## THE CALL

The Great Story Continues! Over the past two years we have been exploring the major themes of scripture as we progress through the story of God's relationship with God's people. Part one was the story of Israel, also known as the Old Testament. Part two this past year has been the story of Jesus Christ, also known as the Gospel. In 2024 we will be exploring what a difference this all makes in our lives in Part three: the church.

The Gospels end with the climax of Jesus ministry in the resurrection, that same resurrection that brings the covenant with Israel to its fulfillment. The third and final part of scripture is all about how that event, its invitation and demand, its promise and possibility, changes us. This is the story told across dozens of communities of how ordinary people across the Roman Empire began to conceive of their lives in new ways and began doing extraordinary things. It is of course also the story of how God made known to us in Jesus was and is now actively transforming human beings from within and creating new communities of belonging. This story of God and the now expanding membership in God's people is the story of the church.

Unlike the great stories of Israel and Jesus, the story of the church is very much our story. It is not about institutions and theologies so much as it is about regular people who were and are transformed to live in new and different ways. When we do that together by and through the Spirit, we are church as Christ wanted us to be . It quickly gets complicated and a little messy because human beings are all unique and a little bit messy. The object of this third part of the Great story is not ancient Israel or a broken and sinful world, but us.

It is easy to preach on Advent and Christmas using the Gospels. It requires a bit more imagination to see through the stories of the early church in the Acts of the Apostles and Saint Paul's letters to congregations. But those books, the story of the church, is very much the story of our own lives and our encounters with God incarnate and resurrected in Jesus Christ. We were not there in Bethlehem to pay him homage. Indeed, he never asked us to do so. Instead, we can worship him the ways he actually asked of us. We can follow him. We can participate with what he is doing in the world. We can become just a little bit more like him.

Throughout his letters, Paul talks about his ultimate hope and destination as "in Christ." Over the next year we will be unpacking precisely how we can find our way into Him. This is the real journey of Advent that matters for us, seeking home, seeking God precisely where He said he could be found.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas. May we all seek Him together.


## ONLINE MINISTRIES

## CONNECTIONS

Wednesdays, 7:00pm
Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82945327813
Meeting ID: 82945327813
BIBLE STUDY
Thursdays, 12:00pm
Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82002536057 Meeting ID: 82002536057

## 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.

## CONNECTIONS

Israel and Palestine, the 75 Year War
Join us every Wednesday night on Zoom as we continue to explore the foundations of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

December 6 Israel and Palestine Since Oslo
December 13 Israel and Palestine Today
December 20 Israel and Palestine Tomorrow
December 27 No Connections Merry Christmas

## Union in Christ

Join us on Wednesday nights on Zoom in January as we start a new class exploring a very ancient and for most of us a very new idea: Union in Christ. Throughout the New Testament Jesus and the Apostles spoke about being "in Christ." What if that were not a metaphor but a description and aspiration? What if we have been missing an important central thread of Jesus' mission and message as well as our hope. Come and explore this golden thread of expansive possibility that runs through scripture and the witness of the church.

January 3 What is Union With Christ and how it changes everything
January 10 No Class
January 17 Ancient Foundations
January 24 The Early Church Fathers and Theosis
January 31 The Path of Christian Mysticism

## RESPONDING TO THE WAR IN GAZA

Because of the ongoing conflict in Gaza, our January 29 trip to the Holy Land has been postponed for one year. Because of the surge in Anti-Semitic attacks, threats, and hate speech directed against Jewish communities here in Dayton, Fairmont has sent letters of solidarity as well as small offerings of financial support for increased security costs to all the Dayton area Synagogues. Please pray for peace.

## MUSIC NOTES

I hope everyone had a fantastic Thanksgiving and hope this message finds everyone well as we go into December. I would just like to cordially invite anyone who has even the slightest interest in trying the Chancel Choir to go ahead and take the leap! Advent is upon us, and simply testing the waters in the choir for the advent season would be the perfect way to see if it is for you! I have programmed a healthy mixture of familiar tunes with other festive tunes, and we would absolutely love to have your voices joining in with the existing members of the choir. If you think that you're not good enough, then I already know that's not true and once again this is your sign to try it anyways! And frankly, I do need a few more voices to fill out the Advent/Christmas music! So shoot me an email at cclark@fairmontchurch.org or simply show up at one of our Thursday rehearsals at $7: 15 \mathrm{pm}$ in the choir room, and lets get started!
Thank you all for your continued support and appreciation for the music programs at Fairmont!

See you soon,
Coleman Clark

## 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.

## DECEMBER FAIRMONT CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The next Children's Choir rehearsals are Sunday, December 3rd and December 10th from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Children's Choir room. The children will be singing
in the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 17th as part of the Children's Christmas Pageant. 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.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Fairmont's annual Children's Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 17 ${ }^{\text {th }}$, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Children ages birth to $5^{\text {th }}$ 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.

## SUNDAY NURSERY CARE

Sunday Nursery for children birth - 3 years old is provided from 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. on Sunday mornings. As a reminder, only children birth - 3 years old may stay in the nursery for the safety of our youngest.

PLEASE NOTE Nursery Care will not be provided on the following Sundays as our Nursery Care Worker will be on educational leave: December 3, and December 31,2023 - February 18, 2024.

FAIRMONT YOUTH MINISTRY
(Grades 6th -12 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ )
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!

## DECEMBER YOUTH SCHEDULE

December 3 Advent: Lunch \& Advent Packets (11:45am - 12:30pm)
December 10 Advent: Share Hope (Cookie Walk)
December 17 Advent: Youth Christmas Party \& Family Hot Cocoa Bar
December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE: NO YOUTH
December 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE: NO YOUTH

## JANUARY YOUTH SCHEDULE

January 7 Baptize: Remember Your Baptism
January 14 Baptize: Crossing Through the Waters
January 21 Baptize: Dying \& Rising
January 28 Baptize: Body of Christ
Pastor Kelley may be reached by email at
kshin@fairmontchurch.org or by text or phone at (937) 751-0752.


| Sunday | Monday |  | Tuesday | Wednesday |  | Thursday |  | Friday | Saturday |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | New Year's Day <br> (Office Closed) | 1 | lity11:00am: Fit 4 You <br> (fh)$\mathbf{2}$ <br> 12:00pm: AA (012)12:00pm: OA (rc)7:00pm: Team Meetings <br> (ur) | 4:30pm: Praise Band <br> (fh) <br> 7:00pm: Connections (online) <br> 7:30pm: AA (012) |  | 12:00pm: Bible Study <br> 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) <br> 7:00pm: NA (012) <br> 7:15pm: Choir (cr) |  | 11:00am: Fit 4 You <br> (fh) <br> 12:00pm: OA (rc) <br> 5:00pm: Theology on Tap <br> @ Marion's Piazza |  | 6 |
| Baptism of the Lord <br> 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) <br> 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) <br> 12:00pm: Youth Group | 7:00pm: Circle 1 (fh) | 8 | 11:00am: Fit 4 You <br> (fh) <br> 12:00pm: AA (012) <br> 12:00pm: OA (rc) <br> 2:00pm: Lincoln Park <br> 7:00pm: Trustees, B\&G, <br> Finance (ur) | 3:00pm: Spirituality for those who Grieve (chapel) <br> 4:30pm: Praise Band (fh) <br> No Connections <br> 7:30pm: AA (012) |  | 12:00pm: Bible Study 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: NA (012) 7:15pm: Choir (cr) |  | 11:00am: Fit 4 You <br> (fh) <br>  <br> 12:00pm: OA (rc) | 10:00am: Fairmont Winter Hike @ Bill Yeck Park |  |
| 2nd Sunday after <br> Epiphany <br> 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) <br> 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) <br> 12:00pm: Youth Group | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Office Closed) | 15 | 11:00am: Fit 4 You $\mathbf{1 6}$ <br> 12:00pm: AA (012)  <br> 12:00pm: OA (rc)  <br> 7:00pm: Session (ur)  | 11:30am: Fairmont Men's Group (offsite) <br> 4:30pm: Praise Band <br> (fh) <br> 5:30pm: Circle 6 <br> 7:00pm: Connections (online) <br> 7:30pm: AA (012) |  | 12:00pm: Bible Study <br> 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) <br> 7:00pm: NA (012) <br> 7:15pm: Choir (cr) |  | 11:00am: Fit 4 You <br> (fh) <br> 12:00pm: OA (rc) <br> 6:00pm: Fairmont Family Pizza Night @ Marion’s Piazza | 9:30am: Circle 7 <br> (chapel) <br> February Call articles are due. |  |
| 3rd Sunday after <br> Epiphany <br> 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) <br> 10:30am: Traditional Service (sanctuary) <br> 12:00pm: Youth Group |  | 22 | 11:00am: Fit 4 You (fh) 123 12:00pm: AA (012) 12:00pm: OA (rc) 7:00pm: Deacons (ur) | 4:30pm: Praise Band <br> (fh) <br> 7:00pm: Connections (online) <br> 7:30pm: AA (012) |  | 12:00pm: Bible Study 1:00pm: Rug Hooking 6:00pm: Bell Choir (cr) 7:00pm: NA (012) <br> 7:15pm: Choir (cr) |  | 11:00am: Fit 4 You <br> (fh) $\mathbf{2 6}$12:00pm: OA (rc) |  | 27 |
| 4th Sunday after Epiphany <br> 10:30am: Traditional <br> 12:00pm: Youth Group 28 <br> 8:30am: Casual Service (fh) Service (sanctuary) |  | 29 | 11:00am: Fit 4 You $\mathbf{3 0}$ <br> (fh)  | 4:30pm: Praise Band <br> (fh) <br> 7:00pm: Connections (online) <br> 7:30pm: AA (012) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## FINANCE \& STEW ARDSHIP

Thank You! Thank you for your generous financial support throughout 2023. 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 2023 contributions must be post marked or submitted by December 31. Thank you!

Progress in the 2024 financial stewardship campaign is encouraging as of mid-November, and we are closing in on our goal of fully funding our proposed budget of $\$ 692.442$. The ultimate success of our 2023 Stewardship campaign depends on you. If you have already pledged for 2024, 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 $\$ 53.05$ ? 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 2024 is $\$ 53.05$. 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 $\$ 53.05$.

FREE MONEY: Taxpayers over 72 years of age with an IRA or a $401 \mathrm{~K} / 403 \mathrm{~B}$ 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 401 k 's) require individuals over 72 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!

## MISSION BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

Helping Hands, Helping Hearts

## annow

Christmas Gift Support for Area Families It's time to make Christmas a little more magical this year for families in need! Our Mission Team placed the green felt Christmas trees with care in the narthex this November with a holly jolly response from our members. Thank you so much for your bountiful treasures! Gifts can now be left in the Fellowship Hall underneath the assigned tree. Please remember that items should be unwrapped, as it is empowering for families to be able to decorate their own gifts. Fairmont members may include gift wrap and accessories along with the gifts if they choose. Gift cards will also be accepted. We will be accepting gifts until Sunday, December $3^{\text {rd }}$.

After thoughtful consideration earlier this year, the Mission team determined that the holiday gift program through The Artemis Center best fits our resources.

This year, our Christmas giving trees provided gifts and supplies for parents and their precious children who were recently displaced from their home by domestic violence. These items will make the season bright while bridging some of the gaps for families who had to flee unexpectedly from dangerous situations.


Here is a photo of our beautiful trees! This year, we added whimsical snowflakes to each tree requesting household goods according to the unique needs of each family. Large tags on the trees represented clothing items for the children, and smaller tags indicated toys. After selecting an ornament with the child's name and age on it, Fairmont members purchased the item and placed the unwrapped gift under the tree, with the Christmas ornament adhered to the gift. We are so moved by your help in blessing our Christmas families this year!

## 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 and check the church bulletin for details on the upcoming Minute for Mission!
cont. $\rightarrow$

Thank you from the Fairmont High School Nurses! The team of school nurses at Fairmont High School requested snack items like crackers and juice boxes for students who visit their clinic. Thank you so much for the wonderful response after our October collection for these items! These much-needed snacks were taken to the nurses in early November, which was perfect timing for the nurses who were running out of supplies after the start of the school year.

## COOKIE WALK

The annual Women of Fairmont Cookie Walk is fast approaching on December 10th, 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, the sign-up sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall, or you may sign up on the Fellowship Pad. You may also email your intent to donate cookies or candy to Sara Grillot. The email address is sjgrillot $53 @$ gmail.com, or you may call/text her at 937-776-2201. Cookies and candies can be delivered to the Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 8 between 9:00am and 3:00pm or Saturday, December 9 between 9:00 and 11:00am. Then join us on December 10th 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!
ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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 Marion's Piazza on Stroop Road (50 E. Stroop Rd) at 5:00 p.m. on Fridays, December 1, 2023 and January 5, 2024.

## FAIRMONT MEN'S GROUP

Fairmont Men's Group will meet at MCL Cafeteria on Wednesday, December 20th at 11:30 am. Sign "Lunch" on the attendance pad on Sunday or call the church office at 299-3539 or you may email the church at office@fairmontchurch.org by noon on Tuesday, December 19th, 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 17th at 11:30 am. Sign "Lunch" on the attendance pad on Sunday or call the church office at 299-3539 or you may email the church at office@fairmontchurch.org by noon on Tuesday, January 16th, to make a reservation. All the men of the church are invited!

## SPIRITUALITY FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE

Spiritual Wisdom and Practice in Times of Grief and Healing

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Second Wednesday of the Month
DECEMBER DATE: December13, 2023
JANUARY DATE: January 10, 2024
TIME: 3:00pm - 4:00pm
PLACE: Chapel
If you are interested, please contact Pastor Kelley at kshin@fairmontchurch.org.

## FAIRMONT WINTER HIKE

Pastor Kelley will be leading a Winter Hike for all Fairmont Folk (children, youth, adults) on Saturday, January 13th, at 10:00 a.m. Let's meet at Bill Yeck Park at 10:00 a.m. (2230 E. Centerville Station Road 45459) for a 3-mile hike. We will hike an easy mile for families and then add another 2 miles for those who want to hike a moderate hike. Contact Pastor Kelley at kshin@fairmontchurch.org for questions.

## JANUARY FAIRMONT FAMILY PIZZA NIGHT

All Fairmont families of children and youth are invited to a Family Pizza Night. Join us on Friday, January 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Marion's Piazza in Kettering.

WHEN: Friday, January 19, 2024
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Marion's Piazza (50 E. Stroop Road)
For questions, contact Pastor Kelley at (937) 751-0752 or kshin@fairmontchurch.org.

## ATTENTION FAIRMONT MEMBERS!

Ushering is a great way to get to know the congregation and to become better acquainted with a fun group. This is not an exclusive men's club. Women are welcome. So, please email or call me if you are interested in being part of the ushering team. Wynn Adam
wwygaladam@gmail.com or (937) 271-1371.


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
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Mason

Organist: Judy Bede Bookkeeper: Martha Keil
Custodian: Louis Weyrauch

## December/January Birthdays

| Bob Ross | $12 / 01$ | Nina Kanis | $12 / 17$ | Caden Fromm | $12 / 28$ | Ruth Templeton | $01 / 15$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Len Cohen | $12 / 03$ | Steve Bergstresser | $12 / 20$ | Joyce Routzohn | $12 / 28$ | Debra Foote | $01 / 16$ |
| Brenda Anderson | $12 / 04$ | Steve Crichton | $12 / 20$ | Cheryl Lamb | $12 / 29$ | Maya Dault | $01 / 18$ |
| Anna Glueckert | $12 / 05$ | Callie Johnson | $12 / 20$ | Jack Shahan | $12 / 29$ | Katy Yoder | $01 / 18$ |
| Avery Glueckert | $12 / 05$ | Warren Tripp | $12 / 22$ | Don Hibbard | $12 / 31$ | Frank Sensel | $01 / 20$ |
| Jean Sherwood | $12 / 05$ | Melissa Hohler | $12 / 23$ | Anne Venable | $01 / 01$ | Neil Crichton | $01 / 21$ |
| William Lewis V | $12 / 06$ | Karen Sensel | $12 / 24$ | Kimberly Gunlock | $01 / 02$ | Noah Crichton | $01 / 21$ |
| Michael Harvey | $12 / 08$ | Patrick Kanis | $12 / 25$ | Pete Shafer | $01 / 02$ | Judy Bede | $01 / 22$ |
| Patricia Rain | $12 / 09$ | Carol Lamberger | $12 / 25$ | William Miller | $01 / 05$ | Robin Stevens | $01 / 24$ |
| Richard Weyrauch | $12 / 09$ | William Lowry | $12 / 25$ | Marilyn Edwards | $01 / 08$ | Mert Crichton | $01 / 25$ |
| Rebecca Wells | $12 / 11$ | Thomas Venable | $12 / 25$ | Joanie Caulley | $01 / 09$ | Thomas Venable | $01 / 25$ |
| Dave Diller | $12 / 15$ | Ryan Greene | $12 / 26$ | Susan Calvin | $01 / 13$ | Glenn Stevens | $01 / 26$ |
| Sandrena Gillaspy | $12 / 17$ |  |  |  |  | Owen Gill | $01 / 27$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT CALL

The deadline for The February Call is Friday, January 19, 2024.
Please submit Call \& bulletin articles to Jennifer at: jmason@fairmontchurch.org.

