notice. All worship offerings will be live-streamed online. Visit www.fairmontchurch.org/worship-videos for links to all past and upcoming live streams.

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March 7 (Communion Sunday /3rd Sunday in Lent)
Lesson: Mark 12:18-27
Sermon: Your Hope is Way Too Small

March 14 (4th Sunday in Lent)
Lesson: Mark 12:28-44
Sermon: How to be a Human Being

March 21 (5th Sunday in Lent)
Lesson: Mark 13:1-13
Sermon: Childhood's End

March 28 (Palm Sunday)
Lesson: Mark 11:1-10
Sermon: And the Parade Marched On

Holy Week

April 1 Maundy Thursday (Service of the Lord's Supper)
Lesson: Mark 14:12-26
Sermon: Family Meals

April 2 Good Friday
Lesson: Mark 15
Sermon: How Far?

April 4 Easter Sunday
8:30 a.m. Outdoor In Person
10:30 a.m. Online
Lesson: Mark 16
Sermon: Go and Tell

ONLINE MINISTRIES

Coffee Fellowship: Sundays, 11:30am
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84211231244>
Zoom Meeting ID: 842 1123 1244

Kidz Korner Online: Sundays, 11:45 am
Zoom Meeting Link: [Zoom Meeting Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86575832345](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86575832345)
Zoom Meeting ID: 865 7583 2345

PYC Online: Sundays, 1:30pm
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978434870>
Zoom Meeting ID: 859 7843 4870

Choir Rehearsal: Every Wednesday, 7:00pm
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93128963106>
Zoom Meeting ID: 931-2896-3106

Connections: Wednesdays, 7:00pm
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84170790852>
841 7079 0852

Bible Study: Thursdays, 7:30pm
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86422990477>
864 2299 0477

Theology on Tap: 1st & 3rd Fridays, 5:00pm
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89247878247>
892 4787 8247

CHILDREN & YOUTH

VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Ages 3 through grade 5 are invited to join in "Virtual Sunday school" Sundays at 11:45am following worship.

Our new curriculum has been a success! Children are loving the lessons which include great theological content and engaging videos which reinforce the stories and values we find in scripture. Links and resources will be available in the weekly Kidz Korner email.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

This month, we will begin rehearsing for another virtual choir piece to share with the congregation on Palm Sunday! More information to come in the weekly Kidz Korner emails.

FAIRMONT YOUTH MINISTRY

Fairmont Youth Ministry (grades 6th-12th) is meeting each Sunday *via Zoom* at 1:30 p.m. Fairmont Youth share in a time of online bible study, fellowship, and fun. Pastor Kelley can be reached by email at →

kshin@fairmontchurch.org or by text or phone at (937) 751-0752.

Youth Ministry schedule for March 2021:

March 7 (Zoom): Lent: Free to Be You

March 14 (Zoom): Lent: Voices of Hope

March 21 (Zoom): Lent: Repentance and
Redemption

March 28 (Zoom): Lent: Hope Through Suffering

LENTEN SCHOOL

The 24 Hours That Changed the World

Come and join us every Monday or Wednesday night in Lent, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom as we explore the final day of Jesus ministry in Jerusalem and what it means for ever day before and after. Using Adam Hamilton's Book, *The 24 Hours That Changed The World*, we will be exploring what happened, why, and what it means for us and for our world. Each class will include a short video presentation, comparative Bible study and discussion led by Pastor Kelley and Pastor Brian. This course is intended for adults as well as teenagers and older elementary age children. Come and join us on Zoom and bring your friends.

There are two ways you can participate in this course and you can do both. First, please simply come. For those who do not wish to do any preparation the Monday and Wednesday courses will provide more than enough to stir your imagination. Second, if you want to go deeper in your understanding, we invite you to follow along with the companion book, *The 24 Hours That Changed The World*, available from Amazon and other booksellers for around \$9.00. Additionally, there are age-appropriate books for children as well. If you would like the church to order any of these for you, please contact the church office.

MUSIC NOTES

Chancel Choir is holding virtual practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 via Zoom. Although very different than live practices, attendance has been excellent. It is so wonderful to see our singers at practice. We are working on music for Lent and the Easter anthem, *Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*. The Easter piece has congregational participation in it. If you would like to listen to the piece in advance, please go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuGv0TL42ZY>

Bell Choir

The Fairmont Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We would like to expand our membership by a couple of ringers. Bell ringers need to have some music reading experience. If you would like to join us, please contact Vicki Ramga at vramga@fairmontchurch.org for more information.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

For participation in our online **Palm Sunday** worship service on March 28th, you may pick up a live palm branch outside the church office door beginning on Friday, March 26th through Sunday morning, March 28th. We will also email to everyone a palm branch pattern that may be used to make your own palm branches. On **Easter Sunday, April 4th**, you may worship with us during the regular 10:30am live-streaming worship service. We will also be offering, for the first time, an early morning outdoor **Easter Sunrise Service** in the church parking lot at 8:30am.

PRESCHOOL CORNER

We are currently accepting registration for the 2021-2022 school year. Forms may be found under the Preschool tab on the church website. A non-refundable \$50 registration fee is due at the time of registration. Contact Tracy at 299-3539 or tlandgren@fairmontchurch.org.



TREASURER

Elevator Project Funding

Our church finances are in great shape today. During the last several years we have completed many projects that for the most part have been paid by the Endowment Income Fund, plus some gifts for specific projects. Projects of note have been an update of our HVAC system, water piping replacement, repainting most of the church and rug/flooring replacement. About 40% of our Endowment Income Fund is committed to paying down the water piping project loan for the next 4 years.

As you read in the annual report, we have had to embark on a necessary elevator refurbishment project that will be completed by June for \$140,000. The elevator project costs more than our available endowment income funds so we have now tapped into our emergency reserve funds and extended the piping replacement loan over a longer period than originally planned.

Elevator Project Funding Sources:

2020 Endowment Income Fund	\$20,000
2021 Endowment Income Fund	\$27,500
Unspent Water Piping Project funds	\$33,000
Undesignated Church Emergency Reserves	<u>\$59,500</u>
Total	\$140,000

Like we have done in the past with the upper parking lot, and several property purchases, we have asked for additional generosity, beyond our annual stewardship. We hope to rebuild our undesignated emergency reserve back to \$100,000.

Some would say that we can do this with surplus funds over the next several years, which we will attempt to do. But, while our Endowment Fund Principle is slowly increasing, the investment options we have continue to provide lower income opportunities.

Our goal is to generate in excess of \$80,000 annually for the Endowment Income Fund, which typically allows us to pay for major maintenance expenditures, through a prioritized 5-year building maintenance plan. If interest rates stay low for the next 5 years, we will not generate enough income to support our 5-year plan.

Other options that are being considered are to withdraw from the Endowment Principal as items present themselves. Historically this has not been a pleasant task. Another option would be to invest in slightly riskier options with potentially higher returns.

The best option would be for members to consider contributing directly to help pay for the elevator refurbishment. We recognize that the elevator is very important to many in our congregation and that its electronic and mechanical systems have reached the end of their useful life. We can no longer obtain replacement parts to fix it. Last summer, the elevator was out of operation for eight weeks. We hope to avoid that ever happening again.

Please prayerfully consider helping Fairmont with this important project to assure accessible access to our church for decades to come.

Respectfully,
David Youngerman, Treasurer

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WITHIN THE FELLOWSHIP

Deaths

- Doris Harlow—January 8, 2021
- Betty Glisson—January 17, 2021
- Karen York—January 22, 2021
- Barbara Bradbury—February 15, 2021

Please keep the families in your prayers.

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March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7:00pm: Lenten Study (online) 7:30pm: WOF Coord. Team Meeting (online)	11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 7:00pm: Team Meetings (online)	7:00pm: Lenten Study (online) 7:00pm: Choir Practice (online)	6:30pm: Bell Choir Practice (lh) 7:30pm: Bible Study (online)	11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 5:00pm: Theology on Tap (online) 8:00pm: 13th Film Discussion	
Communion Sunday 10:30am: Worship (stream starts at 10:15am) 11:45am: Kidz Korner (online) 1:30pm: PYC (online)	7:00pm: Lenten Study (online) 7:00pm: Circle 1 (online)	11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 7:00pm: Trustees, B&G, Finance (online)	7:00pm: Lenten Study (online) 7:00pm: Choir Practice (online)	6:30pm: Bell Choir Practice (lh) 7:30pm: Bible Study (online)	11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 8:00pm: Women, Word, Wine (online)	
4th Sunday in Lent 10:30am : Worship(stream starts at 10:15am) 11:45am: Kidz Korner (online) 1:30pm: PYC (online)	7:00pm: Lenten Study (online)	11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: AA (012) 7:00pm: Session (online)	7:00pm: Lenten Study (online) 7:00pm: Choir Practice (online)	6:30pm: Bell Choir Practice (lh) 7:30pm: Bible Study (online)	11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 5:00pm: Theology on Tap (online)	9:30am: Circle 7 (online)
5th Sunday in Lent 10:30am: Worship (stream starts at 10:15am) 11:45am: Kidz Korner (online) 1:30pm: PYC (online)	7:00pm: Lenten Study (online) 8:00pm: Circle 8 (online)	11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 12:00pm: AA (012)	5:30pm: Circle 6 (online) 7:00pm: Lenten Study (online) 7:00pm: Choir Practice (online)	6:30pm: Bell Choir Practice (lh) 7:30pm: Bible Study (online)	11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh) 6:00pm: Fourth Family Pizza Dinner (online)	
Palm Sunday 10:30am: Worship (stream starts at 10:15am) 11:45am: Kidz Korner (online) 1:30pm: PYC (online)	7:00pm: Lenten Study (online)	11:00am: Fit 4 You (lh)	7:00pm: Lenten Study (online) 7:00pm: Choir Practice (online)			

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WOMEN OF FAIRMONT

A HUGE thank to our Vice Moderator, Jan Runkle, for arranging our Winter Gathering speaker, Jan's niece, Rev Carrie Kreps Wegenast, the Chaplain for Tyson Foods, Inc. in New London, Wisconsin. As the Chaplain, Carrie provides spiritual, emotional, and mental care to over 900 team members of rural American white, Hmong (from Laos), or Hispanic descent. She also worked for Tyson Foods plant in Green Bay, WI, when the plant's population shifted to include a majority demographic of Somali Muslim refugees. Carrie is an amazing story teller who shared several moving tales of her experiences working as a spiritual leader, counselor, social worker, and crisis worker. Her job is fascinating, challenging, and diverse as she negotiates the many needs, personalities, and cultures she has the honor to work with daily. Many of our Women of Fairmont were able to ask questions and share how moved we are by her ability to serve God in this way. We had no idea that Tyson foods has 150 chaplains and that they recognize the value in offering this kind of support for their team members. We really enjoyed her presentation and her inspirational message. Rev Wegenast has provided us with a written version of her talk that is available through the church office. We also recorded the first part of our Zoom Gathering (with Carrie's talk and discussion) and it is available as a YouTube link. <https://youtu.be/zw6fY5-fcic> Thank you to all who were able to join us for a great Winter Gathering!

*** We are still in need of a volunteer to fill the Vice Moderator's position beginning in May. The VM will shadow and assist the Moderator for a year before she becomes Moderator for a year. The whole Coordinating Team and the Immediate Past Moderator are supportive, encouraging, and helpful as you fulfill your duties. (I could not have done it without them!!) For a complete Job Description or to volunteer, please contact Sally Kaskocsak or Jackie Susnik. PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HOW YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW COULD FILL THIS VITAL ROLL ON OUR WOMEN OF FAIRMONT TEAM!!

Cookie Drive-By

As you all know, the annual Cookie Walk held in December by the Women of Fairmont organization was not able to be held this past year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Cookie Walk is one of the Women of Fairmont's most profitable fund raisers, with proceeds used to support various charitable missions. With that in mind, a "modified Cookie Walk", or Cookie Drive-By, will be held on Sunday, April 11 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Cookies will be homemade by Circle members and will be packaged in one or two pound boxes. You may order cookies by calling or texting Cindy Cavey at 937-245-1787 or emailing to ccavey@roadrunner.com, or you may place your order with Jennifer Mason at the church by calling 937-299-3539 or emailing jmason@fairmontchurch.org.

Please indicate the number of pounds you would like to purchase at \$8.00/pound. Please place your order by Wednesday, April 7, to allow ample baking time. We will meet you at your car in the church parking lot on April 11 between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. with your cookies. Please follow CDC guidelines by wearing a mask.

Please note, that the boxes will contain an assortment of homemade cookies, and we are not able to provide ingredients for allergy consideration.

If you would prefer to support the Cookie Drive-By by making a donation, those will be gratefully accepted by mailing them to the church office and referencing Women of Fairmont Cookie Drive-By.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Presbyterianism & Modern Challenges: Mass Incarceration

Please join us on **Friday, March 5th at 8:00pm** for an evening of discussion via Zoom on the Netflix documentary *13th*, a 2016 film by director Ava DuVernay that chronicles the history of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the U.S. It is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. constitution, which abolished slavery and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for conviction of a crime. We will utilize breakout rooms to have small group reflections on the film and discussions of how the Presbyterian faith can help inform our response as Christians. Breakout room discussions will be facilitated by Pastor Brian, Pastor Kelley, and Reverend Lisa Hess.

MISSION BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

Helping Hands, Helping Hearts



Thank you from The Foodbank! Since April 2020 as the pandemic began, the Mission Team was inspired to start a collection called Feeding Our Community to benefit The Foodbank and the Kettering Backpack programs. Your generosity means that we have collected over \$16,000 so far for both organizations! A thank you note and update from the Kettering Backpack program was featured in last month's edition of The Call.

The Foodbank has innovated over the past year, providing drive thru services and a "senior box program" of boxed meals for needy seniors aged 60 and older. Michelle Riley, the CEO of The Foodbank sent us a thank you note recently. She said, "Thank you for making a difference every day in the lives of hungry families living in our community. Every \$1 you have given is providing 6 meals to a neighbor in need." Thank you for your thoughtfulness towards our neighbors in their time of need!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN, WORD, AND WINE All women of Fairmont church are invited to "Women, Word, and Wine" on **Friday, March 12, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Pastor Kelley will lead a short time of spiritual direction, we will share faith conversations together, and share a glass of wine. **BYOW** (bring your own wine) and join us as we share faith, hope, and love together in this time of social distancing. You can find the Zoom link in our weekly *Beside Still Waters* and *Fridays from Fairmont* emails or here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81389450071> Meeting ID: 813 8945 0071

FOURTH FRIDAY FAMILY PIZZA

It's time for our March Fourth Friday Pizza Dinner meeting on Zoom! Mark your calendar for Friday, March 26th at 6:00 p.m. Order pizza to be delivered to your home, make your own pizza, or pop a frozen pizza in the oven! However you get your pizza just be ready to go by 6:00 p.m. Watch for the Fourth Friday Pizza Dinner Zoom link in *Besides Still Waters* and *Fridays from Fairmont* emails or contact Pastor Kelley at kshin@fairmontchurch.org.

"EXPANDED" PASTORAL CARE FOR OUR FAIRMONT FAMILY

Thank you to our Deacons and our Spiritual Caregivers who have been faithfully keeping in touch with our most vulnerable church members during this time of "stay at home." The Deacons have **expanded** their ministry to the entire congregation on a regular basis. Each family unit and member of Fairmont (and active non-members) have been assigned to a Fairmont Deacon. Your assigned Deacon will be in touch with you on a regular basis as we continue through these final pandemic months. *Special Fairmont members who have been receiving care from a Spiritual Caregiver will continue, as always, to receive that care.* Thank you also to our Email Prayer Chain members who are praying faithfully for our church family. If you know anyone in our congregation who is in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Kelley at kshin@fairmontchurch.org or (937) 751-0752. We are keeping in touch with all of our church family in multiple ways - prayer, email, text, phone, mail, porch visits, drive-bys, Zoom, and live-streamed worship. Together we are the Body of Christ.

Fairmont Presbyterian Church

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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
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Lorelei Harding
Director of Music Ministries: Vicki Ramga
Organist: Judy Bede
Praise & Worship Leader: Jerry Mahn

Preschool Director: Tracy Landgren
Preschool Teacher: Amber Reshad
Preschool Aide: Danielle Kern
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Mason
Bookkeeper: Martha Keil
Custodian: Louis Weyrauch

March Birthdays

Drew Borneman	03/01	James Harper	03/20
Jeanette Kruer	03/01	Jeff Adam	03/21
Adam Kabacinski	03/02	Herb Ernst	03/21
Joyce Mackintosh	03/02	Autum Parcels	03/21
Jacquelyn Vickroy	03/02	David Allison	03/22
Abby Cohen	03/04	Tanner Bussey	03/22
Casey Gill	03/04	Robert Davis	03/22
Hannah Favro	03/09	Ken Guise	03/22
Peter Guise	03/11	Richard Ludwig	03/23
Glenn Spicer	03/14	Don Davis	03/26
Carol Kemp	03/15	Sherry Klingel	03/27
Rick Schwartz	03/15	Becky Sennet	03/28
Lisa Hess	03/16	Dave Youngerman	03/28
Rachel Rothenberger	03/16	Katherine Ellis	03/29
Martha Taylor	03/16	Sue Knierim	03/29
Bill Mann	03/18	Nancy Leonhard	03/29
Stewart Adam	03/19	Kathy Shafer	03/30



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT CALL

The deadline for the next Call is Friday, March 19, 2021.

Please submit articles to: jmason@fairmontchurch.org.